



Red Door

Ending family homelessness one family at a time.



Newsletter

Spring 2016

He kicked us out of our home

Veronika had been looking forward to a long and happy life with her husband and two daughters in Canada. Her husband was already settled in Canada and when his application to sponsor them was approved, she left Russia with her girls and came to join him.

Unfortunately things did not work out the way she had hoped.

Veronika's husband used his status as her sponsor as an excuse to control their lives. He would drink excessively, and when he was drinking he was abusive towards his family. He would threaten Veronika by telling her that he could have her and her children deported if he wanted.

"When he was drunk he would tell me that my kids annoyed him and I feared that he might actually hurt them one day."

Veronika knew that she and her children couldn't live like that for the rest of their lives. However she didn't know what to do or where to go. So she stayed. That was until the night that her husband kicked them out of the house in a fit of rage.

"He kicked us out of the house and told me you have to go back home to Russia. I had nowhere to go, nowhere safe for my children. I didn't know about shelters, but a friend I had met told me that there was somewhere safe we could go."

Veronika's friend drove her and her children to the safety of the Red Door. It was scary at first, because their lives had been turned upside down once again, but the children adapted quickly and Veronika began to relax once she knew they were safe.

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Join Team Red Door in the Toronto Waterfront 10k

We're thrilled to be chosen as an official charity partner for the Toronto Waterfront 10k!

Join us on Saturday June 25th and run to raise funds for our Children's Programs. There are more than 50 children in our shelter every night!

Run with Team Red Door to help provide children recovering from homelessness and abuse with happy and healthy memories to carry with them into their new lives.

Bonus! Run for Free.

As member of Team Red Door, when you raise \$125 or more you will receive a reimbursement for your race entry fee.

For more detail or to register today, visit: reddoorshelter.ca/TW10K

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"I just felt so much relief that we had a place to stay. I was a bit scared because I didn't know what it was like in a shelter, and I barely spoke English at the time. I made some friends – other Russian speaking women that helped me a lot. My case worker at the Red Door also spoke Russian which was a blessing."

The Red Door was able to help Veronika build a new life for herself and her daughters. She was connected to the Ontario Works program for a student subsidy so that she could attend English language classes and a high-school accreditation course.

Veronika's housing worker worked hard to secure a subsidized apartment so that she could afford to continue with full-time schooling. When they moved into their apartment, Veronika received furniture and small appliances from the Red Door Moving Program to help her get started building a new home.

"I was so lucky to have this apartment in such a good neighbourhood. When I stepped in the door, I just felt like... finally, a place of my own. I was just so relieved and excited. I never had the opportunity to live on my own before."

Today, Veronika speaks English quite fluently and plans to apply to college to study for a new career in computer programming. Her daughters are happy and enjoying making new friends at school. They are looking forward to attending a summer camp again this year with other children they know from the shelter.

"Red Door helped me so much. I didn't speak English, I didn't have a place to live. I didn't even know how to use TTC. In the shelter I had time to think about my life, and I was given the opportunities to start a better future for my children."

For less than \$1 a day you can help mothers and children in need to get the sanctuary and support they need to heal at the Red Door Shelter. Join our Family Guardians giving circle with a monthly gift and help brave mothers build brighter futures for their children.

Did you know? Over 70% of the families we support are single mothers with young children. Many are fleeing domestic violence.



To learn about monthly giving visit: reddoorshelter.ca/monthly-giving

Moms at the Shelter Feel the Love

This Mother's Day moms at our shelter were truly grateful to receive a delicious brunch and special care packages of bath and body products from many donors in the community. Your generous support also provided baby care packages to new moms at the shelter to help welcome their new bundles of joy into the world.



Kids at the shelter showed their love and thanks to mom by making cute crafts and paper flower bouquets.

"Thank you so much. I truly appreciate it from the bottom of my heart"

- Leilah, a new mom at our family shelter

More than 70% of residents at the Red Door are mothers with children. Life is very stressful for these moms so it means a lot when they have the opportunity to relax and be treated to something special.

Thank you for showing Mother's Day love and being there for homeless moms and their children.

Shout Out to Red Door Community Fundraisers

Fundraising was in the air this spring with many supporters hosting events to raise funds and awareness for Red Door and the services we provide for homeless families. We can't do it without you – so thank you!

Macaron Day on March 20th raised \$4,545 for our Food Bank which helps newly housed families afford to keep a roof over their heads and put food on the table. Look out for this tasty annual event next year when patisseries throughout the city will give away free macarons and donate proceeds from macaron sales to the Red Door.

