Office of the Chief Financial Officer • Bureau de Chef des finances

November 14, 2011

Ms. Barbara Judt
Chief Executive Officer
Osborne House Inc.
P.O. Box 397
Winnipeg, MB
R3C 2H6

Dear Ms. Judt: Barbara

Grant Request

Thank you for your letter of October 12, 2011, outlining your request for an annual operating grant of $450,000 for Osborne House.

As the City is in the process of developing its 2012 operating budget, you may wish to make representation at a Committee of Council on this matter. If you wish to pursue this opportunity, please contact Jo-Ann Park in the City Clerks Department at 986-3732 or by email at JPark@winnipeg.ca to register. The Committee meetings to review the operating budget will not be scheduled until the preliminary operating budget is tabled by the Executive Policy Committee sometime early in 2012.

Thank you for the very important work done by your organization on behalf of our citizens and community and I wish you every success in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Ruta, FCA
Chief Financial Officer

cc: Mayor Sam Katz
Mr. Phil Sheegl, Chief Administrative Officer, The City of Winnipeg
Mr. Deepak Joshi, Chief Operating Officer, The City of Winnipeg
Mr. Clive Wightman, Director Community Services Department, The City of Winnipeg

Osborne House

A Safe Place for Women & Children

Funding Proposal by Osborne House Inc For the City of Winnipeg

Barbara Judt, Chief Executive Officer

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Osborne House Inc is requesting an annual operating grant of $450,000.00 from the City of Winnipeg. We make this appeal because the downturn in the economy, combined with donor fatigue, has had a profoundly negative impact on cash donations. Our cash donations have dropped by 75% from previous years. We rely on these dollars to continue to operate. Everyone is looking for dollars these days – it is a competitive business – and due to the confidential nature of our services and location, it is incredibly challenging for Osborne House Inc to compete.

Osborne House Inc also applies for this annual operating grant because we provide a vital service to the City of Winnipeg and have been doing so for forty years despite the fluxes and flows of the economy. 85% of our clients are Winnipeggers. We work hand-in-hand with the Winnipeg Police Service and, in fact, approximately 78% of our clients are brought in by the Winnipeg Police Service. Domestic violence in 2012 is not a fact people would like to admit to, but, unfortunately, it still continues and Osborne House Inc is often at capacity providing shelter for women and children. We feel it is time for the City of Winnipeg and Osborne House Inc to work together.

A Brief History of Osborne House Inc

Osborne House, though not yet so named, was one of the first shelters to open in Canada. The other shelter was located in British Columbia. In 1972, a small pilot project funded by the Secretary of State was begun under the management of the Grey Nuns. The program and services offered were developed to serve the crisis needs of young women, 18 to 29 years of age, seeking to move from a dependent to an independent living situation.

In September 1974, the facility moved to a new location and the program focus changed to a three day crisis shelter for abused women and their children. By November, the Osborne Street address was available for ten women and children.

By 1980, Osborne House had moved two more times and had survived a number of funding crises. The shelter was a pioneer in many ways and it resulted in the development and acceptance of spousal abuse as a community issue and responsibility.

In January 1995, Osborne House became an independent entity, incorporated with its own governing Board of Directors effective April 1995.

Osborne House was for many years considered a forerunner and a model for Domestic Violence Shelter Facilities both in Canada and far beyond. Its commitment to continuing on as a pioneer and positive example has never waned.

Osborne House Today

Forty years ago, Osborne House started out as a temporary project and has incredibly evolved into a wide-ranging, community service organization that provides safe and secure accommodation for women and their children fleeing domestic violence. The agency serves women and children from all geographic points in Winnipeg and beyond. We are one of the oldest and largest women's shelters in the world which is truly a proud accomplishment for Osborne House and Winnipeg.

Our capacity is forty-five women and children. When we reach this limit, there are other safe and confidential facilities used to house Osborne House clients. To date, we have provided services and support to over half a million women and children.

In 2010, Osborne House offered support and services to over 9,000 women and 3,400 children. Our programs consist of a crisis telephone line (which is available 24 hours a day), crisis intake, counselling, protection planning, group counselling, and housing. Two and a half years ago, the shelter partnered with the Winnipeg School Division #1 to provide daily onsite tutoring classes for children staying in shelter which helps provide a semblance of normalcy in their lives. The services provided by Osborne House do not stop when someone leaves the shelter. Our follow-up program and crisis line staff keep in contact with clients and continue to offer support whenever it is needed.

