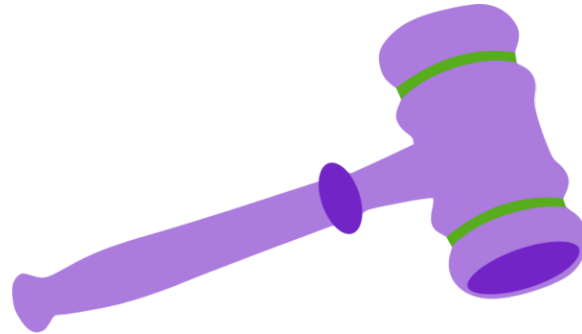


Host an Auction or Silent Auction Fundraiser in Support of Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis



The Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis organization has been serving women and children of the community to keep them free of domestic abuse and sexual violence for nearly forty years. At WIC, services and programs are offered equitably and at no cost for women and children in need of safety and support. The programs offered to women and their children are to provide them with options for healthy, safe and independent living regardless of race, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, socio-economic status and/or ability. These services provide women with safe housing, legal assistance, immediate advice via 24 hour crisis line, counselling, outreach to rural areas and many other invaluable services which help women and children in the community thrive. WIC offers extensive resources to those who utilize our services to educate and empower them, and to assist their navigation through the social world.

Why Host an Auction or Silent Auction in Support of WIC?

An auction or silent auction fundraiser is a fun way to get people in the community together and appeals to a wide audience. It is also a great opportunity to bring attention to both the third party supporter(s) and the beneficiary organization (WIC). The purpose of third party fundraising events is to create revenue to be donated to WIC to make an impactful difference in the lives of local women and children.

Considerations leading up to the Event

- Gather a committee to organize the event and help find items to auction off
- Recruit volunteers for the actual event and also to help secure donations
- Consider who will attend your event and tailor items to that demographic
- Ask local businesses for donations
 - Examples include:
 - Restaurants or pubs
 - Hotels
 - Golf courses
 - Jewelers
 - Museums or amusement parks
 - Local sports teams (tickets to games or signed merchandise)

- Salons and spas
- Create bid sheets for the auction that include item name, a description of the item, value, the donor, starting bid and the minimum increase
- If you have a large auction group the items by category to make it easier for guests to navigate your event
- If you are hosting a live auction, secure someone to be your auctioneer
- Ensure there are refreshments available for guests during the auction

During the Event (Silent Auction)

- Have volunteers monitor tables to ensure minimum bid and minimum increase rules are being followed
- Give people plenty of warning as closing time approaches
- Collect bid sheets and pens once bidding time is over
- Ensure winning bids have followed the minimum bid and minimum increase rules
- Sort sheets and group the winners in alphabetical order
- Call out winners so they can come forward to pay and claim their prize
- Set aside bid sheets for those who are not there to claim prizes

After the Event

- Follow up with any winners who were not there to claim prizes to let them know they have won and set up a time to collect money and deliver prize
- Send thank you letters to donors after the event thanking them for their support

If hosting an auction or silent auction fundraiser in support of Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis interests you, please fill out our **'Third Party Fundraising Interest Form'** available on our website. We thank you and appreciate your generous support in assisting us in building communities where women and children live free of violence.