



Community In Action

You're changing lives

SPRING 2020



WE'RE HERE FOR EACH OTHER

In times like these, we are reminded of just how important it is to be there for one another. The basic needs and rights for all of us to be safe, healthy and happy become ever more clear in the face of a crisis.

We are truly grateful at the Red Door to be part of a community of care - the generosity and support that we receive from people like you, and in turn the help and critical support that we are able to provide for those in need: mothers fleeing intimate partner violence, refugees, and homeless families with nowhere else to turn.

When Paula needed help, together we were there for her. After 3 years of working hard as a temporary resident worker, she was finally able to bring her daughter and husband to Canada. She never thought that she would become the victim of abuse, but sadly she began to suffer at the hands of her husband.

She needed to flee with her daughter. The bright

future she had pictured for her family became blurred, but because of her daughter, she did not lose hope, and they found refuge at the Red Door.

"The shelter helped me a lot for daily living, emotionally, legal matters, and offered me counselling." She found a job, saved some money, and applied for housing with the help of the shelter. "I have now my own place with my daughter. New home, new beginning, lots of hope with peace and happy living just the two of us." Paula is grateful for the continued support she receives through Red Door's Outreach program, including the food bank, and remains positive.

"We might have different hardships in life. We get hurt a lot of times, we fall, we cry. It's ok not to be ok sometimes but never give up. We can always start. Think positive."

When we work together to help each other, we change lives. We ensure that no one is left behind, and we build a better, stronger community.

Thank you for your support.

Learn more...

Read more about the programs and services you make possible.

 reddoorshelter.ca/programs

THE COLDEST NIGHT WALK WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

East End community rallies for Red Door

You might not be thinking about the cold weather now that Spring is here, but all of the amazing support from our first ever Coldest Night of the Year Fundraising walk will surely warm your heart!

On February 22nd, 246 local area residents came out to brave the chilly weather and walk through the heart of Leslieville to raise money for programs supporting homeless families at the Red Door.

"We take care of one another around here and the work done by the Red Door Shelter is a great example of that. We're very proud to support them by walking in the Coldest Night of the Year" said Greg Sheldrake of Team Wroxeter.

Getting to see and meet so many of the friendly folks, young and old, who rally behind the Red Door was truly inspiring.

A fun and festive atmosphere, participants walked 2k, 5k, or 10k, stopping along the way to warm up with coffee and hot chocolate at Te Aro courtesy of Pilot Coffee Roasters, passing by our soon-to-be new family shelter location, and finishing off at Riverdale Collegiate with a warm bowl of chili served up by Chefs Catering.

A big part of the success was the more than 100 volunteers who helped with everything from registration, directing walkers, and cheering walkers on along the route.

Thank you so much to all of our generous sponsors, Harhay Developments (Lead Sponsor), Canadian Tire Lakeshore and Leslie, TekSavvy, Moneris, BMO, Pilot Coffee Roasters and Chefs Catering.

Thank you and congratulations to all of the amazing teams and walkers for raising over \$90,000 to provide shelter and support for over 350 families in 2020! Thank you for changing lives! We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Save the date for next year! ➡



Over 44 teams participated in our first Coldest Night of the Year walk on February 22nd, 2020.



Walk with us in 2021!

We look forward to being able to come together as a community once again for next year's Coldest Night walk. Save the date of February 20, 2021. You can sign up now to receive all the updates:

reddoorshelter.ca/coldest-night-2021

TEAM RED DOOR IS HOPEFUL

We hope you can run with us soon!

Every Spring, Team Red Door begins to recruit runners and walkers from the community to participate in the Constantine Yorkville 5k Run (September 13th), and Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon (October 18th), to raise vital funds for our Children's Programs and our Food Bank.

Thanks to the generous friends, family members and colleagues who sponsor Team Red Door members, over \$30,000 is raised from these fun events each year. These funds are critical for our dedicated support programs for children and teens recovering from homelessness and abuse, and for helping vulnerable families to stay housed after they have moved out of our shelter.

"Red Door's Food Bank means at the end of the month I don't have to worry about making rent." - Former Red Door Resident

While registration for the Constantine Yorkville 5k is postponed, and we are uncertain if the ongoing pandemic will affect these events, we encourage you to pencil in the dates and keep an eye out for updates about when registration is available.

And if you're looking to keep fit at home, perhaps this can provide you with a worthy goal!



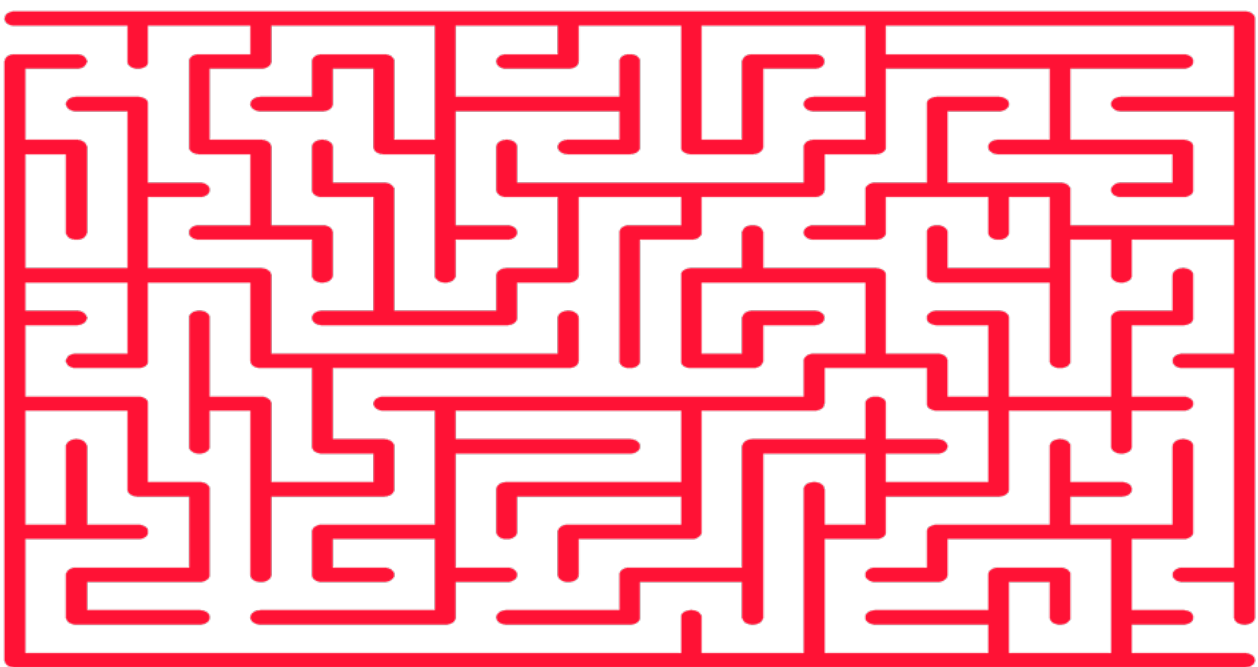
Stay in the loop!

Sign up to receive the latest updates about Team Red Door events:

reddoorshelter.ca/sign-up-team-red-door

For Kids!

Can you help Team Red Door reach the finish line?



COMMUNITY IN ACTION

Women helping women

We're so grateful for the wonderful women-led community fundraising events that took place in the weeks prior to the beginning of the pandemic.

On March 5th, we were grateful to attend the Canadian Women in Food event - Turn up the Heat: *Have a Seat at Her Table*, a spectacularly delicious fundraising dinner which brought together top female Canadian Chefs to raise funds for Red Door, Sistering and Building Roots. What an incredible treat to experience these cuisine re-definers in action!

In February, a team of 4 incredible women held a 24hr indoor row-a-thon fundraiser for Red Door and the Nature Conservancy of Canada, as part of their training as the first female Canadian team EVER to enter the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge to row the ATLANTIC OCEAN!

In late December over 30 teams from all over the world will row 3,000 miles in the premier event in ocean rowing. You can learn more about team True nOARth here: www.truenoarth.com. We are rooting for you and are inspired by you!

In March workplaces, community organizations and schools hosted International Women's Day events to fundraise, celebrate progress, and raise awareness of the many issues still facing women around the world today.

Community fundraisers play a key role in funding our ongoing support programs. With social gatherings on hold, we are glad to see more people hosting virtual fundraisers. Let's support each other and continue helping homeless families build bright futures.



Canadian Women in Food Event



The True nOARth rowing team

FAMILY GUARDIANS LIKE DANIELLE GIVE HOPE

Providing Shelter and Support in times of crisis

In the uncertain times we're facing, Family Guardians like Danielle are giving families at the Red Door the stability, strength and hope they need to heal and rebuild their lives.

"I decided to become a monthly donor to the Red Door Family Shelter after my partner and I moved to the close-knit community of Leslieville. I wanted to be a part of it, and I learned about this amazing place right around the corner that cares for homeless and hurting families, refugees and women in our neighbourhood."

The more I've learned about Red Door and the amazing services they provide, the more I have felt that this was absolutely a place I wanted to support, on a stable monthly basis.