Current Funding

Osborne House is largely funded by the Family Violence Prevention Program of the Province of Manitoba. Other sources of funding include Income Security (per diem of $27.64 per day for each woman and child in shelter), grants, foundations, church and service groups, businesses and individuals. The per diem amount is intended to cover salaries not funded by the Province and is intended to cover additional costs which are also not funded by the Province. Surely, we can all agree that that per diem amount is not enough in this day and age. The fact of the matter is the funding provided by the Province of Manitoba falls short and has not kept up to speed with growing inflation. Osborne House has been forced to cut spending and lay off staff in order to make ends meet. There is nowhere else to cut spending.

The current funding structure utilized by the Provincial Government does not provide dollars for:

1. Food
2. Housekeeping
3. Technology needs
4. First Aid supplies
5. Bus tickets

And much, much more. The women and children staying at Osborne House require more than just shelter; they require proper nutrition, a hygienic environment, and secure technology to keep them safe. This annual operating grant from the City of Winnipeg would help us in those areas and more. Allow me to elaborate.

Use of Annual Operating Grant from the City of Winnipeg

Food

With the City of Winnipeg's assistance, Osborne House can be sure that we will be able to meet the dietary needs of the women and children staying at Osborne House. This means providing meals that are balanced and nutritious in accordance with Canada's Food Guide. Studies have proven that poor nutrition can be the cause of behavioural problems in children and adults. We have noticed that our clients' health improves once they begin eating balanced meals as opposed to junk food. For many of our clients, food has been held back by their partners as a form of control. Our kitchen staff would like to teach our clients how to properly cook food, what is considered healthy food, and how to ensure they get the most out of their food (i.e. how to use leftovers for other meals).

The dietary needs of the women and children at Osborne House have evolved over time. There is a global problem of increased food allergies which is a demand that Osborne House must meet to ensure the health of our clients and their children. A number of women and children who come to Osborne House are diabetic and require special meals. Also, Osborne House treats clients' religious and moral dietary needs with respect and will provide meals that are kosher, vegan, etc in accordance with the clients' needs. Funding from the City will help with these growing demands.

Housekeeping

Osborne House is a 5,000 square foot facility that must be scrubbed daily. Our facility is locked down so there are not many windows that open. Therefore, we use hospital grade cleaning supplies, laundry detergents, hand soap, sanitizer, disposable hand towels, rubber gloves, etc.

Osborne House has been affected by bedbugs in the past due to the increase of bedbugs in Winnipeg. As such, we have had to implement strict cleaning diligence and sanitization in order to avoid another evacuation of the premises and to keep the women, children, staff, and even the furnishings safe. Women fleeing from a domestic abuse situation should not have to consider not coming to Osborne House out of fear of picking up bedbugs. Funding from the City of Winnipeg would ensure that we will be able to continue to provide a cleanly environment so our clients and staff need not worry about bedbugs or other parasites and to minimize the spread of contagions such as the flu. We take pride in the fact that our hygiene regime has been successful in preventing further bedbug outbreaks. With the City of

Winnipeg's help, we know we will be able to provide a hygienic environment that is nearly to par with hospitals which will help our clients feel comfortable.

Technology Needs

Osborne House's technology needs are not up to date. As we all know, technology has improved rapidly over the years. Thus, we have a demand to keep up with that advancement in order to ensure Osborne House remains secure, such as ensuring our IP address cannot be traced to our premises. We need more panic buttons throughout the building in order to keep everyone protected. We need a server that meets our growing requirements. Our crisis line, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, needs to be able to keep up with that demand. Funding from the City would help bring our technological needs up to speed and to continue to keep up with the pace of technological advancement.

Bus Tickets

Osborne House would love to have a working relationship with Winnipeg Transit in order to help facilitate travel expenses for our clients and children not covered by the Province and which our clients may not be able to afford.

Those are just a small handful of examples of the positive impact an annual operating grant from the City of Winnipeg would provide to Osborne House. I would be more than happy to elaborate on those examples, if requested. Here are a few other quick examples of how this funding would help the women and children of Osborne House:

- There would be less stress and concern about providing basic necessities and supplies to our clients and their children which is not covered by the Province of Manitoba.

- This additional funding would allow us to consider introducing more programs for our clients and their children. These programs would have a profoundly positive impact on our clients which in turn would help to break the cycle of returning to abusive partners or entering into future abusive relationships.

- Osborne House has a long term goal of re-evaluating treatment of domestic abuse survivors. The nature of domestic abuse has evolved with society. The current treatment plans for survivors simply do not work the majority of the time. While Osborne House will always be there to offer support and guidance, we would like to do more and look at a new treatment regime to help clients get back on their feet, not return to their abusive partner, and learn to avoid violent, unhealthy relationships. The abusers also need help to change their ways, which is something Osborne House cannot currently provide.

