



# Community In Action

You're changing lives

**WINTER 2020**



## THANK YOU FOR GIVING HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season can be an emotionally difficult time for families living in a shelter, many of whom bravely left their homes to escape an abusive partner or are refugees seeking sanctuary in Canada - but thankfully it is also when our community of supporters like you really open your hearts to make a difference.

Thanks to you, families living at our shelters and those recently housed, felt so much love and support, and experienced a holiday season filled with warmth and joy.

We received many gifts of toys, toiletries, housewares, food and winter clothing from kind people like you, which families received with heartfelt gratitude. And generous financial donations large and small helped to make special holiday celebrations possible.

From festive holiday parties to fun-filled activities and outing for kids at our shelters, your gifts have meant the world to kids and families and have touched many lives.

Your caring support during this time of year is so important. *"Families can enjoy the holiday season at a time when their lives are upside down. Celebrating the holidays together promotes a sense of inclusion and is a nice break from the stress of their daily worries about things like housing and money,"* says Wanda Loughheed, Director of Client Services.

Thank you so much for making the holiday season bright for families at the Red Door Shelter.

With support from a compassionate community of people like you, we can look forward to a new year of hope for families affected by homelessness and abuse. Together we can continue to transform lives, and make bright futures possible.



See your impact in our online Holiday Album



[reddoorshelter.ca/newsletter/holiday-album](https://reddoorshelter.ca/newsletter/holiday-album)

# ..... How you made a difference .....

## 184

families  
supported  
for the holidays!



428 Children and Teens

234 Adults

662 Individuals in total



**Hundreds of donated gifts!** Each family received toys, winter clothing, toiletries, housewares and gift cards.



**Holiday parties** for families in our two shelters, and families housed in the last 3 years.



**Fun-filled special outings for kids** from outdoor fun to visiting cool places like the ROM, the Ontario Science Centre and more!



Special holiday meals and treats provided for every family at both of our shelters.

## \$433,000

donated in December to fund critical support programs that will help homeless families throughout the year.



Counselling and Support



Children's Programs



Moving Program



Advocacy



Finding Affordable Housing



Food Bank



Learn more at [reddoorshelter.ca/programs](http://reddoorshelter.ca/programs)

## HEARTFELT THANKS FROM FAMILIES YOU HELPED

Your generous support over the holiday season gave the miracle of hope to families at our shelter and who were recently housed. Here are some of the thank you notes we received:

Thank you very much. I really appreciate the support and the help the Red Door has given me. I can't even express how much it really helps me, as a single mom.

My daughter was so happy for the gifts she got from you, you couldn't even imagine how happy she was when she opened them!

- Tamara



A little over a year ago my daughter and I had nowhere to go, no one to turn to. Red Door took us in and showed us nothing but love. They provided for me and my daughter in every way that we could get help. Because of you, I now have a home and a job where I can work and pay my rent & bills without fear of abuse.

- Angela

To everyone who contributed to the holidays, thank you so much for your support. It truly is appreciated. Thanks to you our Christmas tree was overflowing with gifts the children were excited to receive!

The extra help provided by the gift cards is also very much appreciated. My teenage daughter was thrilled and for myself they are such a help for groceries and with the never-ending list of supplies always needed for school projects. I really appreciate your support of the Red Door.

- Mother of 4



A million thanks for your support. You are amazing!

-Silvia



## A SPECIAL HOLIDAY TREAT FROM RAPTORS' KYLE LOWRY!

We had a VERY special holiday treat for children and families in our shelter in December!

Toronto Raptors champion and star Kyle Lowry and his family surprised us by hosting a holiday party at Sky Zone Toronto trampoline park for all of the families at our shelters to attend. It was difficult to tell who was more excited, the kids or the parents!

Everyone was just over the moon to meet Kyle - they could hardly believe it!

"Today is the best. It's fun. It's mind-blowing," said Nifemi, who came to Canada from Nigeria with his family just three months prior.

