

Community In Action

You're changing lives



Spring 2022

Road to the Red Door: A canvas painting story

A woman's journey to the Red Door is not an easy one. Facing abuse – physical and emotional - can prevent a woman from finding the refuge she needs. It's a courageous step forward when a woman knocks at the Red Door.

Surrounded by a community of caring people like you, the Red Door became Laura's safe haven – a place where she and her children could thrive and heal from their past.

At the Red Door, we're honoured to be a part of each family's journey as they move towards independence. With you by our side, we can work towards ending the cycles of violence and poverty, together, through advocacy and empowering our residents to rebuild their lives.

This beautiful piece of artwork was a gift to the Red Door from Laura. In January 2022, she completed the Red Door's two-year Outreach Program. Now, her family is living independently, free from violence.

Laura used symbolism in her art to highlight different moments of her journey. For example, the fireplace represents the warmth and care she received from staff at the Red Door.

"I arrived cold and lonely. My abuser had deprived me of family, of friends. At the Red Door, the staff gave me sincere friendship. I almost forgot what that felt like."

The erupting volcano to Laura symbolizes the danger of her situation, the violence and abuse she experienced from her partner. It became too much, and she had to leave.

"It's the danger of a situation we think will never happen to us. But the lava – it runs after us, hurts us when it touches our skin. It damages our body and soul, leaving us with deep scars."

The waterfall depicts the tranquility she found while staying at the Red Door. The sense of peace that rushed over her knowing everything will be okay.



"I have tears in my eyes, the tears are no longer of sadness but tears of joy – joy and gratitude because I found my way to the Red Door."

- Laura*

Because of people like you, Laura and her three children – the birds in the background – are flying free now.

Thank you, Laura, for sharing your story through the power of art. Thank you to our generous community for making Laura's journey to the Red Door possible. Without your support, we would not be able to do the work we do.

*Name changed to protect identity

reddoorshelter.ca

Mother's Day Ad Campaign

For many women experiencing domestic violence, it isn't easy to "just leave". Whether they're financially dependent on their partner, they have children, they're isolated from their social network or they're afraid of what could happen, there are many reasons why someone may not leave the relationship.

Thank you to the folks at Camp Jefferson who donated their incredible services to the Red Door. They created an impactful Mother's Day ad campaign, along with two years of additional videos and photos that we can use, highlighting the struggles of leaving an abusive relationship. We are grateful for all the work that went into this emotional ad. You can watch this powerful video here: reddoorshelter.ca/mothers-day-ad



Instead of asking why a woman doesn't leave her abuser, ask why she stays.

This Mother's Day, help women and children affected by domestic violence.

Donate to  Red Door FAMILY SHELTER

We've missed our Red Door volunteers!



Volunteers Gil Alkin and Karen Lavut



Volunteer Alisa Nagorny



Robert Walker, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Red Door. Two years without you are two years too many! Volunteers are vital members of the Red Door team and we've missed you immensely.

Robert Walker, our new Volunteer Coordinator, organized a meet-and-greet on April 27 to welcome back past volunteers.

"Folks are excited to be back! Their time volunteering with the Red Door was meaningful and they miss the connections with clients and staff," said Robert, Volunteer Coordinator.

With volunteers, we'll now have more support in our food banks, have fun summer excursions with the kids, and our ReadUP program can restart. We're thankful for your dedication in supporting us. You add

enormous value to our programs; you help build our community; and your passion inspires us every day.

"I loved connecting with everyone and making a difference in my community," said Alisa, volunteer since 2020.

"It's great to be volunteering again," said Gil, volunteer since 2020.

Thank you, Red Door volunteers for being changemakers in our Leslieville community. Your dedication and commitment are invaluable to the Red Door.

New to Red Door volunteering? Apply here: reddoorshelter.ca/volunteer or give Robert a call at **416-915-5671 x 235**.

Coldest Night of the Year 2022: Thank you for walking for the Red Door

The Red Door participated in its third annual Coldest Night of the Year on February 26, and it was a huge success! Together, we surpassed our goal of **\$75,000** and raised an incredible **\$99,219!**

Braving the cold, 188 walkers and 41 teams bundled up to walk to support the women, children and families staying at the Red Door. Although we went virtual for a second year in a row, we're fortunate to have a dedicated Leslieville community determined to make a difference in the lives of homeless families.

Madeline Coffell, the eight-year-old team captain of The Good Deeds Club, along with 11 of her classmates walked in their second CNOY. They raised **\$3,775** for the Red Door! Wow!

"We made flyers to put around the school and did the morning announcements. We had lots of fun because we did it together."

Thank you to our Leslieville community for making this possible. **Save the date for Sat., February 25, 2023.**



A huge thank you to our 2022 sponsors:

Lead Sponsor: Tricon Residential Inc.

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See it. Face it. End it.

Being homeless is not a choice. Helping end homelessness is.

The Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness partnered with the Tip Tap Foundation to shine a light on homelessness through their See it. Face it. End it. Campaign.

Eleanor Bothwell and Parvane Rezaei-Dodani are two of the Red Door faces of the campaign. Eleanor was instrumental in securing 50,000 signatures needed in 2014 to Save the Red Door. She is a longtime volunteer and advocate.

Since 1999, Parvane has worked at the Red Door to ensure families receive the help they need. She finds motivation in providing support, housing services, and advocacy to those who've turned to the Red Door.

Have you seen any of the campaign kiosks or signage around Dundas Square or the Eaton Centre?

Watch Eleanor's video here: reddoorshelter.ca/see-it-face-it-end-it



Meet Eleanor



Meet Parvane

Monthly Donor Highlight

"As a long-time resident of Toronto's east end, I was looking for a way to give back to my community. The Red Door gives vulnerable families refuge from abuse or trauma, offering shelter, support, and a welcome embrace to our unique neighbourhood. It's one small way that my family and I can help strengthen an organization embodying the best of Toronto's diverse spirit and conscience."

- Adam Nicklin – Family Guardian since 2017

For as little as **\$25** a month, you can promote a child's creativity through the gift of play. Help kids have fun this summer with trips to museums, the Toronto Islands and community pools.

Become part of a community of over 500 dedicated Family Guardians who are making a difference for homeless women, children and families.

Support the Red Door monthly:
[reddoorshelter.ca/
monthly-giving](http://reddoorshelter.ca/monthly-giving)



Local Love makes our community strong

We are thankful for our community of local heroes who continue to show how much they care for Red Door families.

Once Upon a Pandemic: A Pregnancy Journey – All proceeds of the limited-edition hardcover went towards the Red Door.
onceuponapandemic.ca

Corbin's Catering – 10 per cent of all Mother's Day Meal Pack sales donated to the Red Door.
corbincateringandfoods.com

Bella Juice – Spring into Serenity Prenatal/Postnatal Yoga session. A portion of the proceeds went towards the Red Door.
bellajuiceandfitness.com

Hey Kiddo – All proceeds of beautifully handmade 'Mama' necklaces went towards the Red Door. **295 Roncesvalles Ave.**

Sari Fox – A portion of the proceeds from the Mother's Day Meditation and Stretch went towards the Red Door. sarifox.com

Krista Fogel Photography – \$50 from each Spring Mini Session went towards the Red Door.
info@fogelphotography.ca



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Charitable Registration: 11930-3287-RR0001

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