Domestic abuse affects all walks of life. It does not discriminate against economic class, race, or gender. Every workplace is impacted by what some refer to as a "dirty secret". Domestic abuse is encompassing as it extends beyond the victim and abuser – it takes its toll on family, friends, employers, co-workers, etc. Most people know, or have known, someone who has been affected by domestic abuse. I have enclosed a fact sheet for your review which consists of statistics and how domestic abuse affects society as a whole. The City of Winnipeg lost one of its own employees a few years ago to domestic violence. On April 19, 2008, Shannon Scromeda, a beautiful young woman, was beaten to death with a hammer by her partner, Kevin Strong. This brutal and completely unnecessary attack happened in front her young son. Strong is now serving a life sentence. At the end of the day, there is a family that has lost their daughter; a little boy growing up without a mother - and all for what?

Domestic violence is not a problem that only one level of government or one sector of society is responsible for; it is a problem that everyone needs to be concerned about. Osborne House has adopted a long term strategy and within the next few years, you will be seeing more of us introducing what we believe to be effective strategies that align with today's society.

Osborne House and the City of Winnipeg need to build a stronger working relationship. We are an important service to Winnipeggers and have been for forty years. There are City Councillors who are not aware of the services provided by Osborne House or the issues that affect us and, thus, the women and children who have been victims of domestic abuse. We would like to change this by fostering a better relationship with the City of Winnipeg.

Thank you for your consideration from me personally, Osborne House Inc, and the women and children who use our facilities and services. We believe domestic violence is a community problem and we all need to collectively work together to help the survivors and put an end to domestic violence.

About Domestic Violence

Between 2000 and 2009, **there were 738 spousal homicides representing 16%** of all solved homicides and nearly half of all family-related homicides in Canada.

Women continue to be more likely than men to be victims of spousal homicide. In 2009, **the rate of spousal homicide against women was about three times higher than for men.**

146 women in Manitoba were murdered by their spouse between 1975 and 2010.

Half of Canadian women over the age of 16 (51%) have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence.

Intimate partner homicide rates are highest for young adults. Between 1997 and 2006, **young women aged 15 to 24 were killed at a rate nearly three times higher** than all female victims of spousal homicide.

In 2009 one in five (17%) Canadians said that they had experienced some form of emotional or financial abuse in their current or previous relationship.

Violence against women **results in $34.2 million in direct lost earnings** and tax revenues in Canada every year.

The annual cost of **lost productivity** as a result of domestic violence in Canada is **estimated to be $1.8 billion.**

Physical and sexual abuse **costs Canada over $4.2 billion each year** (factoring into account social services, criminal justice, lost employment days, and health care).

Every year in Canada, as many as **360,000 children are exposed to domestic violence.**

L. Greaves, O. Hankivsky, J. Kingston-Riechters, *Selected Estimates of the Costs of Violence Against Women*, 1995
National Clearinghouse on Family Violence E-Bulletin, *Focus on Family Violence in the Workplace*, 2011
Statistics Canada, *The Violence Against Women Survey*, 1993
Statistics Canada, *Measuring Violence Against Women*, Statistical Trends 2006
Statistics Canada: *Family Violence in Canada*: A Statistical Profile 2009
Statistics Canada: *General Social Survey*,2009
Unicef, the Body Shop International and the Secretariat for the United Nations Secretary-General's study on Violence Against Children, *Behind Closed Doors: The Impact of Witnessing Domestic Violence on Children*, 2006

About Osborne House Inc.

Our Philosophy is to empower women to make the decision to live free from violence and create a healthy environment for their children.

Our Mission is to empower women and children who are survivors of domestic abuse by providing them with a safe and supportive environment through residential and non-residential programs and services.

Our Program Model promotes the protection and safety of all survivors of domestic violence in a fair, immediate and effective manner.

Our Board of Directors includes both women and men from the community at large.

Osborne House Inc. is one of the oldest and largest women's shelters in the world.

Our Specialized Programs and Services include: advocacy, shelter, crisis intervention, support, a 24-hour, seven day a week provincial domestic violence telephone crisis line, counselling, outreach, public education, follow-up services, children's activity and counselling programs, and an on-site Winnipeg School Division-Number 1 school program for children ages K to grade 8.

Our clients are women and their children from all socio-economic backgrounds, races, cultures, religions, ages, and sexual orientations, who are survivors of domestic violence.

In 2009 Osborne House Inc. provided over 8,000 nights of crisis accommodation and answered over 8,600 crisis calls. 45 women and children can stay in our shelter at one time. As many as 180 women and children arrive at our door a month and many arrive with nothing but the clothes they stand up in.

Osborne House Inc. is in its **40th year of operation**. Since opening our doors in 1972 we have **served over half a million women and children.**

Our annual operating budget in 2010 was $1.7 million.

We are dependent upon **monetary donations from community supporters** for core operations.

Osborne House Inc. is a Registered Charitable Organization: CRA Registration No. 89916-4487 RR0001.