



Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic
Annual Report to the Community
2010 – 2011

Hitting Our Stride

Barbra Schlifer 
Commemorative Clinic
Freedom From Violence.

Hitting Our Stride

As an important part of the Barbra Schlifer Clinic, you are part of something meaningful.

**IN 2010, YOU SUPPORTED US TO ASSIST
OVER 4000 WOMEN TO ACHIEVE LIVES
FREE FROM VIOLENCE.**

By being part of us, you are showing your commitment to values that transcend the everyday, and make a contribution to creating a better society.

The board, staff and clients of the Clinic have taken their stewardship of this community resource very seriously, and this year we have renewed its historic mission.



Named for a young lawyer committed to justice who lost her life to violence, the Barbra Schlifer Clinic has realigned its purpose over the last year in a bold strategic plan that is gathered around a new mission, vision and set of principles that will guide our service to a new era of women's right to live free from violence.

In a world that has begun to polarize the issues of cultural expression and women's right to universal protections, insisting that they are antithetical, the Barbra Schlifer Clinic offers a nuanced response that supports and co-creates service design, community activism and cultural belonging -- situating women's right to freedom from violence within, a critical engagement with, rather than against, her cultural context.

In practical terms, this means our new strategic plan accepts women’s strengths, history of resistance and agency, whatever cultural form it takes, and invites a collaborative growth of common purpose to support those most in need of resources to build violence-free communities.

While we are realigning to reach more women most isolated and at risk for acts of violence by appealing to their own devices and strategies for support and change, we are also solidifying that which we do best. Our strategic priorities are as follows:

1. **Increase Our Impact on Underserved Communities through Service Evolution and Innovation**

Barbra Schlifer Clinic will be providing services that respond to more diverse experiences of violence in innovative, bold and focused ways, with special focus on communities of highest risk and least voice/social power. The Clinic will remain rooted in its core strengths and founding principles while co-creating new community collaborations and innovative program models.

2. **Broaden Our Sphere of Influence**

Linked to the international violence against women dialogue, the Clinic will build on its grassroots, community-based strength to build our voice and impact locally.

3. **Strengthen Our Organization**

The Clinic has improved and strengthened its infrastructure and systems for greater service and operational integration and efficiency. Organizational systems including technology, data and information management, and administrative functions are robust and supporting the Clinic’s multi-disciplinary approach. Physical space is configured appropriately for optimal program and staff/volunteer use.

Partnerships with emerging communities will expand the Clinic’s reach from its physical location to communities where responses to violence are emergent, tentative and geographically situated: neighbourhoods, religious communities, linguistic groups and those gathered across differences with the common bond of poverty.

Our strong and unique combination of legal support and representation, professional counseling and support groups, as well as multilingual language interpretation for women is just now hitting its stride.

As we strengthen communities, we also pledge to strengthen women’s services to respond to new realities and change. Our leadership will have these broader aims top of mind.

Two of our newly minted guiding principles speak to this:

Women in every culture in the world have ways of working together to stop violence, and our work will honour and value these diverse strengths.

Respectful relations and positive social change are possible when women and men work toward them. Each woman who comes to the Clinic and each woman who works in the Clinic is making her own contribution towards that change.

Read ahead to find out about our many innovations and successes in fulfilling our mission with a renewed purpose and clarity, one that we are convinced will advance the project of building lives and communities free from violence.

Carole Dagher
President

Amanda Dale
Executive Director

MISSION

The Barbra Schlifer Clinic offers legal representation, professional counseling and multilingual interpretation to women who have experienced violence. Our diverse, skilled and compassionate staff accompany women through personal and practical transformation, helping them to build lives free from violence.

We are a centre by, for and about women. We amplify women’s voices, and build on their skills and resilience. Together with our donors and volunteers, we are active in changing the conditions that threaten women’s dignity and equality.

VISION STATEMENT

We envision a world where diverse women:

- Build lives free from violence.
- Work together to create a more just world.
- Live their own lives in respectful communities that provide meaning and belonging.

WE VALUE:

Feminism and Anti-Oppression

Compassion and Self-Awareness

A Reflective Awareness of Power

Community and Connection

Autonomy and Self-Determination

Our Strategic Commitments

In 2010, we built on the strength and success of our core program areas in Counselling, Language Interpretation and Legal Services with the following



Priority 1: Increase our Impact on Underserved Communities through Service Evolution and Service innovation

We joined the Regent Park Community Health Centre to offer specialized facilitation for newcomer women in the regent Park area who were abused.

We were successful in getting federal funding for a project to run a women’s leadership and community speaker’s training in Parkdale (with the Ontario Council of Alternative Businesses, a psychiatric survivor economic development agency, along with Sistering, women’s drop-in and the New Mennonite Centre, a new comer’s settlement agency).

With Elizabeth Fry Toronto and WomanACT, the Schlifer Clinic launched a new approach to a women’s safety audit that will account for the lack of safety women experience not only in their physical environments, but because of policies and procedures that amplify their risks of experiencing violence.

In February 2010, our Language Interpreter Services launched a new social purpose enterprise, Interpreter Services Toronto, an expansion of our established expertise in language interpretation in difficult situations. This new revenue-generating enterprise will balance the books as well as the social bottom line, by giving new immigrant women certification, training and professional expertise that allows them to find meaningful, fairly paid work. Clinic will provide customers with skilled face-to-face, written and telephone interpretation and support its non-funded programs.

With our partners in the women’s anti-violence field, we joined the Ministry of the Attorney General’s round table to co-create supports for women experiencing domestic violence during the period of reform that the Family Court process reforms are being implemented. We expected to offer enhanced support in the family courts by 2011/12.

