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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ZONTA CLUB OF OTTAWA, CANADA SUPPORTS  
EMERGENCY SHELTER IN COVID-19 RESPONSE

**Interval House emergency shelter receives gift of \$3,500 from Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada to help respond to increasing needs during the COVID-19 response.**

OTTAWA, ON, July 20, 2020 - The Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada (ZCO) is pleased to announce a gift of \$3,500 to Interval House of Ottawa, an emergency shelter that provides housing for women and children as survivors of domestic violence. Club members readily responded to the call to action to help the shelter provide vital services during this difficult time.

"The club is thrilled that we were able to reach a total of \$3,500," says CJ Blake, President of ZCO. "This donation reflects just how strongly our membership believes in empowering and supporting women and girls, and, at the same time, recognizes the unique challenges that COVID-19 has presented to women. We are pleased to contribute to Interval House, which supports some of the most vulnerable in our communities. In this difficult time, we hope our donation inspires others to respond in the ways they are able."

This gift aligns with one of Zonta's core goals of ending gender-based violence. At this time of lockdown and isolation, increasing numbers of women and children are accessing emergency shelter services in Ottawa, and the shelters are struggling to stretch their resources to serve their clients. Supporting individuals in crisis is even more important, and made more challenging by the widespread financial impact of the pandemic, sometimes resulting in unemployment among those who may regularly contribute to charities and non-profit organizations.

"\$3,500 would provide a woman with a month (31 days) of safe shelter, counselling, meals, and crisis support" shared Sammy Cisek, Community Engagement Worker at Interval House of Ottawa.

More needs to be done to support emergency shelters, especially in these challenging times. Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada challenges other service organizations to make similar contributions to the shelter of their choice.

"This is the time to support our sisters. With concentrated effort across our communities, women in need will continue to be supported for a long time," adds Blake.

ZCO is a member of Zonta International, a global organization of professionals with a mandate to empower women through service and advocacy. Their annual program includes offering educational scholarships and bursaries.

For more information, please contact CJ Blake at [president@zontaottawa.ca](mailto:president@zontaottawa.ca) or visit the website of the Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada at [www.zontaottawa.ca](http://www.zontaottawa.ca).

For more information about Interval House of Ottawa, please visit [www.intervalhouseottawa.org](http://www.intervalhouseottawa.org).

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