



Community In Action

You're changing lives

FALL 2018



THE RED DOOR SAVED MY LIFE

Julie shares her story with you

At our recent Donor and Volunteer Celebration, a former resident, Julie, shared her story.*

Though many years have passed since she sought sanctuary at the Red Door, Julie still speaks with passion and a deep gratitude for the Red Door, and the impact that donors like you had on her life.

"Thirty-one years ago, frightened, I packed my suitcase, grabbed my two year old daughter, important papers and the little money I had left. I called a cab and escaped to a shelter for abused women.

It was not my first attempt. It was my third. My boyfriend used to beat me almost every day. People on the street didn't see physical scars. They couldn't tell that I was psychologically broken inside.

The struggle that many abused women face is that we fear the unknown even more than the abuse we know. It is familiar, so more often than not, we go back. The cycle of abuse continues.

I went to two different shelters in Toronto before the Red Door. It was difficult for me. They were not clean as I was used to. Unfamiliar. One night at one of these shelters, a mouse crossed the bedroom just before the lights went out. Early the next morning I grabbed my child and headed back home, a house filled with sad memories and future torments.

**Name changed to protect identity*

My partner was nice for a few days. Then the violence resumed. He wouldn't dare lay a hand on my daughter. I'd never allow that! It is surprising what I allowed him to do to me. We endure so much when we believe there is no way out.

"The struggle that many abused women face is that we fear the unknown even more than the abuse we know."

When life became unbearable, just before Christmas, the Red Door opened its arms to me. It was clean. People were nice to me. I felt more secure talking in my own language to their French counselor. The Red Door provided better service to me than any previous shelter.

Christmas in a shelter, it's not the prettiest picture, but at the Red Door people were very generous. They brought food.

Four months pregnant, I balanced my studies with a part-time job. The Red Door gave me everything I needed at that time.

My goal was to be able to stand on my own. My priority was to be safe and provide a safe environment for my daughter and my future child.

I learned that I am sacred and I owed it to myself to protect my mind and my soul so I would have the courage to protect

Continued from Page 1

my children. I wanted to do everything I could to give the best possible future to my children. Without the Red Door, I would not be here today.

Why do I love the Red Door so much? They gave me a home - safe place. They provided daycare for my two year old while I worked and studied at the same time. I knew she was in capable loving hands.

My daughter Jessica was too young to remember. I however, will never forget. With the support of the Red Door, I moved on. I became a teacher.

Eventually I bought our house. I did all those important things for a good life; get a good education, graduate, get a job, have a solid roof over our heads and untroubled sleep.

With your generosity, you transform lives like my life was transformed 31 years ago. It is worth every penny.

I ask you to open your hearts to the mothers who nurture the children – who are our future. Give. Give generously.”



WE'RE THANKFUL FOR YOU!

Donors and volunteers gathered for our annual Party on October 4th to celebrate the results of your incredible support over the past year.

Our thanks and gratitude to all of our wonderful supporters. Hope to see you there next year!

YOU SAVE LIVES

Every year over 100 single mothers seek refuge at the Red Door.

With your support, moms and their children have the safe sanctuary they desperately seek, and the resources they need to heal and rebuild their lives.

Your donations fund supportive services for moms and children from counselling, legal support and childcare, to help finding work and safe, affordable housing.



Learn more or help today at:
reddoorshelter.ca/help-moms



SEE YOUR IMPACT

190 families provided with emergency shelter.

80 families moved to permanent housing.

360 children supported.

These are some of the amazing things that you accomplished with us in 2017-18. Your support changed lives.

Explore our 2018 Gratitude Report to hear first-hand from former residents you've helped, read how other donors and volunteers like you are making a difference, and see how we put your donations to good use.



Explore the report online at:
reddoorshelter.ca/gratitude

Supporters like you are making a difference through community fundraising events.

FRIENDS PAYING IT FORWARD

More and more local businesses, neighbours and friends are coming together in support of homeless families and finding creative ways to raise awareness and funds to make a difference.

In August, a group of local young professionals who have been long time friends and basketball fans decided they wanted to pay it forward in their own way.

Together, “The Committee” organized an epic basketball tournament at the John Innes Community Centre bringing together more than 40 participants and raising \$6,000 to provide peer support and life-skills workshops for youth and teens at our shelter.

“The decision to partner with Red Door was a no brainer” said Richard Carter, one of the event organizers. “We were all raised by single moms. The Red Door is located in the neighborhood where we grew up. It supports families facing situations very similar to what we faced growing up, so we understand, firsthand, the impact that your services can have. We know that our donation will give the youth staying at your shelter a better shot to succeed in life, and that really was our objective all along.”

Richard and his team are looking forward to making this an annual event, and continuing to “give the next generation the best shot”.



The Committee 3 on 3 Summer Classic Basketball tournament raised \$6,000 to support programs for youth at the Red Door.

BE A RED DOOR CHAMPION!

Join our community of fundraisers and create your own online page to easily collect donations from your friends, family and colleagues.

Great for workplace events, challenges and a-thons, in lieu of gifts for birthdays, and more.



Get started: reddoorshelter.ca/champions



**More than
\$30,000 raised**
for support
programs at
our shelters

TEAM RED DOOR FINISHES STRONG

Team Red Door made us proud this year, with 111 runners and walkers lacing up to make a difference in two races.

Our terrific team had a blast in the B&O Yorkville 5k in September, and the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon in October, raising over \$30,000 to provide programming for kids at our shelters, and groceries for families through our Food Bank.

Thank you to all of our incredible team members, volunteers and sponsors. You've made a huge impact!

Missed out on the fun? Join us next year!

Learn more and sign up at:
reddoorshelter.ca/join-team-red-door



KIDS SAY THANK YOU!

Thanks to you, 101 children at our shelter were able to go on some incredible trips around the city over the summer. From Toronto Island to the top of the CN Tower, kids had a blast and shared many unforgettable moments together.

"It was my first time on a boat!" - Alex, age 6

Thank you for giving smiles! ♥

reddoorshelter.ca/programs/children



UPCOMING EVENTS

Blues for the Red Door - November 4th, 2018

5th Annual charity Blues Revue featuring award winning artists Jerome Godboo, Shakura S'Aida and other top Canadian performers. It's a must see for music fans! Tickets \$25 - bluesforthereddoor.ca



Yogapalooza - November 4th, 2018

Bring your family and friends, shop unique gifts, meet your local community, and enjoy activities for all ages. reddoorshelter.ca/event/upcoming



Families for Family Holiday Portraits

- November 10th, 2018

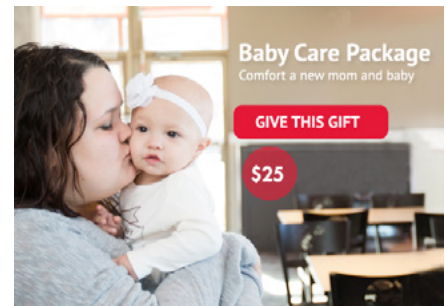
Capture your special family moments for the holidays. \$89 with all proceeds going directly to Red Door.

reddoorshelter.ca/families-for-family-2018



Gifts to Empower
Gifts that give twice

Gifts to Empower are unique and meaningful holiday gifts you can give in honour of those that you care about. There are over 20 gifts to choose from and each one includes a beautiful personalized e-card or paper card.



To learn more visit:
reddoorshelter.ca/gifts-to-empower



See more, or learn about hosting your own event at reddoorshelter.ca/fundraise



DONATE

\$1 a day can
change lives



VOLUNTEER

join our team
to help



CONNECT

join our online
community



SHARE

share your stories
and feedback



Red Door
FAMILY SHELTER

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