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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yellow Brick House Announces Second York Region Emergency Shelter for Abused Women & Children

(Newmarket, ON: April 12, 2011) Yellow Brick House, along with MPP Reza Moridi, York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe, and Mayor Frank Scarpitti from the Town of Markham, today announced the purchase of a second Yellow Brick House emergency shelter for abused women and children.

“With the purchase of a second Yellow Brick House shelter we are able to create life-saving opportunities for the women and children who need our support,” said Lorris Herenda, Executive Director of Yellow Brick House.

“Last year 4,500 women and children received assistance through our shelter, counseling, and supportive services through both our shelter and outreach programs. Yet 598 women and children could not be accommodated due to a lack of shelter beds. With the support of our community, and the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services we will be able to open the doors to the second Yellow Brick House emergency shelter this fall. This shelter will make a tremendous difference in the well-being and safety of the women and children we serve,” added Herenda.

Founded in 1978, Yellow Brick House has built a reputation as a community leader in the provision of shelter, counseling and supportive services to abused women and children in York Region. Recognizing the need for more shelter beds in the community, Yellow Brick House embarked on the *Second Shelter, Second Chances* Capital Campaign in 2009 with the goal with the goal of opening a second shelter in the southern part of the Region.

With today's announcement, Yellow Brick House will be able to offer an additional 25 shelter beds and 6 shelter cribs. Yellow Brick House will also be able to dedicate greater resources to empowering abused women and children to break free of the cycle of violence and build lives free of abuse.

“Two years ago we embarked on the Campaign recognizing the critical need for a second shelter in York Region,” added Nora Priestly, Chair of the Yellow Brick House Board of Directors. “We are proud to share this major Campaign milestone. We have a second shelter – we now have to raise the money and resources needed to operate it, fill it with furniture, toys and the items that make a house a home. We need to hire professional staff and make these beds available to the community.”

“It has been the incredible support from of the Province, the Region and individuals and organizations like Vivian Risi, Royal LePage Your Community Realty – our Campaign chair, Nancy Coxford – Chair of the Major Gifts Division, the Scarpitti Charitable Foundation, and Stefano Guizzetti of Guizzetti Homes, that has made the purchase of a second Yellow Brick House shelter a reality. Today we ask everyone in York Region to join us as we enter the final stages of the *Second Shelter, Second Chances* Capital Campaign. Each and every member of our community can be the key that opens the doors to our shelter this fall. ”

About Yellow Brick House

Yellow Brick House, a nonprofit organization, provides emergency shelter, counselling and supportive services to abused women and their children in York Region. To learn more about Yellow Brick House and the organization's Capital Campaign, please visit the web site www.yellowbrickhouse.org

**For additional information please contact Lorris Herenda, Executive Director:
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If you need help, please call our twenty-four hour hotline 1.800.263.3247

