

## Team Red Door goes virtual!

We love this time of year! I think we're all looking forward to being outside and enjoying everything that our community has to offer.

The Red Door participates in two favourite Toronto events – **The Constantine Yorkville Run and the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon**.

Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned athlete, there is an event for you to get you moving while you make a difference in the lives of homeless families.

Registration opened on May 5<sup>th</sup> for **The Constantine Yorkville Run**, Toronto's premium 5K race. The Virtual Run is scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> with a tentative in-person run scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup>. All participants will receive a premium race kit and the chance to win amazing prizes!

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, registration opened for the 2021 **Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon**. A Virtual Race is scheduled from October 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, with a tentative in-person event scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Join us for these exciting events and support positive change by helping us reach our fundraising goal of \$30,000 to support key programs for families at the Red Door during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

Sign up for updates and learn more at: [www.reddoorshelter.ca/join-team-red-door](http://www.reddoorshelter.ca/join-team-red-door).



Chefs Catering and Mr. Good Meats have expanded their partnership with the Red Door and have created a special Red Door Collection – 15% of all proceeds from each product sold will be donated to support families at the Red Door! Visit [www.mrgoodmeats.com](http://www.mrgoodmeats.com) to view the collection.

## Local Love for Red Door Moms

Our community of local businesses continues to amaze us. Despite these challenging times, we experienced an outpouring of support for Mother's Day. Brave moms affected by domestic violence and homelessness build brighter futures for their children and themselves with your generosity!

We invite you to show your local love and continue supporting businesses that give back to their communities.

**ai Toronto Seoul** – Donated 10% of proceeds from 'Mommy & Me' headband sets.

**Hooked** – Matched all customer donations of \$10 added to their Mother's Day Brunch orders.



**Once Upon a Pandemic: A Pregnancy Journey** – Donated 100% of all presale proceeds.

**Corbin Catering** – Donated 10% of proceeds from all Mother's Day food and floral packages.

**Myodetox** – Donated all proceeds from Mother's Day Raffle.

**The Tini Yogini** – Donated 25% of proceeds from Mother's Day yoga class.

**The Toronto Facialist** – Donated 10% of all sales May 1<sup>st</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>

Our Mom Month celebrations continued with support from Jaymz Bee who produced and hosted a special virtual show, **MUSIC FOR MOMS**. We also extend our appreciation to the team at Royal LePage Shelter Foundation for presenting **Unplugged for Shelter**, a benefit concert highlighting local young talent. Over \$15,000 was raised for 3 local women's shelters including the Red Door! THANK YOU!

# Community In Action

*You're changing lives*

Summer 2021



*"No matter how strong a person is as an individual, we can always be stronger together."*

## The road to a brighter future is created by all of us

At the Red Door, we're privileged to work with women and their children who inspire us with their courage and determination to create change in their lives. We'd like to introduce you to Anna\*, a woman whose journey fills our hearts with great respect for her many achievements.

*"Almost twenty-four years ago, on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1997, I knocked on your doors at 3:00 AM all alone, seventeen-years-old, and nine months pregnant. I had just entered the country that night, a refugee from Romania, and I had nothing but a suitcase and \$140. The Red Door was the third shelter whose doors I had knocked on that night and the one that took me in.*

*I was fed and comforted and three weeks later, on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1997, I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. Michelle, the shelter director at the time, made sure arrangements were made for the delivery of my baby, enrolment in school, moving, and many other programs that were an integral part in putting me on the right path.*

Thanks to wonderful donors like you, a fresh start was possible for Anna and her new baby, Jessica\*. Your generosity has a profound and lasting impact on moms who come to the Red Door for support.

This July will be Jessica's 24<sup>th</sup> birthday and will also represent the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Anna entering Canada.

The road to a better future is created by all of us. Jessica speaks of her mom with love and pride: *"Although I can't remember the first year of my life where my mother and I stayed at the Red Door, I'm*



*very grateful for the kindness and support provided to my mother all those years ago.*

*My mother has always been an incredibly brave woman whose determination to give me a beautiful and safe life was her driving motivation through difficult times. No matter how strong a person is as an individual, we can always be stronger together. I'm thankful that the first Canadians my mom met were from the Red Door Shelter.*

*The staff made sure my mom had what she needed so she could be strong for me. Together with their support, my mom was able to grow and flourish and then helped me to do the same. Today, I'm an elite athlete, pursuing my master's degree in mental health, and hoping to start my own nonprofit organization that can help young refugees like my mom was. I'm happy and healthy and strong just like my mom."*

Anna is also a Red Door donor! She knows firsthand that a dream of a fresh start becomes reality when a caring community of supporters come together to create change.

Thank you for opening your hearts to help families heal and establish new directions for their lives.

