

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 epidemic¹
- 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

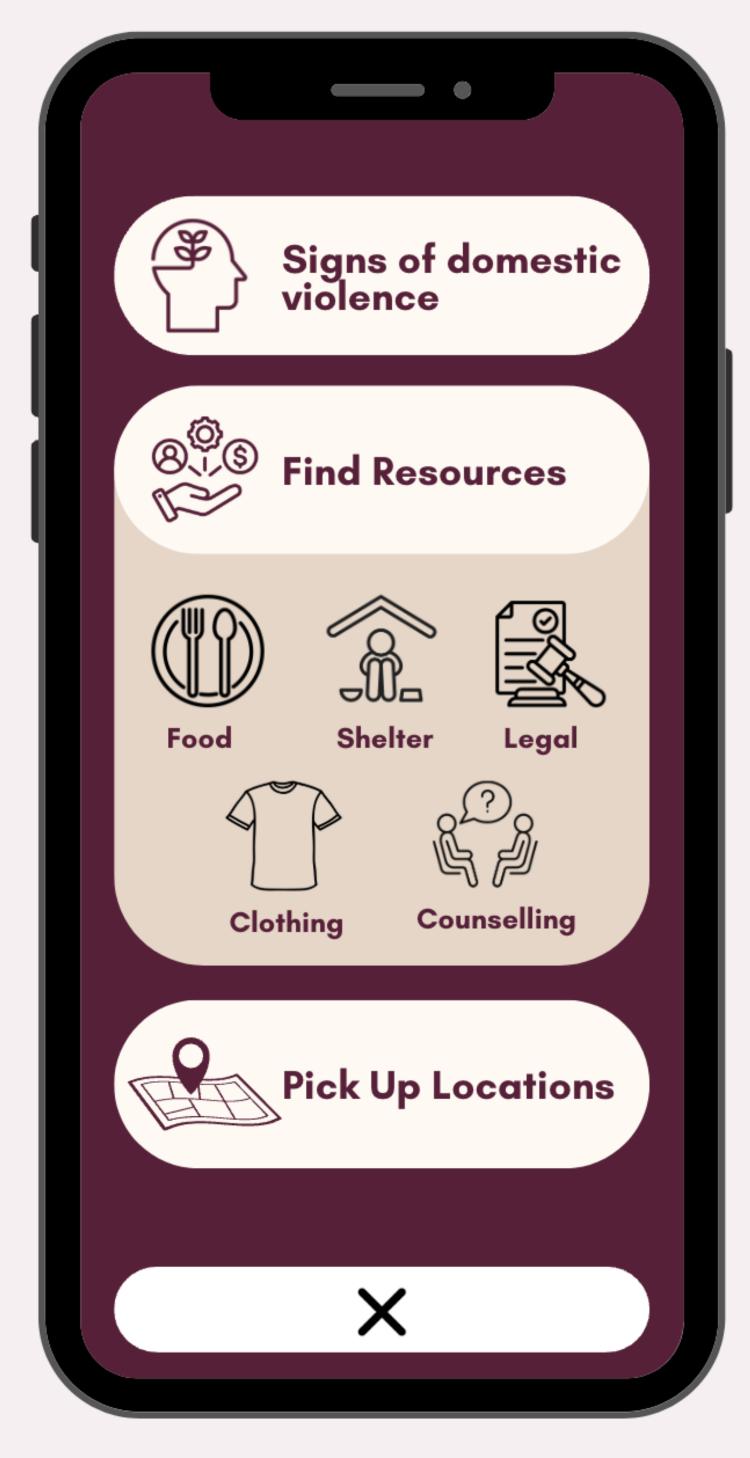
SOLUTION

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
- O 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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