

**Amber is hurt...
is afraid...
is alone...**

Together, we can change her world.

Every month, over 150 cases of child physical abuse are reported in the City of Montreal. For these children, the nightmare is far from over.

After suffering physically and emotionally scarring abuse - often for years, and more often than not at the hands of someone they know – these children must undergo extensive medical tests, hours of interviews by different investigators, multiple court appearances and a sense of shame and guilt after being abused and victimized. They are put into a system that is confusing for them... one that wasn't designed for a child's emotional or physical needs, and where they feel afraid and alone.

With Your Help, It Doesn't Have to Be this Way

Today, over one-third of children victimized by physical abuse in Montreal are taken to the Montreal Children's Home. Here, in a child-friendly facility that is built around their needs, they are seen by an expert staff trained to work with child victims. Here, they avoid multiple interviews by different investigators, and are seen by one specially trained interviewer, who gives the child an opportunity to tell their story and get the truth out into the open.

At the Home, every child and his or her family is assigned a Victim Advocate who walks them through the process, gives the family referrals for medical treatment and counseling, and accompanies the child to court when he or she needs to testify. In fact, because other family members may also be witnesses in the case, our Victim Advocates are often the only friendly face a child will see in the courtroom when they are facing their abuser – an experience many abuse survivors say is the most harrowing experience of their lives.

Your support enables the Home to provide these services, and many more, at absolutely no charge to victims or families, and has emboldened us to set an ambitious goal: having the resources within the next five years to see every single child in Montreal who is victimized by Physical abuse.

The Shocking Statistics on Child Physical Abuse...

1 in 4 girls in North America will be physically abused before the age of 18

1 in 6 boys in North America will be physically abused before the age of 18

70% of all physical assaults occur to children under the age of 18

20% of all child physical abuse victims were abused before the age of 8

...and the Toll it Takes in Later Life

Children who are abused are more likely to experience depression, develop eating disorders, and experience health problems as adults

Over 70% of child physical abuse victim later abuse drugs or alcohol

Almost 50% of women in state prison were physically abused as children

75% of teenage prostitutes were previously physically abused

The Montreal Children's Home: Justice and Healing for Physically Abused Children

Founded in 1991, the Montreal Children's Home works to bring justice and healing to the city's most vulnerable children. At our child-friendly facility we offer:

Children's Forensic Interviewing

Our expert Forensic Interviewers are trained to make children feel comfortable, and to allow them to tell their story. Prior to each interview, our staff meets with representatives of the police department and the Department of Human Services. Each of these officials watches the interview through a one-way mirror or on closed-circuit television, thus eliminating the need for the child to tell his or her story over and over again. Each interviewer is trained to work with children in a way that is non-leading, developmentally appropriate, and non-traumatizing. The interviews take place in our child-friendly facility, complete with colorful drawings on the walls, games, books, teddy-bears, and a smiling and supportive staff. The Home also has a bilingual interviewer on staff to work with our Spanish-speaking children. Each year we see children of all ages, from two to eighteen years old, and from all nationalities and neighborhoods in the city.

Victim Advocacy Services

Our team of trained Victim Advocates cares for the child victims and their families throughout the process. While the child is being interviewed, our staff meets with the family or caretaker to provide crisis counseling, determine what additional services are needed, and offer referrals for medical treatment, counseling, and support groups. The Victim Advocate also tracks the court case, guides the child through the process, and attends court proceedings with the child victim. Our staff also offers a number of support groups right in our own facility.

Since our founding, the Montreal Children's Home has grown steadily, and today provides services to an average of 50 child physical abuse victims per month.

“Without the Montreal Children’s Home, the Montreal Police Department couldn’t provide the level of service that we need to provide to our child abuse victims.”

- John Sylvester, Special Victims Unit

“This city needs the Montreal Children’s Home – it is a safe place for physically abused children.”

- Jan Holstein, Assistant State’s Attorney

Leading the Way

The Montreal Children’s Home had been a leading catalyst for change in how abused children are served and cared for in the city. As the catalyst for a team-based approach, the Home has fought to reduce trauma for children, increase efficiency in the system, and provide justice and healing to child victims in a safe and timely manner.

