



## Argonaut visits the Red Door!

Imagine the delight on the faces of the children staying at Red Door Family Shelter when Argo's linebacker Hénoc Muamba and his young daughter walked up the ramp to our courtyard playground!

Hénoc wasn't there to play football, although some of the children might well have been game for that!

He came to remind them that they were smart, strong and valuable – and what had been doesn't have to be what is.

***"No matter if you make a mistake, you fail, you fall short. Tell yourself that you will make the rest of it, the best of it,"*** he said.

Hénoc and his daughter spoke with each child as they distributed special Argos backpacks filled with school supplies – extra essentials on the first day back to school.

Hénoc also donated a laptop so the children staying in the shelter would have additional support to complete homework and assignments.

*"Hénoc's inspirational speech and visit could not have been at a better time as summer was coming to an end and school was on the horizon"* said Keena, Program Manager at the Red Door Family Shelter. *"Hénoc was generous with his time and spoke to the children and youth about the importance of possessing confidence, consistency, and courage."*

Each child walked away from Hénoc's visit with a reminder of their worth, and a lifetime memory they will cherish.

We are so grateful.

Follow us on Instagram to stay up to date with all the special happenings at our shelters!  
**@reddoorfamilyshelter**



## Spreading GRATITUDE and LOVE – local businesses and partners help build stronger communities

We simply cannot say THANK YOU enough to all the local businesses and partners who continue to hold families staying at our shelters top of mind and close to their hearts throughout the year.

For families facing homelessness, the holidays can be a time of isolation and anxiety. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our local community, moms, kids and families will experience a December of hope and special memories.

This holiday season please consider supporting #localbusinesses who continue to prioritize families accessing the services of the Red Door. Shopping locally strengthens our Red Door community and forges lasting relationships.

### **Pilot Coffee » pilotcoffeeroasters.com**

We're celebrating an amazing 13 years of partnership with Pilot Coffee! An annual tradition, \$1 from every 340g special Holiday Blend will be donated to the Red Door Family Shelter supporting families, refugees, women and children in need.

### **Left Field Brewery » leftfieldbrewery.ca**

This December marks 8 years of local love from our partner, Left Field Brewery. Between Nov 29<sup>th</sup> and Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, 50 cents from every 12 oz pour and a generous % from gift items sold will be donated to support brighter futures for families in need at the Red Door.

### **Leslieville Flea » Holiday Market in partnership with Desmond Brown Real Estate Team – leslievilleflea.com/markets**

The annual Holiday Market returns! On December 10 and 11 please stop by the Jimmie Simpson Rec Centre on 870 Queen Street East to support this festive event. You can participate in the food drive and fundraiser planned to help Red Door families.

### **The Roy Public House » theroy.ca**

The Roy Public House is a new partner to the Red Door! For every Absolut Vodka cocktail sold between November 20 to December 20, \$1 will be donated to the Red Door to support moms, kids and families in crisis. Thank YOU!

### **Chefs Catering » chefscatering.ca/mrgoodmeats**

We're so grateful for the continued support of Justin and his team at Chefs Catering! Throughout the holiday season (in fact, any time of the year) deliciously prepared meals can be delivered to your home in the GTA and Chefs Catering will donate 2 meals to the Red Door for every meal purchased!

### **SATY + PRATHA » newdayproject.ca**

NEW DAY is a creative project started by photographers, Pratha Samyrajah and Saty Namvar. The duo is partnering with the Red Door for a THIRD year – proceeds from their exquisite calendars support homeless families.

### **Project Be Kind » projectbekind.ca**

Every month a birthday celebration to remember is created by Project Be Kind. Cakes, cupcakes, birthday presents, music, games and magic tricks create memories to last a lifetime for children staying in our shelter. Visit Project Be Kind to volunteer or find out how you can support this one-of-a-kind initiative. Kindness has the power to change the world...



# Community In Action

*You're changing lives*

Fall 2022



## From fear to a future full of hope



Because of you, the Red Door is able to offer sanctuary to woman fleeing violence, and the supports they need to rekindle hope and discover possibility.

Meet Farah\*.

Farah was the mother of two little ones and three months pregnant when she knew that for her family's safety, she needed to flee her abusive partner.

A difficult and frightening decision - her support system of friends and family lived far away - but Farah knew her children deserved a safe and secure future; and she finally realized that she did, too.

It takes courage to leave an abusive relationship but thanks to compassionate and caring people like you, Farah arrived at the Red Door, and discovered a warm and welcoming place where she and her family could heal, free from fear, harm and trauma.

*"I felt an immediate sense of calm when I entered the Red Door Shelter. I was no longer in danger, and I was finally safe. I never believed something as amazing as the Red Door was out there."*

*During my stay, staff stood by me and provided me with everything I needed to move forward in my life...*

A few months into Farrah's stay at the Red Door, she welcomed a healthy baby into her new world. When she returned to the shelter from the hospital, the team celebrated with a Baby Basket full of

toiletries, diapers, baby blankets and sleepers, all made possible by your generous support.

Supported by the Red Door's dedicated staff, Farah was ready to plan her family's future. The team helped her secure a safe and affordable home and find subsidized daycare for the little ones. With housing and childcare in place, Farah took a big leap and went back to school to pursue a career in social work.

*"I want to give back to my community of survivors and help other victims of domestic violence. My dream job is to be a shelter caseworker and save people's lives, just as others did for me."*

Your commitment makes it possible for women fleeing violence to move forward. Farah continues to receive support from the Red Door, visiting our food bank once a week to stock up on food and pantry staples and hygiene products.

Farah's story is not unique. In the past year alone, you helped Red Door provide shelter and healing to over 70 families fleeing abuse.

Thank you for opening your hearts to help families heal and become whole. Your generosity is changing tomorrow, today, one family at a time.

