



Red Door

Ending family homelessness one family at a time.



Newsletter

Winter 2015

Thank you!

What an amazing community of supporters! We received more than \$226,000 in donations over the holiday season. Your generosity is already making a positive difference in the lives of children and families affected by homelessness and abuse.

You're in charge

We respect your personal preferences. Our Fundraising Coordinator is happy to hear from you if you would like to change the frequency or method of communications you receive.

Contact Mark Zurawinski at 416-915-5671 ext. 232 mzurawinski@reddoorshelter.ca

Share with us!



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The Spirit of Giving

The true holiday spirit of goodwill was in their air. In December, we experienced such an incredible outpouring of generosity from the community with hundreds of supporters like you coming together to share the joy of the season with our families.

So many amazing donors, groups, and workplace teams gave their support to help 216 families experience a joyful holiday season, providing so many wonderful gift packages, memorable meals, and special holiday events.

We saw an incredible surge in donations, with over \$226,000 raised which will help us continue to fund our critical programming to support the many families we will serve this year.

More than 16,000 lbs of food was donated from Second Harvest and many community donors, not to mention 195 turkeys delivered. We also collected and distributed over \$19,000 in grocery and department stores gift cards.

An extra special treat came courtesy of Palais Royale who provided a fabulous 5-course Christmas luncheon for all of the families at our shelters.

Through our new Holiday Spirit Gift box program, we encouraged our supporters to collect and donate specially themed gift packages for families with holiday presents and essential items to help them start a new home when they are ready to move in the new year.

One donor who dropped off an assortment of gift boxes told us that for her "it's a small gesture to let a family know they are special and deserve a nice holiday together."



One of the many wonderful Holiday Spirit Gift Boxes for families.

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Many wonderful groups like the Holiday Helpers, Santa Comes to Bay Street, Toronto Star Santa Clause Fund, Basketeers, Annual Basket Drive for Women, Project A.J., and the Shoebox Project once again made the holiday season special with their generous support.

One particularly touching gift came from former residents of the Red Door, Ebi & Shayes. They stayed at the Red Door when they first came to Canada 28 years ago. At that time they had nowhere else to turn.

The couple now owns a Pizza Nova, and this year they decided to give back by donating pizza, salad, and goodies for residents of our Queen Street shelter, where they stayed so many years ago. They wanted to give the families staying here over the holidays a special treat, because they know what it is like to receive that kindness. They plan to continue their support with more meals in the future.

So many supporters contributed to making this an incredible holiday for our families. All of your support truly means a lot us, and you should know that it makes such a huge difference for our families to be able to share in the joy of the season. So from all of us at the Red Door, our staff, our board, and our families, we thank you so much, and wish you all the very best in 2015.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our 2014 holiday program!

For a complete list of holiday program supporters visit our website:
reddoorshelter.ca/our-donors/holiday-2014



The Holiday Hampers group, long time holiday supporters delivered 105 turkeys with all the fixings!

Much more than Shelter

The Red Door provides so much more than just temporary emergency shelter. When families are ready to move out of the shelter and embark on their new lives, they can still face many obstacles, but we are there with them every step of the way.

Marlene is a single senior who came to the Red Door a few years ago when she faced a financial crisis. We helped her find and secure an affordable apartment and she was able to visit our weekly food bank to help offset some of her expenses which helped her get back on her feet. When she was in need of some urgent dental work which she could not afford on her fixed income, our outreach team was able to connect her to a grant program which covered the cost of her entire bill.



Lauren is a single mother of one son who came to the shelter in February last year. When she was ready to move, we helped her find safe and affordable housing. Her son Jon had been suffering from scoliosis and was in need of surgery in November. Because Jon would need a back brace after his surgery, she needed a larger stroller which was beyond her means. Within a week of her son getting out of the hospital, her outreach worker delivered her a new stroller that was exactly to her needs.

