

CELEBRATING
30
YEARS THE
DOOR
LA PORTE
YOUTH CENTRE JEUNESSE



Festive Moments At The Door Youth Centre!

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News

Community Collaboration and the Fight Against Hunger: Executive Director Malik Ayass and Justin Gunderson on CTV News Ottawa

Executive Director Malik Ayass and Justin Gunderson, founder of the Hip Hop Food Drive (HHFD), recently appeared on CTV News Ottawa for a special interview, where they discussed critical issues such as food insecurity, community building, and their powerful collaboration with The Door Youth Centre.

For the past decade, the Hip Hop Food Drive (@bringyaehgame) has been bringing together

communities across Canada to raise donations for local food banks. With food insecurity and inflation continuing to rise, this year's initiative was more vital than ever. Canadians from all walks of life came together to give back, all while celebrating the unifying spirit of hip-hop that connects people nationwide.

The drive culminated on December 13, 2024, at Ottawa's iconic Rainbow Bistro. Doors opened at 7:00 p.m., and it was an unforgettable evening of music, community, and giving back.

The interview segment aired Monday morning, and we are incredibly grateful to CTV for the opportunity to share this important cause with a wider audience. We also extend our thanks to everyone who has supported the initiative. Together, we are making a meaningful impact in the fight against hunger and supporting local communities.

[CTV Link](#)





The Door Youth Centre Selected as a Charity Recipient of the 2025 HOPE Volleyball SummerFest

With great pleasure, we announce that The Door Youth Centre has been chosen as one of the recipient charities for the 2025 HOPE Volleyball SummerFest! This incredible opportunity will allow us to further our mission of empowering and supporting local youth through meaningful programs and services.

As a recipient charity, The Door Youth Centre will benefit from the funds raised during the event, helping us provide critical resources and opportunities to young people in our community. With this generous support, we can continue to offer programs that foster

personal growth, mentorship, and a sense of belonging for youth in need.

We are deeply grateful for this collaboration with HOPE Volleyball SummerFest and the chance to be part of such an exciting event. Our team is thrilled to participate and to work alongside other amazing organizations dedicated to making a difference. This partnership will help ensure that we can continue to improve the lives of youth in our community and beyond.

Stay tuned for more updates on our involvement in the SummerFest and the impact your support will have on local youth. We look forward to sharing this journey with you!



**H.O.P.E. 2025
Recipient
Charity**

The Door Youth Centre

Our mission is to provide integrated social and developmental activities within an accessible, safe, and supportive environment.

THE DOOR LA PORTE
YOUTH CENTRE JEUNESSE

hope

Footwear for the Youth

A huge THANK YOU to Footwear 4 Kids Foundation for their incredible generosity in providing free footwear! Your support and community involvement make a big difference in the lives of our youth members at The Door Youth Centre. Also a special thanks to Taha Tariq. We are so grateful for your kindness, and for helping us build a stronger, more connected community.



Good Bye and Thank you McPhail: A Heartfelt Tribute to McPhail Baptist Church Volunteers

For 25 years, the dedicated volunteers from McPhail Baptist Church have been a vital part of The Door Youth Centre, offering unwavering support, kindness, and care. Twice a month, their senior volunteer groups baked, cooked, and served meals, creating a warm and welcoming environment for youth to feel connected.

A highlight of their contributions was their generosity during the holiday season. Every Christmas, the volunteers prepared turkey dinners with all the trimmings, desserts, and small gifts, bringing joy and holiday cheer to our youth. These meals created lasting memories and a sense of community.

In addition to their hands-on work, McPhail Baptist Church volunteers also provided generous financial contributions, particularly during the summer months, ensuring the Centre could continue its mission year after year.

As the volunteers retire from decades of service, we are filled with both gratitude and sadness. Their legacy of compassion and generosity has left a lasting mark on The Door Youth Centre. We also remember those who are no longer with us, whose contributions, including their famous cookie recipes, continue to inspire us.

On December 12th, McPhail Baptist Church volunteers once again brought holiday cheer to The Door Youth Centre, serving a festive Christmas dinner, including turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, and a variety of desserts. Executive Director Malik Ayass expressed his gratitude in a heartfelt note, and the volunteers were presented with holiday cards and festive keychains created by the youth.

We extend our deepest thanks to McPhail Baptist Church for 25 years of love, dedication, and generosity. Your impact will forever be cherished, and you will always be a part of our community and family.



2-755 SOMERSET W
OTTAWA, ON



CHARITABLE N°
89604 1563 RR0001

Dear Wonderful Present, Past, and Remembered Volunteers and Members of
McPhail Baptist Church,

For 25 years, you have been the heart and soul behind the incredible meals and generosity that have graced the lives of the youth at The Door Youth Centre. Twice a month, your senior volunteer groups baked, cooked, and served delicious meals with love and care, creating moments of comfort and connection for our youth members.

Every Christmas season, you went above and beyond by preparing the most delightful turkey dinners, complete with desserts and thoughtful small presents, spreading joy and holiday cheer to all. Beyond that, your unwavering support extended through your yearly summer financial donations, which have been instrumental in sustaining our centre's mission.

Now, as you step into retirement from volunteering, we are filled with both gratitude and sadness. While we will deeply miss your presence, your legacy of kindness and service will remain a cherished part of The Door Youth Centre's history for years to come.

We also take a moment to honor and remember those volunteers who are no longer with us but whose spirits and contributions and delicious cookie making skills continue to inspire us. Their dedication and love will forever be a part of our collective memory.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your hard work, generosity, and unwavering support. You have touched countless lives including staff, board and volunteers, not to mention the youth members. You will forever be a treasured part of our community and our Youth Centre.

With heartfelt appreciation
Malik Ayass - On behalf of the whole team at The Door Youth Centre
December 10, 2024

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Paying It Forward this December



The Christmas celebration, sponsored by the Ottawa Food Bank, marked our final day with the youth before the winter break. The event was filled with joy as youth played card games, pool, and video games while awaiting for a delicious Christmas feast!

Three youth members, Mohammed, Soliana, and Noah, were recognized for their exceptional effort and good manners at the center. Each received a special gift from Eva Lin-Sparks, a former member of The Door along with her husband, Tony. