

Community In Action

You're changing lives

Winter 2022



Holiday Heroes in our community

It was the first winter snowfall and it was already beginning to feel a lot like the holidays at the Red Door.

A truck from the Barrett Inward Group arrived at our doorstep bursting with bags of rice, cans of vegetables, soup, pasta, tomato sauce and more! Enough to keep the food bank well-stocked during the holidays.

MARBL greeted us with a truck filled with bags of stuffed animals, winter coats and boots, games and dolls. It filled our office top to bottom.

November and December were filled with so much love and gifts galore!

The Holiday Tree lit up the foyer of the family shelter with bright lights and handmade decorations. Families even got in the festive spirit and decorated their doors. Our Holiday Giveaway – families are invited to pick up gifts for their children, warm winter clothes and gift cards to grocery stores and places like Best Buy and Walmart for the teens – brought smiles and cries of delight.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for families experiencing homelessness and we were overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of our community. You gave more than food and toys



and warm clothing: you gave the gift of hope to the families staying at the Red Door.

The holidays would not have been a joyous celebration without the incredible support of our donors.

Your donations helped moms like Kiara and Tanisha, past residents currently in our outreach program, celebrate with their children all the love and laughter of the season.

Because of the kindness and commitment of people like you, 2022 will be a year of promise for the residents at the Red Door.

"I want to thank you for all the wonderful donations of clothing, toys and diapers you've given me and my family. I'm so grateful for everything."

- Kiara, past resident and new mom.

reddoorshelter.ca



A special thank you

Tanisha, a mother of five, tells us that the support she receives from Red Door has helped her focus on healing herself and her family. "The donors are so phenomenal! Thank you so much for all you do."

Tanisha thanks you personally at:
reddoorshelter.ca/thank-you-from-tanisha



Monthly Donor Highlight

I work as a nurse practitioner and several years ago I was called to help a family with sick children. I knew this family was staying in a shelter but didn't realize they were right in my neighbourhood. I was humbled to know that such wonderful care for women and their families was being done in the community where we live, and we wanted to be part of it. We're grateful for the opportunity to support the amazing work of the Red Door Family Shelter and contribute to the care of local families in need.

With love,
Rebekah and Rob Tallevi

Become a monthly guardian and support the Red Door each month:
reddoorshelter.ca/monthly-giving

You supported 306 kids this holiday season



151

Families
Supported for
the Holidays!

Over **\$800,000** raised to
support our many programs and
services like the Food Bank.



Families received gifts
of winter clothes and
accessories, toys for
kids under 12 and gift
cards for teens.



Families were provided
special holiday meals
and treats at each shelter.



coldest
*night
OF THE YEAR

Join us for the Coldest Night of the Year!

The Red Door team is bundling up to brave the cold and make this year's Coldest Night of the Year fundraising walk the most successful ever!

You can choose to walk two or five km on Saturday, February 26 or any day in February. We're virtual again this year!

We're inviting compassionate people like you to join us in walking Toronto's snowy streets in support of the homeless women, children and families who turn to the Red Door for comfort, caring and support.

Register your team, join a team or walk solo or with a friend and help us raise **\$75,000** to provide emergency shelter and support for Red Door families.

Walking for the Red Door is as easy as **1-2-3!**

- 1.** Sign up.
- 2.** Fundraise. Reach out to family, friends, co-workers. Tell them you're in the CNOY spirit and how they can help.
- 3.** Walk safely with your team on February 26 or any day in February. Watch your step!

Because of you someone in our Leslieville community will be brought in from the cold.

Register today at: **cnoy.org/torontoleslieville**



We are excited to walk for the Red Door. We are so proud of the people they support knowing that many of these individuals are members of our community and our stores. At Starbucks, we embody one simple philosophy, to inspire and nurture the human spirit – one cup, one person and **ONE NEIGHBOURHOOD** at a time. This is our opportunity to give back in a small way and we feel so honoured to do so.

*DonnaLee Cave, Team Captain
Starbucks Team Awesome*



The pandemic has prevented us from travelling. So, we decided to turn our enthusiasm for walking to a good cause. Our team is walking for the Red Door to support its programs and services. Our participation in this event will not only help those in need, but also teach my niece and nephew about social responsibility.

*Klavdija Kuri, Walker
Team Scrambled Legs*

We are adding two prizes this year to be awarded to the top individual fundraisers! Pilot Coffee Roasters and Left Field Brewery are each donating a \$100 gift certificate to say a big thanks to the top two CNOY walkers/fundraisers. Local Love makes us proud.

A kindred group of kind spirits

Janet Purcell and Susan Sainsbury launched Kindred Spirits, a volunteer initiative, in 2020 because they wanted to help the people in their community who needed it most: the homeless.

"We chose the Red Door Family Shelter as the recipient of our donations," the friends said, "because of their unwavering commitment to providing ongoing support, food and basic necessities to families facing homelessness during these very difficult and challenging times."

The two motivated women never expected their fundraiser to grow as it did. This past holiday season, through word of mouth, 200 like-minded women and their families raised more than **\$33,450** as part of the Kindred Spirits Opportunity for Giving – a huge increase over their goal of \$8,000. Not only did the group raise funds but they also donated gifts like winter coats, hats, mittens and boots, toys and gift cards.

The holidays at the shelter were made brighter thanks to the generosity of these warm-hearted Kindred Spirits.

"It was incredible to witness the kindness of this amazing group who came together as Kindred Spirits to accomplish something wonderful," says Janet.

Because of this group of Kindred Spirits, moms, children and families – people they may never meet – were given the gift of hope and healing this past holiday season.

"We want the families to know they are not alone. We are all in this together and we will get through this together, as a community," says Susan.

If you'd like to join an incredible group that supports the families at the Red Door, email Janet at **kindredspiritsgiving@gmail.com**



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