



Ganohkwásra⁷

Family Assault Support Services

Summer 2013

Vision

“With Ganohkwásra (love among us), we bury our weapons of violence to create a safe and caring community for all generations.”

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Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is a tough topic to talk about. We may want to think that it isn't occurring in our community but the sad reality is, that it is.

In 2010 we invited Stephanie Hill from SNLTC/HCC to present at our first workshop to acknowledge World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. We had a very small turnout at that workshop but it has since grown. The following year, Ganohkwásra partnered with Six Nations Long Term Care/Home & Community Care and the Six Nations Police to plan a forum, workshop, etc to educate the community about Elder Abuse.

Elder Abuse is all too often swept under the carpet. Today, instead of being honoured, elders are sometimes seen as a liability or inconvenience for families and for society. Traditionally, women handled village

concerns like property and crops while men took care of hunting, fishing and trade concerns. No member of a Haudenosaunee family was overlooked. Elders held respected positions within the community as wisdom keepers, the ones to impart traditions and to help raise the children. Many things have changed over the years and unfortunately older people are sometimes overlooked and are not respected for the vital roles they carry. Our older people carry important and awesome history and teachings that can be passed down to younger generations. Today, we face many pressures from the world. We are flooded everyday with western thought, differing considerably to our teachings, which pulls people in all directions. Busy lifestyles focus on individual gains and not

on Okwehoweh values of helping one another and truly caring for the older people in the community. While statistics on the abuse of elders are limited for the general Canadian population, even less information is available for the Aboriginal elder population with respect to the incidence and prevalence rates of abuse that may be occurring in the Aboriginal community. However, research on the issue of violence and Aboriginal people indicates higher rates in comparison to the non-Aboriginal population in Canada. The cycle of violence against our older people must be stopped. Taking accountability for our behaviour is a part of the Great Law. Let's honour the teachings because that's what will keep us strong and united. No one in our community should be hurting from violence.

Ganohkwásra⁷ is a phrase in the Cayuga language meaning “Love Among Us.”

Ganohkwásra⁷ was chosen as the name for a family violence program for our community because it is the goal we seek for all families. It is through “love among us” that we, as a community, will put an end to family violence.

Ganohkwásra⁷ Staff

ADMINISTRATION

- Executive Director
- Manager of Therapeutic Services
- Manager of Residential Services
- Office Manager
- Executive Assistant
- Community Educator
- Receptionist
- Administrative and Technical Support Worker
- 2 Maintenance Workers

COMMUNITY COUNSELLING

- Community Counselling Supervisor
- 3 Women Community Counsellors
- Men's Community Counsellor

SEXUAL ASSAULT

- 1 Sexual Assault Counsellor

SHELTER

- Shelter Supervisor
- 5 Shelter Counsellors
- Child & Youth Counsellor
- Relief Staff
- Gayenawahsra Counsellor

YOUTH LODGE

- Youth Lodge Supervisor
- P/T Administrative Assistant
- 5 Child & Youth Counsellors
- Teacher
- Relief Staff

OUTREACH SERVICES

- Outreach Services Supervisor
- Intake Worker
- Transitional Support Worker
- 3 Child & Youth Counsellors

Elder Abuse

Inside the home, behind closed doors, some of the most vulnerable members of our community are being harmed.

June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. A day dedicated to shining a light on the harmful and shameful treatment of some of our elders. Mistreatment of the vulnerable in our society is not acceptable. It is time to speak up about elder abuse.

Signs of Elder Abuse

Anxiety, confusion and depression may be signs of an aging parent or loved one. You may notice signs of self neglect but these could be indications of elder abuse. Elder abuse is described as violent or abusive harm done to an older person. This abuse is not always physical. It can be psychological abuse, such as isolating an elder from other family members or friends, humiliating, threatening, or treating them like a child. It can be financial abuse, borrowing of money, or selling of household items, perhaps forcing the withdrawal of large amounts from bank accounts or stealing pension cheques. Beware of misused power of attorney or sudden changes in a will. Unwanted sexual activity, or simple neglect is also abuse of our elders. Physically restraining, pushing, shoving and slapping is all considered abuse.

Sadly, this abuse is most often at the hands of family members. Sometimes because the care giving family member was abused as a child, and is angry, fighting back at their abuser. Commonly because the family member is frustrated and stressed through caring for an

aging parent or grandparent. Sometimes a spouse is abused by their aging partner. Perhaps a paid caregiver is taking advantage of an elder, financially, or psychologically. Often such activities go unnoticed by others. Our elders, the victims of abuse will not speak up for themselves because they may not be physically able, or because they are ashamed and frightened. Ashamed to admit members of their family would do this to them, frightened because they don't know what will happen, or who will care for them if they speak out.

