



Inside Interval House

CANADA'S FIRST CENTRE FOR ABUSED WOMEN AND CHILDREN

WINTER 2017

Marjan's **BRAVE ESCAPE** from a life of abuse

When Marjan's husband offered to take her and the kids on a vacation to Mexico, she thought it was a nice idea. They could all use a break. But it also raised a red flag—her partner had abused and threatened her in the past. What would happen when they were out of the country?

Marjan's dark suspicions were, sadly, right. One night, as she came out of the shower after a wonderful beach day, her husband attacked. He used stones and a stool to hit her over and over again. All the while, her small children witnessed the brutal assault.

Marjan knew her husband did not intend for her to survive.

This was not the first time Marjan's husband had abused her. In fact, she'd escaped to a women's shelter like ours once before. Her previous experience had shown her the importance of being prepared and planning for her safety.

She escaped to a nearby suite, where other vacationers called the police. While her husband was detained, Marjan and her children flew home to Toronto, where the police were waiting to escort her to the safety of Interval House.

Marjan had wisely left copies of her important documents with friends, so she didn't need to risk returning to her home. And our staff outfitted the family with donated clothes and essentials.

Marjan and her children were provided with counselling to address the trauma and pain they'd experienced. Our counsellors helped Marjan access

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legal aid and begin the custody process that would keep her children safe.

Thanks to generous support from kind people like you, Marjan and her children landed on their feet after a very traumatizing experience. Within just a couple of months, they were ready to move out of Interval House and in with a friend. Marjan now has confidence that she has the knowledge and tools to not end up in another abusive relationship. She's confident she and her children will do well in their new lives, free of violence.