

An alternative school

The alternative school will begin in September/06 and have two sites:

- G.A. Wheable Adult Education Centre
- Second Stage Housing

At each site, women in the program will have access to:

- Safety planning
- Onsite Daycare
- Bus tickets
- School supplies
- Group and individual counselling
- Classroom practices to support success

Barriers to success in traditional adult education include:

- Lack of safety
- Lack of information
- Continuation and/or escalation of violence
- Effects of trauma
- Mandatory attendance
- Class schedules and course length
- Lack of resources

Why focus on education?

- It's the best predictor of a woman's income
- Lack of education may prevent a woman from getting and keeping a good job, and from leaving an abusive partner
- Women who experience intimate partner violence have lower education attainment compared to other adults
- Among women in a relationship and already enrolled at Wheable in winter/05, 70% reported violence
- Classrooms can be unsafe for women for many reasons



Bridges: Women's Links to Learning and Success



Taking down barriers and building bridges for women

Phone: 519 661 2111, ext. 88605
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<http://www.edu.uwo.ca/bridges>



The Research Project

A partnership:
The Faculty of Education, The University of
Western Ontario, and G.A. Wheable Adult
Learning Centre, TVDSB

Funded by:
*Social Sciences and Humanities Research
Council (SSHRC) for 3 years:*

fall 2006 → summer 2009

Students will be:

- Women who are abused, or who are survivors of trauma
- Do not have a high school diploma
- May be learning at the literacy/basic skills OR OSSD credit level

The school will feature custom programs designed to meet the needs of women, where they are and starting from a place of strength and capacity. Resources available include:

- Safety planning
- Daycare
- Bus tickets
- Counselling

The Referral Process

Women who might benefit from learning more about the program, and perhaps participating, may:

- Self-refer
- Be referred by a community agency, who would ask:
 - Does a woman have her OSSD?
 - Would she like to talk to someone about going back to school, even if now is not the right time for her?

Women who contact us will have an initial meeting in a safe environment, to talk about education, what she would need in order to go back to school, and whether or not this program might be right for her.

The class will be women only, with a female teacher.

The learning will be designed in short units, so women can take a break and re-start where they left off, and not have to start all over again.

CONTACT

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