



# GROUP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE RED DOOR FAMILY SHELTER

## About the Red Door Family Shelter

Since 1982, the Red Door has been helping women and families affected by homelessness and abuse. We operate two shelters and provide a safe, temporary refuge and critical services to over 500 families each year to support them in healing, rebuilding their lives and finding and keeping a new home. Our clients include women and children fleeing domestic abuse, families affected by a housing crisis, and newcomers and refugees who have nowhere else to go. Our goal is to end homelessness for each family that comes through our doors.

## Group Volunteer Opportunities in the Shelter (minimum age 15)

- **Organize activities with the children** – On weeknights during the school year or weekdays during school breaks (summer and PA Days), groups can facilitate fun activities for the children who are staying at the shelter. Examples include arts and crafts, sports activities, or teaching things that the group may have expertise in. Groups should bring in all the supplies needed for the activities. Maximum 8 volunteers.
- **Organize a family fun day** – On weekends at our violence against women shelter, we invite groups of women to organize activities for the moms and kids to do together. Examples include arts and crafts, games, or teaching things that the group may have expertise in. Groups should bring in all the supplies needed for the activities. Maximum 8 volunteers.
- **Sponsor and serve a catered meal** – Groups can sponsor a catered meal and help distribute the meals to our residents at the shelter. This works best on weeknights or weekends when there are more people at the shelter. Please ask for details as the requirements and process differ between our two shelters. Maximum 10 volunteers.





## Group Volunteer Opportunities Outside of the Shelter

- **Sponsor an excursion with the children** – During summer break (July and August), groups can volunteer for and sponsor an excursion for the kids at the shelter. Trips that have been done in the past include Centre Island, Wonderland, and the Aquarium. Sponsorship includes funding the cost of the trip (transportation, admission, and lunch) and there is no limit to the number of volunteers that can attend.
- **Fundraisers** – Be a Red Door Champion and organize a fundraiser at your place of work. Fundraisers can range from bake sales, pay to leave early on a Friday, matching gifts, inter-departmental fundraising challenges, and silent auctions. The possibilities are endless, and resources/materials can be provided by the Red Door. <https://www.reddoorshelter.ca/fundraise/host-event>
- **Walk for Red Door** – The Coldest Night of the Year is a family-friendly walk to raise money for charities serving people experiencing homelessness, hurt, and hunger. Taking place each February, teams across Canada take part in their local CNOY walk. Sponsor our Red Door - Toronto Leslieville event and/or form a team and enter the corporate and community challenge! Visit our event page for more information: <https://cnoy.org/location/torontoleslieville>
- **Ride for Red Door** – Host a charity spin ride in support of Red Door for your team, department or entire company! Torq will provide the studio space, instructor, and all the fun. Torq has two studio locations to choose from - Leslieville and Danforth. Contact [hello@torqride.com](mailto:hello@torqride.com) for more info.
- **Non-monetary drive** – Groups can engage all their employees, clients, and other stakeholders with a collection drive of non-monetary items that are needed by our shelter residents, such as non-perishable food items, winter accessories, etc. Please visit our website for an updated list of items that we're currently accepting: <https://www.reddoorshelter.ca/in-kind>
- **Welcome kits** – A great team-building activity that can be done at your place of work is the creation and assembly of care packages, which include items such as toiletries that we give to everyone when they start their stay at the shelter. Groups can purchase the contents of the kits themselves or purchase them from Kits for a Cause, which sends you everything you need to prepare the kits.
- **Holiday donation sorting** – Every December, we get a large volume of toys and other gifts that get distributed to our families. We schedule in approximately 10 groups to come volunteer for a few hours each in the first few weeks of December. Sorting takes place at our administrative office at Carlaw and Lakeshore, during office hours. Maximum 8 volunteers.

Please visit our website to complete a [Group Volunteer Application](#) or contact our Volunteer Coordinator at [vbarber@reddoorshelter.ca](mailto:vbarber@reddoorshelter.ca). Due to the high level of interest in groups wanting to volunteer at the shelter, we prioritize groups that choose Red Door as their charity partner by contributing to our cause in multiple ways throughout the year (volunteering, fundraising, etc.).