That's especially true with the ongoing COVID-19 crisis - not everybody has the same ability to stay home and self-isolate, and now more than ever—with shelters already so desperately needed, and city programs cancelled —we need to show up for those in our community who need help. Red Door helps fill that gap, and I'm so grateful they take such great care of our community in Leslieville."

Danielle Klein, Family Guardian



You can keep making a difference online!

During these unprecedented and challenging times, we are in uncharted fundraising territory, especially when it comes to hosting fundraising events.

We need your support more than ever! You can continue to make a difference for homeless families in need without having to leave your home.

Get started by becoming a Red Door Champion, creating a personalized page to raise funds. It's easy as 1,2,3.

Host an online or virtual event, honour someone you love, celebrate a birthday, begin a personal challenge; the possibilities are endless! This is a great way to engage kids of all ages - educate them about issues surrounding homelessness and teach them how they can make a difference!

For more ideas and tips visit: reddoorshelter.ca/fundraise-online

It's easy as 1,2,3.



Create your page



Share with friends



Collect donations!

JOIN THE FAMILY GUARDIANS

A gift of just \$10 a month can have a big impact.

Safe shelter for homeless families is critical at this time. With community fundraisers cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis, we need the steady support of monthly donors now more than ever.

Monthly giving is a simple and cost-effective way to fund critical programs throughout the year that give families the stability, strength and hope they need to heal and rebuild their lives.

Join with a monthly gift today and become part of a community of over 450 dedicated Family Guardians like Danielle who are helping us keep families safe and supported.

 [Learn more: reddoorshelter.ca/monthly-giving](http://reddoorshelter.ca/monthly-giving)



\$10/month (33cents/day)
provide support to a family facing a housing crisis



\$15/month (50cents/day)
help a refugee family find sanctuary



\$25/month (83cents/day)
protect a mother and child fleeing abuse

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

National Volunteer Week is April 19 to 25, and we wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge THANK YOU to all our Red Door volunteers.

This past year, over 450 kind and compassionate people volunteered over 3,000 hours at Red Door to help end family homelessness.

The contributions of our volunteers are wide reaching, from delivering fun and engaging programs and activities to families staying at the shelter, helping out at our Food Bank, organizing in-kind donations, and representing Red Door as community ambassadors.

A special shout out to the 100+ volunteers who took part in our inaugural Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser, making it a fantastic success!

Even during the pandemic while our volunteer activities are on hold and everyone adjusts to new norms, our volunteers are still thinking of our families, reaching out to find ways in which they can help from a distance.

We feel so fortunate to have such a caring community of people and businesses who contribute their time and talent to the Red Door – we can't do what we do without you! We look forward to welcoming our volunteers back when programs resume again.



COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER

Thank you residents and local businesses

As soon as the pandemic warnings began for Toronto, we heard from dozens of local residents and businesses asking how they could help. It's so encouraging to see time and again, the generosity, empathy and compassion of our incredible community in action.

Many of you sprang into action, donating grocery and food delivery service gift cards, dropping off supplies to help children and families cope during isolation, and beginning monthly donations. Local businesses stepped up to offer help and donate proceeds of sales.

Thank you for all the love and support you are sending. Thank you so much for reaching out to help homeless families at this time. We are all truly grateful and deeply appreciate your support.

For the up-to-date ways you can continue to help us visit:
reddoorshelter.ca/how-you-can-help-our-families-now

"What you do on a daily basis inspires me, and during this pandemic, I am especially concerned for women and their children in abusive situations. Blessings as you continue this vital work."

"In these uncertain times, I am glad I can donate this small amount."

"Thank you for making a safe place for those who aren't safe at home."

"Thank you for everything you do and for taking care of families during this difficult time."

"My family sends all of you wishes of health and safety during this challenging time."

THE ORIGIN OF THE RED DOOR

A Legacy of Service to the Community

"It was then that we decided that owing to the continued very depressed drab outlook of those ragged days of 1931 onwards, we should paint the door of the church a brilliant red and the door of the house the same colour."

When Reverend Ray McCleary arrived in the Leslieville neighbourhood of Toronto in 1936 as the new Minister of the WoodGreen United Church, the crowded area was at its poorest. Residents had been hit particularly hard by the Great Depression. Sixty percent were on relief, poverty was rife, the area was dirty with the smog of the adjacent industries to the south and the plaster in the old church was shaken by trains due to its proximity to the railway tracks.

Reverend McCleary made it his mission to improve the lives of the poorest, most vulnerable residents of his parish. He resided in the attic of 37 Boulton Avenue, a local home that had been deeded to the church. The rest of the house was turned over to community service, such as the first church day nursery to support the working mothers, and a donor-funded social worker. Reverend McCleary kept the front door unlocked and in the mornings he often found people had drifted in off the street at night and were sleeping in the lower floors of the house.



