



ENHANCING RESOURCE ACCESSIBILITY FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS IN HAMILTON



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PROBLEM

How might we enhance accessibility to essential resources for domestic violence survivors in Hamilton through a mobile app and community partnerships?

- In 2023, Hamilton City Council declared intimate partner violence (IPV) an **epidemic**¹
- In 2023, Hamilton police received over 12,000 calls related to domestic or intimate partner violence¹
- Survivors often **struggle to access essential items** (e.g., electronic devices, SIM cards, clothing, furniture, personal care products) which are vital for safety, communication, and daily living during escape and recovery phases

~6,000 requests for shelter were denied

for women experiencing domestic violence in Hamilton because of a shortage of available beds²



SOLUTION

After conducting research and consulting community partners from SVPRO and Inasmuch, we developed *Break Free*, a mobile app which both **centralizes and provides** resources for domestic violence survivors in suburban and urban Hamilton. The app functions to **bridge digital and community support**.

The app contains:

- A repository of local supports services and resources
- A secure map of resource access-points
- Quick escape button
- Discrete icon design on the home screen



Prototype of *Break Free* app

NEXT STEPS

- 1) Complement the app with physical resources, provided by community partnerships
 - Thrift stores
 - Existing DV shelters
- 2) Recruitment and program promotion
 - Recruit volunteers for resource distribution
 - Advertise through community partnerships
- 3) Receive program feedback from service users via survey



REFERENCES

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3. Taftizan. (n.d.). Rustic wooden bed with cozy blue bedding and soft pillows PNG and clipart. *Pngtree*. https://pngtree.com/freepng/rustic-wooden-bed-with-cozy-blue-bedding-and-soft-pillows_20092360.html

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