

Zonta Club saves day with huge gift to desperate women's centre

By **WILMA BLOKHUIS**
Special to *The Champion*

The Women's Centre has received a \$10,000 boost from the Oakville Zonta Club.

That's enough money to keep the doors open until the end of March, 2001.

The centre, which lost its Ontario Women's Directorate core funding of \$45,000 — mostly to cover rent — at the end of September, has been scrambling to find enough funding to continue operating.

"We're desperate for money," says Melvina Walter, co-director.

"But I'm optimistic that money will be found. I hope people will think about us at Christmas time. The Ontario Women's Directorate cut our funding on only nine days notice."

In its quest for funding, the Women's Centre is circulating letters to be signed and sent to local MPs and MPPs, and also has a petition that can be signed at its Hopedale Shopping Centre location in suite 210.

To date, between 200 and 300 people have signed the petition.

"We've had quite a good response from the community," said Ms Walter, adding copies of the petitions and letters can also be found in Oakville MPP Gary Carr's and Oakville MP Bonnie Brown's offices.

The 12 year-old centre serves approximately 250 women monthly, who are dealing with everything from abuse, separation and divorce to budgeting, career decisions and re-entering the workforce — all at no charge.

Ms Walter said the centre was established 12 years ago to help women coming out of shelters, "but now we're seeing a lot

"We're desperate for money. But I'm optimistic that money will be found. I hope people will think about us at Christmas time. The Ontario Women's Directorate cut our funding on only nine days notice."

MELVINA WALTER

of ethnic women, who because of their background, won't go into a shelter, and women with a high profile in the community who won't go into a shelter. According to statistics, only 13 per cent of all abused women ever go to a shelter.

"And, we're seeing women with depression, who are coping with the loss of loved ones, and women who are going through separation and divorce, plus runaway teens," said Ms Walter.

"We're helping a wide range of women."

After hearing of the Women's Centre's plight, the Oakville Zonta Club decided to give \$10,000 to the centre.

"They do such a good job," said Jean Haynes of the Zonta Club, "yet they seem to be always short of money. They're always struggling, and now their major funding has been cut.

"Their work fits in with Zonta's mission statement to help the well being of women, to assist them socially, economically and

with legal matters.

"The Women's Centre falls under the umbrella of the groups we've tried to help, and they need it badly."

The Zonta Club has always supported the Women's Centre, "but we've never given them this much money at once."

The club has given the proceeds from its gift wrapping centre at Hopedale to the Women's Centre for the past several years.

This year's gift wrapping will start Thursday and continue until December 24 during shopping centre hours. The gift wrapping will be done in a vacant storefront beside the elevator.

The Zonta Club donation came as the seven older members of the group decided to pass the gavel on to its younger members, said Ms Haynes.

"Only two or three of us have been able to do the work. All of us are getting older and we felt it was time to move on (and let the younger members take over)."

The club, for business and professional women, is looking for more gift wrapping volunteers and new members. Call Denise Ertsinian at 844-2355.

The Women's Centre can be reached at 847-9104 or 847-5520 for more information.

Please contribute to *The Champion's* Christmas Bureau Fund for the Salvation Army to ensure everyone has a holiday with all the trimmings.

BELL ALL HERBAL NO SIDE EFFECTS THE EASY WAY TO LOSE WEIGHT PERMANENTLY

EZEEL SLIMMING PATCH

VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FAIL
with the slimming patch in combination with our healthy eating plan that lets you eat until you are full and still lose weight

DUAL ACTION:
1 The active ingredient of the ocean kelp called bladderwrack makes you want to eat less and stops you from overeating.
2 It also speeds up your metabolism and burns off stored fat.

THE ONLY NATURAL and honest approach to stay slim for the rest of your life. Enjoy eating the right foods that cause you to lose weight. Fully explained & supported.

For men and women!

OCEAN HERB bladderwrack has been proven effective & safe for more than 100 years. Starts working same day.

NO STARVING patch plan allows 3 meals and 3 snacks a day. Nutrition experts now say avoid going hungry. It leads to eating binges and weight gain.

NO drugs, NO pills, NO calorie counting, NO restrictive torture diets

People say...

- "Very pleased - lost 13 pounds"
- "Lost many inches and feel great!"
- "Will recommend it to all my friends"
- "Truly delighted with results"
- "Lost weight & kept it off"
- "Reached desired weight"
- "Simplicity of patch surprised me"

Same food plan as used by movie stars when they have to lose weight. One month supply of patches \$29.95.

AVAILABLE in MILTON at:
Health Equals DLS 160A Main St. E. Ph. 878-2297
Little Angels and Under the Stars 3 Mill St. Ph. 693-1219
Nutrition House (South Milton Mall) 55 Ontario St. Ph. 693-8942
Second Nature 190 Main St. E. Ph. 875-1342

Call stores first, if out of stock, call us at 1-800-333-7995

'Tis The Season To Give Comfort!

NO PAYMENTS!
NO INTEREST!
UNTIL MAY 1ST!

OR
50% OFF

10 YEAR EXTENDED WARRANTY ON ALL HVAC EQUIPMENT INCLUDING FIREPLACES!

- FREE IN-HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY ANALYSIS.
- Sales and expert installation of Furnaces, Fireplaces, Hot Water Heaters & Air Conditioners.
- Maintenance Packages.
- 24 Hour Emergency Service.

A Name You've Grown To Trust.

CALL TOLL FREE
1-888-718-6466

Visit our website at: www.unionenergy.com

*Offer valid on all Union Energy installed HVAC products purchased between December 1, 2000 until December 31, 2000. Offer applies to installed Union Energy purchases only. Offer valid on residential equipment only. Interest charges at the rate of 17.9% per annum begin accruing on accounts with an outstanding balance as of May 1st, 2001. "No payment No interest" offer cannot be combined with "50% off Extended Warranty" offer. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer valid on approved credit. Some conditions apply.

ON SALE SAT. DEC. 9 TO FRI. DEC. 22, 2000

bulk barn

Guaranteed top Quality!

up to 1/3 OFF SPECIALS

blached, roasted, salted or unsalted Peanuts 2.50 kg 1.13 lb	roasted, salted or unsalted, no peanuts Deluxe Mixed Nuts 10.26 kg 4.65 lb
original, bbq, cheese or salsa ranch Bits & Bites 6.10 kg 2.77 lb	Wilkinson Licorice Allsorts 5.25 kg 2.38 lb
roasted, salted or unsalted Whole Cashews 14.36 kg 6.51 lb	selected varieties including macaroons & rosebuds Neilson Bulk Chocolate 5.86 kg 2.66 lb

PLUS 25 IN STORE SPECIALS EVERY WEEK

ON WEDNESDAY SENIORS SAVE 10%
ON THEIR TOTAL SHOPPING BILL, EXCLUDING SPECIALS.

While supplies last. On advertised items we reserve the right to limit quantities. No dealers please. 1/3 off refers to Bulk Barn everyday low prices.

Milton Mall 55 Ontario St. S. (905) 693-9207

WATCH FOR OUR WEEKLY SPECIALS IN THIS NEWSPAPER

Bulk Barn Head Office (905) 886-6756