

Community In Action

You're changing lives

SPRING 2019



YOU MADE MOM MONTH AMAZING. THANK YOU!

May was 'Mom Month' and you helped make it truly special!

Mom Month is all about celebrating and honouring the moms who bravely seek sanctuary to create a brighter future for their kids, and moms whose generous support uplifts families at the shelter.

Thanks to you and our wonderful community, moms at our shelters felt incredible love and support.

They were so happy to receive your many thoughtful Mother's Day gifts and treats including gift boxes of cosmetics and beauty products, brand new purses, and hygiene packages.

Thanks to generous donors like you, moms enjoyed a fabulous Mother's Day brunch: "The tables were decorated, spirits were high, and the families were very appreciative, especially the mothers" said Julius Samaniego, Weekend Manager at our Family Shelter.

"I really appreciate it. It's like the best gift ever."
- mother of 2 at the Red Door.

Stylists from cabi clothing held an event for moms at our shelters where they provided the latest fashions and helped moms pick out the best clothes and jewelry to showcase their beauty.



Messages of hope and inspiration for moms from a student fundraiser at Humber College.

With many young moms and infants seeking sanctuary at the shelter, it was amazing to see so many baby care packages donated to help moms at the shelter to care for their little ones.

Did you know?

Over 70% of families at the Red Door are single moms with kids.

Learn more at reddoorshelter.ca

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They were so grateful. It was especially touching to see all the lovely messages from donors who made their gifts in honour of their moms as a way of saying thank you and paying it forward.



Volunteers Katie & Stephanie Porter and their mom, Mel (centre)

Volunteers Stephanie and Katie Porter and their mom Mel celebrated Mother's Day in a unique way by donating and hosting a special brunch at our VAW shelter.

Local singer and supporter Liz Lokre brought her mom to the shelter to sing uplifting songs with the moms and kids.

All of your kind support made a difference. Together your joyful celebration of Mom Month raised over \$7,000 to support programs for moms and families at the Red Door. Thank you for standing with brave moms. **Thank you for giving help and hope.**



William Hanlon started the twelvedonations campaign to provide menstrual products for women in need - donating over 1,500 items to Red Door in May.

"Growing up with a single teenage mother, I saw first hand how difficult it is to have to choose between two necessities such as menstrual products and basic needs. I created twelve to help ease the burden that women in shelters may face."

To learn more or donate visit:
[twelvedonations.org](https://www.twelvedonations.org)



Singer Liz Lokre (centre) with her mom, and musician Adrian.

MOVING MOMS FORWARD

How your support helps moms and families after they leave the shelter

When moms and families are ready to leave the shelter the most challenging obstacle that many face is finding affordable housing. With the extremely high cost of rent in Toronto, and lack of subsidized housing available, this can leave many families in a very vulnerable position, sometimes needing to spend more than 60% of their often limited income on rent alone.

But with your support, they are not alone. Your donations help fund transitional programs at the Red Door like our Moving Program and Food Bank which help families set up their new home and support them to remain housed so they can begin to build their future.

Ginika is one mom who is very grateful for the Moving Program. Our moving truck and driver arrived at her new apartment with most of the basic furnishings she and her family needed.

"When we came to the shelter, we had nothing. When we left we were provided with a sofa, tables, chairs, a chest of drawers for my son. Thank you. I appreciate you all!"

To provide even greater support to families, we've established



MOVING PROGRAM

In April and May, we helped 10 single moms move into new homes with their children. Your support of our Moving Program helps moms transition out of the shelter when they are ready to move by providing donated furniture and household items to help them get started. It's a huge aid financially and also helps ease their stress after living through a period of crisis.

partnerships with companies like Enercare and Mobilia Foundation, who are providing additional furniture and household essentials that are on families' wish lists.

"Enercare is committed to working with local organizations like Red Door Family Shelter to help make it easier for individuals and families as they transition from temporary shelters to a home of their own" says Jenine Krause, President and CEO, Enercare.

After families have moved into their new homes, it is still very difficult for many to make ends meet and move forward with their lives. With your help our Food Bank provides families access to fresh and staple foods and grocery store gift cards.

For Sophia, the Food Bank is about more than just groceries. It means at the end of the month she doesn't have to worry about making rent. It means her children have nutritious meals everyday, and she is able to attend college part-time to move forward with her career.

Moms like Milana have been able to afford to invest in her children's future. "With the money I saved on groceries, and everyday items that we need, I've been able to contribute to my children's RESPs for the first time. Opportunities like this, would not have been possible without the generosity of amazing and compassionate donors like you."

Working at the Food Bank lets volunteer Toni Zierler see the positive impact on moms first hand. "The Food Bank gives the women a sense of community, where they often share their personal successes with us - however big or small. This may include finding employment, beginning their education, gaining custody of their children, etc." says Toni.

"To see the women leave the shelter and blossom, where they become stronger from an emotional & physical standpoint, is empowering and an absolute privilege."

