



Red Door

Ending family homelessness one family at a time.



Newsletter

Fall 2016



Ask for a Gift that Counts

At the holidays it feels good to give presents to loved ones. Yet it's not easy to find the perfect gift for someone who has everything they need.

This year why not give your friends and family a wish list with just one item: **Help local families who are rebuilding their lives after being homeless.**

With our online fundraising pages, it's easy to create your own holiday page and let your friends and family know that you would like them to make a difference for homeless families.

Learn more and create your page at: reddoorshelter.ca/champions

Your Support Helps Children to Heal

"I'm grateful for the help that the Red Door gave my son through their programs. You can't imagine how happy I am to see him come out of his shell and smile again."

- Former Red Door Resident

Children and youth are innocent victims of homelessness. When they come to the Red Door with their families they have already experienced terrible events in their young lives. Many are traumatized by domestic violence, eviction, and life as refugees.

Every year, your generous support helps children heal. Your donations help provide a number of key programs for children at our shelter, from counseling, to homework help, and recreational programs to help kids be kids again.

On any given night, over 75 children stay at the Red Door with their families. Shelter life can be a difficult experience for children who are dealing with painful emotions, which is why specialized support and programming designed to help them cope and manage the issues they face, as well strengthen family bonds, is an important part of their healing process.

Your gifts also provide opportunities for children to go on recreational outings to different destinations in the city - from the CN Tower, to sports games, Toronto Island, the Ontario Science Centre, and more.



Great memories last a lifetime.

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Just this summer, children staying at the shelter were treated to some very special fun thanks to you.

Some of the kids' favourite activities included a day of canoeing on the Humber River, learning to build their own toys at a wood working workshop, Royal City Soccer camp, cooking classes, and a trip to Sky Zone trampoline world!

Fun opportunities like these are things that many children would not be able to experience otherwise, and are so important to providing happy memories that help kids through a very difficult time in their lives.

We really couldn't do this without you. All of the funding for these special programs comes entirely from generous donors like you. Each year it costs more than \$300,000 to run these vital programs.

Please help ensure that children at our shelter receive the support they need to heal and build a brighter future.



Children from our shelter out on the open water. For many, it was their first experience in a canoe!

To donate or to learn more about our Children's Programs visit:

reddoorshelter.ca/programs

Celebrating Donors Like You

The Red Door Board of Directors was pleased to host our 4th annual Cocktail Reception at Enoch Turner Schoolhouse on September 22nd in celebration of our generous donors and volunteers who make it possible for families affected by homelessness and abuse to rebuild their lives.

"The shelter gives people a place to recoup, to recover, and to become who they can be." Susan Henry, former resident.

Guests watched a short video about Susan, who was a resident of the Red Door in 2014. When Susan first came to the shelter she was very depressed and despondent. She didn't even want to talk.

While at the Red Door, Susan was supported practically and emotionally until she was able to return home. Today she continues to receive emotional support, and accesses the Food Bank to help make ends meet.

It is because of people like you that moms like Susan can get the help that they need at the Red Door. We look forward to continuing to work together to end family homelessness, one family at a time.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Elliott".

Ann Elliott, President & Chair
Red Door Family Shelter



Many of our special donors joined us to celebrate and learn more about the impact of their support.

Join a Donor Club

Join one of our donor clubs with a monthly or annual gift and become part of a compassionate group of Red Door supporters who share a commitment to making positive change in our community.

Learn more: reddoorshelter.ca/our-donors

Digging Deep for a Community of Hope

by Viki A. Pearce & Adrian C. Lang, Capital Campaign Co-Chairs

Campaign Cabinet volunteers have been working hard to raise the \$3,000,000 we need to provide equipment, furnishings and resident services at the new Red Door family shelter which is being built at 875 Queen Street East to replace our current aging and inadequate facility.

We are grateful to everyone who has donated so far and are delighted to share that \$1,700,000 has been raised to date in gifts and pledges from more than 130 kind donors. Recently we received an exciting challenge – if we raise \$500,000 more towards our goal before December 31st, a generous anonymous donor will match it for a total of \$1 million!

If you would like information on how you can contribute to the Community of Hope Capital Campaign to establish a safe modern sanctuary for homeless families in the same location where Red Door has been serving the community for 34 years, please call 416-915-5671 ext. 230 or email kmckechnie@reddoorshelter.ca.



Rendering of the new development at 875 Queen St. E, incorporating the new Red Door Shelter.

Three Cheers for Team Red Door

Hip hip hurray! More than 70 people raced to victory this year with Team Red Door in the Toronto Waterfront 10k and the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon.

Participants in the Toronto Waterfront 10k in June raised over \$7,000 towards summer programs for kids at the shelter, and just last Sunday, dedicated Team Red Door members in the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon raced to help keep the Red Door Food Bank stocked for families in need.

The Food Bank is a vital lifeline for families who have left the shelter and are struggling to make ends meet while still paying the rent. Through their impressive efforts, Team Red Door members raised \$14,200, enough to provide 284 meal for families to help them keep a roof over their heads.

Congratulations to all of our Team Red Door members! Special thanks to our generous sponsors Hume Media Inc. and Spring Realty Inc., who provided competition prizes for Team Red Door members.



Every year, Team Red Door members lace up to walk or run with us to raise funds for our important programs to help families.

Upcoming Events in the Community

Check out some of the great upcoming events happening around town in support of Red Door:

Families Building Families Holiday Portraits - Nov. 6th

Have your holiday family portrait taken by Fogel Photography with all proceeds going directly to help other families in your community. Space is limited. To book email Krista: info@fogelphotography.ca



Blues for Red Door - Nov. 6th - 7pm

A charity Blues Revue presenting a cabaret of 10 top male Blues singers performing in front of an all-female band, with all proceeds to support Red Door. For more info visit: www.bluesforthereddoor.ca



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



Giving the Gift of Cinema for Kids

In August we were delighted to receive a gift of movie tickets for children at the shelter. The anonymous donor wanted the children to be able to have the experience, in honour of a friend who had stayed at the Red Door after leaving an abusive relationship.

The kids were so excited! They unanimously chose to go and see Secret Life of Pets in 3D - and gave it rave reviews. What a wonderful way to end the summer!



Gifts to Empower
Gifts that give twice

Gifts to Empower are unique and meaningful gifts you can give to someone that you care about. Every gift supports a family in need at the Red Door. There are over 20 gifts to choose from and each one includes a personalized e-card or paper card.



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



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