



Community In Action

You're changing lives

WINTER 2021

This photo of a past Red Door resident is courtesy of Krista Fogel Photography

A HOLIDAY SEASON TO REMEMBER THANKS TO YOU

Happy New Year! Most of us are very happy to say goodbye to 2020. This global pandemic has changed our lives forever. We may be separated physically, but we believe that our need for connection and kindness is stronger than ever before. We value you. The generosity of the human spirit and action that we witnessed from you over this holiday season has strengthened our Red Door community in a way we've never experienced.

Our hearts are full of gratitude for YOU. Your outpouring of support, your kind messages, and the many creative and meaningful ways you came together to support families facing homelessness and those recently housed has inspired us all.

The Red Door meeting room was transformed into a Holiday Workshop Extraordinaire throughout the month of December. Quizno, our special 4-legged volunteer, kept an eye on everyone as the holiday give-away packages were created. The toys and games you carefully chose for children were sorted by age. Beautiful one-of-a-kind hand knitted, and store purchased winter accessories were distributed to families and the gift cards you donated will provide groceries, household items and essentials for many.

We're forever thankful for your caring support. To every donor who remembers the Red Door Shelter each year we send you a virtual hug, and to those of you who are new to our organization, we say 'welcome'. Thank you to the many employee fundraising teams that discovered new virtual ways to assist us. We extend a special appreciation to all the local businesses that partnered with us by donating a percentage of sales during what must be the toughest time in their retail histories. Your meaningful financial gifts guarantee families will receive the supportive programs and resources they need to heal and transition to brighter futures in 2021.



Quizno, our 4-legged holiday volunteer watching over the mountain of gifts!

Your compassion for families during this difficult time in their lives helped to make holiday memories and

Learn more...

Hear from families you helped this holiday season!

 reddoorshelter.ca/holiday2020-thankyou

continued from page 1

brought smiles of delight to the faces of the children staying with us in shelter and in the community. We're happy to share this lovely message from one of the families you supported this holiday:

"I am writing to appreciate every worker, volunteer, and donor at The Red Door Family Shelter for the wonderful Holiday Give-Away. The gifts were awesome and just what my kids had been asking for! Because of the high price, I had told them that due to COVID, most toy companies are closed down...but then we got this wonderful package from you guys!"

"I can't wait to see the surprises and delight on their cute faces when they open their presents on Christmas morning. And thanks for the gift cards too! I wish you all a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year! Stay Safe." – Grateful mom

For families facing homelessness, the holidays can be a time of isolation, anxiety, and depression. Thanks to your incredible generosity, moms, kids, and families in our shelters and in the community experienced a December full of hope and joy. Thank you for creating the special magic of the holiday season for families who rely on the Red Door for support.



FAMILIES SAY THANK YOU!

Moms like Joanna were so deeply grateful for your kind support that they left special video messages to personally express their thanks to you for helping make their holiday season bright!

Hear their words of gratitude for you:



reddoorshelter.ca/holiday2020-thankyou

YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!



201
families supported
for the holidays!

Your generous financial gifts will fund critical support programs that will help homeless families throughout the year.



Counselling
and Support



Advocacy



Children's
Programs



Moving
Program



Finding
Affordable
Housing



Food Bank



We received and distributed hundreds of toys donated for children under 12, and gift cards for every teen!



You helped provide winter accessories as well as cozy socks for every member of every family in our shelters.



450 meals funded through your support of our Food Bank, and over **7,500** meals generated through Chef's Catering program to be donated in 2021.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS GIVE HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This past year, we saw our community come together like never before providing much needed in kind and monetary donations in support of homeless families. From employee fundraising challenges to virtual gift guides, we were inspired by our community's creativity and outpouring of compassion and generosity. Here are a few special highlights!

Left Field Brewery took their Holiday Campaign digital and devised innovative ways to fundraise over \$10,000 including a Virtual Draughts & Crafts Holiday Gift Guide that featured many local artisans.

Our new partners at Blue Flame created holiday magic by fundraising and collecting a truckload of toys, winter accessories and gift cards. Employee fundraising campaigns were also in full swing at Tricon, IFDS Group, Proof Strategies, StackPros/DRVN Intelligence and Metergy Solutions. Many of these companies matched employee donations, generating thousands of dollars in donations to fund critical programming throughout the year. Other companies, like WHIRL, supported local while helping families by purchasing gift cards from local businesses and then donating them to Red Door.

