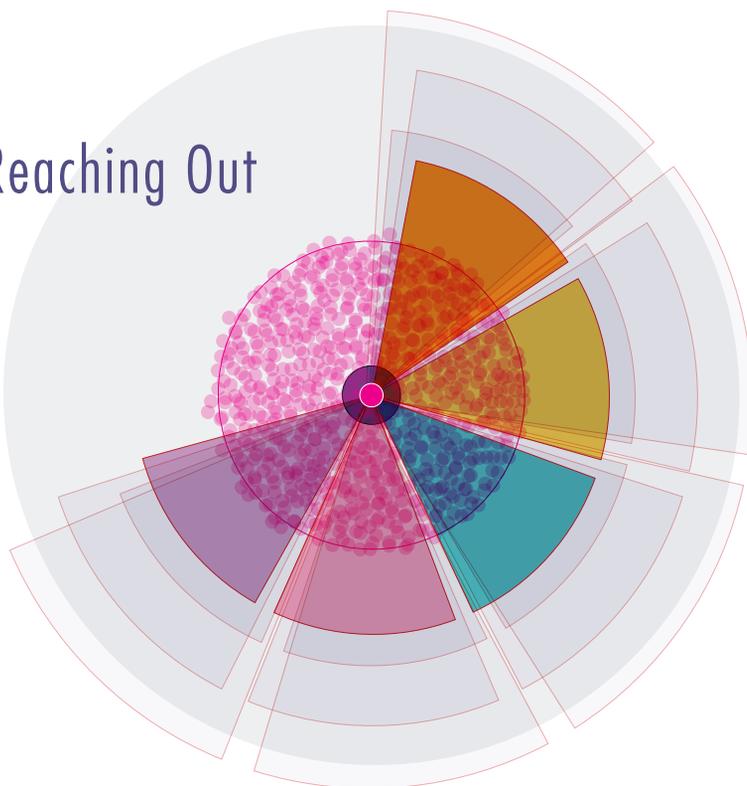


Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic
Annual Report to the Community
2012 – 2013

Speaking Up and Reaching Out



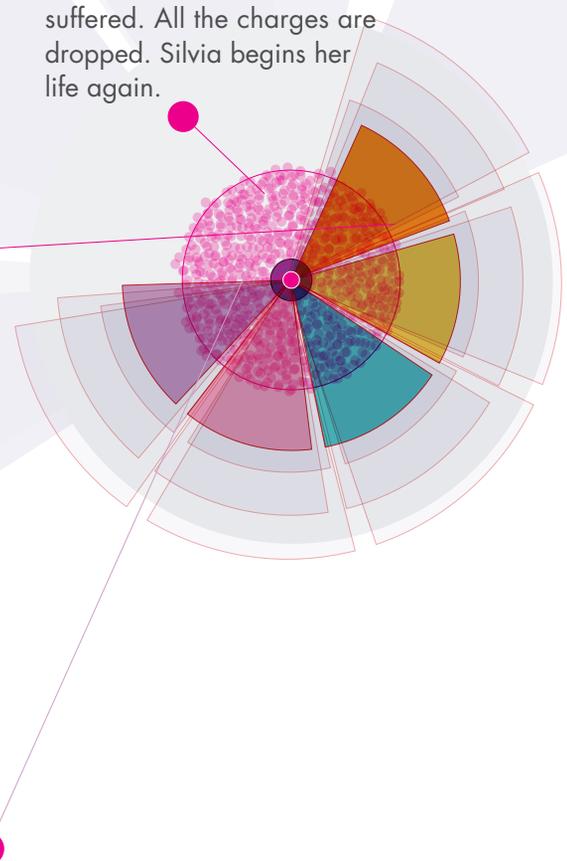
A United Way member agency

The Barbra Schlifer Clinic is a daring centre providing access to justice and support for women who have experienced violence. We proudly carry on the tradition of social justice work inspired by our namesake, **Barbra Teena Schlifer**, a promising young lawyer whose life was cut short by violence in 1980.

Donna Maria meets her husband when she is visiting Canada. She returns to her home country. He follows her, visits many times, brings gifts for her and her family and asks her to marry him. When she comes to live with him, she finds his male friends visit their house often, stay late into the night, watching violent pornography and disrespecting her home. Donna Maria tells her new husband she does not want to live this way. He begins to abuse her, at first verbally. He does not work; he plays violent video games all night long, making sure she understands that what happens to women in the games is in store for her. Verbal abuse becomes physical abuse. He tells her that if she does not like it she can leave. Her immigration status is dependent on him, and under Canada's new regulations, she is trapped. She has left everything behind. She turns to alcohol to numb her to the sleeplessness and nightmares. Then, her turning point comes: her family doctor refers her to the Barbra Schlifer Clinic. We support her to get into a harm reduction program to curb the use of alcohol. She moves into her own place. Her legal status in Canada is on track for a settled and violence-free future.

