Mission Statement

Women's Multicultural Resource and Counselling Centre of Durham (WMRCC) is a non-profit, charitable and community based women's organization working from an integrated feminist, anti-racist and anti-oppression framework. All women regardless of race, cultural and social identity, sexual orientation, religion, class, age, ability have equal access to our programs and services.

WMRCC of Durham Board of Directors, staff, volunteers & students would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday, merry Christmas, Chanukah, Eid-ul-Azha, Hanuka, Kwanza, Festival of Diwali, Thai Pongal, las Posadas, Dong ZHi, Bohdi Day and a New Year filled with enthusiasm and joy.

Seasons Greetings from the Executive Director

Joy to the world and peace to all on Earth!

It is the holiday season; what we all look forward to every year. It is the time to take time out of our busy schedules to spend time with our loved ones, reflect on the year's activities and look towards the New Year. For WMRCC, this has been a very hectic year with lots of changes, challenges and excitement.

At WMRCC of Durham we welcome some great women in the agency as Board of Directors, members, volunteers, students and staff. The board has been very busy working in the strategic plan for the next few years. The staff, students and volunteers have been diligently working on numerous projects to meet the needs of the service users, and participating in many community initiatives including attending the grand openings for the two new Welcome Centers in Ajax and Pickering on December 2nd, 2011. We are happy that our dream for the Welcome Centre in the region is now a reality. It is a dream come true for those of us who have been advocating for such an initiative over the past few years. It is so sad that one the advocates, Rick Lea passed away before this grand opening. May his soul rest in peace.

To him and to all those who worked to realize this dream, thank you.
In the month of October, we held our Annual General Meeting on October 29th, 2011 at the McLean community centre which was well attended by the area politicians, friends, families, partners, service users and community members.

We appreciate the attendance of everyone who came to support the work of the agency including MP Chisu, MPP Dickson, MPP MacCharles, Mayor Parish, Judy Paty from MP Alexander’s office, Catherine Bond from CIC and Kim Lowe from SNAP Newspaper. We especially appreciate the woman who spoke about the services she received from the centre, the youth from the Blueprint Project, the board of directors, members of WMRCC, staff and volunteers.

In the month of November, the Women Abuse Awareness Month Event was held on November 22nd, 2011. As in every year, it was a great event with some powerful speakers. Few guest speakers spoke about a variety of issues as they relate to violence against women and issues of violence in LBTQ community.

We would like to thank everyone who supported the agency this year, funders, our special event sponsors and donors, Dream Gala sponsors, donors and attendees; holiday seasons donors, sponsors and everyone who has supported and helped us in one way or the other. Thank you all for helping us make a difference in our community as we cannot do it alone without your support.

Have a wonderful holiday and may the peace & joy that this season brings be yours today and always.

Take good care and blessings.

In solidarity,
Esther Enyolu.
Imagine the Joy of Giving at the Holiday

Our heart felt appreciation goes to all who contributed items and monetary donations to our agency during this season;

Our special thanks goes to:
The Rotary Club of Pickering
Ontario Power Generation Inc.
Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario
The Toronto Star Santa Clause Fund
CTV Chum Charitable Foundation
Veridian Connections
Lori King

Sincere gratitude to all those who chose WMRCC of Durham as their charity of choice this Holiday Season:
Durham Home and Small Business Association
Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade
National Bank of Canada

Special thanks to:
Durham Regional Police Services for donating toys,
The Canadian Blood Services and Melissa Smith-McGuire
Pickering Swim Club and Lisa Flood Christmas Classic
City of Pickering and Sharon Milton
Men’s Group, Canadian Progress Club
WMRCC Board of Directors who participated in the Food Drive
Home Instead Senior Care and Shelly Portelance
Everyone who assisted with our community Christmas/Holiday Party on December 18th, 2011, especially our talented DJs

Don Terry of Ontario Power Generation presenting a cheque to WMRCC of Durham on behalf of the attendees at the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade Christmas Luncheon and AGM

We Sincerely appreciate everyone’s support and contribution
Greetings from the Youth Community Connections Program

The Youth Community Connections program is in full swing as we approach the New Year! The YCC Workers are facilitating workshops in 9 Durham District School Board High Schools with a good turnout in each program.

