



# Community In Action

Changing lives together

WINTER 2018



## WHAT A DIFFERENCE YOU MADE!

Your kind support over the holidays meant that homeless families experienced the joy and happiness of the season. Your support showed families in crisis that they are never alone and that there is a whole community of people who care about them and are willing to help.

All gifts large and small made a difference. Like the special toy that put a smile on a child's face, or the gift cards and kitchenware that a single mom received for her new home when she is ready to move.

It is especially touching that former residents of the shelter gave back to help families in our care, because they know firsthand what it's like to be homeless and to experience the kindness of strangers.

"You saved me many Christmases ago. I hope this helps someone else this year." **Rhonda**

"I stayed at the shelter with my father many years ago, and never forgot the staff who did such an amazing job. We

were new to Canada and had no friends or family to help us, but the shelter gave us the support we needed to get our lives started here. Keep up the amazing work, thank you." **Stefan**



Kids were over the moon with all of the wonderful presents they received at our holiday gift day.

Your support touches so many lives and the fact that people like Rhonda and Stefan who once stayed at the Red Door Shelter are now giving back, shows that your support has a long-term positive impact. *Thank you for the difference you make.*

### Learn more...

See your impact in our online Holiday Album

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

## HOLIDAY MAGIC FOR KIDS

It's difficult to imagine what's it like for children living in a shelter, especially over the holiday season, but thanks to you, children at the Red Door had a magical holiday, taking in many exciting activities, fun outings, making new friends and memories they won't soon forget.

Over the school break, children at our shelter had lots of fun around town on some great day trips. Some of the kids' top highlights included a day of weird and wonderful science at the Ontario Science Centre, a skating adventure at Nathan Phillips Square (complete with a hot chocolate and treats to keep warm!), a night at the movies, and a magical

performance of Disney on Ice: Reach for the Stars.

And no-one could forget our amazing holiday party where kids received the many wonderful toys and gifts that you donated, and had a blast with games, a magic show, face painting, a balloon artist and more.

These happy memories mean so much to children affected by homelessness and abuse. It is your generous support that makes it possible. Thank you for making the holidays magical for homeless kids. We look forward to making more exciting adventures possible together in 2018!



"I had a lot of fun!" Kids had a blast at our holiday party and many fun day trips over their school break thanks to you!

Learn more about your impact: [reddoorshelter.ca/programs/children](http://reddoorshelter.ca/programs/children)

## COMMUNITY CHANGEMAKERS

Did you hear the buzz of activity in the community over the holiday season?

From epic gingerbread house competitions, neighbourhood parties, school fundraisers and office pizza parties, there were no shortage of ways that our community pitched in to raise awareness and funds to help children and families in crisis.

Local businesses made a difference, like Pilot Coffee Roasters who created a special holiday blend and donated a portion of their sales. Singer-songwriter Liz Lokre released a Red Door inspired holiday single "Believe" which topped the charts and raised funds in support of our children's programs.

Altogether, the amazing community spirit made the season bright, bringing people together and raising \$78,000 through community events for our programs. Thank you!



## LOTS OF LOCAL LOVE

Our neighbours at Left Field Brewery hosted a delightful Draughts & Crafts Holiday Craft Market and raised over \$3,400 for the shelter.

"The event was really fun and a great way to give back to our community. We think the work that Red Door does to help families in need and keep them together is wonderful. We love that it is local and supports families right here in our neighbourhood. We are very proud to support and look forward to working more with Red Door in the future!" - Caitlin Sailor, organizer

## HOW YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE

149

families supported for the holidays



340 Children and Teens

166 Adults

506 Individuals in total



\$39,000 in gift cards donated to families for groceries, clothing, gifts and more.



Toys, winter clothing, housewares, and gifts given to each family.



153 volunteers sorted donations, helped with holiday activities for residents, and more.

\$315,000

donated in December to fund critical support programs throughout the year.



Children's Programs



Food Bank



Moving Program

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

## FAMILY GUARDIANS MAKE A DIFFERENCE ALL YEAR

Family Guardians like Leanne are special donors who make a monthly gift in ongoing support of women, children and families at the Red Door Shelter.

"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 help other women and families to do the same for their children. I love that the donations go toward programs to help children and families. I also want to make this a teaching opportunity for my children to understand how they can make a difference helping others. It takes a village to raise a family and it makes our family feel proud to be a part of the Red Door village."

Leanne Lazlo, Family Guardian



Join more than 400 dedicated Family Guardians who are making a difference each and every day!

Monthly giving helps fund critical programs throughout the year that give families the stability, strength and hope they need to heal and rebuild their lives.

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

To learn more about the benefits of monthly giving and to join visit: [reddoorshelter.ca/monthly-giving](http://reddoorshelter.ca/monthly-giving)





## KIDS HELPING KIDS

Nothing is more heartwarming than seeing young people taking action to help out in their community! Over the holidays many new young supporters held unique events to help spread awareness and support children and families in need at the Red Door.

Students from Havergal College (top left) got their whole school involved in collecting food and toiletries. The Care Gift Elves (bottom left), canvassed the neighbourhood and collected many wonderful gifts for moms and kids at the Red Door. Sonya (right) made and sold special holiday greeting cards and raised over \$200 for our children's programs. Thank you so much to all of you who took the initiative to make a difference. You are the future! Keep up the great work!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Spread the Love

All month long in February

Book a family photo session this February and support neighbourhood families in need. 10% proceeds donated to Red Door.

Visit: [kristafogelphotography.com](http://kristafogelphotography.com)



### East Love

March 8, 2018 - Broadview Hotel, 106 Broadview Ave.

A celebration on International Women's Day around the theme of resiliency with speakers, cocktails, food and dancing. Visit: [eastlove.ca](http://eastlove.ca)



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

## LET US KNOW HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM US

Your support means the world to us, and we want to keep you informed about your impact and how you can continue to make a difference.

Spot a mistake in your address? Prefer to receive communications by email? Tell us your preferences or update any info by reaching us at:

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

Or update your information anytime online at:  
[reddoorshelter.ca/change-contact](http://reddoorshelter.ca/change-contact)



### DONATE

\$1 a day can change lives



### VOLUNTEER

join our team to help



### CONNECT

join our online community



### SHARE

share your stories and feedback



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