

Fundraiser's success depends on the collective efforts of community partners and supporters

Get ready... we're shining up those big red shoes for the third annual **Men in Heels & Lunch on Wheels** fundraiser and we need you!

This fun and spirited lunchtime event returns to Museum Square in downtown Woodstock on **Thursday June 13, 2019** with a 12:15 p.m. walk time (*please see page 2 for details*). But while the event itself is fun, the reason for the fundraiser is serious and vitally important: raising money for women who have been victimized by sexual and physical violence. It's an issue with devastating consequences for the victims, as well as their families, friends and the communities in which they live.

That's why it's critical to get the whole community involved in raising awareness and money for effective,



life-changing programs and services like those offered by Domestic Abuse Services Oxford. DASO's Executive Director Rhonda Hendel says ensuring programs are available to survivors of sexual violence continues to be a challenge, primarily because government funding for sexual assault counselling is limited and doesn't come close to covering the demand. "Fundraised dollars help close that gap."



Men from all "walks" of life bravely sport the red heels in support of DASO!



DASO is grateful for the support of local organizations and individuals.



But while fundraising is essential, event planning consumes time and resources. That's why DASO is grateful for the continued support of friends and benefactors including, for the third consecutive year, event chair Diane Langner of Woodstock Print and Stiletto Sponsor Vuteq Canada Ltd. They're joined by committee members Diane Mason of Oxford Sand & Gravel and Scott Deroo of Deroo Bros. Ventures, and a growing roster of groups, businesses and individuals that understand the importance and the power of working together to end violence against women. "I'm filled with hope and pride when I see what this community is capable of achieving when we work together," says Rhonda.

Continued on page 2...

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Continued from page 1...

This event showcases men walking together in downtown Woodstock as a visible show of support for efforts to end gender-based violence. But wearing the red shoes – or walking at all – is optional. There are other ways to participate and several opportunities for everyone in the community to play a role in support of this important fundraiser (see the box below).

The registration/donation table will be open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the actual (short!) walk taking place at 12:15 p.m.

Enjoy “Lunch on Wheels”

Once again this year, delicious food options – including Todd’s Dogs, Boston Pizza and Tiffins – will be available. Participants and supporters can also shop the farm market vendors and the many downtown establishments.

For more information (including details about partnership levels) and to download forms visit **www.daso.ca** or contact:

Heather (519-539-7488 ext. 236, heather@daso.ca) or Rhonda (519-539-7488 ext. 223, rhonda@daso.ca).



How can you help?

Walk, pledge, sponsor, donate... so many ways to participate!

Please join us and help ensure the success of this great event! You can...

- **Become an event partner.** Partnership levels starting at \$125 are available.
- **Register as a walk participant.** The registration fee is just \$20 - or a minimum \$20 in pledges. Register on your own, or better yet, get a team together (e.g. friends, family, colleagues, neighbours) and encourage/challenge other teams!
- **Pledge or donate.** All amounts welcome and appreciated!
- **Fill - a - Basket.** Collect toiletries and other essentials for DASO’s clients.

For more information and to download forms and pledge sheets, visit:

www.daso.ca

Charitable tax receipts can be issued for donations of any amount.



New “open” registration benefits families

Believe in Me: health, happiness and healing

DASO’s program for children and adolescents – and their mothers – who have been exposed to domestic abuse in their homes is credited with helping families heal, move forward and build the foundation for stronger, healthier relationships in the future.

Believe in Me focuses on breaking the cycle of violence by helping children and teens deal with the effects of seeing and/or experiencing violence and abuse.

Families meet once a week (currently Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.) beginning with a free healthy snack. A portion of each session is spent together as a family discussing topics such as awareness of feelings, conflict resolution, separation and divorce, safety planning and self-esteem.

There are also opportunities for mothers and children to break into their own separate groups for discussion and activities.

DASO recently adopted “open” registration: families no longer need to wait for the next series of Believe in Me sessions to begin. Instead they can start attending the sessions as soon as they’ve completed the registration process. “This means mothers and their kids can receive the support and help they need sooner,” says Sarah



Fenton, DASO’s Family Support Worker. The program is fun, free and confidential.

For more information or to register, contact DASO at: sarahf@daso.ca / 519-539-7488 ext. 225.

YES! I would like to help Domestic Abuse Services Oxford and help women and children begin new lives free of abuse and violence.

Enclosed is my gift of: \$40 \$75 \$100 Other \$ _____

Please apply this donation to DASO’s sexual assault counselling program:

Donation made by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov.: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone number: _____ Email.: _____

Enclosed is my cheque *(Please make cheque payable to Domestic Abuse Services Oxford and mail to 975 James Street, Woodstock ON N4S 0A5)*

Or, please charge to my credit card Visa MasterCard

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

Card number: _____ Expiry date: _____

Please contact me about other ways to give.

Charitable registration # 10821 9767 RR0001

DASO marks 45 years of service to the community

This year DASO turns 45! It's a significant anniversary and worth acknowledging: since opening our doors in 1974, we've provided protection, prevention and possibilities to more than 17,000 women, children and adolescents in Oxford County impacted by domestic abuse and/or homelessness.

We continue to be proud of our service to the community and honoured to play a role in helping women, children and teens make the transition to happy and safer lives. We're still committed to the important work we do and meeting the need for safe shelter, support and services. Sadly, that hasn't changed in the past 45 years. In fact demand for our programs and services has never been higher and additional factors – such as limited affordable housing options – add to the challenges we face every day.

What has changed? Plenty! Aside from the agency's location, facility, name, logo, services and program offerings – all in response to the changing needs of the community – laws have changed making domestic abuse/violence a crime. So have attitudes and convictions surrounding gender-based sexual and physical violence. They are still devastating social problems to be solved but the #MeToo movement demonstrates a significant step in the right direction.

And like most industries and sectors, a facet of life most of us now take for granted – computer technology – has changed and impacted shelters and other VAW services. There's a downside to that: cyber stalking and harassment are among the "new" ways women are victimized.

But technology has benefited our mission and mandate in many ways by ensuring our message is heard and making it easier for women to contact us. Today, in addition to our crisis/information/support telephone line and website, we can be reached through email, Facebook and a dedicated text line.

We'll continue to use the tools and technology for the benefit of our clients as well as to communicate with our donors, benefactors and supporters, an increasing number of whom prefer to receive information via electronic means.

Please take a moment to contact us (info@daso.ca or **519-539-7488 ext. 236**) if you'd like to receive future newsletters via email.

By subscribing to our email list you can elect to receive news/updates, and provide your feedback. We look forward to sharing and communi-

cating with you as we continue to provide our essential services in Oxford County.



Domestic Abuse Services Oxford

24-hour Help Line: 519-539-4811 / 1-800-265-1938

Text: 519-788-9993

All other calls: 519-539-7488

Email: info@daso.ca

Facebook: Domestic Abuse Services Oxford

Website: www.daso.ca

*All services for women and children
are free and confidential.*



975 James Street, Woodstock, Ontario N4S 0A5