The programs are designed to engage and empower newcomer and volunteer youth in a mentorship relationship. The YCC Workers conduct interviews with all youth participants and successfully match newcomer youth with volunteer youth based on interests and age. Once this match has been made, the pair begins to develop a friendship and support each other in school and within the community.

Thus far, the YCC Workers have engaged the youth participants in several educational and exciting workshops as well as fun and interesting activities. The YCC Workers have successfully matched several newcomer youth with volunteer youth.

The feedback we have received from the participants and teachers have been excellent and we are looking forward to the New Year.

We would like to thank the School Boards and school staff for all their support.

Valerie Smith,
YCC Program Coordinator

The Blueprint Project
Engaging youth to prevent violence against girls and women

The youth in this project have been very active presenting to a variety of audience; youth, women, men, faith and ethno-cultural groups, and community based organizations within the Durham community on the issues of violence against girls & women.

These youth presentations have been a welcomed segment in most events held within Durham region. Presently we have over 20 youth participating in this project and we are looking forward to recruiting and training more youth in the new year.

We would like to thank the analyst, the evaluators and the youth for their hard work on this initiative.
Congratulations to Atiyya!

The YMCA Peace Medallion Award honors those individuals who consider the health of the entire planet and take action in their communities and cities by championing a cause, inspiring people to get involved, creating positive change and making our communities a peaceful place to live.

We are very proud that Atiyya Bacchus was nominated for this award. She is a young woman who has demonstrated strong leadership skills through different community projects she is involved in. She has been involved in two projects at our agency, WMRCC of Durham.

- She volunteers for our Youth Community Connections Program mentoring and supporting newcomer youth
- The Blueprint Project: Engaging Youth to Prevent Violence against Girls and women, using Gender Based Analysis and Power & Control Model to present awareness and educational workshops to all diverse groups within the community.

She volunteers for her school’s Environmental Club and started a “Me to We” program to get more student involved in activism. Through starting projects in the community, She has been able to inspire others to think about how they can make an impact on both local and global levels. As well, She is also involved in so many initiatives in the community. It is very obvious that we have young leaders in our community and Atiyya is one of those outstanding leaders.

Keep Up The Great Work!
Annual General Meeting Snap Shot

Blue Print Project Youth, Atiyya & Kiana

Kisho & MP Chisu

Amany

Monica & Catherine Bond, CIC Officer

Zena & Valarie & some guests

MPP MacCharles, MPP Dickson & Joyce

Mayor Parish, MPP MacCharles, MP Chisu & MPP Dickson
Annual General Meeting

The Women’s Multicultural Resource and Counselling Centre of Durham’s 18th Annual General Meeting was held at the McLean Community Centre on October 29th, 2011. The event was well attended by community members, partners, funders, service users, WMRCC members, and distinguished local politicians including Mayor Steve Parish, MPP Tracy MacCharles, MP Chisu, MPP Joe Dickson, Judy Paty from MP Chris Alexander’s office, Catherine Bond From Citizenship and Immigration Canada; our Board of Directors and our membership.

We appreciate the time and participation of all who attended and spoke at our AGM.

We extend special appreciation to all those who recently joined our membership team.

Board of Directors & Executive Director
Women’s Abuse Awareness Month Event

On November 22nd, WMRCC, in partnership with other community organizations, held the Women Abuse Awareness Month Event as we have done for many years. The event was held at the Ajax Community Center.

This event included powerful words from several different women. Those who spoke included two youth participants from WMRCC’s Blueprint Project, Kim from My Sister’s Voice, Bridget and Arifa for sharing a wealth of knowledge and inspiring all the attendees on the issues of violence against women and on the same-sex relationship.

The event aimed to raise awareness of violence against women and develop strategies to eradicate violence in our community. Many came out to show their support for the cause and left feeling empowered and encouraged. It was a powerful evening.

WMRCC would like to thank our partners nt: Bethesda House, My Sister’s Voice, The Denise House, Girls Inc., Oshawa Durham Rape Crisis Center, Herizon House, Women's Center and Diversity Office of UOIT/Durham College, Y’s Wish Shelter and YWCA Durham.

