

## **Clothesline Project - Art from the Heart**

The Transition House Association of Nova Scotia (THANS,) is the provincial voice for the transition house movement in Nova Scotia. Our member organizations across Nova Scotia provide shelter, outreach, networking, counselling, programming and education for abused women and their children. As an association, THANS works in the areas of networking, advocacy, policy and research.

Each year THANS coordinates the **Purple Ribbon Campaign**, an initiative commemorating the fourteen women murdered at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal on December 6, 1989. This is a comprehensive campaign of public awareness and fundraising running from November 25<sup>th</sup> to December 10<sup>th</sup> annually. Since 1990, all funds raised have been dedicated to improving shelters and services for the women we serve.

### **NEW Clothesline Project:**

In 2007 we are initiating the "Clothesline Project" that will enable women who have experienced violence to have an opportunity to express their feelings, experience and stories through ART. Our idea is to have women who are in or have been in our shelters, or any survivors of violence to:

Decorate a "scarf"

Write or type their story and attach it to the "scarf"

Use reusable, recycled and "found" objects to create a picture story of the impact of violence on their lives

Because our public awareness campaign takes place in winter, we are hopeful that we will be able to string a clothesline with scarves in our various communities, in a variety of public places, to bring awareness of violence to the public, and most importantly, to give violence survivors an anonymous medium in which to express their feelings around their experiences.

We purchased purple fleece , as purple is the traditional colour associated with violence against women The material had been cut into 12 " x 30" scarves which can then be pinned on clotheslines at events commemorating the 16 Days of Activism to Eliminate Violence Against Women.

We have made 300 scarves, and will be distributing them across the province on a "first come, first served" basis. We are hopeful that your organization will incorporate these "Art Scarves" into events in your community, and that you can find an appropriate public venue to display this **Art From the Heart**.

Thank you

Pamela Harrison

Provincial Coordinator

Transition House Association of Nova Scotia