# Hook

Most of us have the privilege to be able to go home every day and have a loving family waiting for us. For others however, that is not the case. Imagine, a mother and her child getting abused by their father to the point of almost needing medical support, so they decide to run from their own home to escape their abuser and start a completely new life with absolutely nothing. What would you do, how would you feel? Scared? Lost? Hopeless? **→**

There are all types of abuses, ranging from mental, physical, psychological, sexual, emotional, and verbal. People think that certain abuses are more significant than the others, but every single type of abuse should be taken seriously because each one can be detrimental to the victim in their own way. **→**

Almost 40% **→** of married women in Canada are subjected to some form of abuse and violence in their own homes **→**, and 60% of the children in these situations witness the violence. Most cases the children aren’t affected as badly as the women but **→**, some can be very detrimental to the children as well. **→**

# Statistics

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, domestic violence is one of the most unreported types of crime in Canada. Out of the small amount of cases that do get reported, the victims barely get any justice, and most continue to get abused by their perpetrators.

Out of all the abuse categories we mentioned earlier, the most well-known is sexual abuse. **→** In Canada alone, there are 460,000 sexual assaults cases every year but only 3 out of every thousand offenders get any jail time. **→**

# Charity Purpose/Introduction

And this is why Dixon Transition Society exists. They are a charity that dedicates themselves to helping women and children flee violence or any type of abuse they might be facing at home **→**. They were founded in 1973 and have been serving the Burnaby community for over 45 years, yet they are still the only transitional charity in the area. Other cities like Surrey, New West and Vancouver all have multiple similar charities, however Burnaby has had only one the entire time. But Dixon has done a lot of work by themselves to help Burnaby. They’ve not only helped women and children, but they also educate the public about the Big Picture of violence, and that’s one reason why there are decreasing violence rates in Burnaby. **→**

In 2018 alone, they provided over 10,000 meals, counselled a total of 442 people, and housed 219 women and children in just one year. And that’s great for a single charity to help so many people, but there’s always a catch. **→** They had to turn away more than 5 times the number of people they counselled. 2155 people did not get the help they needed because there was just not enough resources and space for everyone to share.

But of the 219 women and children they’ve helped, Dixon impacted every single one of their lives. They have made them more successful and have helped them kickstart a brand-new life free **→** from violence. (video) **→**

# Process

So how do people get help from Dixon?

Well, this process is in no way concrete, as every case is unique, but this defines the overall stages that women and children go through to be transitioned into the real world. As we mentioned earlier, many people get turned away because of space, and Dixon has to carefully handpick people based on the severity of the situation and the location.

After they are selected, they first move into the emergency house, Dixon House, where they are provided with clothing, food and day to day items. **→** Their stay last around a month and during this time, they are also recommended to receive counselling. This helps them improve their overall health as well as boosting their confidence and coming to terms about their experiences.

Then after the month has past, they move onto Dixon’s 2nd stage house, Wenda’s Place. It’s a more individual housing solution that feels more like home instead of a community house. The women and children can stay up to 2 years to become increasingly more independent and self-reliant. There are workshops for women such as financial management, job interview skills, and resume editing to help them apply for a job. **→**

Lastly, when they obtain a financially sustainable career, they are helped find a more permanent residence with the help of third parties. They still have access to resources and support from Dixon and have finally finished their transition. After all these steps, women and children will have a stable roof over their heads with the confidence and stability that Dixon provided. **→**

# Staff and Volunteer

For everything that helps transition these people, Dixon Society requires a group of dedicated staff and volunteers. They rely heavily on volunteers to get things done with over one hundred volunteers covering everyday tasks to sustain the charity each year. The more important and vital aspects of Dixon are handled by 10 employed staff members. **→**

Volunteers have a crucial role in the upkeep of Dixon House and its patients. The primary job for the typical volunteer is grocery shopping. That may not seem like an important job, but its very time consuming for the staff at Dixon House to do, which makes it perfect for a volunteer. More specialized volunteers can include gardening and helping organize events such as a shopping trip or charitable events. **→**

The 10 dedicated staff handle the more vital operations of Dixon. Some staff take care of the paperwork and finances along with communications and their outreach program. Others are child support workers, who take care of the children that arrive at Dixon, registered counsellors, and helpers in Dixon House. **→**

# Other services

Dixon Society also offers many other services that smooths out the transition period. Among the housing and transition aid, there is also professional counselling, an outreach program to educate others, and child support. **→**

Dixon believes that for a smooth and successful transition period for families, a professional team of support staffs and counselling is essential for this goal. They have licensed counselors, and always put the safety of the client first, ensuring a non-judgmental, helpful, and comforting experience. Counselling will help the families to come to terms with their experience. **→**

Dixon is also committed to raising awareness for domestic violence. They want to stop the causes of violence by educating and raising awareness to this problem to the masses. They are very knowledgeable about the topic and upon request, a representative from the charity will give speeches in schools, companies and at events. **→**

## Child Support

When women arrive at Dixon, many bring children, and in most cases, the child from a domestic abuse case does not get enough attention and care he/she needs. Many children do not fully grasp the extent of their situations. This is where child support is an indispensable aid. **→**

Children have access to child support workers that help them with transitioning to a new school, helping them with homework, and entertaining them with weekly activities. They care for the child’s wellbeing and look after them when the mother is out of the house. **→**

Dixon also offers an indoor play space with tons of toys and games, as well as an outdoor playground and garden for the children to have peace of mind. All of these things are crucial in helping children adapt and understand their **→** situation. But all of this could disappear by next year.

# $5000 Usage

**→** You see, our charity heavily relies on government and charity funding. In the past, a portion of funding for the child support program was provided by United Way of Lower Mainland, a higher tiered charity that helps fund programs for smaller charities such as Dixon.

However, **→** this funding was cut in half this year and unless there is some miracle change **→**, the funding will completely disappear by next year. Dixon is committed to raising the necessary funds in order to keep this vital program. **→** But how will they do it? They need $25,000 of funding to keep it running, and that money doesn’t appear out of nowhere. **→**

Their major fundraisers like the Scotiabank Half-Marathon and their Annual Christmas Jazz Concert are helping the program, but they can only be so optimistic. **→** If they were to win the $5000, **all** of it will be put towards child support, and it could possibly be enough to barely cover the operation costs of the program, all in the end, helping the mother and her child. **→**

# Conclusion

We honestly wish we didn’t **have** to make this presentation to address this issue, we wish that Dixon did not **have** to exist, but that’s in a perfect world where there are no problems. Our world is not a utopia and is made up of all sorts of people, and Dixon exists because there are people that, to put it bluntly, abuse others. These violences may seem like a distant thing to many of us, but now we know that this happens to others, and together, we can stand against abuse and violence. We are privileged enough to help others through their struggles. Dixon helped the mother and her child, and so can you. **→**

Thank you.