A special thanks also goes out to the agencies who set up information booths at the event. We appreciate your involvement and support!!

[Images of event organizers with guests, guest speakers, and event organizers with women from TCAS]
**Elderly Women’s Support Program**

Our Elderly Women’s Support Program is still in full swing with the women participating in the weekly workshops with their aide coaches/mentors.

We would like to thank our dedicated volunteers who have continued to support the women and make home visits to minimize the isolation these elderly women face in the community.

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Home Instead Senior Care and Shelly Portelance for arranging special gifts for the women in our Elderly Women’s Support Program. We appreciate your support and thoughtfulness.

**Recipe for Curried Chickpeas by Arifa Ghaffer**

**Ingredients:**

- 1 small sliced onion
- 1 medium tomato, sliced thinly
- 1 can of Checkpeas
- 1/4 tsp salt (or to taste)
- 1/4 tsp chillis (or to taste)
- 1 pinch of cumin powder
- 2 tbsp olive oil

**Directions:**

- In sauce pan, sauté onions in oil until they are soft
- Add chickpeas, tomatoes, salt, chillies and cummin, stir
- Cover and let simmer on low heat for 10 minutes
- Serve warm with fresh coriander and chutney
- If you would like to serve with gravy, save all liquid from chickpea can
- ENJOY!
WMRCC of Durham’s Annual Holiday Party

It was a great holiday party on Sunday December 18th, 2011 at the Pickering Recreation Centre as WMRCC of Durham held its’ annual Christmas / holiday party for women, youth and children. This year’s event was sponsored by Men’s Group, Canadian Progress Club. Over 100 women, youth and children attended this party. There were activities and games for the children such as face painting, arts& craft. Everyone seemed to have a great time. Special appreciation goes to our talented young DJs Devan & Dilly for volunteering to add extra fun to our party. We also would like to thank Fatima & Joan for providing face painting, arts and crafts for the children and all the volunteers, board and staff who assisted with the event.

Our appreciation goes to Sharon Milton for assisting in organizing this year’s event. Special thanks to Santa Claus & Ms. Claus for adding that special holiday joy to the event! Santa spent some time distributing presents while Ms. Claus gave out candy and goodies to the children and youth. We would also like to thank Durham Regional Police Services, National Bank of Canada, Canadian Blood Services and Melissa McGuire for helping Santa in arranging for this year’s gifts. Also, WMRCC of Durham wishes to thank Veridian Connections and the City of Pickering for contributing towards the party’s facility.

We would like to thank CTV Chum Charitable Foundation, Ontario Power Generation, and The Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund for sponsoring our “Adopt a family at Christmas Program”

Happy Holidays
WMRCC Board Members, Executive Director and some members of the Men's Group, Canadian Progress Club

WMRCC Board Members, and Staff visiting with Santa and Ms Claus

A few happy children with Santa Claus

Thank you letter from one of our service users;

“Dear Esther, Thank you for the wonderful work that you are doing. It’s people like you that makes a difference into so many people lives similar to mine. I would not want to imagine the world without you in it. May GOD richly bless you, and increase the wonderful work that you are doing. Once again, may GOD bless you, and all the staffs and supporters that help to organize the event, it was very good. Also, special thanks to Santa, and Mrs. Claus as-well, for their kindness. They have touched a lot of lives include mine and my family, for this we will always be grateful. There is a passage in the bible I believe in the book of St Mathew that says, "What ever you, have done unto one of my least, you have done unto me also". Jesus was talking about Himself which is to say, if you are kind to one of his sheep, you are to him as well, and he will pay you three fold. Therefore, for touching so many lives in so many special ways, there is a special blessing in store for you and your children, and for generations to come. What ever that you have done for GOD, will not go unnoticed. Once again, Esther, Santa, and Mrs. Claus with a heart full of gratitude, may GOD Bless you.”

From P.
WMRCC of Durham would like to thank all of our funders. We sincerely appreciate your support from the bottom of our hearts.

WMRCC Funders:

- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Fondation Trillium de l’Ontario
- Status of Women Canada
- Condition féminine Canada
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada