



Red Door

Ending family homelessness one family at a time.



Newsletter

Fall 2015



Building a Community of Hope

*by Viki Pearce & Adrian C. Lang,
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs*

The campaign to raise \$3M for equipment, furnishings and resident services at a new, purpose-built Red Door family shelter is well underway.

We would like to thank those volunteers and donors whose generous contributions have helped to raise over \$650,000 to date.

We look forward to being able to provide a modern, safe sanctuary that supports the dignity of women and families affected by homelessness and abuse.

For more information about the capital campaign visit:

reddoorshelter.ca/building-hope

A Heartfelt Thank You

At our recent Donor Appreciation Reception, one of our former residents, Olay shared her story and her deep gratitude for the support she received from the Red Door:

"I arrived in Canada with my son - then two and half years old - on August 11th 2011, as a refugee claimant, who fled from her native country of Nigeria due to my abusive partner.

Upon my arrival in Canada the immigration department linked me with Red Cross Society and they in turn connected me with the Red Door Shelter.

Lonely, heartbroken and going through much emotional imbalance, my son and I came to the Red Door Shelter late in the night not knowing what to expect. On arrival, the staff that attended to me were so wonderful. She gave me some blankets and clothes and told me that she had saved dinner for us.

In the morning, I was introduced to two staff that were working on my floor and who could be of assistance with any of my needs, but sad and confused I retreated back to the room to cry. Shortly afterwards, one of the staff came into my room to talk. She was very sympathetic but I was encouraged to see this transition as the beginning of a new life for both my son and I... a life that I had thought wasn't possible. That was the beginning of my transformation.

We lived at Red Door for 6 months. I attended the ESL language school and adult education upgrading my English, Maths and general life skills. My son was also enrolled at a daycare center allowing me the time to focus on me.

Since my departure from Red Door, I have completed my upgraded high school courses and financial planning classes. I was accepted into a

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special program where single mothers are assisted with education and housing towards financial sustainability. Last December, I graduated from a two year Accounting and Finance program with a GPA of 3.9. I also just completed a four months internship period at PricewaterhouseCoopers and I am currently enrolled at the Canadian Securities Institute for a CSC certification.

It is very important to me that everyone knows that whatever successes I have achieved since my arrival to Canada, it is nothing short of the wonderful and gracious people at Red Door for their unfailing support morally, emotionally, and financially.

They believed in my ability to be a success story even when I didn't see that for myself. Red Door is my family and I say it with so much gratitude from the bottom of my heart for showing me the light at the end of the tunnel.

But more importantly, everyone at Red Door is able to do what they do because of your significant and never failing donations in many ways. Thank you for helping to lay my foundation right for success.

On behalf of the many families that have passed through the Red Door before me, during my stay, and the countless that are benefitting now and afterwards from your consistent and tireless support – THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.”

It costs over \$500,000 each year to fund the important programs that go beyond emergency food and shelter. Your support helps families like Olay's reclaim their independence and rebuild their lives. Thank you.
reddoorshelter.ca/ways-to-give



Olay shared her heartfelt story at our Donor Reception on September 10th.

You Truly Make a Difference

The Red Door Board of Directors was pleased to host the third annual Donor Appreciation Reception at Enoch Turner Schoolhouse on September 10th.

The special evening was an opportunity to celebrate our donor club members and special friends for their generous and caring support.

We greatly value all of our donors whose support and commitment to the women, children and families we serve truly makes a difference.

It is thanks to you that over 600 families received help and hope at the Red Door Shelter last year.

We look forward to continuing to work together to end family homelessness, one family at a time.

Sincerely,

Ann Elliott, President & Chair
Red Door Family Shelter



Many of our special donors joined us for the event to learn more about the impact of their support.

Join a Donor Club

Join one of our donor clubs with a monthly or annual gift and become part of a compassionate group of Red Door supporters who share a commitment to making positive change in our community.

Learn more: reddoorshelter.ca/our-donors

In Memory of Christopher Hyndman

The leadership and staff of the Red Door Shelter offer their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Christopher Hyndman, designer and one half of the CBC TV talk show duo Steven and Chris, who tragically passed away on August 3rd.



Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman

Chris was a generous person who took pleasure in helping to change peoples' lives for the better. He will be missed.

We were honoured to be chosen as one of the two charities to receive donations in Chris' memory. The \$2,500 that we received from compassionate donors will help provide care and support for many families in their time of need.

Leave your Legacy

When you join the Ray McLeary Legacy Society and leave a gift to the Red Door Shelter in your Will, you bequeath the gift of a brighter future to families affected by homelessness and abuse.

A gift in your Will doesn't have to be large to make a difference.

Just a small percentage of what's left after your loved ones are provided for can give a better future for women and families who have endured homelessness and abuse. For more information visit:

reddoorshelter.ca/leave-legacy

Thank You for a Summer of Fun

More than 50 children and teens stay at the Red Door shelter each night. One of the best ways to help them is to take them out of the shelter and have some fun!

Thanks to generous donors like you, this summer kids at the shelter had a swashbuckling time on a Pirate Life cruise, as well as other fun experiences such as a trip to see Phantom Boy at the Toronto International Film Festival and a visit to the Jamie Bell Adventure playground in High Park.

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



Kids had a swashbuckling time aboard the Pirate Life cruise on Centre Island.

Upcoming Events in the Community

Check out some of the great upcoming events happening around town in support of Red Door:

Families Building Families Holiday Portraits - Nov. 7th

Have your holiday family portrait taken by Fogel Photography with all proceeds going directly to help other families in your community. Space is limited. To book email Krista: info@fogelphotography.com



Blues for Red Door - Nov. 8th

A charity Blues Revue presenting a cabaret of 10 top male Blues singers performing in front of an all-female band, with all proceeds to support Red Door. For more info visit: www.bluesforthereddoor.ca



For more upcoming events, or information on how to host an event visit:
reddoorshelter.ca/special-events



Share the Spirit of Giving

You can make a difference for families affected by homelessness and abuse by giving a gift of hope this holiday season. Your gifts will help give families in need a fresh start and a bright future.

For information on the ways that you can help, visit us at:
reddoorshelter.ca/holiday-giving

Ways to give:

1. Make a Financial Gift
2. Give a *Gift to Empower*
3. Build a Holiday Spirit Gift Box



A Fresh Start for Young Families

A new mom at the Red Door shelter recently welcomed her beautiful baby. There are currently 20 infant children under the age of 2 living at our shelter with their moms.

Sadly, pregnancy is often a time when violence escalates in an abusive relationship. Your support of moms and their children helps to keep them safe at the shelter while they build a new life full of hope and promise.



Gifts to Empower
Gifts that give twice

Gifts to Empower are unique and meaningful gifts you can give to someone that you care about. Every gift supports a family in need at the Red Door. There are over 20 gifts to choose from and each one includes a personalized e-card or paper card.



To learn more visit:
reddoorshelter.ca/gifts-to-empower



Red Door
FAMILY SHELTER

Ending family homelessness, one family at a time.

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