

Early Intervention Program

In 2006 a 26 year old mother and her 18 month son were admitted to Unity House. This mother was admitted on a referral from both NLRHC and CFS. Her son was diagnosed with Failure to Thrive due to the domestic abuse he was exposed to in the family home. The mother was an immigrant from Sudan whose marriage had been arranged by her family. The women was now living in Canada and had no other family or support system.

Much of the work done with this woman needed to be with a translator due to poor English Skills. Although she had been taking English class through Keyano her husband pulled her from them when she started to develop skills. This lady had arrived at the shelter without her immigration papers, which her husband would claim had been lost or stolen.

While at the shelter she started attended programming on risk and abuse. Safety planning was key as this women intended to return to her husband as soon as the referral agencies deemed it o.k.

Two years later this woman was again admitted to Unity House and the Early Intervention Program. After two years her English skills appeared to be no better. The lady immediately started to actively participate in the early intervention program which actively assisted her in obtaining low income housing and putting supports in place to maintain this independent living—free of abuse.