

Cornwall
compassion
centre



Proposed Maternity Home

The Cornwall Compassion Centre is a Not-For-Profit corporation founded in 2007 to service unmet needs in the City of Cornwall, Akwesasne, and the counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry.



The Cornwall Compassion Centre is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors:

- Roy Stephenson Lead Pastor / Harvest Christian Fellowship
- Dan Parkinson Retired Chief of Police
- Norm Augi Retired Bookkeeper
- Ryan Brink Systems Analyst
- Dick D'Alessio Retired Executive Director; Pastoral Care Pastor

The Compassion Centre opened its 24 hour/seven days a week childcare centre in May of 2009. Heart of the Family Child Care centre currently provides services to 332 children.

The Compassion Centre has identified the need for a maternity home that will:

- Provide safe transitional housing;
- Give mothers the opportunity to learn parenting skills, that will allow them to keep and raise their children that may otherwise be in danger of being taken into foster care;
- Teach living skills such as hygiene, cooking, housekeeping, etc.;
- Give young mothers the opportunity to finish their secondary education if they so choose;
- Develop individual transition plans, along with the mothers, to help them find work and a safe and reasonably priced place to live, when they are ready to move back into the community.

It is our intention to create and operate a maternity home that will support eighteen (18) mothers from their second trimester of pregnancy, until their new child reaches the age of 9 months.

The home will consist of three pods under one roof, each designed and fully furnished as separate homes for six (6) mothers and their children.

Our Planning Committee has representation from:

- The Eastern Ontario Health Unit
- The Children's Aid Society of SD&G
- The Cornwall Community Hospital – Child and Youth Mental Health
- The Glengarry Interagency – Early ON Child and Family Centre
- The City of Cornwall – Children's Division

The Need:

- It is our understanding, based on discussions with our community partners that 40 to 60 mothers from our catchment area are in need of this service each year.
- Cornwall has a high incidence of people on ODSP and Ontario Works recipients because housing costs are relatively low, and people are encouraged to move here from other communities. This compounds the need for service.
- Our Region has a high instance of teen pregnancies
- The only home that we have found that still operates between Cornwall and Toronto is St. Mary's Home in Ottawa. St. Mary's can service twenty (20) mothers at a time. They service the Greater Ottawa Area, Prescott/Russell, and SD&G.

Unique Features:

- The service will be provided in the actual location of the need, rather than having people move outside their counties of origin, where financial pressures often don't allow families and friends to visit.
- The residents of Akwesasne will be able to use services close to home. The service provided will be culturally sensitive.
- There is a consistent collaboration of agencies in Cornwall, SDG, and Akwesasne.
- Post natal admissions will be accepted up to six weeks following the birth of the child.
- Self-referrals will be eligible for admission.
- Mothers will be made aware of generic community services and taught how to access them, in order to reduce their dependence on government funded support services.

How will the project be funded?

1. The purchase of the building, renovations, and furnishings will be funded by seed money from the Cornwall Compassion Centre and fund raising.
2. Part of the Operating Budget will be recovered through ODSP and Ontario Works revenues from the mothers.
3. The Provincial Government is being lobbied to fund a shortfall of \$195,000 in the annualized operating budget.

Note:

- If only three of the eighteen mothers is successful in keeping their children, rather than having them go into foster care, the requested annualized funding will have been recovered. Needless to say, the success rate is anticipated to be much higher.

Letters of Support

We currently have letters of support from:

- The Eastern Ontario Health Unit
- Early ON Child and Family Centre / GIAG
- Children's Aid Society Stormont Dundas & Glengarry
- Child and Mental Health Services Cornwall Community Hospital
- City of Cornwall Child Care Services
- The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry
- Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
- The Service Club Council of Cornwall and District

What is the Cornwall Compassion Centre requesting of City of Council?

The Cornwall Compassion Centre would like to request that the City of Cornwall provide a letter of support endorsing the proposed maternity home that will serve the City of Cornwall, Akwesasne, and the Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry.

We believe that the community will support a fundraising campaign to purchase, renovate, and furnish a building, but communities across Ontario have demonstrated that fund raising cannot be counted on to sustain the annualized budget.

It is hoped that the letters of support will encourage the Minister of Children and Community and Social Services to look favourably at our request for annualized funding.