

## MEMBERSHIP FORM 2016 - 2017

(Membership period is from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017)

I would like to become a member/renew my membership of the Corporation of Women's House *Serving Bruce & Grey*. I understand as a member I would be entitled to vote at general meetings and the Annual General Meeting of the Corporation, provided my application for membership is received no later than March 31, 2016 and approved 30 days before the Annual General Meeting. Please note that the board does not meet in July or August so membership applications must be approved no later than the June meeting. Membership period is from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017, the agency's fiscal year. I agree with the Mission, Vision and Statement of Principles of Women's House *Serving Bruce & Grey*. I am 18 years of age or over and am a permanent resident of a province or territory of Canada. **Membership fee of \$10.00 annually must accompany the application form.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheque payable to **Women's House *Serving Bruce & Grey*** and return to:

**Women's House *Serving Bruce & Grey***  
**Box 760**  
**KINCARDINE, Ontario**  
**N2Z 2Z4**

I have enclosed:

___ Individual Membership	\$ 10.00
___ Additional donation	\$ _____
Total Amount	\$ _____

\_\_\_ Please send me a charitable tax receipt for my additional donation.

### ANNUAL GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) is normally held on the 4<sup>TH</sup> Wednesday of September. You may access our website for the following information after August 31, 2016: Business meeting agenda with confirmed time, date and location, previous year's minutes, list of the current board members, nominations for new board members at AGM, Bylaws, Audited Financial Statement and the Annual Report.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

We will provide services, within supportive environments, to women 16 years of age and older, and their children, who have or are experiencing abuse, sexual violence and homelessness. We base our work from a feminist, anti-racist, anti-oppression framework that embraces diversity, inclusiveness and equity. Our commitment is to social change through education and advocacy in order to achieve social justice for all women.

### **VISION**

To achieve an atmosphere in Society, in which all are respected, safe and valued as individuals. In the interim, we need to provide a safe container which nurtures, heals, and encourages growth to full potential.

### **STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

- It is a basic human right to be free from abuse and sexual violence. Also it is a basic human right to have safety, dignity, respect, social and economic justice, self determination and to contribute to society in our own manner.
- Abuse and sexual violence are societal problems, yet generally perceived as private matters. Community has an obligation to become involved in these issues.
- Education is necessary to bring about effective changes in attitude. We believe in challenging statements and beliefs that minimize the seriousness of racism, oppression, abuse and sexual violence.
- Children's lives are traumatized by exposure to abusive environments. Their witnessing and normalizing of violence perpetuates the cycle. Their needs are specific and distinct from the needs of their parents.
- We believe in fostering, sustaining and affirming women's culture and diversity and that they are sources of enrichment and strength.
- We value the reality of every individual's experience and acknowledge and respect their uniqueness and understand that Individuals may display a variety of behaviours as coping strategies. However, safety of the woman shall be the primary focus of any intervention and she shall receive sensitive, immediate and appropriate service.
- We believe that poverty, hunger and homelessness are safety issues that keep women and children in abusive situations.
- Women's House recognizes that all women face misogyny and sexism, however some bear an additional burden of oppression due to racism and other forms of oppression.
- We believe that systemic racism, discrimination, and oppression based on race, religion, class, sexual orientation, gender identification, age, and ability must be addressed as part of an integrated approach to ending poverty, abuse, sexual violence, and homelessness in the lives of women.
- Networking, partnerships and resource building with other community partners is essential in order to best serve the needs of women experiencing abuse and /or sexual violence.
- A coordinated community approach to service delivery is essential in order to provide options and information about services and the impacts of abuse and sexual violence so that the victim/survivors can make informed choices.
- We believe that the abuser is responsible for his/her behaviour and should be held accountable. Society must develop a policy of zero tolerance for abuse and sexual violence.
- Women's House believes in being accountable to the victims and survivors who use our services.

***Your membership means a lot to us. It means you support Women's House Serving Bruce and Grey working towards the elimination of violence against women in our communities.***

#### ***The benefits of Women's House Membership:***

- Receive our Bi-annual newsletter
- Voting privileges at the Annual General Meeting (as per bylaws)
- Access to printed and video resources on family violence
- Opportunity to apply to volunteer on various committees/projects
- Opportunity to apply to stand for election to the Board of Directors

***Please*** take a moment to complete the enclosed membership form and return it to us no later than **MARCH 31, 2016.** Memberships submitted past this date may be accepted at the next regular meeting of the board of directors (please note, the board does not hold meetings in July or August).