"It's an experience that they'll never forget. It's life-changing," said Carol Latchford, Executive Director.

After the fun, everyone sat down to enjoy a scrumptious catered dinner, served by Kyle and his family with the help of volunteers - all courtesy of the Lowry Love Foundation and MLSE.

Thank you so much to Kyle and his family for giving this wonderful holiday gift to families at the Red Door. They will cherish this memory always.



### THANKS FOR THE HOLIDAY FUN!

Thanks to you, children at the Red Door had a magical holiday break, taking in many exciting activities, fun outings, and making new friends and memories they won't soon forget.

Kids had lots of fun around town on some great day trips, like a day of weird and wonderful science at the Ontario Science Centre, and exploring amazing fossils and relics at the ROM.

These happy memories mean so much to children affected by homelessness and abuse, and your generous support makes it possible. Thank you for making the holidays magical for homeless kids, and we look forward to more exciting adventures in 2020!



Learn more: [reddoorshelter.ca/programs/children](https://reddoorshelter.ca/programs/children)



## JOIN US ON THE COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR! ❄️

It's cold out there. You can help keep homeless families warm this winter.

We're so excited to host our first *Coldest Night of the Year* fundraising walk in Leslieville, and we want you to get in on the fun! Grab your boots and mitts and join us for a festive family-friendly 2k, 5k or 10k walk for all ages.

Help us raise \$50,000 to provide emergency housing and support for over 350 families this year.

### Starting a team is as easy as 1-2-3!



Find 2 or more teammates to join you. Get your kids, your partner, your friends, and neighbours involved - no team is too big or too small!



Fundraise! With great tools and tips provided, it's super easy to raise funds and make a difference.



Walk with your community! Bundle up and join us for a family-friendly fun winter walk through the heart of Leslieville on February 22nd.

Register as a Team Captain today and start recruiting your team to walk and fundraise together to make a difference for families affected by homelessness and abuse in our community.

**We hope to see you there!**



Join us on February 22nd for a family-friendly 2k, 5k or 10k walk for all ages.

You won't want to miss out on *THE* winter event in Leslieville! It's going to be a blast with fun activities and warm treats for the whole family before and after the walk.



Register today at:  
[cnoy.org/torontoleslieville](http://cnoy.org/torontoleslieville)



## Local businesses rallying the community

### LEFT FIELD BREWERY

For the past 5 years, our friends at Left Field Brewery have brought the east end community together for festive fun and fundraising to support homeless families at the Red Door - from their Annual Draughts & Crafts Market, Holiday Toy Drive, and more.

*"The team at Red Door does such crucial work in our community and as a family-friendly, neighbourhood brewery, there couldn't be a more perfect match for us in a partner. We are so fortunate to have such incredible support for what we do from our neighbours that it motivates us to get involved and work with those in need. Our entire team gets creative, and has fun bringing our community together."*

*Each year we donate \$1 for every pour in our tap room during the holiday season. This year the generosity of our customers absolutely blew us away, with more than half of those donations being matched at the check-out.*

*This was also the first year that we also had the opportunity to volunteer at Red Door. We were so appreciative to have been offered the special privilege of hand selecting gifts for each child from the mountains of donated toys. Not only was it was a humbling and fun afternoon for our team, it also strengthened our personal connections to Red Door in a way that will surely help to grow our fundraising efforts year after year.*

*With the help of our generous community, Left Field raised \$10,518. A huge thanks to everyone who helped make it possible. It's a treasured annual tradition for us. We're already looking forward to next year!" - Mandie Murphy, Co-Founder of Left Field Brewery.*



## VOLUNTEERS HELPING FAMILIES IN NEED

Volunteers brought lots of heart and holiday cheer to families served by the Red Door.

