



A TURNING POINT
FOR WOMEN



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About the Hazel Fund

The Hazel Fund has been established by friends and admirers of a very special woman named Hazel. She was a consumer, advisor and volunteer of several community services and she had a dream of finding a way to help women overcome barriers related to violence and abuse and pursue their dreams. Hazel died in 1996, after a long struggle with breast cancer.

The Hazel Fund was created with a gift of \$7,000 from the Peterborough Children's Services Group, which wound down its operations in 1997. The YWCA agreed to be the sponsor of the Fund.

The YWCA continues to raise funds in support of the Hazel Fund so that Hazel's legacy can continue.

About Hazel (1944-1996)

Hazel, my mother, was a strong woman who shared her spirit with as many people as possible. You will now carry her spirit too.

Who was she? A woman. A beginner. A mother. A shoulder. A leader. A past.

She met her struggles and endured. She saw others struggle and showed them how to survive. She shared the roads she travelled, and the experiences and lessons she learned.

While battling the bout of cancer she took us, my brother, sister, and I, from a life of domination and violence. We were faced with nothing, but what we were leaving behind posed such a threat that "nothing" was better than how we had lived. Alongside Mum, many have faced overwhelming battles and carried on. Rebuilding our lives through such hurdles as court, lawyers, house seeking, and remaining safe, she found ways to deal with her own pain on the side and showed us how to live this new life. These experiences she used later to give a chance to friends, colleagues and acquaintances.

When people met the strength of this smiling, laughing woman little did they know their lives would be enriched by her knowledge and life experiences. She overcame obstacles that stood in the ways of success. This carried her back into the world we left; only now she was addressing these family oriented barriers facing other women, such as child health, subsidized housing, and personal welfare issues. Not only did she introduce the accesses available to fight, but also she befriended all those she touched.

Mum believed that everyone deserves a chance and that chance should be made possible. She learned to speak out and encouraged others to stand up and be heard.

Today, you are receiving a chance to pursue your dreams. Perhaps you have overcome some barriers already. Now you are being given a chance to take another step towards your goal. Not only are you making a place for women through your actions but you are also carrying her spirit with you. Thank you.