Many partners also contribute to our Food Bank, with fresh produce delivered by Second Harvest, and a regular supply of coffee from local roaster Coast to Coast Coffee. We've also founded a unique partnership with local caterer Chefs Catering, who are running a buy one give one program where they donate a meal for every meal purchased. "When people feel safe, are cared for and fed well, it gives them a sense of dignity and it empowers them in other aspects of their life," says owner Justin Siklis.

Your support of these key transitional services helps families in so many ways, giving them stability and helping them reach their goals. Your support helps keep families strong, and communities stronger.

To learn more and donate visit: reddoorshelter.ca/programs



Last year, with your support, our Food Bank helped 226 families.



CATERING WITH A CAUSE

Throughout 2019, Chefs Catering will be donating up to \$250,000 worth of meals through their buy one, give one program. Every meal purchased means a meal donated to women and families at the Red Door Shelter.

"Now, every plate of food we eat has more profound significance." Maria Victoria, Jackman Reinvents

www.chefscatering.ca/web_specials

SUPPORTING MOMS THROUGH CREATIVITY AND WELLNESS

Donor funded programs like our Health & Wellness and Art Therapy programs are helping women at our shelters through their healing process and transformations.

“Mindfulness, body awareness practices and expressive art therapy can open up a dialogue on how to create change,” says Tania Iskiw, Art Therapist at our Violence Against Women shelter.

Meeting once a week in our Art Therapy program, moms explore creative avenues for healing in a safe, non-judgmental and supportive space.

“As women explore the art materials—shaping, creating, witnessing, experiencing its shifts—the artwork becomes a safe container for exploring places of growth and challenge,” says Tania.



Moms explored their transformations in a mask making session.

Our Health & Wellness program also provides opportunities for women to connect through



activities focusing on physical and mental health. Participants learn effective exercises that they can do without the need for a gym or special equipment as well as everyday simple meditation and mindfulness practices.

There are also workshops on healthy eating and nutrition, as well as helpful money saving grocery shopping strategies, and tips to get kids eating healthy food.

We are very grateful to the special donors who have made these rich experiences possible for women and moms who are healing and rebuilding.

For Tania, “It has been an honour to stand witness to these women as they explore their creativity, authentically express themselves, and embrace their power as they move forward in their lives.”

BIG THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers add so much to what we do at the Red Door. Each year over 450 volunteers spread their compassion to the families at the shelter, provide fun adventures for kids, lend their skills and knowledge, and share their enthusiasm for the work we do throughout our communities.

THANK YOU to all our amazing volunteers who contribute their time and energy to make a difference!



HONOURING MOMS BY HELPING MOMS

Family Guardians are changing lives

Family Guardians like Victoria are special people who make a monthly gift in ongoing support of mothers, children and families at the Red Door Shelter, helping to make bright futures possible.

“My mother is one of my greatest examples of overcoming adversity. Making her own means to gain an education, being the first to immigrate to Canada, and bring her family of twelve from the Philippines. I am happy that there are opportunities in Toronto to donate monthly in support of other women and families of all walks of life, helping to provide the means and necessities that I continuously try to remember to be thankful for. I am committed to doing my part, and while my wife and I grow our little family, passing on the same values and the understanding of helping others will resonate within our home. Thank you Red Door Shelter, for helping create a solid foundation within our community!”

Victoria Bautista-Hodgson,
Safe Space Advocate & Red Door Family Guardian



Join Victoria and the dedicated Family Guardians who are giving families the stability, strength and hope they need to heal and rebuild.

Less than \$1 a day can have a meaningful and lasting impact.

To learn more or to join visit:
reddoorshelter.ca/monthly-giving

Amazing events raising funds creating change

IN THE COMMUNITY

We're thrilled to see the community coming together with so many incredible events that are raising awareness and funds to help homeless families. From casual comedy nights to fancy soirees and friendly competitions, your support is making a difference.

In April, students from Humber College held an inspiring evening dedicated to Red Door, and Northern Karate Schools hosted a huge inter-school tournament, raising over \$22,000 for our children's programs.

Thank you for your generous support!

See our upcoming events or host your own!
Learn more at reddoorshelter.ca/fundraise



Northern Karate Schools



Humber Students' InspiRED event



You make summer magic
with your support

SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS

Summer is coming! There's nothing that kids look forward to like the adventures that await during the summer holidays.

With 94 children and teens at the Red Door right now it's so important that they are able to participate in fun activities like exciting outings and day trips around the city.



Every summer, you help make it possible to provide amazing opportunities for kids at the Red Door.

"It was fun because I got to see places I didn't even know of before, like Casa Loma, and learn new things." - Abigail, age 12.

This year the kids are super excited to visit the Toronto Zoo, the ROM, go rock climbing, canoeing on Toronto Island, and more!

You can help give kids magical summer memories that they won't soon forget. To learn more or to donate visit: reddoorshelter.ca/programs/children



OUR AMBASSADORS!

