



ST. FELIX CENTRE
Care. Compassion. Community.

WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN

Initiative for the Women of Hope House

Homelessness in Toronto has more than doubled since 2021.

Today, over 15,400 people are experiencing homelessness in our city — and approximately 40% of them are women. But that number doesn't capture the full picture. Some women, often with children, remain in abusive or unsafe situations because leaving means having nowhere to go.

Thousands more experience "hidden homelessness". They are couch surfing, sleeping in vehicles, living in overcrowded housing, or staying in dangerous relationships because the alternative feels even more dangerous.

They don't show up in the data. But they are there.



BEING A WOMAN WITHOUT A HOME

The median age of death for an unhoused woman in Toronto is

36



For a housed woman, it is

85

More than **40%** of women experiencing homelessness report fleeing abuse.



1 in 4



say domestic violence directly led to their most recent housing loss.

72% of single-parent households are led by women.



1 in 6 single mothers lives in poverty.

Limited access to affordable childcare, combined with part-time or low-wage work, makes safe, stable housing increasingly out of reach.



This is not an abstract crisis. These are our neighbours, our community, our sisters.

Every day, women in our city are forced to choose between a roof over their heads and their own safety. No one should have to make that choice. Together, we can change that.




Where Hope Becomes a Place to Call Home

St. Felix Centre is here for women and their children who are experiencing homelessness or fleeing unsafe situations. We believe everyone has the right to a safe home—it's the first and most critical step toward rebuilding a life.

Since 1993, our community of supporters has made it possible for St. Felix Centre to provide a range of essential services, including transitional housing, community meals and case management.

Today, that commitment continues through Hope House—a dedicated space where women and their children can access safe, affordable, and supportive housing. Through personalized casework and access to health, social, and professional supports, women are able to rebuild stability, regain confidence, and move toward independent futures.

Together, we are creating lasting pathways out of homelessness—and building hope for a brighter future.



"I didn't know where I was going to go. I didn't have money to get a house. I didn't have friends where I could stay. I had a lot of questions — being in Canada and not knowing how things work."

Margaret arrived in Canada with very little, facing a future that felt impossible to navigate. With no income and no support system, she found temporary shelter — but the uncertainty never left. Each day was overshadowed by the same question:

Where am I going to go next?

Then she got the call about Hope House.

"The first day I reached here, I really loved it. It is a very cool place. **It's a home.** I have peace now. The place is so safe."

The shift was immediate. For the first time, the fear began to lift. With stability came possibility. Margaret enrolled in school, built a routine, and began working toward her future. Supported by her caseworkers, she navigated systems that once felt overwhelming. Margaret is now completing a diploma in Social Work, hoping to one day work in a place like Hope House — to be for someone else what this community has been for her.

"They changed my life. **I think I can change someone's life too.**"

Magret's story is one of 31 unfolding at Hope House today. Your support makes each one possible.

Hope House

Each woman living in one of our 31 units has access to:

- Personalized support by a dedicated caseworker
- Short and long-term wellness support
- Crisis prevention and intervention services
- Help to ensure they can sustain income
- Guidance in helping them pursue their educational goals
- Connections to community resources to address legal and financial issues
- Access to culturally appropriate resources
- The ability to bring their pet into their new unit since the building will be 100% pet friendly, maintaining St. Felix Centre's long tradition of recognizing the strong bond between people and their four-legged family members





All of this while living in a studio or one-bedroom unit, available furnished or unfurnished, with the option for women to choose pieces from our in-house furniture inventory to make the space their own. Each unit includes a private kitchen for when residents are ready to cook for themselves and their families.

The building is designed with safety and dignity at its core, featuring secure fob entry, on-site staff, and 24/7 monitored cameras, so residents can feel protected at all times.

There is also a communal kitchen where nutritious meals are prepared on-site, creating space for connection and shared experiences. More than just a place to eat, it serves as a pantry as well, supporting women who may not yet have the means to fully stock their own kitchens. Shared meals become moments of comfort, community, and healing.





