

# LEARNING TO STOP VIOLENCE

## Donors can support education

In 2018, as Halton Women's Place embarks on 40 years, the community is invited to be part of the Ruby anniversary campaign that signifies the future of ending violence against women. The future is with children.

The Ruby Campaign will specifically raise funds to continue the Public Education and Advocacy Program and reach more kids. With no government funding the program relies on community support.

For more information on being a Ruby Donor and what our recognition opportunities are for each level, please call Carm Bozzo, Development Manager at 905-332-1200 ext. 222 or email [cbozzo@haltonwomensplace.com](mailto:cbozzo@haltonwomensplace.com)

## Education program has reached 36,000 students in Halton over four years.

Educating children about gender equality and creating an understanding that power and control in abusive relationships takes many forms, are the overarching themes of the Public Education and Advocacy Program offered by Halton Women's Place.

Available to students from Grades 1 to 12, the program reached more than 13,000 students in the 2016-2017 school year. Its reach has expanded significantly over the past four years thanks to private donor funding. There are now four educators and more presentations have been developed including resources for Grades 1 to 5. To date, more than 36,000 students have taken part in approximately half of the schools in Halton.

Laurie Hepburn, Manager of Programs and Services notes that not all parents are comfortable discussing topics like healthy friendships, relationships and dating with their children and teens.

"Our hope for the program is that these conversations will extend beyond the classroom and carried on at home, perhaps around the dinner table," says Hepburn.

According to public education team lead Nicole Chapman, "Recognizing healthy,

unhealthy and abusive relationships starts young." In Grade 8 we discuss "red flags" of unhealthy/abusive behaviour, and a tool called the "relationship spectrum" helps us differentiate between healthy and unhealthy behaviours. For example, we can look at things such as decision-making in relationships, or how responsibilities or finances are shared/divided to give us a sense of equality in the relationship," explains Chapman.

For younger students, from Grades 1 to 5, the focus is on social emotional learning, such as developing the skills needed for healthy friendships (conflict resolution, active listening, understanding body language, respect) as well as safety tips such as safe places in the community, online safety and safe use of technology.

High school students learn about healthy dating relationships through topics like sexual consent and coercion, break ups, relationships in the media, domestic violence and the law and the impact of domestic violence on mental health.

"When discussing sexual consent vs co-

ercion, communication is a huge focus. As a class we discuss scenarios in which an assault occurs, and examine why it is considered sexual assault under the law," explains Chapman, adding that discussions also include whether age or position of authority or trust is a factor and are they legally able to consent given the circumstances.

"We also examine the role of potential bystanders and the idea of awkward conversations. Finally we discuss the role of 'words or conduct' in communicating around issues of sexual activity.

There is also a male ally program, EngageMENT, which targets young men as allies in ending violence against women.

"Not all men are part of the problem, but all men can be part of the solution. It's overdue that we engage boys and men as leaders in violence prevention," says Chapman.

"Our tagline is Healthy Relationships = Healthy Communities, and we really believe that," Chapman said.

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- Laurie Hepburn

### March Workshops @ The Barn Door Studio

Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Round Family Name Sign/Tray	\$60/\$70+ tax
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Custom Coatrack	\$65+tax
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> March	6ft Rustic Blanket Ladder	\$75+tax



### April Workshops @ The Barn Door Studio

Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Oversized Framed Sign	\$85+tax
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Custom Growth Chart Ruler	\$65+tax
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Custom Paint a Pillow Set of 2	\$65+tax
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> April	6ft Framed Welcome Sign	\$85+tax
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Oversized Framed Sign	\$85+tax



Wednesday 6:30pm-9:30pm  
Saturday 10:00am-1:00pm



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Halton Women's Place presents...

## The Ruby Gala

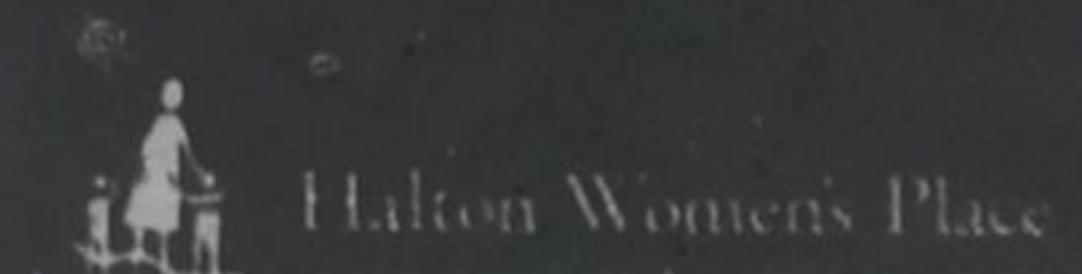
Commemorating 40 Years in Halton

February 24th, 2018

Oakville Conference Centre

5:30pm reception, 7:00pm dinner  
\$150 per ticket or \$1200 for a table of 8

*It's an important  
the friends my dear  
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