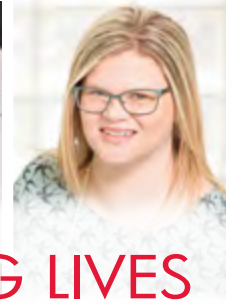
Many workplace teams, families, and friends lent their time and talents over the holiday season from receiving and sorting donations, to helping out at our holiday parties for families affected by homelessness.

*"The holidays are a time to spend with family. We chose to volunteer at Red Door given the positive impact they have on the families staying at the shelter. With all of the stresses of the season, it was rewarding to be part of something that helped give these families joy and peace of mind."* said Richard Carter, who rallied his team from Johnson & Johnson to help sort and organize donations for our holiday give-away day for newly housed families.

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers! We're so grateful for your kind support!



136 amazing volunteers lent a hand over the holiday season, with more than 460 hours volunteered to help make the season bright for children and families!



## FAMILY GUARDIANS ARE CHANGING LIVES

Family Guardians are changing lives all year round with their monthly gifts in ongoing support of women, children and families in need.

*"We've been longtime supporters of the Red Door because we believe in their mission and in the work they do."*  
- Jennifer and Daniel

*"I recently moved to Leslieville and I wanted to donate to a local shelter that helps take care of the people in my new community."*  
- Danielle

*"As a mother of 3, I am constantly thinking about how to give my children as much opportunity as possible. Donating monthly to the Red Door means I'm able to help other women and families to do the same for their children."* - Leanne

Join the growing community of compassionate supporters by becoming a **Family Guardian!**

### MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TODAY

Join more than 400 dedicated Family Guardians who are making a monthly gift to give homeless 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 and to join, visit:  
[reddoorshelter.ca/monthly-giving](https://reddoorshelter.ca/monthly-giving)

## NEW SHELTER OPENING DOORS SOON!

2020 will be a year to remember. In the coming months we'll be opening our new, purpose-built family shelter at Queen and Booth.

It is thanks to your help that we have reached this milestone 6 years after we first shared the news that our original family shelter was at risk of closure. To all of you who signed our petition, attended our community meetings, emailed politicians and donated to our Community of Hope campaign, thank you for making a difference.

We look forward to sharing updates with you!



Follow our Community of Hope Blog for regular updates, and to see our new shelter take shape!

[reddoorshelter.ca/blog](https://reddoorshelter.ca/blog)







## THE SWEETEST GIFT

Awww, this just might be the sweetest gift we've ever received! A young donor dropped off a special handmade care package to give to a child at our shelter, which included this very special friendship bracelet. It's so wonderful when kids open their hearts to others who need a little extra help and support from their community. We appreciate all of the kind and thoughtful gifts we received from our young supporters this holiday season. Thank you! ♥

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### East Love

**May 8th** - Crow's Theatre, 345 Carlaw Ave.

Leslieville's signature event in support of Red Door, bringing our community together for an inspiring evening celebrating women's strength and resilience. Cocktails, canapes, storytelling, entertainment and dancing.

Details coming soon at [eastlove.ca](http://eastlove.ca)



### Book a Ride for Red Door!



Looking for a great way to beat the winter blahs and make a difference? **Host a Ride for Red Door** with your friends and colleagues! Our pals at Torq indoor cycling gym offer a fun, high-energy way to workout while raising funds for Red Door. Interested? Contact [hello@torqrider.com](mailto:hello@torqrider.com)

## LET US KNOW!

It is important to us that you are happy with the way we are communicating with you about the impact of your support and how you can continue to make a difference.

Please contact us at any time and let us know your communication preferences. We currently use email, phone and mail to stay in touch. We only mail donation appeals twice a year.

Contact us at:

[fundraising@reddoorshelter.ca](mailto:fundraising@reddoorshelter.ca)  
**416-915-5671 x225**

Or go online at:

[reddoorshelter.ca/change-contact](http://reddoorshelter.ca/change-contact)



See more upcoming events, or learn about hosting your own event at [reddoorshelter.ca/fundraise](http://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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