Leslieville, Queen St. East and Morse St. facing West. City of Toronto Archives, circa 1959.

In 1955, the year of the 80th anniversary of the WoodGreen United Church, it was decided that a new church and the WoodGreen Neighbourhood House would be built to better serve the community. Fundraising was undertaken by George C. Metcalf and while the local parish contributed, the bulk of the funding came from a circle of benefactors led by Garfield Weston and his substantial contribution.

The WoodGreen Neighbourhood House was described as "a gem out of the centre of one of the city's most crowded, industrial sections" when it opened in 1958. It was the new residence for Reverend McCleary and seven divinity and social work interns who provided chaplaincy, community work and counselling. Several social programs and supports were put in place to meet the needs of all age groups. These included the first Alcoholics Anonymous in a church centre and the first school for children with disabilities.

Reverend McCleary died in 1967 but his legacy lives on. In 1982 a group of caring volunteers opened a winter shelter in the basement of the WoodGreen Neighbourhood House. In 1984 twenty-two more beds were added for refugees and the Red Door Family Shelter was founded. The shelter grew to house 106 individuals each night, and in 2017 moved to an interim location so a modern shelter could be built at the original site.

In the coming months we'll be opening our new, purpose-built family shelter at Queen and Booth. The original building was 60 years old but the new shelter will be a safe, modern and accessible sanctuary for homeless families. More info coming soon!

Stay updated at reddoorshelter.ca/blog



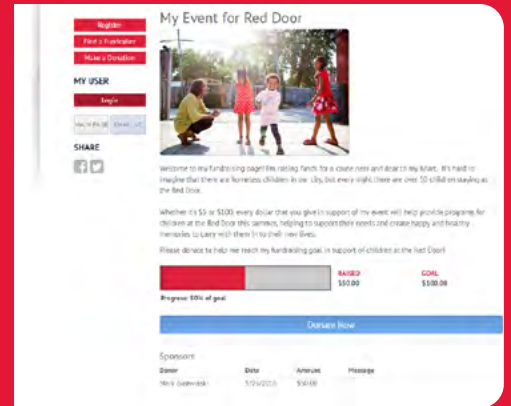
BE A RED DOOR CHAMPION!

Create your own personal fundraising page to easily support the shelter with your friends, family and colleagues.

- ask for donations in lieu of gifts to celebrate your birthday, anniversary, etc.
- create a page to honour someone dear to you with a contribution to our work with homeless families
- raise funds with a fun stay-at-home challenge, like an exercise goal, or a haircut challenge



Learn more at: reddoorshelter.ca/champions



It's easy to set up your personal fundraising page, share with your supporters and track your progress!

SHOW LOCAL LOVE

Let's help each other. Please continue supporting local Leslieville businesses, many of whom are giving back to help homeless families during the current crisis.

Greta Solomon's – 1118 Queen St. E.

For every gift certificate purchased, 5% is donated to Red Door Shelter.

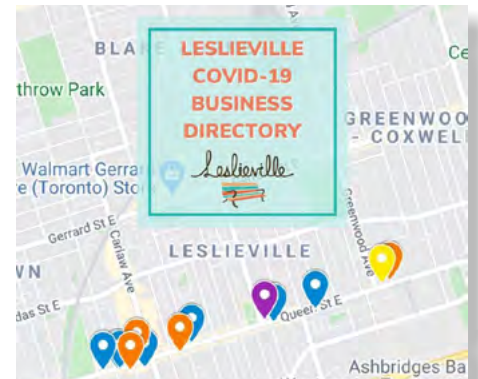
Call (647) 347-8640 email giftcertificates@gretasolomons.com. #lovefromteamgretas

Raise the Root Organic Market – 1164 Queen St. E.

When you shop for someone that can't shop for themselves, \$5 will be donated to Red Door for every purchase over \$50. **Tell the staff when checking out.**

Chefs Catering

Purchase nutritious meals for our VAW (Violence Against Women) shelter with a Buy One Give One program exclusive to Red Door. Chefs Catering will match your order, which you can enjoy now or pre-order for the future, by sending us an equivalent volume of tasty frozen meals. **Call (416) 939-8515**



Leslieville BIA has created a great directory of local businesses that are remaining open, including those offering pick-up, delivery, online classes, and by appointment visits. Many local area businesses have been there for the Red Door. Let's support our community and help each other during this time.



More ways to show your local love at: reddoorshelter.ca/local-love



linktr.ee/LeslievilleBIA



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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