\*names have been changed



Red Door Family Shelter  
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[www.reddoorshelter.ca](http://www.reddoorshelter.ca) | 416-915-5671  
Charitable Registration: 11930-3287-RR0001

[reddoorshelter.ca](http://reddoorshelter.ca)



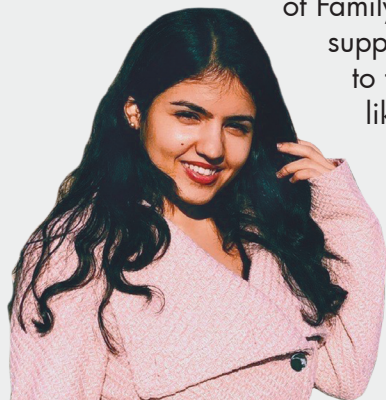
## Meeting the needs of families in crisis

The stress we all feel is real. In this terribly challenging time, as we all struggle to keep up with the lockdowns, new restrictions and the changing landscape of COVID-19, we want you to know that we are deeply indebted to you. Thank you for your continuous care to support families who face homelessness and food insecurity. These times are not easy.

Ekta recently became a Family Guardian monthly donor. She is passionate about supporting women and children and she first heard about the Red Door through her mom. She made the decision to become a monthly supporter because she knows that her commitment throughout the year will provide greater support to women and have a much larger impact.

*"I wanted to help out in any way that I could. I believe that my donations can provide women with the help they need to be safe in shelter and support childcare. I hope they realize that they deserve better than the situations they fled from and they're able to empower themselves and stand firmly on their own."*

Thank you Ekta for joining our caring community of Family Guardians – your support every month helps to fund critical programs like our Food Bank throughout the year and provides crafting supplies for kids healing from trauma.



Consider becoming a Family Guardian. Giving monthly is a convenient way to split your annual donation into manageable gifts each month. For as little as \$10/month you can provide 3 nutritious meals for a mom and her child for a day. Join today and you can become part of our caring community of 500+ committed Family Guardians like Ekta who are helping families stay safe and supported. Learn more: [reddoorshelter.ca/monthly-giving](https://reddoorshelter.ca/monthly-giving)



## Coldest Night Of the Year Winter Walk 2021: Celebrating community virtually

February 2021 saw the Leslieville community in COVID-19 emergency lockdown, but this didn't stop our amazing 175 CNOY walkers from braving the cold and safely taking to the streets individually or in household bubbles on February 20<sup>th</sup> to raise critical funds for homeless families at the Red Door!

CNOY Toronto Leslieville participants joined over 24,000 Canadians from coast to coast for the Coldest Night of the Year, Canada's National Walk for Homelessness. Our team members, sporting their turquoise blue and gold pom pom toques, were spotted along Queen Street East, Riverdale Park, the Beach, Woodbine Park, and even north of the city!

WOW! Your determination to make a difference in the lives of those affected by homelessness knew no limits. **CNOY 2021 Toronto Leslieville teams surpassed our goal of \$75,000 and raised over \$108,000!** Congratulations to everyone for your dedication and extraordinary fundraising skills to support over 350 families who rely on the Red Door every year. Safe sanctuary, housing assistance, Food Bank support, childcare, counselling and employment guidance are all possible because of your commitment to creating change.

A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful sponsors:

**Lead Sponsor:** Tricon Residential

**Virtual Rest Stop Sponsors:** Brenda Christen Mediation, Canadian Tire – Lakeshore & Leslie, and Tek Savvy

**Virtual Event Sponsors:** Christen Seaton Burrison Hudani LLP and Harhay Developments

**Without you, this record year simply would not have been possible.**

In the words of one of our awesome participants: *"It's a great community fundraiser! Hopefully, we'll be able to do it in person next year".* We hope so too! **Save the date for next year's event on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

## Bidding farewell to a special community

After nearly six years we bid farewell to the renovated apartment building at 1430 Gerrard Street East that became the temporary home of our family shelter. Toronto's Gerrard Street India Bazaar community welcomed our families, staff, and volunteers with open arms and for that, we will always be grateful.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to our special friends and neighbours at **Lahore Tikka House**. The kindness, compassion, and generosity that Gulshan and her sons Adam and Ayaan showed Red Door families will always be a highlight of our stay. As Gulshan and her late husband Alnoor came to Canada as refugees themselves in the 1970's, she understood firsthand the struggles facing many families who come to the Red Door. Thank you, Gulshan and your team, for connecting and strengthening our community through the power of your delicious soul-lifting food. We'll be back for a visit soon!



Carol Latchford, Executive Director (left), Gulshan Alibhai (centre) and Tanya Lord, Site Manager Red Door Family Shelter (right)



## The teachings of the Seven Grandfathers surround our shelter with strength

The entrance to our new family shelter has been transformed! A bright and joyful mural incorporating the seven Grandfather Teachings spans the indoor play area space and exterior walls, and is the work of renowned artist, Philip Cote, MFA of Moose Deer Point First Nation, a Young Spiritual Elder, Indigenous Artist, Activist, Educator, Historian and Ancestral Knowledge Keeper.

Each animal represents a Grandfather Teaching in the Anishinaabe culture: Love – Eagle; Respect – Buffalo; Wisdom – Beaver; Bravery – Bear; Honesty – Raven; Humility – Wolf, and Truth – Turtle. These teachings are a foundation for living a full and healthy life.

When next you are in the neighbourhood of Queen Street East and Booth Avenue please pass by to see Philip's work. For more information about Philip Cote and to see more photos of his murals please visit his bio here:

[www.tecumsehcollective.wixsite.com/philipcote](https://www.tecumsehcollective.wixsite.com/philipcote)