

# FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECT

Peace  
Starts  
At Home

## THE PARTNERS

*This collaborative response to family violence within Waterloo Region is aimed at providing consistent and continuous supports and seamless delivery of services to victims and children. The collaborative partners are committed to working together to help families to find emotional/physical safety and to work with the community to end the cycle of violence that so often damages and destroys families. The Family Violence Project is a unique and safe place where victims of domestic violence are our highest priority. It is a centre where the staff understands and is sensitive to the unique needs related to family violence. The Family Violence Project provides a one stop access point for victims and their families.*



**While the list of co-located partners continues to grow, it currently includes:**

### **Mosaic Counselling and Family Services 519-743-6333**

A full service, professional counselling agency, Mosaic Counselling and Family Services exists so that people find the strength, skills and confidence to deal with life's challenges and opportunities. For more than 57 years, Mosaic has provided individual counselling, group programs, and community outreach to children, men, women, seniors, couples, families and new Canadians.

### **Credit Counselling – Mosaic Counselling and Family Services 519-743-6333**

Credit counselling is a not-for-profit service that assists people facing financial hardships. Since 1956, this service has been providing confidential financial counselling, money management education, consumer repayment plans and intervention and mediation to help individuals and families resolve debt concerns.

### **Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) 519-749-1229**

CAPC is a federally funded project that supports children ages zero to six and their families so that these children may reach their full potential. A variety of supportive and preventative activities and programs are offered at a number of sites across the Region of Waterloo.

### **Crown Attorney's Office 519-741-3222**

Ontario's Domestic Violence Court (DVC) program is the most extensive DVC program in Canada. It facilitates the prosecution of domestic assault cases and early intervention in abusive domestic situations, provides better support to victims and increases offender accountability.

In a DVC program, teams of specialized personnel, including police, Crown Attorneys, Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) staff, probation services, Partner Assault Response (PAR) program staff and community agencies, work together to ensure priority is given to the safety and needs of domestic assault victims and their children.

As part of the Kitchener Domestic Violence program, an Assistant Crown Attorney with specialized domestic violence training has an office at the Centre.

### **Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region 519-576-0540**

Family and Children's Services is the local child welfare agency for the Waterloo Region. The agency's services are mandated under The Child and Family Services Act. Our vision is a community where children can grow up feeling safe, healthy and loved. In the fall of 2005, Family and Children's Services of the Waterloo Region formed a family violence team. The team was developed in order to provide a comprehensive range of services to children, mothers

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and fathers, where domestic violence is the primary reason for a child welfare response. The goal of service is to increase child safety and well-being. The team is comprised of intake workers, family service workers and counsellors. The family violence team actively seeks participation from parents in providing safety and security for their children. The team values a collaborative service approach to working with families and other service agencies who may be involved with them.

**Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) 519-571-6160**

The Victim/Witness Assistance Program (a branch of the Ministry of the Attorney General) provides victims and witnesses of serious crime with information and assistance throughout the court process to enhance their understanding of and participation in the criminal justice system. VWAP offers assistance to victims of domestic violence as well as to victims of offences such as homicide, traffic fatalities, robbery, sexual assault and elder abuse. Referrals are received from Crowns, Police and directly from victims. Services are voluntary and may include: updates in the court case, explanations of adjournments, referrals for safety planning and counselling services in the community, arranging appointments with the Crown, courtroom tours for victims, preparation for testifying in court, assistance with preparation of Victim Impact Statements, applications to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, advocacy for victims' rights, public education and training, arranging a volunteer for court accompaniment.

**Waterloo Regional Police Service – Domestic Violence Investigations Branch (WRPS) 519-579-9668**

Waterloo Regional Police Services has a dedicated team of detectives to investigate incidents of domestic violence where the commission of an offence has been identified. Domestic violence is any use of physical or sexual force, actual or threatened, in an intimate relationship. This includes opposite and same sex partners and current/former dating, common law and married couples. It also includes emotional/psychological abuse or harassing behaviour.

**Waterloo Regional Police Service/Community Care Access Centre of Waterloo Region - Elder Abuse Response Team (EART) 519-579-4607**

The Elder Abuse Response Team is a collaborative partnership between the Waterloo Regional Police Service and the Community Care Access Centre of Waterloo Region. Core funding is provided by each agency. EART's mission is to prevent and respond to elder abuse by working in partnership with the community and by providing an opportunity for change and healing to people affected by elder abuse, thereby enhancing the safety and well being of older adults. EART's mandate includes providing information and consultation, direct intervention, education and training and community development.

**Waterloo Regional Police Service – Victim Services Unit 519-743-7243**

The Victims Services Unit is a police-based program that began in 1982 and is staffed by civilian employees. The principle goal is to assist people in dealing with the consequences of victimization or tragic circumstances by providing crisis and ongoing emotional support, as well as information regarding community resources, rights and responsibilities within the Criminal Justice System and the court process including terms of release and court updates.

**Waterloo Region Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre (SA/DVTC) 519-749-6994**

The Waterloo Region Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre is a regional program that provides emotional support, medical examination and collection of forensic evidence to those who have been assaulted. Our specially trained nurses, social workers and physicians are available 24 hours, 7 days a week, to those who have experienced sexual assault or partner abuse, and come to the emergency departments of Cambridge Memorial Hospital (south Waterloo) or St. Mary's General Hospital (north Waterloo). We also provide short term counselling to those who have experienced violence.

**Women's Crisis Services (Anselma House 519-742-5894 and Haven House 519-653-2422)**

Women's Crisis Services provides emergency shelter to women and children escaping abusive relationships. Additionally, the Outreach Program assists women with safety planning, legal advocacy, housing and ongoing community support. Women and children who choose not to reside at the shelter are eligible for services. For those who opt to access our shelter services they are provided with ongoing support upon their discharge.