



Red Door

Ending family homelessness one family at a time.



Newsletter

Spring 2015



Council Approves Funding to Build New Red Door Shelter

We are thrilled to announce that Toronto City Councillors have unanimously approved the financing to build the new Red Door shelter at 875 Queen East.

Our new facility will be a modern, safe sanctuary for families in crisis. The City will own the property and lease it back to the Red Door at a nominal cost.

Thank you Councillor Fletcher for your tremendous support!

This is a major victory for us, but it is not over yet. We need to raise \$3 million by December 2015 for equipment, furnishings and resident services at the new shelter.

For more information visit:
reddoorshelter.ca/building-hope

You are Making a Real Difference

Family homelessness continues to be a disturbing reality in the GTA. On any given night there are over 2,000 people in Toronto seeking refuge in a shelter, including single women, mothers and families.

But every day amazing people like you are making a difference. Thanks to your support, at the Red Door Shelter we are able to provide emergency shelter and support that helps women and families to heal, to recover and to rebuild their lives.

Families face an uphill battle to get back on their feet and gain stability when they are ready to move out of the shelter. Moms like Serita, who came to the Red Door with her 2 year old infant after being suddenly evicted, have to find an affordable home so that they are not at risk of becoming homeless again.

There are over 91,000 people on the waitlist for subsidized housing so families like Serita's have to move into unfurnished private market rentals and spend 67% of their income on rent alone. This puts them in a very vulnerable position.

For the past 3 years, a group of Toronto architectural firms – Equinox Development, HOK and Brigholme Interiors, has been helping to furnish homes for families leaving the shelter through their annual Lift Your Spirits Ski Day fundraiser. To date this event has raised over \$40,000 in support of our Moving Program.

The donor-funded Moving Program means that families leaving the shelter do not have to struggle to find the money to buy basic home furnishings when they move out. By providing donated furniture and household items, as well as a moving service, the Moving Program helps to give families the best chance of success to keep their new home.

Thanks to your generous support more than 95% of families who we help to move out and settle into their new life remain successfully

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housed and achieve their goal of independence. Life is still a struggle for many of these families and each week we see about 50 people return to use our donor-funded food bank.

Since 2012, Michel Firanksi, owner of La Bamboche patisserie, has been helping former Red Door residents who are struggling to remain housed. Each March, Michel organizes Macaron Day Toronto, a unique day of exquisite sweet treats and fundraising involving many patisseries throughout the city. To date, Macaron Day has contributed nearly \$25,000 to help keep the food bank operational.

For Eve, a mother of 3, the food bank is an essential service. *"Just knowing that the support is there, knowing that the food bank is there for us, it's like a burden is lifted off my shoulders."*

Your support of these essential programs helps to build bright futures for families who are struggling to move forward with their lives after experiencing homelessness and abuse. We simply couldn't do it without you. Thank you.

Did you know? Our Moving Program helps over 100 families each year, and our food bank provides more than 150,000 lbs of food to over 200 families each year. Learn more about our programs and how you can help at reddoorshelter.ca/programs-services

Helping Moms on Mother's Day

Life in a shelter is tough especially when you have children. More than two-thirds of the families we support are single mothers who are striving to rebuild their lives to make a brighter future for their children.

Thanks to generous people like you, this Mother's Day stressed moms at the shelter felt great warmth and support from the local community. For moms like Kalia this special care has helped her so much:

"I don't feel alone here because there is so much support."

Moms received gift packages including toiletries, cosmetics and baby care items donated by kind people like you.

At our family shelter, residents were treated to a delicious gourmet brunch generously donated by Treeline Catering, and we even received a huge wedding cake donated by a couple who unfortunately had to postpone their wedding at the last minute.

Thank you so much for helping homeless moms to gain the strength they need to overcome their difficult experiences and build brighter futures for their children.



100 Family Guardians!

Our Family Guardians monthly giving circle is growing. We now have over 100 monthly donors who together provide over \$36,000 annually. This is equivalent to funding our counseling and peer support workshops for women fleeing violence, or three months of children's programming at our family shelter.