A Message of **Hope** from the Executive Director

We have seen it firsthand: the only way to truly break the cycle of violence and instability that leads to homelessness is to provide women, and their children, with a safe, stable place to call home.

Imagine the hope you would feel turning the key and walking into a safe, comfortable home after months or years of fleeing violence, living on the streets, bouncing from shelter to shelter, living in a car, or on someone's couch.

Hope House is open. Thirty-one women are walking through its doors, locking them behind them, and beginning again. What you are reading in these pages is not a vision for the future. It is happening right now, in our city, because of the generosity of people like you.

But the work does not end when the key turns in the lock. The caseworkers, the meals, the health referrals, the educational support, the wraparound care that makes Hope House far more than four walls — all of it depends on continued investment from our community.

Women Supporting Women is our call to the women of this city who have the means and the heart to change lives. We are asking you to see yourself in this campaign, not just as a donor, but as a champion. For Margaret, for Deborah, for Blessing, for Tyra, and for every woman who will come after them.

Every dollar raised through this campaign goes directly toward sustaining the services that make Hope House a true home. When a resident is ready to move toward independence, her unit opens to another woman who needs it urgently. Your gift keeps giving — today and into the future.

Your compassion and generosity can help these families avoid impossible choices, and give them a safe, supportive place to rebuild their lives.

[Together, we can build hope.](#)

BRIAN HARRIS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR- ST. FELIX CENTRE

What Your Support Makes Possible

\$5,000 Outdoor table naming

Your gift provides a resident with a full year of support from a dedicated caseworker, along with access to a nutrition coach to help build healthy eating habits. It also ensures non-perishable food supplies and opens the door to educational bursary opportunities. Beyond that, it offers emergency veterinary support for her pets and access to recreational programming and activities throughout the year.

\$10,000 Room naming


Name one of 30 available residential units. Your sponsorship directly supports ongoing unit upkeep and appliance maintenance, ensuring every resident has a safe, comfortable, and fully functioning home.

Includes all benefits at the \$5,000 level

\$30,000 Pergola area naming

Put your name on Hope House's main outdoor gathering space — a place where residents come together, find connection, and experience moments of joy and belonging. Your sponsorship sustains this vital space for community building.

Includes all benefits at the \$5,000 level



Tyra didn't have a plan when she grabbed a bus ticket and came to the city. She just knew she had to leave the situation she was in. She arrived with nowhere to stay, found her way to transitional housing, and eventually to Hope House.

"Having my own kitchen."

That was her answer when asked what had made her feel like life was moving in a better direction.

It sounds small. It isn't.

Tyra lives with PTSD. Before Hope House, using a shared kitchen was its own kind of ordeal — hypervigilance, the sounds, the strangers, the constant low hum of not feeling safe. Her own kitchen, her own door, her own space to exist without bracing herself — that changes things in ways that are hard to put into words.

So, she cooks. Salmon, stir fries, rice. She wakes up early, cleans her space, goes to the grocery store. She runs. She takes care of her mental and physical health with the kind of intentionality that comes from knowing what it feels like when you can't. Twice a week, she shows up at a First Nations assembly at the waterfront — keeping watch, tending sacred fires, making sure that the stories of missing and murdered Indigenous women are not forgotten, that the space cannot be quietly erased.

She is, in her own way, **rebuilding**.
Quietly, deliberately, on her own terms.

Tyra's story is one of 31 unfolding at Hope House today. Your support makes each one possible.

**Give hope
a place to
grow.**

Donate Today
wswinitiative.ca

For more information, please contact:

Enrique Cohegrus

Director of Philanthropy and Communications
St. Felix Centre

Email: enrique@stfelixcentre.org

“We must open the doors and we must see to it they remain open, so that others can pass through.”

-Rosemary Brown