Have you seen our team of Community Ambassadors out and about? With their enthusiasm and knowledge of the Red Door, they are helping raise awareness of the work we do at local festivals, farmers markets, and community events.

If you see our booth, stop by and say hello! Chat to our friendly ambassadors, take a spin on our prize wheel and learn more about the Red Door and how you can get involved.

CANDLES, CAKE AND BIRTHDAY MAGIC

Girls Gone Local, a group of local women dedicated to making positive change in their neighbourhoods started their 'Candles and Cake' birthday project to provide birthday parties for kids at the Red Door.

The group provides gifts, food, and fun activities for all the children in our shelter when there is a birthday so they can all celebrate together.

"Our hearts have been touched by the kids we have met at the Red Door Shelter during the birthday parties. The children are very enthusiastic, and give us reminders about their birthday months so we don't forget! They really look forward to their party and that is super sweet. We are very happy to be a part of it." says Agnes Saulewicz, organizer.



SHOOTING HOOPS, SHARING SMILES

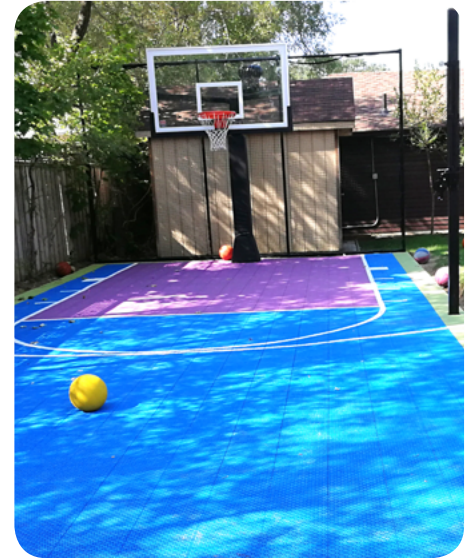
Just in time for the warmer weather we have a fabulous, brand new multi-purpose half-court at our shelter thanks to a very generous donation from the We Know Foundation!



Jay Martins from the 'Committee'

Kids and teens were super thrilled to break in the court on Mother's Day weekend with the organizers from the 'Committee' Basketball Tournament, a group of supporters who host an annual fundraiser for Red Door. The group shared their skills in a clinic for kids and enjoyed a fun afternoon together.

"It was a pleasure to meet the children that our donations are helping. We all grew up in similar situations and really leaned on our mentors for guidance and support. It was great for us to be able to provide that same mentorship to kids in the shelter. We know how important it is." - Richard Carter, 'Committee' Tournament organizer.



Kids and teens at our VAW shelter are thrilled to have a brand new half-court to enjoy this summer thanks to the We Know Foundation.

RUN WITH TEAM RED DOOR

Help homeless kids heal

Join us in the B&O Yorkville 5k run on September 8th and run your heart out to help homeless children at the Red Door.

Our 3rd year participating, we've had more than 150 team members help raise over \$45,000 to provide summer outings and other vital programs for children and teens recovering from homelessness and abuse at the Red Door.

"I was so happy to see my oldest son finally come out of his shell and smile again." - Former Red Door Resident

Join our team and run with us this year to help reach our goal of providing 50 children with memorable summer trips and supportive programming throughout the year.



"This is one of the best runs in Toronto. I highly recommend it! It feels great to participate for a cause like Red Door. It means a lot to be able to provide support for children and teens. It's a huge motivation to know that my run is making a difference."

Derek Barber, Team Red Door member and top fundraiser in 2018.



Join our team at reddoorshelter.ca/yorkville-run

- Amazing free race swag (valued at over \$300)
- Resources to help you fundraise
- Your choice of luxurious fundraising prizes starting at \$500 raised



KIDS HELPING KIDS

It's really special when kids open their hearts to others who need a little extra help and support from their community. This young girl wanted to contribute to Red Door because the shelter is down the street from her school and she often has children from the shelter in her class, so instead of accepting gifts for her birthday she asked for donations to the Red Door and raised over \$200 for our children's programs!

OUR NEW FAMILY SHELTER IN SIGHT!

We are very excited to see our new family shelter starting to take shape! Members of our executive team were given a tour inside the new building, still under construction, with developer Chris Harhay, and Sara Reid, Project Manager for the City of Toronto. "This is a major milestone. We're thrilled to see our new shelter getting closer to reality", says Carol Latchford, Executive Director.

With construction continuing on track, our next goal is to secure the furnishings and equipment needed to operate the shelter. So far \$2.8 million dollars has been raised towards our \$3 million dollar goal. We anticipate opening the doors to our new shelter in March 2020.



Executive Director Carol Latchford (left), board members Anne Elliott (left), and Greg Sheldrake (far right) with Sara Reid (centre), and Chris Harhay (right)



Learn more about the project and help us reach our goal by donating at reddoorshelter.ca/building-hope



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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