You can help more families heal from violence like Farah and her children with a special holiday gift today: [reddoorshelter.ca/gifts-to-empower](https://reddoorshelter.ca/gifts-to-empower)



Red Door Family Shelter  
21 Carlaw Ave. Toronto ON M4M 2R6  
[www.reddoorshelter.ca](https://www.reddoorshelter.ca) | 416-915-5671  
Charitable Registration: 11930-3287-RR0001



@reddoorfamilyshelter



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@RedDoorFamilySh

*\*Name and photo have been changed.*

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



Superheroes in real life

Wade, 9, and Cole, 7, come from a comic book family – everyone loves comics, especially the superhero ones.

So, no surprise, really when the two boys told their dad they wanted to create their own superhero comics – Ninja Comic Inc. comic book company was born.

Wade and Cole like superheroes, they said, because superheroes are all about friendship and working together to overcome fears.



That’s why they decided to donate a portion of each comic book sold to the Red Door Family Shelter.

“It’s important to help people who may not have as much as we do,” said Wade. “Red Door lets me help moms and kids who need some help.”

And that’s not all.

Ninja Comic Inc. also donated dozens of copies of their comic books for children staying at the Red Door to enjoy.

Ninja Comic Inc. has raised nearly \$600 for the Red Door and Wade and Cole are excited to see their creative pursuits benefit others in their community.

The generous contribution from these two real-life superheroes ensures that children in their community can receive shelter and support when they need it most.

Ninja Comic Inc. superhero, Arthur, who goes by the name of Swift, does his best to fight for truth and justice no matter how tough the bad guys.

Just like the two Ninja Comic Inc. creators.

Check out Ninja Comic Inc. on Instagram and follow along to see their heroic adventures @ninja.comicinc

To create your own fundraising initiative for the Red Door, visit: [reddoorshelter.ca/champions](https://reddoorshelter.ca/champions)

Making better back-to-school memories

If you asked most kids if they were excited about going back to school in person post-COVID, the answer would be a resounding, “Yes!”.

Not so for many of the children staying at the Red Door.

They’re anxious and nervous. Sure, some of that is because they’re going to new schools. But they also worry that kids at school might discover that they’re staying at a shelter or that they don’t live at home anymore because their dad was violent.

So, the generosity of donors at this time of year is especially meaningful.

This September, Red Door was very fortunate to receive so much support from local organizations, small businesses, and community members. Our donors gave children healing in our shelters new backpacks, school supplies, shoes - and even haircuts.

We thank donors for making the first day of school a day filled with positive memories. Special thanks to ♥♥ Kindred Spirits ♥♥, Kicks for Kids TO, Kid2Kid, Bartley Skills Development, and MARBL Restaurants Toronto.

You can contribute to school lunches and other supplies throughout the school year with a gift to empower: [reddoorshelter.ca/gifts-to-empower](https://reddoorshelter.ca/gifts-to-empower)



Putting extra pep in the step

When a kid chooses their own haircut, they often feel seen and heard – especially important to the children staying at Red Door, many of whom haven’t felt that way in a long time – maybe never.

We’re so grateful to Bartley Skills Development Program, founded by Chadwin and Camille Bartley, who themselves faced homelessness, a single parent home and many other hurdles, for offering the children at Red Door a fresh haircut for back to school.

Although some of the children were shy at first, they slipped off the chair, walking proud.

“Being able to impact on an emotional level carries the most weight for me, giving haircuts is more than removing hair, it’s an opportunity to help lift someone’s self-esteem,” Chadwin told us. “Seeing the pure joy and extra pep in the step after each haircut was the most incredible feeling in the world! We acknowledge their struggles, and we hope that this played a part in their healing process.”

The Red Door thanks Chadwin and Bartley Skills, a skill trades and entrepreneurship development program that specializes in training underprivileged and/or at-risk adolescents, for their gift of confidence to our children and teens.



A Reading Club changes lives

Beka is an elementary school teacher and lead volunteer of the ReadUP Program at Red Door.

ReadUP is a community reading club for kids of all ages who are learning to read, many of whom are at risk of falling behind.

“The children are in an ‘in-between’ chapter in their lives. The consistency of the weekly reading club is something they can count on, and the warm, smiling, familiar faces of the volunteers, reading one-on-one with each child, is something I feel helps them helps them heal and gives them a positive attitude toward reading,” explains Beka.

Whether providing children with 1:1 reading support, or homework help, staffing our food bank, offering fitness classes or lending a hand at special events, Red Door volunteers make it possible for us to offer support and services to homeless women and families fleeing violence.

“At the core of any non-profit organization, its heart and soul, are the Volunteers,” said Robert, Volunteer Coordinator at Red Door Family Shelter. “They continue to make a difference in the lives of our clients and help set the kids we support up for a brighter future”.

Become a Red Door Volunteer and make a difference in the lives of homeless women, children and families. Visit [reddoorshelter.ca/volunteer](https://reddoorshelter.ca/volunteer) or give Robert a call at 416-915-5671 x 235.

Team Red Door highlight

Fall. It’s the perfect time for hikes, walking the dog, and lacing up to participate in one of Toronto’s running events! A huge **thank you** to everyone who ran in the Constantine Yorkville Run and the TCS Toronto Waterfront Marathon.

An incredible **\$16,223** was raised! Special recognition to the Constantine Yorkville Run where a gift of **\$10,000** in sponsorship funding from Tribute Communities was allocated to the Red Door.

Thank you for helping us end family homelessness by running for one family at a time.



Our 2021 – 2022 Annual Report celebrates strength and courage. Find out how you make this possible.

Read the report here: [reddoorshelter.ca/publications](https://reddoorshelter.ca/publications)

2021-2022