

Spirit of Schlifer

*Our doors are open to women experiencing violence during COVID-19.
Please join our partners and help us raise \$120,000+.*

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Who We Are

The Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic is a specialized Clinic for women experiencing violence, established in the memory of Barbra Schlifer – an idealistic young lawyer whose life was cut short by violence on the night of her call to the bar of Ontario on April 11, 1980. In her memory, the Clinic assisted approximately 10,000 women last year to build lives free from violence through counselling, legal representation and language interpretation.

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

COVID-19's impact on the Clinic and the communities we serve

As an essential service dedicated to the health and well-being of our clients, we are committed to keeping our doors open, physically and virtually, to women who need our support.

- After careful consideration, the Clinic made the decision to cancel this year's Annual Tribute fundraiser.
- Today, the Clinic remains open with a skeleton staff in the Clinic and all other staff working remotely to reduce the likelihood of transmission.
- We know for sure that social distancing and isolation place people who are experiencing violence at higher risk, meaning the need for our services is even higher than usual. The Clinic's Executive Director, Deepa Mattoo, recently spoke to this concern [in a story for CBC The National](#) and in an [op-ed for the Toronto Star](#).

**In the
2018/2019
fiscal year, the
Clinic helped
over 8,000
women.**

2,556 women
were provided with
language interpretation
so that they could
ensure their experience
was accurately
understood.

2,697 women
received the support
of a professional
counsellor to help them
heal from the impacts
of violence.

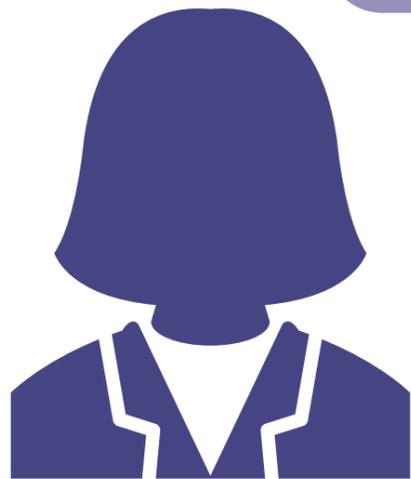
3,300 women
gained access to their
legal rights through a
lawyer that believed
their experiences
mattered.

Carol's Story

When you give to the Schlifer Clinic, your donation helps women like Carol* and their children live free from violence.

"I came to the Clinic during a challenging time in my life. When I came to you, I was broken, abused, helpless and hopeless. I had very low self-esteem with a lot of worries and problems. I was looked down by my community, but you looked at me with compassion, kindness and empathy and helped me. I will never be able to thank you enough. You helped me through counselling and with my housing application. Within one year I was able to move into a beautiful new apartment. Now I have a fresh start."

— Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic Counselling Client

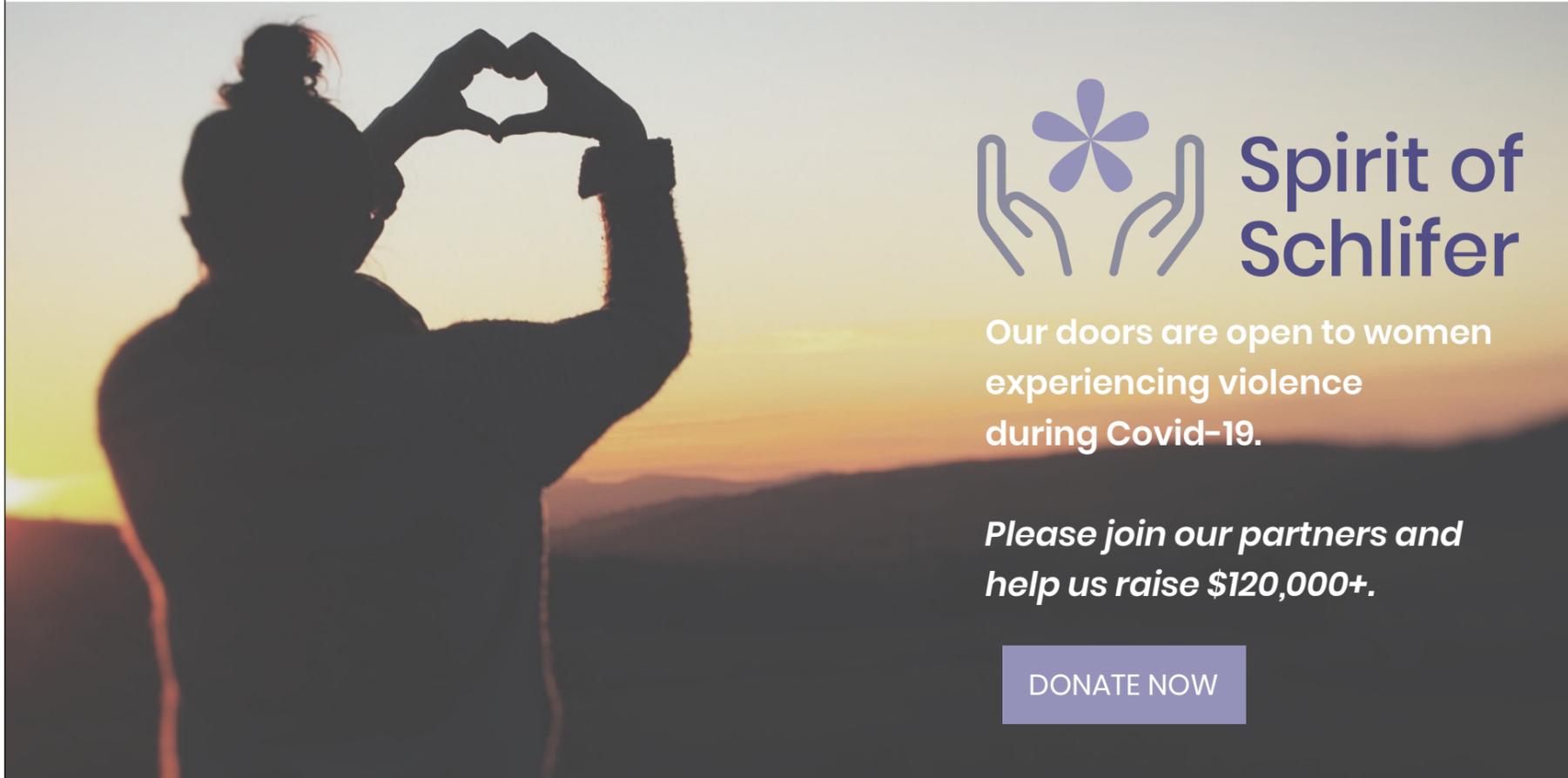


*Client name has been changed to protect her privacy.

What is the Spirit of Schlifer Campaign?

Through the Spirit of Schlifer Campaign, you will have an impact on women seeking our services essential for reducing their isolation and enhancing their safety.

- The Spirit of Schlifer Campaign is a new online fundraising initiative that unites past and present supporters of the Clinic. Together with our lead partners *Blakes, Cassels & Graydon LLP, Torys LLP* and *Cisco Systems Canada* the Clinic plans to raise \$120,000+ to fund our essential services.
- By donating to the Spirit of Schlifer Campaign, you are joining this circle of elite supporters, aligning yourself with a well-respected organization, and increasing access to justice, safety and equality for women.
- Our greatest challenge at this time, and where your financial donation is most needed, is ensuring we can continue to provide the essential services we are relied upon for now, and when we resume our operations on-site. We anticipate an increase in the demand for our services as the restriction on social distancing and isolation relax. You can help us be prepared for the rise in requests.
- The campaign will be launching May 2020.



Spirit of Schlifer

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DONATE NOW

Our Lead Partners



Campaign Website

Our [website](#) will be the central site for all campaign information and activity.

Supporting the Spirit of Schlifer Campaign

By donating to the Spirit of Schlifer Campaign, you can help us deliver essential services while demonstrating your commitment to the Clinic to a wide online audience.

	FRIENDS \$500+	SUPPORTERS \$2,500+	CHAMPIONS \$5,000+	LEAD PARTNER \$10,000+
Name/Company logo with live link on our landing page	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thank you post with your logo on the Clinic's social media channels		✓	✓	✓
Thank you with Name/Company logo on Clinic's main website after campaign ends			✓	✓
Thank you in 2020-2021 Annual Report			✓	✓
Recognition at 2020 Annual General Meeting				✓
A personalized message from the partners to be displayed on the landing page with visible presence				✓
Opportunity for Executive Director to participate in a speaking engagement with your firm/corporation				✓
Charitable Income Tax Receipt for full donation	✓	✓	✓	✓

Current Projects

In addition to our Client services, we are also undertaking many projects to understand and improve the conditions of women experiencing violence:

- **The Criminalization of Women Pro-Bono** program seeks to increase access to justice for women who are and have been charged with and/or convicted of criminal offenses (funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario).
- **#AndMeToo** seeks to increase access to justice for precariously employed women who have experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment in their workplace (with the generous support of W. Edmund Clark).
- **The Risk Assessment Tool** will consider the complex lived realities of survivors and current understandings of gender-based violence (funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario).
- **Not Okay** builds on independent legal advice and works in partnership with Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Care Centre at Women's College Hospital, and Aboriginal Legal Services to provide women from underserved communities who have experienced sexual assault with the services they need at familiar and frequently accessed locations (funded by the Department of Justice, Canada).
- **The Migrant Workers Rights** program serves women who have intersecting difficulties with labour migration, experience gender-based violence, and become vulnerable to trafficking (funded by the Canadian Women's Foundation).

To learn more about our national and international projects, please visit our [website](#).

Get in Touch

If you would like more information regarding this campaign, please contact us:

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