Amilah has been secretly dating her boyfriend for over two years. Her family begins to pressure her to get married to a man of their choice when she starts university. They enlist her brother to monitor her movements including taking her to and from school, and stalking her on social media. On occasion he threatens her with physical violence. She discloses to her academic counselor that she feels unsafe and wants to drop out of school. With our help, she assesses her risk for family violence, and decides to leave her father's home with a safety plan in place. She connects to our young women's programs and groups through Facebook and Twitter. We find her safe and affordable housing as well as a more secure source of income. This fall, she returns to university, her educational goals are back on track and she looks forward to a violence-free future among other young women with her perspective and drive for independence.

Silvia, the strange marks from her husband's assault still fresh on her neck, is facing criminal charges. Her husband knows English better, is persuasive, and convinces the police that she assaults him and the children. Her husband's clear instructions to his kids to lie to the 911 operator are not initially translated. Facing ten years in jail, or deportation and the permanent loss of her children, Silvia tells the Barbra Schlifer Clinic that her husband was using the criminal justice system to continue to intimidate and control her. One of our highly trained interpreters re-translates the 911 tape. We submit our expert report on the abuse she suffered. All the charges are dropped. Silvia begins her life again.



With WomanACT and Elizabeth Fry Toronto, we initiated the **Blueprint Project**, an interactive online resource that focuses on the policy intersections that inadvertently put women who experience violence at increased risk. We build a framework for assessing the determinants of women's safety, and advance a 'blueprint for action' that becomes a living document of public policy advocacy and service innovation to address women's safety and equality. It is a first of its kind.



The Schlifer Clinic launched **Transformation by Fire**, a landmark exhibition of the 10-year art therapy partnership with the Gardiner Museum's clay studios. Schlifer Clinic participants sculpt their trauma narratives in clay, transforming their pain and reconnecting with their resilience and strength. Designed to raise public awareness about violence against women in a sensitive, informed and compelling way, and to provide accessible and inspiring real life role models of transformation, it is the first of its kind in a major museum in Canada.



The new Immigration Act

We said: It's a clear reversal of Canada's previous leadership on helping women who face gender persecution around the world.

We joined a group of immigration lawyers to support a Federal Court challenge to the most draconian aspects of the Act that threaten women's safety and right to asylum.

The federal abolition of the gun registry

We said: Women's rights to security and gender equality under the Charter would be violated by destroying the registry, and

changes to gun control law would increase the risk to women of physical violence, forcible confinement and homicide in situations of domestic violence.

Our case will be heard in 2014.

Carrying on the spirit of our namesake in tough times, we launch the Torys Spirit of Barbra Schlifer Award with the first recipient international women's rights activist, **Leilani Farha**.



Over the last year, we have enhanced the visibility of the Clinic, leading to a **60%** increase in overall funding over two years.

This year, the Barbra Schlifer Clinic provided legal help, counselling and language interpretation to **5,172** women.

We have developed **new and innovative programs** to respond to community needs:

The Clinic has built a strong **young Muslim women's program, Outburst!**, focused on a youth-led response to violence, including forced marriage and "honour-related" violence.

We have partnership programs that increase service to women with **severe mental health issues, homeless women, and isolated women.**

We have also expanded into **family court** with skilled support for unrepresented and high-risk women in all the Toronto family courts.

We have taken the lead in **training American Sign Language Interpreters** in the unique skills they need to work with women who have experienced violence.

We have expanded our **interpretation in all languages** to situations of human trafficking and sexual assault.