Our friends at Toronto East Rotary Club continued their work to take care of families in crisis during the pandemic. They provided festive gift bags for all residents, filled with toys, games, socks, gift cards and other surprises. We are humbled by the continued support of our regular supporters and are grateful for the many new community connections and partnerships that were created.



Blue Flame employees dropping off a truck load of toys and holiday gifts for families at our shelters.

YOUNG CHANGEMAKERS HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This past holiday season saw the next generation of Red Door fundraisers in action! These young fundraisers got creative and used their time and talents to help kids just like themselves have a chance at a brighter future.

Willow started making beautiful bookmarks during COVID and raised \$350 to support our children's programs by selling her one-of-a-kind creations.

Ruby and her Grade 4 friends didn't let COVID stop them from their tradition of assembling gift bags for families, often using their own money to buy presents and including heartfelt messages of hope.

When her charity karate tournament was cancelled in April, Olivia decided to sell the practice beads she had been making. Moved by the Red Door's mission, she set out to raise over \$500 to support families needing refuge.

Since he was 4, Kailen and his mom have hosted a holiday party and collected donations for families at the Red Door. Because of COVID, they hosted two virtual paint nights, raising \$620! Said Kailen, "I've made it my mission to raise money for children and families."

Angelina and The Care Gift Elves couldn't collect items and assemble their usual wonderful care boxes this year, so instead they raised over \$1,000 to purchase gift cards for children and families.



Ruby delivering the gifts she collected with friends



Local entrepreneur Willow, with sister and mom



From CNOY February 2020

JOIN US ON THE COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR!

COVID can't stop us from showing support for homeless families in our community! Join us for our 2nd annual Coldest Night of the Year *virtual* fundraising walk!

This year we'll be doing things a little differently in order to keep everyone safe. Register to fundraise and walk 2 or 5km with your household throughout Leslieville or on a 2 or 5km route of your choice on February 20th, or any day in February!

Participating is as easy as 1-2-3!



Register to start your own virtual team, or join a friend's. Get your family members to join with you!
New this year - no registration fee!



Fundraise! With great tools and tips provided, it's super easy to raise funds and make a difference.



Choose a safe route, bundle up, and walk with your household, or physically distanced with your team.

COVID has changed how we gather to socialize and celebrate, but YOU can still make a difference. With the impact that the pandemic continues to have on homeless families and women and children fleeing domestic violence, there is no better time to come together in solidarity and support.

We hope you can join us!



Join us throughout the month of February for a 2km or 5km walk on a route of your choice in support of homeless families.

With your generous support, our goal is to raise \$75,000 to help the families at Red Door that are going through a difficult time - healing from trauma, overcoming homelessness and rebuilding their lives.

Register today at:
cnoy.org/torontoleslieville



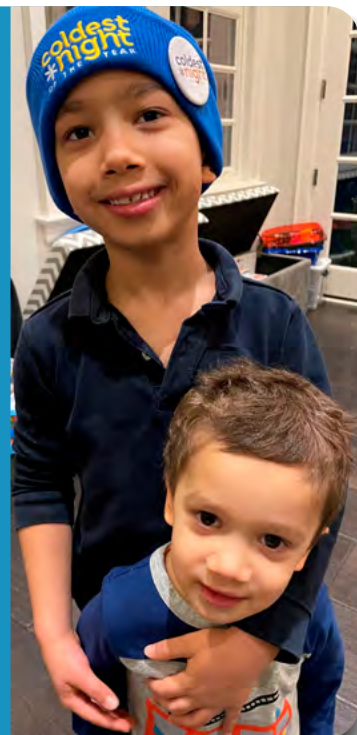
JADE AND HER SONS ARE EXCITED TO WALK!

The reason my team and I decided to participate in CNOY benefiting the Red Door Shelter is because we strongly believe in and identify with their mission.

Living in a community means helping and supporting each other, especially during our most difficult times. We want to do what we can to help the women and families at the Red Door Shelter get the support they need as they get back on their feet.

We are grateful to be participating in CNOY!

— Jade, Team Captain



FOOD BANK SHELVES ARE STOCKED, THANKS TO YOU!

The Red Door's Food Bank is more than just groceries; it's a lifeline of support for families once they've moved into the community. For single moms with children our Food Bank is critical to their transition into stable independence.

Last November, we experienced a shortage of non-perishable food. Our shelves were almost empty! We reached out to you and your response was overwhelming. Your outpouring of generosity helped to fill our shelves in less than a week with many extras to spare. Over \$19,000 was donated by YOU which allowed us to purchase grocery gift cards. Over the month of December, 49 families received gift cards and during the month of January, 22 families will receive additional support in this way.

