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December, 2020

Mayor Lowry and Council,

It is my honour and privilege to present an opportunity to the community of Mississippi Mills.

As you are aware our agency addresses violence against women and girls and the challenges for families, and for justice seeking leaders in positions to direct and support positive direction.

Over the past 42 years Lanark County Interval House and Community Support has worked to build relationships, inform the lived realities of those living with violence and form partnerships that allow for collaborative work with a focus on solutions.

Approximately two years ago we were chosen as a region to engage with a team of artists through Red Dress Productions to participate in a process to create a pebble mosaic. This permanent art installation is created in honour of those facing, those who have been taken and to those healing from all forms of violence. The countdown project as it is termed, has several existing mosaics in several communities including Brantford, Renfrew, Eganville and Carleton Place.

The process was outstanding and we offered three sessions to interested community members to discuss, share and find our intention in terms of what our mosaic would say and represent for our community. The artists then took all of the information away and designed our mosaic. They led and facilitated meaningful conversations which led us to our community build. Once complete, Red Dress Productions took it away to cure and be made ready for the ground. In May 2019 we unveiled the art piece behind town hall in Carleton Place where it now lives permanently as a place to reflect, honour and remember.

We have been approached again to create another mosaic in our community and we have chosen Mississippi Mills. We have history in the township. Our founding support agency is The Hub, who continues to support the work of the agency. One of our founding mothers and



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leaders as an advocate, writer and educator is Fern Martin who has strong roots in MM. The unfortunate loss and tragic murder of Bernard Cameron happened in MM and was as a result of domestic violence. Art Fusion support is rooted in MM and was a big support to Lanark County Interval House and Community Support and over the years Mississippi Mills has remained steadfast in its support of the work of our agency. Many of our team and strong supporters live, work and play in this community. In 2018 Lanark County Interval House launched the first multi-use complex in partnership with Carebridge and we have dedicated units for survivors of women abuse within the building.

We would be honoured to work with council and the community to install a great art piece in Mississippi Mills. At a time in our evolution, a project that involves people, sharing, expression through art and the spirit of unity, this seems like a success story in the making.

We would like to request that the council agree to be a partner with us in this project. We would like the council to consider and support making available a space behind old town hall where this piece would complement other dedications to some of the very people who have contributed to this request.

The requirement is that the municipality donate the space, make the space ready with a concrete pad of a circumference of 6 ft (all details are available) and that it is maintained for its life in the community. There is a dedication plaque that accompanies the piece. Lanark County Interval House and Community Support would assist with promotion and online forums to share and create the vision of the piece. We would work together to ensure both an outdoor and indoor build space considering all covid 19 precautions and then finally, we would celebrate and plan an unveiling event. We will gladly attend a council meeting to share more details as well as pictures of other mosaics that have been created.

What we need is a willingness to participate, a commitment to be our partner in this opportunity and a desire to start this project in 2021. We hope to start meetings virtually with the artist team in February, hope to build in April and unveil in June 2021.

Respectfully

Erin Lee,
Executive Director,
Lanark County Interval House and Community Support