Thank you to all of our Family Guardians for the huge difference you make everyday to help families heal together and rebuild their lives.

For more information about the Family Guardians or to join visit:
reddoorshelter.ca/monthly-giving

Toronto Yonge St. 10k raises over \$15,000

On April 19th, thousands of runners hit the pavement for the annual Toronto Yonge St. 10k.

The Red Door was the official charity partner, and over 60 runners and walkers joined our team to fundraise to help children at the shelter, raising a grand total of \$15,133!

One runner on the Red Door team was motivated to raise funds because she had once fled a husband who was abusive and addicted: *"I was fortunate to have supports to help, but it's organizations like this that make a world of difference for so many women and children."*

Sadly each night there are more than 50 traumatized children and youth staying at our shelter because their families have nowhere else to go. Shelter life is difficult and confusing for these youngsters. They have to share living space with strangers who are all recovering from different painful experiences such as abuse or being forced to leave their home.

The money raised from the Toronto Yonge St. 10k will help fund recreational summer day trips that will give children the opportunity to be out of the shelter having fun and creating happy memories that they can take forward into their new lives.

Thank you to all of the runners and generous supporters who helped make this possible. We were thrilled to be charity partner for this run and we look forward to making it an even bigger success next year.



Support our Neighbourhood Challenge

Team Red Door will back in October for the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon. New this year, we will be hosting a cheering section in the Neighbourhood Challenge – and we need your help to make it fantastic!

Join our cheering section

We're partnering with the Leslieville Farmers' Market on October 18th at Leslie St. and Eastern Ave to cheer on the runners. We are looking for participation and sponsorship from businesses and the local community so we can put on amazing entertainment and have the biggest crowd of people at our cheering station.

Each cheering station will be judged and the winner will be awarded a cash prize of up to \$6,000 for the charity.

Become a Neighbourhood Champion

Run the full marathon and fundraise as one of our four Neighbourhood Champions and get your race entry for free! We will encourage the local community to rally around you as you take on this marathon of a challenge!

If you are interested in getting involved in our Neighbourhood Challenge, contact us at fundraising@reddoorshelter.ca



Ray McLeary Legacy Fund

When Reverend Ray McLeary arrived in the impoverished Leslieville neighbourhood of Toronto in 1936 he made it his mission to improve the lives of the poorest, most vulnerable residents of his parish. He resided in the attic of a local home that had been gifted to the church, and turned over the rest of the house to community service, keeping its red front door unlocked so people could sleep there overnight.



In 1955 Reverend McLeary helped establish the WoodGreen Neighbourhood House as a purpose-built centre for much-needed community programs. At one time, the basement was a temporary refuge for homeless refugees. Eventually the building became the home of the Red Door's family shelter.

Reverend McLeary's legacy of service to the community lives on at the Red Door. Every year we provide shelter and support to over 500 families. With your help, families who have faced homelessness and abuse can heal and rebuild their lives.

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

For more information contact Kathryn McKechnie, Fund Development Manager at 416-915-5671 Ext. 230 or kmckechnie@reddoorshelter.ca, or visit our reddoorshelter.ca/legacy-info



Never too young to help

Michaela and Jacob are big fans of Red Door. For her 7th birthday Michaela decided she wanted to help, so she generously collected donations instead of receiving gifts. She raised over \$200! Thanks Michaela for your thoughtful support!

Share with us!



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Housewares Needed



We are well stocked with clothing donations, so we are not able to accept any more for the moment, but we definitely need donations of kitchenware for our Moving Program. Pots & pans, plate sets, cutlery, and other housewares would help a lot! See our in-kind donation list for details:

For a list of items we need visit:
reddoorshelter.ca/kind-gift



Red Door
FAMILY SHELTER

Ending family homelessness, one family at a time.

21 Carlaw Avenue
Toronto, ON M4M 2R6
Tel: 416-915-5671
Fax: 416-915-5698
www.reddoorshelter.ca
11930 3287 RR0001