“Just knowing that the support is there, it’s like an enormous weight is lifted off my shoulders, and I know I can succeed.” Eve, a mother of 3

But what really makes the Red Door much more than shelter, is *you*. It is your generous support that enables us to be there for many more women like Marlene and Lauren when they need help. Your gifts are what fund the important programs and services we provide to help over 500 families every year.

Thank you for being a partner in our mission to end family homelessness, one family at a time.

Fabulous Support from Steven and Chris

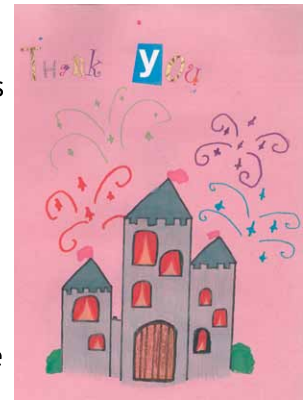
In December CBC's popular duo Steven and Chris lent their support to local women's shelters by collecting personal care items and toys. Over 100 toys and special gifts were delivered to the Red Door.



"Red Door is an organization that is changing the lives of struggling families and we are proud to be a small part of that positive mission." says Portia Corman, the show's Executive Producer.

Giving Happy Memories

Thanks to your generous donations to our Children's Programs, over the holidays the children at our shelter had the wonderful opportunity to see Disney on Ice - Treasure Trove.



The show took the kids on a journey through their favourite stories from some of the most popular Disney animated movies.

Support for our Children's Programs helps to fund recreational outings like these which provide lasting memories for the more than 400 children that we support every year.

Charity Casino Night Wins Big

On November 1st, Spring Realty hosted Charity Casino Night, a lively extravaganza at the Circus Academy with casino games, live music, aerialists and a live art show. Over 120 guests attended and helped raise some big money for Red Door –\$10,000 by the end of the night!

For Ara Mamourian, event organizer and broker/co-owner of Spring Realty, raising awareness of Red Door's work was reward enough: *"I asked one question: "How many of you DIDN'T know about the Red Door Shelter before this event?" Half the room put their hands up. Knowing that 60 more people now know about the Red Door was enough for me."*

Thank you to Ara and everyone who helped make this event a great success.



Ara Mamourian hands off the cheque to Bernnitta Hawkins, Red Door ED

Keeping Families (and Pets) Together



Thanks to the goodwill of our neighbours it was a happy holiday for Buddy, the English Mastiff.

Buddy's family came to stay at the Red Door but there was no room for Buddy so our neighbours at Paws Playgrounds happily helped by providing him with room and board. When Paws Playgrounds closed for the holidays, PetSmart West Scarborough Pet Hotel kindly offered to take in Buddy at a fraction of the regular fee.

We're very grateful for the support and community teamwork to help keep Buddy and his family together.

Do you like to run? Join us on April 19th



We're thrilled to be chosen as the official charity partner for the Toronto Yonge Street 10k! This event is one of the most popular and fastest 10k runs because it's all downhill!

Join us on Sunday April 19th and run to raise funds for our Children's Programs. There are more than 50 children in our shelter every night!

Discounted entry is available for all runners who fundraise, or receive your race entry for free with a minimum fundraising pledge.

More information coming soon! Call 416-915-5671 ext. 232 or visit: reddoorshelter.ca/10k

Upcoming Community Events Supporting Red Door

Check out some of the great events happening around town to benefit families at the Red Door:

Moksha Yoga Danforth Karma Classes - Fridays in February

Karma Funds for January and February at Moksha Yoga on the Danforth will be donated to Red Door Family Shelter. Karma classes are Fridays from 8:30 - 9:30, minimum donation is \$8. More info: <http://danforth.mokshayoga.ca>



Find Your Bliss in 2015 - February 28th

Maria Pallas, Life Coach, will be hosting a series of workshops that will bring healing to many while at the same time, giving something back to the community. Find Your Bliss in 2015 begins with a by-donation pilot session on February 28th in support of Red Door. Info: <http://www.life-bliss.net>



For more upcoming events, or information on how to host your own event visit: reddoorshelter.ca/special-events



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