In April, local artist Lisa Wilkins hosted a show and auction of her paintings at Yogathletix Studio and raised \$2,816 for programs at our shelter.

“Every day as I walk to work along Queen Street, I see people in real need, living on the street, and I am constantly reminded of how fortunate I am. Giving to the Red Door Shelter and helping people transition out of crisis, seemed like a great fit with my long-standing interest in charities that support children, teens and families.”

From garage sales, to galas, and dance parties to brunches many supporters came together to make a difference for families in need at the Red Door. Thank you to all of our enthusiastic fundraisers for helping us continue to provide important programs and services for families in need.



Macaron Day 2016 was a huge success with over \$4000 raised.



Lisa Wilkins (centre) with Red Door Board Member Sandra Bussin (left) and studio owner Glenn Julien presents the proceeds from her art auction.

Future Chefs in our Shelter

Red Door helps over 380 children each year and with your support we provide programs that are fun and educational for children in the shelter. From September to May the Child Development Institute presented The Taste of Home program for kids affected by abuse.

The goal of the unique after-school cooking program is to promote healthy lifestyles by teaching children how to prepare nutritious, budget-friendly meals. The kids had a blast making delicious meals and scrumptious desserts together from scratch. They made everything from homemade pasta Bolognese to fresh strawberry tarts, and learned a lot about working together as a team.

In May, The Taste of Home program wrapped up with a special graduation night for all of the young chefs who participated this year. Congratulations to our graduates and thanks to the Child Development Institute for presenting this great program!

Learn more about our Children's Programs: reddoorshelter.ca/programs/children



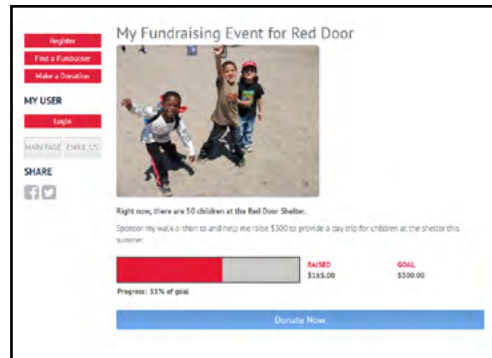
Homemade zucchini pasta was on the menu for the Taste of Home Program.

New! Create your own Fundraiser

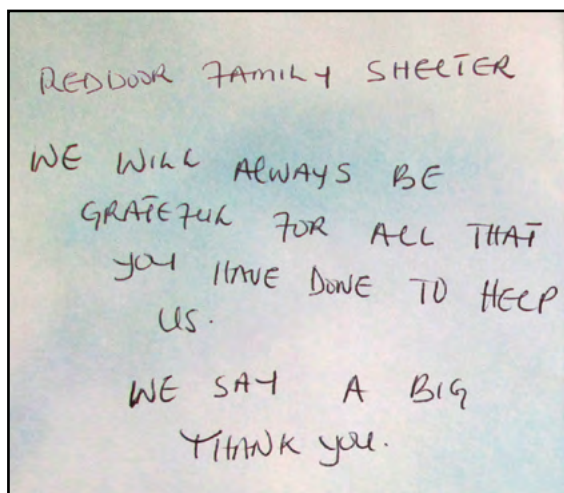
Now you can start your own fundraising campaign for Red Door. Become a Red Door Champion and join a community of passionate supporters who are making a difference for homeless families in need through a special event.

Celebrate your birthday with donations in lieu of gifts, fundraise in your classroom or office, host a golf tournament – whatever your fundraising idea is we'll provide you with the tools and support to make it a success! Easily create a personal online fundraising page for your event to collect funds from your friends and supporters.

For more information on how to become a Red Door Champion and set up your own fundraising campaign visit us at: reddoorshelter.ca/champions



New feature! Collect donations online for Red Door with your own personal fundraising page.



Refugee Support Thanks to You

We received this lovely thank you note from a family who received refugee status with the help and guidance of our Outreach Team when they stayed at the Red Door shelter last year. They have since moved into their own home and begun a new life here in Canada.

Your support makes new beginnings possible. Thank you for making this family's dreams come true.



Mackenzie, a local elementary student sent us this picture and a note about her class presentation on a local charity. "I chose the Red Door as a charity close to my heart because I went there when I was in need and I wanted to tell people." Kudos for her courage and help to raise awareness of family homelessness!

We're now on Instagram!

Follow us @reddoorfamilyshelter



Ending family homelessness, one family at a time.

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