



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 8, 2005 Peterborough

**WBN raises \$17,000 for Crossroads Women's Shelter**

The Women's Business Network raised the most so far for the YWCA's Crossroads Women's Shelter at their annual Silent Auction and Christmas dinner at the Holiday Inn on Wed. Dec. 7. \$17,000 was raised to aid abused women and children.

Executive Director of the YWCA, Lynn Zimmer said, "I think it's especially fitting that this silent auction event, organized by women, for women, involves shopping. WBN members solicited and donated and purchased the items for this auction, and they got together with their friends to buy it all back!"

The highlight of the evening was the auctioning off of "Feel the Heat", a dinner for eight women served by firefighters at the Toronto Fire Hall Station 332 which went for \$2,500!

Crossroads relies on community donations and the United Way to keep its doors open 24 hours a day. Since 1983, over 10,000 local women and children have found shelter, food, counselling, practical support and comfort at the shelter. Last year 283 women and 83 children came to Crossroads to escape abuse in their homes.

Zimmer continues, "We have a special arrangement with Santa Claus. He magically knows exactly who is spending Christmas at Crossroads and their presents arrive on time. There are gifts for mothers and children, Christmas treats, a decorated tree, and a Christmas dinner to suit the traditions of all the families who will share it. Most important, there is laughter, and sharing and safety. Some women tell us that Christmas at Crossroads has been their best Christmas ever. We also reach out to women and children who have recently left our shelters and are struggling with their first Christmas in a new life.

"And we need that long term support, because Crossroads is like the Fire Department or the Emergency Department of the hospital. It's our job to save lives, care for the wounded, and speed recovery. We have to be there, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, including Christmas."

Women in abusive situations can call for immediate help, or just to talk. The numbers are 743-4135 or 743-8922, or toll-free 1-800-461-7656. The YWCA does not have call display.

For further information, please contact Joanne Culley, at 748-5353