Thank you for opening your hearts to support vulnerable families in need in our community! For single moms with kids, your ongoing support of our Food Bank is greatly appreciated.



Before and after shots of our Food Bank pantry!

KEY SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Our weekly Food Bank is a key support for families who moved back into the community - many who pay nearly 60% of their income on rent alone in the private rental market. Your support helps families stay housed and move forward.

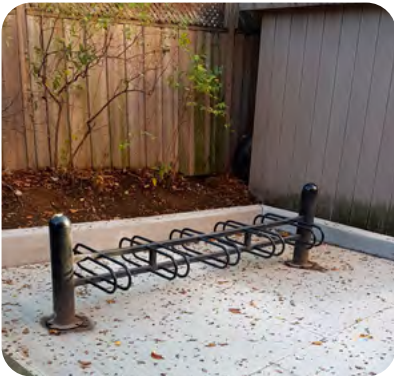


Learn more: reddoorshelter.ca/programs/food-bank

URBACON BRIGHTENS UP OUR BACKYARD

Located on the street behind our women's shelter is a building that houses a childcare centre—one that cares for many of the children who come to us with their mothers, and where we run our after school and evening programs to help children establish a positive and consistent after-school routine. Connecting the shelter to the childcare building is a long interlocking pathway that had seen better days and what was once a pretty walkway, looked old and tired. The path became a safety hazard as the bricks aged.

"We really needed to fix it. It was one of those things where you need to spend a lot of money on a walkway and people ask 'why' because there doesn't appear to be a direct link to supporting the women and children in our shelter," says Wanda Lougheed, Director of Client Services at the Red Door Shelter.



New retaining walls, concrete pad and bike racks were installed

surveying our yard and area, they also offered to fix a few of our other outdoor ailments.

"At Urbacon, all of us are committed to building better, stronger and healthier communities," says Raffaele Barone, President. "Our focus is on community well-being, the needs of the homeless as well as many health-related issues. We were pleased to be able to contribute to the Red Door in this way."

These weren't minor fixes. A concrete pad in the yard had settled over the years and now sloped towards the shelter. During heavy rainfalls, the water first pooled on the pad and then often seeped into our commercial kitchen and dining room. Aside from the fact that staff had to devote time to cleaning up after these floods,

That's when we were connected with Urbacon, a construction firm with offices in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. Urbacon supports the communities where they do business by donating time, expertise and resources, and they

offered to fix our back walkway. Upon

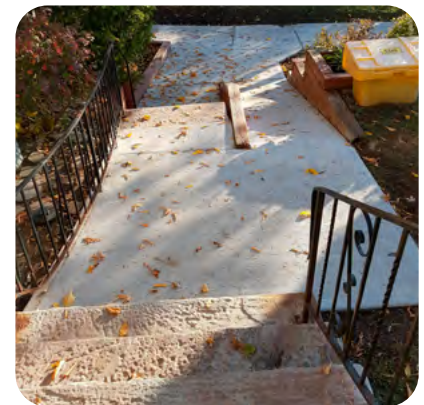


A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We were thrilled to receive such an incredible donation of in-kind work from Urbacon - who happen to also be our neighbours, just down the street from our administrative office! Just before the holiday season, Phil Lamoureux, Senior Project Manager (pictured left), and Raffaele Barone, President (centre), met with our Executive Director, Carol Latchford (right) who was proud to present them with a Red Door 'Local Hero' award!

Thank you so much for your generosity!

we worried that these frequent leaks would lead to mould in our building. Additionally, the old flagstone steps at the front of the house were disintegrating and uneven—making for a laborious climb, particularly when carrying bags or squirming toddlers.



Our remodelled walkway

"Nothing was a big issue for Urbacon. They were willing to take on the entire project," says Wanda.

continued from page 6

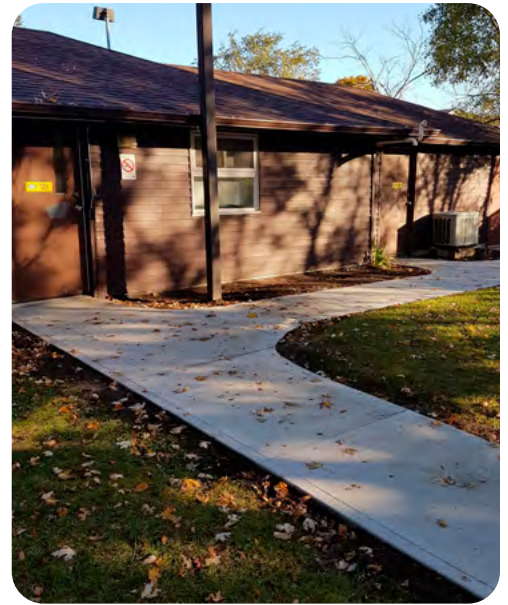
And so, over the summer and early fall, the walkway was ripped up and the concrete patio was removed. The entire area was regraded and concrete was poured for a new walkway and patio. The paved area was even extended into what had been a muddy pit, a retaining wall was built to hold back rainwater and a bike rack installed.

