



# Red Door

Ending family homelessness one family at a time.



## Newsletter

Fall 2013



### Local Salon Owner Gives Back

Thirty-two kids from the Red Door Family Shelter went back to school in style this fall.

On August 26, Kozeta's Salon and Spa and local businesses gave new back-to-school hair-cuts and backpacks filled with school supplies to the children, as part of a unique fundraiser for the Red Door Shelter.

Kozeta Izeti, the salon owner, knows how it feels to call the Red Door home. Thirteen years ago, she came to Canada with her husband and one-year-old child from Albania. They only had \$70.00 in their pocket and had nowhere to go. They were homeless and they were struggling.



Salon owner, Kozeta with Adam showing off his new look.

"I came to this country as a refugee, and we didn't know anybody or have any place to go and didn't speak a word of English."

Kozeta and her family came to the Red Door and received the support they needed. "The staff was incredibly helping," said Kozeta. After three months, she and her family moved out of the shelter and began their new life of hope. Today, Kozeta is the owner of an upscale, award-winning Toronto salon where she employs eight stylists.

"I am so thankful to the people at the Red Door and to the City of Toronto for giving me a chance to make a life here for our family. I was overwhelmed by the unconditional welcome we received, and now it's my turn to demonstrate the same for others," says Izeti.

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### A new way to help for the holiday season!

Help families at the Red Door by purchasing items or gift cards of your choosing from our gift registries at Hudson's Bay, Home Outfitters and Babies "R" Us. Every donation buys an item that a family truly needs and will go a long way to helping families get back on their feet.

All gifts purchased from the Red Door Holiday Helper Registry will be used at our shelters or given to families when they are ready to move out, to help them make a fresh start.

See enclosed Giving Guide for more details or visit us at:

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

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"It's nice to know that a former resident is giving back to her community" said a mother who was at the salon with her child. "All of us have ambitions, it's just the struggles of life. Hopefully we'll have our own success story in the coming years."

The children who attended were so excited to head back to school with their new looks.

Thanks to Kozeta Izeti and her staff who generously donated their time and skills that day. The children had an exciting day and gained much more than just hair-cuts and school supplies. They walked out with confidence, knowing people care.



Watch the segment on Global News

**Did you know?** At any given time more than 50% of our shelter residents are children. Every year we serve more than 400 children through a variety of programs that focus on healthy childhood development and education.

Support for children, youth and teens is a critical part of the work we do at the Red Door. When children come to the Red Door with their families they are often traumatized, frightened, confused or angry. Without support that goes beyond basic shelter and food, the effects of homelessness and its root causes can last throughout a child's lifetime.

All of our children's programs are funded entirely by generous donors like you. Each year it costs more than \$250,000 to run these vital programs. *Please help ensure that children at our shelter receive the support they need to heal and have hope and promise for the future.*



To learn more or to donate visit: [reddoorshelter.ca/programs/children](http://reddoorshelter.ca/programs/children)

### Team Red Door breaks a new Record!

More people than ever joined Team Red Door for the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon Charity Challenge in October. 31 team members ran and walked to raise funds for our Food Bank, and exceeded our fundraising goal (and all time record) to raise a total of \$16,242!

"It's great to see our team getting bigger and the support growing" said Liam O'Sullivan, top fundraiser on the team for the last two years.

Thanks to all of the runners and walkers who participated and to all of their generous sponsors. The funds raised will ensure that over 250 families who have moved out of our shelter, and are struggling to make ends meet will be able to rely on our Food Bank over the next year to reduce their financial burden and provide fresh food for their children.

**We hope to see you on the team next year!**



Interested in joining? Get in touch: [fundraising@reddoorshelter.ca](mailto:fundraising@reddoorshelter.ca)

### Saying Thank you to our Caring Donors

On Thursday Sept 12th, the Red Door held its first annual Donor Appreciation Evening to celebrate and thank our major gift donors, donor club members and special friends for their generous and caring support. It was an opportunity for our donors to come together, to meet our staff and board members, and learn more about the amazing difference they make in the lives of people affected by homelessness and abuse. It was wonderful to get to know some of our long-time supporters as well as meet and chat with more recent friends of the Red Door. Thank you to all who joined us at Joy Bistro for the evening. We look forward to continuing to work together to end family homelessness, one family at a time.



### Join our Giving Circle

Join one of our giving circles 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/clubs](http://reddoorshelter.ca/our-donors/clubs)

*"Thank you for a fine evening amongst the staff and supporters of the Red Door. They gave such a feeling of hope and rescue on the one hand, and commitment and achievement on the other. I was deeply moved by my experience and send thanks and blessings to you all."*

~ Lorraine, Family Guardian

### Big Help from Bridle Bash

On Sat Aug 3, the Bridle Bash Foundation hosted it's annual fundraising concert, featuring iconic Canadian rockers the Tragically Hip in support of Red Door, Mount Sinai Hospital and the Canadian Centre for Diversity. We were so delighted to be a part of this extraordinary event! More than 1000 people attended the evening and contributed to a food drive of epic proportions for our Food Bank. A truckload of non-perishables and essential dry goods were delivered to us the next day.



In addition, from the proceeds of the evening, the foundation made a tremendous contribution of \$40,000 to the operation of our Food Bank. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and the foundation for their very generous support.

### Gray's Guys and Girls

Toronto Raptor's Centre Aaron Gray is a big fan of supporting youth and teens in need. For the third year now Aaron has donated Raptors tickets to youth at the Red Door through the Raptor's Ticket program. Not just any tickets though, box-seat tickets to see three games in VIP style! On November 5th, twenty-six youth and teens from our shelter attended a game and got to meet Aaron and give him a special thank you card that they had prepared. The kids are really looking forward to more fun and excitement at the games in the new year. It means so much to them to have wonderful, positive experiences like this. Thanks so much to Aaron and the Raptors for giving this amazing opportunity to youth and teens at the Red Door.



### Give the Gift of Hope this Holiday Season

You can help families affected by homelessness and abuse by giving a gift of hope this holiday season. Your gifts will help deserving families have a fresh start.

Please see our enclosed Holiday Giving Guide for more details, or visit [reddoorshelter.ca/holiday-giving](http://reddoorshelter.ca/holiday-giving)

#### How you can help:

1. Make a Financial donation
2. Select a gift from our Holiday Helper Registry
3. Give a Gift to Empower
4. Donate recommended products as gifts

### Leaving your Legacy



When the time is right please consider leaving a gift to Red Door in your Will.

Your legacy gift will help to ensure that future generations of women and children affected by homelessness and abuse receive the help they need to heal, rebuild their lives and reclaim their independence.

For more information about leaving a gift in your Will please contact:

Kathryn McKechnie, Fund Development Manager  
416-915-5671 x230  
[kmckechnie@reddoorshelter.ca](mailto:kmckechnie@reddoorshelter.ca)



### Thanks to all our supporters young and old!

Pictured is seven-year-old Hadley who came to our office with her mom to deliver donations that she collected for her birthday instead of receiving gifts. She wanted to help other children her age at the Red Door. She raised over \$200 and even made this little Red Door replica for us. We were so touched!



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