Help is available to our elders. The shelter at Ganohkwásra is open 24 hours a day, whether your female or male. If you or a loved one, a friend or neighbour is in need of a safe place call 519-445-4324. We also have excellent, caring Counsellors who are here to help. Call 519-445-4324 to find out about the programs and services that are available to help you. If you would like to come for a tour of Ganohkwásra to check out our facility that can also be arranged. If you have access to a computer, we also have a website that you can check out at, www.ganohkwásra.ca.

If you are being abused, reach out for help. There is never a reason or excuse for abuse.



Youth Lodge

Alternative Learning Program

The Youth Lodge Alternative Learning Program was developed over the last three years by innovative staff at Ganohkwasra. The new classroom has been operational since March 2013. It is for male and female youth in grades nine to twelve. The youth must be a resident at the youth lodge, a resident of the shelter, be an active client in one of Ganohkwasra programs, accessing maintenance counselling with the intake worker or is currently on one of Ganohkwasra waiting lists.

Alternative learning was designed for youth who may be at risk for educational failure. The class is designed to meet individual student learning styles as well as their social and emotional needs. Young people have been falling through the cracks of mainstream school due to specific and unmet needs, as a result of family violence. The program was established for students who have been removed from regular secondary school classes due to being expelled, suspended and high absenteeism as a direct impact from family violence.

The Youth Lodge Alternative Learning program is now giving these students the help and support they need to find success in their education. The classroom is fully equipped for eight students having use of eight computers, smart board, school supplies giving the student every opportunity to succeed. A teacher and a child and youth worker are in the classroom to help and support students in their learning and with any incidents and issues that may

arise in the classroom.

The classroom takes a therapeutic approach and through the staff of Ganohkwasra, a plan of care is developed with each student, creating effective tools to help them through their issues. Some modalities that are available to the student with assistance from the child and youth worker are reality therapy/choice theory, brain gym, EFT, play therapy, art therapy and one-on-one counselling assistance when needed.

Some of the subjects that have been taught included health, where they take a holistic approach learning about physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional well-being. Along with health, Native Studies, Physical education and English were taught. Cultural experts come to the students and share their expertise. As well students attended different field trips throughout the semester to make their learning experiences more effective and hands on. They attended trips to the Woodland Cultural Centre, ROM, rock wall climbing to name a few which kept the students busy and interested in the topics.

The goal of the classroom program is to transition students back into mainstream secondary schools or into another alternative learning program, in order to be successful.

Community Walk Against Community Violence

Saturday September 28, 2013

Starts at 11:00 am

We invite community members of all ages to join our walk. Excellent speakers, positive messages, free prizes, free BBQ and much more.

Call 519-445-4324 for more information.

Internet Safety/Cyber Bullying

A workshop was held recently at Ganohkwasra on internet safety and cyber bullying. Constable Derek Anderson from the Six Nations police came to present the information. Constable Anderson spoke a lot about cyber bullying. It appears that many of our children are witnessing or being subjected to many different types of cyber bullying. Cyber bullying is willful and repeated harm (i.e., harassing, humiliating, or threatening text or images) inflicted through the Internet or mobile phones. Some of the tactics used to cyber bully are posting or sending cruel gossip to damage a person's reputation, breaking into someone's online account to send messages that will cause embarrassment or damage to the person's reputation, repeatedly posting or sending offensive and insulting messages and threatening or implying violent behaviour towards a person via the internet.

Cyber bullying has made it easier for bullies and harder for the bullied. Cyber bullying is even worse than what is portrayed in movies and the television. Kids who are bullied are 1.9 times more likely to attempt suicide.

Cyber bullying is a serious problem and it is everyone's business. Parents can reduce the risks associated with Internet use if they openly discuss with their child about their online activities and set up rules that will grow along with them. Ensure that you are aware of their online activities and monitor it closely.

Teach kids that bullying is not acceptable whether online or offline.

NEWSLETTER

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facebook

Mission Statement

"To provide, through a non-profit charitable organization, for the stabilization, maintenance, revitalization and enhancement of the family structure in a culturally sensitive manner."

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New Credit Council Representative

Cecil Sault

2nd Annual Ganohkwasa Fundraising Golf Tournament

June 15, 2013



2013 **Winning Team**
Sandi Hill-Bomberry
Mike Bomberry,
Chris Bomberry,
Sandra Graham



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Ganohkwasa sincerely acknowledges and appreciates the many businesses and individuals for their generous donations. Your donation will assist Ganohkwasa in our efforts to purchase a safe, new playground for the children at Gayenawahsra Next Step Housing to enjoy.

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