Our **strategic plan** has been critical in guiding our operations, expansions and innovations. Our renewed mission, vision and practice principles underpin all we do. Including our strategic leadership in the areas of legal reform, policy change and public debate:

This year we have taken principled positions on two issues that determine access to justice for the women who seek our support:

- the new Immigration Act
- the federal abolition of the gun registry

2012/13 Funding Partners

ArtReach Toronto through Tides
Canada Initiatives Society
Canadian Women's Foundation
City of Toronto
The Law Foundation of Ontario
Ministry of the Attorney General
Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration
Ministry of Community & Social Services
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Ontario Women's Directorate
Pacifica Fund at the Toronto Community Foundation
Toronto Arts Council
Toronto Enterprise Fund at the United Way Toronto
United Way Toronto
Women Gaining Ground
... and our many individual donors

2012/13 Corporate/Labour/ Employee Charitable Fund Supporters

Leon's Furniture Limited
Hydro One Inc.
Ontario Power Generation
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers LU.553-PR
David Merkur Holdings Inc.
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, Occasional Teachers
Global Upholstery Co. Inc.
CIBC

2012/13 Foundation Supporters

Bealight Foundation
Beatrice & Arthur Minden Foundation
The Bennett Family Foundation
CHUM City Christmas Wish
The George Lunan Foundation
Gewurz Family Foundation
Gill Ratcliffe Foundation
Jackman Foundation
J.P. Bickell Foundation
Laidlaw Foundation
The Mary-Margaret Webb Foundation
Norah Faye Foundation
Styles Family Foundation
Tippet Foundation

2013 Tribute Title Sponsor

Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP



2013 Spirit of Barbra Schlifer Award Sponsor



2012/13 Community Partners and Collaborators

Access Alliance Multicultural
Community Health Centre
Access Employment
Alliance Against Modern Day Slavery
Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention
Art Gallery of Ontario Youth Council
Assaulted Women's Helpline
Association of Visual Language
Interpreters of Canada
Beekeepers Collective
Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers
Canadian Center for Victims of Torture
Canadian Council for Refugees
Canadian Hearing Society
Catholic Children's Aid Society
Centennial College
Center for Spanish Speaking People
Child Development Institute
Childhood Sexual Abuse Network and
Working Group
Children's Aid Society
Council of Agencies Serving South Asians
Domestic Violence Court – Advisory

Committees
Durham College, Paralegal Program
Elizabeth Fry Toronto
Ethnoracial Disabilities Coalition of Ontario
Family Services Toronto
Gardiner Museum
Health Interpreters Network (HIN)
Human Trafficking Network
Humber College, Paralegal Program
Integrated Domestic Violence Court
Community Advisory Committee
Luke's Place
New Mennonite Centre
Mount Sinai Hospital
Ontario Association of the Deaf
Ontario Coalition of Agencies Serving
Immigrants (OCASI)
Ontario Network of Language
Interpreter Services (ONLIS)
Parkdale Community Legal Services
Peel Children's Aid Society
Pomegranate Tree Group
ProBono Students Canada
Redwood Shelter
Refugee Lawyers Association
Regent Park Community Health Centre

Ryerson University
Ryerson Student Union
Sanctuary
Sandgate Women's Shelter
Sick Kids Hospital
Silent Voice
Sistering
Social Planning Council Toronto
South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario –
Forced Marriage Project
SpeakSudan
Springtide Resources
TAPE Educational Services
Tahirih Justice Center
Toronto District School Board
Toronto Rape Crisis Centre
Toronto Transition to Work Program
Truth & Dare Project
University of Toronto Law School
University of Toronto, Scarborough
Campus
Woman Abuse Council of Toronto
(Woman ACT)
Working for Change
YWCA Toronto

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 Sylvia Seo

Left during the year:
 Cynthia Bettcher, *Secretary*
 Rosie Gentile
 Shaun O'Brien
 Angela Salmon

Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic

Statement of Operations *Year Ended March 31, 2013*

	2013	2012
Revenue (Schedule A)	\$ 3,123,356	\$ 2,712,957
Expenses		
Salaries and benefits	2,202,145	1,954,844
Rent and utilities	170,801	156,843
Professional fees	104,021	75,726
Insurance	32,169	37,674
Special event	24,143	24,649
Social Enterprise	4,587	8,600
Client disbursements	98,568	28,197
Printing, postage and delivery	42,817	42,422
Telephone, internet and website	87,966	89,933
Travel	36,354	34,937
Repairs, maintenance and infrastructure support	66,264	45,660
Bookkeeping and audit	41,759	36,681
Supplies	21,189	29,683
Professional development	127,151	53,446
Membership, legal and others	13,632	13,461
HST / GST	-	22,416
Capacity building	4,267	10,560
Resource centre	5,140	4,718
Bank charges	8,446	7,247
Childcare	2,085	3,088
Volunteer expenses	9,038	7,441
Miscellaneous	12,130	24,478
Recruitment	2,781	2,935
	3,117,453	2,715,639
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	\$ 5,903	\$ (2,682)

This statement of operations is an excerpt extracted from the audited financial statement.

Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic Charitable Business Number 11879 9162 RR0001