

# NEWS

## Student supports shelter

BY CARA BRADY

MORNING STAR STAFF

Fulton School Global Education students are asked to work on a project that they think will help make a better community.

Brittney Russell didn't hesitate to choose the Women's Shelter.

"I'm passionate about helping women. Right now the shelter is only until the end of March but the women need more help than shelter from the weather. They need help with their health and a place to keep themselves and their clothes clean and some emotional support," she said.

Russell did her research by talking to the Transition House which she found can only take women from abusive situations and must turn others away.

She also learned that some homeless women do not like to use the existing overnight shelter because men and women sleep in the same room.

She carried on to get in touch with Annette Sharkey at the Social Planning Council and to become a member of the committee working on getting a permanent women's shelter in Vernon.

"I want to fundraise for the temporary shelter to buy basic healthy food and get laundry done then keep on helping with the permanent shelter," said Russell, who credits her mother, Laurie Russell, with always encouraging the family to help and volunteer in the community.

"She's really compassion-



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BRITTNEY RUSSELL is doing a \$5 challenge to help raise money for the Women's Shelter. Make a donation at Heavenly Grounds Cafe until March 17 and challenge a friend to do the same then challenge their friends and so on.

ate. When I got involved with this project, I thought it would be a lot easier to get it going but I've learned that there is so much to be done.

"We might find the space but we need to have the stable funding. There are a lot of people who want to help. Some businesses like Sunshine Tanning are helping with donations of clothes."

Russell has two fundraisers planned. She has arranged to have 40 per cent of coffee sales from Heavenly Grounds Cafe on March 14 go to the shelter. Her other fundraiser started

with a personal challenge.

"I grabbed \$5 and put it into a box and challenged a friend to do the same and then ask their friends for \$5 and keep it going. Now I hope other people will do the same.

"This is a really good cause. The money will go to the temporary women's shelter until March 31 and what is left over will go towards getting a permanent shelter," she said.

"This started as a school project but it's something I want to keep involved with. I'm going to stay on the committee and stick to until it's done."