THREE-YEAR OUTCOME

The Clinic is delivering higher quality programs and services, and more effective systemic impacts through community capacity building, prevention, and partnerships that enable greater reach.



Priority 2: Increase our Influence

This year the Clinic hosted the launch of Ontario’s Sexual Violence Action Plan, announced by The Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues released the Report, Changing Attitudes, Changing Lives,

We led and hosted the provincial forum, Justice Done: Crafting Opportunity from Adversity forum. Funded by the Ontario Women’s Directorate, we brought together a blue ribbon team of women’s service providers to craft a collective plan for innovating in times of great change in law, policy, funding and the forms of violence against women that each of us is struggling to respond to. Our report by the same name, is available from our website. Our evaluations show that it has already been successful in incubating new partnerships and renewed spirit of collaboration in the women’s services sector.

We publicly objected to the rape myths still pervasive in our police response and broad cultural norms, and exemplified by the “Don’t Dress Like Sluts” advice given by a Toronto Police officer at a York University rape prevention talk. Along with the successful Supreme Court litigant known as Jane Doe, we shared our perspective in an Opinion Editorial in the Toronto Star.

Throughout the year, Clinic staff continued to deepen and challenge the public perception of ‘honour crimes’ and ‘forced marriage’ as cultural, and instead placed them back in the continuum of violence against women that we need to prevent and respond to in all cultures. From a sound basis in program innovation, we have been able to be part of the community leadership calling for change from within culture and building on strengths.

THREE-YEAR OUTCOME

The Clinic has an enhanced and respected profile with key stakeholders building on its history and reputation. Clear communication protocols are in place to guide nimble intervention on topical issues.



Priority 3: Strengthen our Organization

As we grow and innovate, we have pledged to develop programs, structures, policies and mechanisms to support the growth, development, wellbeing, and leadership of the staff, volunteers and the Board to achieve excellence.

We have rewritten all our bylaws, are adapting our administrative policies and have initiated our first ever three-year strategic resource development plan.

We raised the bar on our annual fundraiser, the *Tribute*, grossing over \$117,000.





Statement of Operations

BARBRA SCHLIFER COMMEMORATIVE CLINIC

Year Ended March 31, 2011

	2011	2010
Revenue (Schedule A)	2,402,689	2,243,861
Expenses		
Salaries and benefits	1,731,152	1,643,876
Rent and utilities	152,294	146,071
Professional fees	26,797	51,680
Insurance	32,232	36,314
Special event	18,145	27,130
Social Enterprise	31,682	30,575
Client disbursements	28,356	35,613
Printing, postage and delivery	39,909	33,004
Telephone and internet	37,944	33,343
Travel	25,783	21,969
Repairs, maintenance and infrastructure support	82,787	15,956
Bookkeeping and audit	26,523	17,285
Supplies	15,421	14,407
Professional development	37,101	11,752
Membership - legal and others	10,855	9,669
HST / GST	18,423	9,496
Capacity building	52,438	152
Resource centre	6,266	7,050
Bank charges	7,613	5,519
Childcare	6,855	3,753
Volunteer expenses	4,137	986
Miscellaneous	4,661	2,813
Recruitment	282	818
	2,397,656	2,159,231
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	5,033	84,630

Mississauga, Ontario | June 27, 2011
 Clarkson Rouble LLP | Chartered Accountants | Licensed Public Accountants
 Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic Charitable Business Number 11879 9162 RR0001



2010/11 CORPORATE/ LABOUR/EMPLOYEE CHARITABLE FUND SUPPORTERS

- ❖ Aecon Group Inc.
- ❖ CUPE Local 2316
- ❖ David Merkur Holdings Inc.
- ❖ Elementary Teachers of Toronto
- ❖ Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario
- ❖ Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (Toronto Occasional Teachers)
- ❖ Global Upholstery Co. Inc.
- ❖ Hydro One Inc.
- ❖ Leon's Furniture Limited
- ❖ S.T. Equities Ltd.
- ❖ Warner Brother Entertainment Canada Inc.
- ❖ Wintrip, Wolkoff Shin

2010/2011 FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

- ❖ Bealight Foundation
- ❖ CHUM City Christmas Wish
- ❖ The F. K. Morrow Foundation
- ❖ Gill Ratcliffe Foundation
- ❖ The Julie-Jiggs Foundation
- ❖ Lee Tak Wai Foundation
- ❖ The Moe Levin Family Foundation
- ❖ Norah Faye Foundation
- ❖ Pacifica Fund at the Toronto Community Foundation
- ❖ Styles Family Foundation
- ❖ Tippet Foundation

2011 TRIBUTE HOSTS & SPONSORS

HOSTS:

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SPONSORS:

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- ❖ Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP
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- ❖ Navigant Consulting
- ❖ Niman Zemans Gelgoot LLP
- ❖ Norton Rose OR LLP
- ❖ OPSEU-Ontario Public Service Employees Union
- ❖ Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario
- ❖ RGK Construction Management
- ❖ Sack Goldblatt Mitchell LLP
- ❖ SMG Sleep Management Group
- ❖ Stevensons LLP
- ❖ Stockwoods LLP
- ❖ T.E. Wealth Consultants Ltd.
- ❖ The Law Office of William Sullivan
- ❖ Torkin Manes LLP
- ❖ Torys LLP
- ❖ Wardle Daley Bernstein LLP



Special thanks to the more than 100 volunteers who bring spirit, fun and dedication to the Clinic; and to the staff and the courageous women who seek their assistance throughout the year.

- legal 
- counselling 
- interpretation 
- education 
- advocacy 



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Left during the year:

Gina Papageorgiou

Melinda N. Anderson

Paula McGirr

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