

Toronto group offers surgery for abused women

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File photo of dentistry equipment. CITYNEWS.

A Toronto organization is offering free facial and dental surgery for women who have survived domestic abuse.

“While the victims of domestic violence have access to medical support and services of various kinds, dentistry is not currently offered,” Dr. Tina Meisami said in a statement.

Volunteer dentists and specialists, all of whom are women, are making the extra effort for the Restoring Smiles project on Friday – March 8 marks International Women’s Day.

“We have the capacity to treat twice as many women as we did in 2012 and 2011,” Meisami said, but added that many women are unaware of the service.

“We wanted to do something within our own skills to help other women get out of the vicious cycle of abuse, neglect, poverty and their ramifications such as poor oral and overall health,” Meisami said.

The Dr. Borna Meisami Commemorative Foundation provides funding for the reconstructive surgery, which is provided to women living in abuse shelters.

In the past three years, the foundation has provided \$70,000 worth of advanced dental and facial reconstructive treatments to women living in GTA shelters.

Tina Meisami started the organization in 2010 in honour of her brother. Borna Meisami, an orthopedic surgeon, died in 2007.

For more information visit drbmeisamifoundation.com.