

### Who We Are

- The December 6 Fund is a volunteer organization that raises money to help women build lives free from violence.

### What Do We Do?

- We provide interest-free loans to women fleeing abuse, to move from dependence to independence.
- Loans are used for rent deposits, moving expenses, deposits for hydro or telephone, etc.
- In 1998, The December 6 Fund helped over 75 women establish independent lives.
- Once a woman has repaid her loan to the Fund, that money is used to help another woman in need.

### What Can You Do?

- You too can help break the cycle of violence by making a contribution to the December 6 Fund. It will be directed to a woman in need.

### Are You Being Abused?

- If you have been, or are being, abused or you need information, call the **Assaulted Women's Helpline** at 863-0511 (TTY 516-9730) or the **Toronto Rape Crisis Centre** at 597-8808 (TTY 597-1214).



## The December 6 Fund

P.O. Box 53, 552 Church Street  
Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2E3 Ph. 416.392.9126

- I've enclosed a cheque made payable to
- I wish to pay by VISA

card #	\$	Amount	signature
expiry date			cardholder's name
Name	Address		City
Postal Code	Telephone	Fax	E-mail

Contributions to the  
December 6 Fund of  
Toronto can be made  
by cheque (payable  
to the December 6  
Fund) or by Visa (all  
donations over \$10  
are tax receiptable).

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On  
**December 6,  
1989,**

**14  
women**

were  
murdered  
in Montreal.

**Women of every race  
and class are ABUSED  
and KILLED  
by men they know.**

We mourn  
and work  
for change.



Helping  
Women  
Build Lives  
Free From  
Violence

The  
**December  
FUND** 6  
of Toronto

***Canadians recognize December 6th as the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, as a day of remembrance and as a day of action on violence against women.***

**While marking this sad 10th anniversary, by remembering the women killed in the Montreal Massacre, we also mourn the many other women who have died as a result of male violence. The list of women below represents some of the women killed in 1999 in the Greater Toronto Area. Many women die nameless and ignored.**

**Halina Deborah Abraham, 30, Myriam Agobian, 55, Nassima Benkartoussa, 37, Sabrina Benkartoussa, 34, Marie Czibulka, 57, Francesca Erba, 56, Jenny Figueroa, 32, Nadine Gurczenski, 26, Margaret Karer, 34, Lucy Klein, 66, Eileen Laurie, 51, Abigail Manu-Acheampong, 32, Christine Norcia, 22, Melissa Pajkowski, 21, Irene Pawlowsky, 45, Sandra Quigley, 32, Janet Anita Reynolds, 21, Ratnam Sivapatham, 63, Maria Wong, 44**

*We mourn and work for change*

According to Statistics Canada, at least 50% of women in Canada have been a victim of either a sexual or physical assault, and 1 in every 4 women suffers from some form of violence in their intimate relationships. Furthermore, it is estimated that 100 women are killed annually in Canada by current or former boyfriends and husbands. Violence is, therefore, a daily occurrence in many women's and children's lives.

Violence against women is not an isolated occurrence. Men of all ages, races, abilities, and classes abuse, and sometimes kill, women and children. When women are being abused, their children witness this at least 29% of the time. Studies have shown that, even if these children are not being abused themselves, witnessing violence against their mothers is extremely disturbing and has long-term side effects. Women will often stay in abusive relationships for a number of complex reasons including: isolation, fear of living in poverty, fear of losing their children, fear of being deported, and/or fear of not finding adequate shelter. Some women have been so worn down by years of abuse, they don't feel that they deserve anything better.

***Women deserve to live lives free of violence.***

Since 1989, when 14 women were killed at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, the economic climate in Ontario has become increasingly harsh. This climate has made it more difficult for women wishing to leave abusive situations and establish themselves and their children in safety. Cuts to social assistance, non-profit housing and legal aid, as well as inadequate child care and rising rental costs in Toronto, have created tremendous barriers to women seeking freedom from violence.

We must work together as a community to ensure the safety of our mothers, daughters, sisters, partners and neighbours.

*Helping women build lives free from violence*