The Home is part of a network of programs across the country that works to end child physical abuse by implementing child-friendly forensic interviews and a team-based approach to better care for our children. As a leader in the field, the Home trains front-line workers in the city, as well as offers guidance and training to similar programs throughout North America.

With Your Help, No Abused Child Needs to Feel Alone

Today, the Montreal Children’s Home sees just over one-third of the 1,900 child Physical abuse victims in the city each year. While the number of children we see has grown every year, it is still not enough. Our goal is simple, but ambitious: by 2012, every single child victim of physical abuse in Montreal will be served at the Children’s Home.

To accomplish that goal, we will need to expand both our facilities and staff. Through the generous contributions of our donors, we’ve already begun: this winter, we will be moving to a spacious 8,000 square foot facility, complete with additional interview rooms, private family waiting areas, and more space for investigators from the police department, staff from the DA’s office, and for DHS social workers. Over the past year, we have hired additional trained interviewers and advocates, including a bilingual interviewer to serve our Spanish-speaking children.

What it Costs to Save a Child from a Lifetime of Abuse and Shame

Providing the Home’s services to a child who has been victimized by physical abuse costs about \$1,000 beyond our government funding stream. This includes the cost to operate our child-friendly facility, provide forensic interviews for victims, and provide ongoing victim advocacy and support services to the child and his or her family.

In 2008, the Home had an operating budget of almost \$900,000. Of that amount, over 55% of our budget came from individual donors and corporate and foundation grants. To enable us to serve every

child victim in Montreal, we will need to increase our budget dramatically over the coming years to support our increased facility space and staff. For the next three fiscal years, our budget needs to be:

2009 –2010	\$1,181,646
2010 –2011	\$1,297,879
2011 –2012	\$1,460,616

While these goals are ambitious, they are necessary... and we know that we can meet them through the continued generosity of our donors and the community. Every dollar that we raise is going directly to increasing our capacity to serve abused children.

The Montreal Children’s Home spends only 9% of its revenue on administration and 7% on fundraising. That means a full 84% of your gift goes directly to supporting programs and services for physically abused children.

How You Can Help Stop the Abuse ... and let a Child Know She is Not Alone

The Home needs your help to reach our goal of serving each and every victim of child physical abuse in Montreal. While your gift to the Home will depend on your own financial situation, we would be pleased to help you make a gift that meets both your needs and those of our children.

One-time gifts are gratefully accepted and used to support our general services, or may be restricted to one particular service or program at the direction of the donor. Pledge payments over time may be arranged according to your individual preferences.

Friends of the Children’s Home

In addition to one-time gifts, our “Friends of the Children’s Home” program recognizes donors who pledge to support the Home with a gift for each of the next three years. These supporters form the core of financial support for our growth plan and enable us to expand, confident that the fiscal needs for the services we offer will be met. These key donors support us at the following levels:

Guardian: Enables the Home to Serve Five Additional Children per Year.

\$5,000+ per year for 3 years will allow the Home to provide complete child-friendly forensic interviewing and victim advocacy / support services to five children per year. (\$417 per month)

Advocate: Enables the Home to Serve One Additional Child per Year.

\$1,000 per year for 3 years will allow the Home to provide complete child-friendly forensic interviewing and victim advocacy / support services to one child per year. (\$84 per month)

Supporter: Enables the Home to Provide Forensic Interviewing for One Additional Child per Year

\$500 per year for 3 years will allow the Home to provide a child-friendly forensic interview, including digital videotaping and analysis, plus expert court testimony in cases of substantiated abuse, for one child per year. (\$42 per month)

Three-year pledges to the Friends of the Children's Home program may be paid on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis. Monthly auto-debiting is available.

Planned Giving

The Home also gratefully accepts gifts through wills, bequests, and estates. Please contact our development office for more information.

Our Team of Supporters Makes it All Possible... Join Them in Stopping Child Physical Abuse Today

Every year, over 1,000 individuals, businesses, and foundations join together to support the Montreal Children's Home. Their support, and yours, is needed now more than ever. It's time to make sure that every Physically abused child... no matter how hurt, no matter how afraid, no matter how poor... has access to the resources of the Children's Home.

To join our team and support our children, please call our Development Office at 982.287.9520, or e-mail us at jill@savemontrealschildren.ca