

# Haven for battered families

by Allison Annesley  
81 per cent of the men who abuse their families have observed the same tradition in their own homes while growing up.

67 per cent of the women who tolerate the abuse have had a role model in their childhood. They have watched their mother silently endure both mental and physical torture by their husbands.

These statistics were given by Ruth Pinkney, of Win House,

an Edmonton haven for battered wives and children. Pinkney was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Women's Centre in the Heritage Lounge at Athabasca Hall on Thursday evening.

The first part of the evening consisted of a film documenting the real life situation of a family where the man abused his family. His wife finally fled home with their children to a shelter known as Osborne House in Manitoba.

This was after 13 years of marriage, the last eleven of which he was abusive. She explained that although she still loved her husband, she could not live with the violence in their home.

The family's situation is not unique. In the discussion that followed the film, Pinkney said that Win House is between 97 and 100 per cent occupied at all times and turns away at least 40 families per month. Win Home ac-

comodates seven families at once, each for a three week period.

"Society allows women to cry and be emotional," said Pinkney, "but not men. The only masculine emotion that is acceptable is anger. Violence therefore is sometimes the only emotional outlet for a man."

"The typical mother who comes to us is twenty-five with two infant children. She is white, middle class and financially

dependent upon her husband."

Pinkney also explained that there are three types of men who abuse their families:

- the white collar worker who is usually only abusive when drunk;
- the man who has been conditioned culturally to treat the woman as subservient and has never learned to control his temper;
- and the psychopath who can lose control at any time.

Win House, which takes only women with dependent children has housed 700 families since its inception in 1978.



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