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Transitions - THANS News and Views

THANS Funding Increases

May 9, 2006 The Transition House Association of Nova Scotia was very pleased to find that the DCS_THANS Redesign Funds were part of the new budget tabled at the Provincial legislature on May 9th, 2006. Funds were received for **Bryony House, Naomi Society** and for the **CASA -Juniper House merger**, and to double the funding for the THANS office. The THANS office now has a full time Coordinator, and the new core funding will allow for training, the sustainability of existing programs and services, and the ongoing

development of positive working relationships with government departments whose policies impact the women and children served by our shelters and outreach offices. **The Department of Community Services** addressed all of our priorities, and are committed to an ongoing review of 'pressure points' in our budgets. . We look forward to building on the collaborative and respectful process that resulted in enhanced and strengthened services for abused women and their children in Nova Scotia.



Members of the Board and the Executive Director of the Cape Breton Transition House Association examine coats donated by Freed & Freed International

NSNU Makes Another Donation

On May 15, 2006, Janet Hazelton, President of the Nova Scotia Nurse's Union (NSNU), presented a cheque for \$4569.50 to Lyn Barrett, Co-chair of the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia (THANS,) and Pamela Harrison, THANS Coordinator. It was an opportunity to reflect on the longstanding relationship between the NSNU and THANS.

Since 2000, the NSNU has donated almost \$19,000.00 to support the work of our provincial association and our member organizations. The NSNU money has made an incredible difference to the work of the association, and in fact, on one occasion, saved us from a very difficult cash flow situation. In 2003, the bank account for THANS was down to \$300.00 when a cheque came from the NSNU that kept us going until our provincial funding arrived two months later.

The support of the NSNU has been much more than financial. When the provincial budget of 2002 took almost one million dollars from Family Violence Programs in NS, the NSNU stepped forward. The President attended sessions at the Nova Scotia Legislature that dealt with the decrease in funding, marched in a Candlelight Vigil to bring attention to the possibility that some transition houses might close, and provided letters of support to the Family Violence Redesign Process.

The Redesign was finally completed in September 2005, and resulted in a doubling of the funding for our provincial office, as well as increased funding in other priority areas. As we continue our work with abused women and their children, we are grateful to the ongoing support of Janet Hazelton and the Nova Scotia Nurses Union. Both the Nova Scotia Nurse's Union and the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia provide valuable services to communities across Nova Scotia. We are deeply indebted to the NSNU, for sustaining our work to end violence against women in Nova Scotia.

Chrysalis House Highlight >>>>>

Linda Lapierre, the Children's Outreach worker at Chrysalis House in Kentville, will be coordinating the first Chrysalis House Swim Program, beginning this month. This project, thanks to funding received from the Eastern Kings Community Health Board, will see moms and their children benefit from the use of both indoor and outdoor swim facilities. It will also include transportation, snack, floatation devices for those in need and swim suits, at no cost to the family involved.

"We are hoping through this program to allow mom to feel that she has some leadership in the activities of her children, while at the same time allowing some leisure for herself", says Linda. If this program is successful, Linda will pursue joint funding from all of the local health boards to extend the swimming into the winter months.

London Fog Provides coats for THANS Service Users

Noah Stern runs **Freed & Freed International**, a family business, which holds the Canadian license to market London Fog overcoats. As a result of an employee's experience with abuse, Mr. Stern contacted Shelternet (<http://www.shelternet.ca>) to find out what he and his company could do to help abused women and their

children. Freed & Freed International hold yearly fundraisers to support Shelternet, and has also initiated a plan to donate coats to all of Canada's shelters. This year, through the efforts of Jan Richardson of Shelternet, the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia (THANS) was the delighted recipient of Mr. Stern's generosity. Our mem-

ber organizations received dozens of brightly coloured, top-of-the-line London Fog overcoats. A great number of our clients come to our doors with only the clothes on their backs; receiving a new fashionable coat brings bright smiles to their faces. THANS is very grateful for the generosity of **Freed & Freed International**.