To complete the work, heavy construction equipment needed to be brought into the backyard, which meant our gate had to be taken down. Rather than simply re-installing it upon completion, Urbacon invested in and installed a beautiful new gate to close off the yard.

Now, not only does our commercial kitchen stay dry, but the children living at the shelter have a proper place to park their bikes—and a nice, new flat pathway to safely ride along. The flagstone stairs were fixed, making them easier and safer to climb.

“The difference this has made for the shelter is really significant. This is the type of donation that doesn’t at first appear to go directly to the women and children in our shelter, but it’s so important to the integrity of what we do every day,” says Wanda.

“Urbacon did a fabulous job.”



Connecting pathway between the shelter and childcare building.

RENOWNED ARTIST WILL CREATE A LARGE MURAL AT OUR NEW SHELTER

The Red Door is thrilled to announce that Philip Cote has been commissioned to create a beautiful mural for our new family shelter. The mural will cover the interior walls of the outdoor/play area space.

Philip, MFA of Moose Deer Point First Nation, is a Young Spiritual Elder, Indigenous Artist, Activist, Educator, Historian and Ancestral Knowledge Keeper. He was one of two artists shortlisted from a possible five mural artists considered by a special committee for this project.

As an Indigenous artist and graduate of OCAD University’s Interdisciplinary Master’s in Art, Media and Design, Philip uses research to unearth, and reveal, his cultural experience and knowledge of signs of Indigenous symbols, language, and interpretation. He emphasizes the resurgent power of nature and the importance of listening to Indigenous teachings through his Mural Art.

“We believe Philip’s work will educate, inspire and imbue healing energy to our clients, staff, volunteers, and supporters for years to come,” says Carol Latchford, Executive Director. “We’re looking forward to creating special programming opportunities for children, and adults too, to learn and understand the stories associated with Philip’s mural.”

For more information about Philip Cote please read his bio here:
www.tecumsehcollective.wixsite.com/philipcote



Artist Philip Cote with his “The Original Family” Mural located at Jarvis and Dundas, Toronto

MEET THE RED DOOR'S NEW YEAR BABY!

We were excited to welcome a beautiful baby to the Red Door on New Year's Day. With 2020 being a difficult year of challenges and uncertainty, the arrival of this bundle of pure joy has started our year on a sweet note. Mom and baby are healthy and doing well. Your generosity helps to support the family with diapers, baby wipes and the many needs of a newborn.



You can help new moms at the Red Door with a Gift to Empower: reddoorshelter.ca/gifts-to-empower/women



UPCOMING EVENTS

Coldest Night of the Year - Virtual!

Throughout February - in your own neighbourhood!

Bundle up and walk 2km or 5km on a route of your choice to help us raise funds in support of homeless families.

Register today at: cnoy.org/torontoleslieville



"Paint with Purpose" Virtual Paint Nights

Online - book your session any night!

All the fun of Paint Night in the comfort of your own home! All supplies available for pick up or delivered for a minimal fee right to your doorstep before the party.



For more info visit: reddoorshelter.ca/event/upcoming



See more upcoming events, or learn about hosting your own virtual event at reddoorshelter.ca/fundraise

LET US KNOW HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM US

Your support means the world to us, and we want to keep you informed about your impact and how you can continue to make a difference.

Spot a mistake in your address? Prefer to receive communications by email? Tell us your preferences or update any info by reaching us at:

fundraising@reddoorshelter.ca
416-915-5671 x225

Or update your information anytime online at:
reddoorshelter.ca/change-contact



DONATE

\$1 a day can
change lives



VOLUNTEER

join our team
to help



CONNECT

join our online
community



SHARE

share your stories
and feedback



Red Door
FAMILY SHELTER

21 Carlaw Ave. Toronto, ON, M4M 2R6
416-915-5671 | reddoorshelter.ca |
Charitable Registration 11930 3287 RR0001