

## Our next step forward

Christine's Place has been serving clients in the Gravenhurst region since our inception in 2011. One of the primary identified barriers to Christine's Place's services at present is the lack of transportation. It's critical that we open the doors of Christine's Place Gravenhurst to meet the needs and bridge this gap.

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I'm excited to hear that Christine's Place is coming to Gravenhurst. It's been an emotionally difficult journey for me as I've been working through my pregnancy loss from a distance. With Christine's Place in town, I'll have direct access to the support I need.

—Current Gravenhurst client.



We have embarked on a journey to establish a satellite location in Gravenhurst. The goal is to raise the necessary start-up funds to become operational, including rental costs, equipping and outfitting the site, insurance, staffing, services, and programming for the first year.

**Thanks to our generous donors: The first \$100,000 will be matched!**

Join in this opportunity to make a significant difference in the Gravenhurst community.

Support the vision of Christine's Place to be embraced by our community as a centre of hope, healing, and restoration where no person faces an unexpected pregnancy alone.



**Every contribution made is matched dollar for dollar; donate now to double your gift!**

[christinesplace.org](http://christinesplace.org)



Donate Now



Christine's Place  
PREGNANCY & FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE

*Families are at the heart of all we do*

[christinesplace.org](http://christinesplace.org)



# The NEED

- 20+ percent live in poverty in Gravenhurst.<sup>1</sup>
- Nearly 30 percent of Muskoka's families are lone-parent families.<sup>2\*</sup>
- Lone-parent poverty is four times higher than for couples.<sup>3</sup>
- 37 percent of Gravenhurst's children live in lone-parent families.<sup>4</sup>

The District Municipality of Muskoka has "a tangled web of social problems" that are "complex and interconnected," with lone-parent and child poverty factoring prominently.<sup>5</sup>

Gravenhurst is the poorest municipality in Muskoka, with a community crisis of lone-parent families living in poverty.

A 2019 report on child poverty in Canada found that "ridings with the highest child poverty rates have the highest unemployment and lowest labour market participation rates and the highest proportion of people spending more than 30% of their income

on housing, and are mostly mother-headed, lone-parent families."

The Greater Gravenhurst region is in urgent need of community response, and the time is now.

Our current focus is to respond to and meet this immediate need by opening a satellite centre in the Greater Gravenhurst community and bridging the gap in services.

This is a call to action.

We ask you to partner with us as we purposefully expand our reach to serve these families in need.

## Christine's Place

### Families are at the heart of all we do

Christine's Place was established in 2011 to support pregnant women in the Greater Muskoka Region. Our work carries on as we continue to help single-parent, and two-parent-led families by providing compassionate support through counseling, pre/post-natal support, after-abortion care, miscarriage support, after-adoption care, and parenting.

Christine's Place's vision is to be embraced by the communities we serve in the Muskoka Region as a beacon of hope, healing, and restoration where no person faces an unexpected pregnancy alone.

Christine's Place mission is to be a safe place where women and men can receive relevant and helpful information, practical assistance, and hope related to an unexpected pregnancy, after-abortion care, and miscarriage.

Embracing Christine's Place's vision and mission ensures that no one feels abandoned and left alone to deal with their emotions without loving support during or after pregnancy, or following an abortion, whether days or years later.

By establishing Christine's Place centres of hope, healing, and restoration, we in turn strengthen individual families and nourish the roots of a flourishing community.



### For our shared community

Christine's Place strives to be a centre of hope, healing, and restoration. We know that the basis of every strong community is the family unit. We also know that communities suffer when families are unstable.

We are experiencing a family crisis in the Greater Muskoka Region. In Gravenhurst, the sight of single moms struggling on their own with their babies has become increasingly common. So much so that a derogatory term has materialized to describe them: Single Moms of Gravenhurst, or SMOGs.

There is a tremendous need for family supports in Gravenhurst. Currently, there is little for people facing an unexpected pregnancy, poverty, unemployment, lack of education, abuse, trauma, grief, or addiction. Christine's Place Gravenhurst is in development, with the goal of bridging the identified community gap by supporting individuals and families facing pregnancy-related issues within their scope of practice.

*"By empowering women beyond the crisis, we elevate our community,"* remarks Dr. Laura Lewis, Executive Director of Pregnancy Care Canada.

Christine's Place is committed to becoming a vital part of the Gravenhurst community and intends to match current services provided through their primary location: counselling, pre and post-natal support, life skills, parenting, after-abortion care, miscarriage support, and after-adoption care.

Additional services for men/dads will also be included, as we are seeing an increase in engaging partners and single dads.



### For every Christine who needs help

Christine was a real woman who found herself pregnant as a teen, alone, scared, and without support. She had few options but she chose to continue with her pregnancy and place her baby for adoption.

Her baby was cared for and raised by loving adoptive parents and grew to become a wonderful young woman.

This young woman connected with Christine, her birth mother, and shared stories of her upbringing, thanking her for making such a difficult choice.

Jenn Adair is this young woman and founder of Christine's Place. She currently continues to serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors.

Sadly, Christine never found a place where she felt loved and accepted. She struggled with addictions, and this led to her premature death.

Christine and Jenn's story inspires all of our work in the Greater Muskoka Region. Christine's Place is the legacy of a courageous woman who, despite pressure from the birth father, chose to place her baby for adoption.

Our goal is to provide a place of love and refuge for other Christines. No matter what challenges or circumstances an individual faces, we know that compassion, understanding and practical options have the capacity to enrich lives and transform communities.



<sup>1</sup> "Increasing poverty in Gravenhurst prompts community to form GAP [Gravenhurst Against Poverty]." Sachem news, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> "Lone-Parent Families." Simcoe Muskoka HealthStats, Simcoe-Muskoka Health Unit, 2018.

\*Families with children.

<sup>3</sup> "Why is lone-parent poverty so high and what can we do about it?" Policy brief, Maytree Foundation, 2018.

<sup>4</sup> "Lone-Parent Families." Simcoe Muskoka HealthStats, Simcoe-Muskoka Health Unit, 2018.

<sup>5</sup> "The tangled web of social problems in Muskoka: one thing leads to another." MuskokaRegion news, August 15, 2021.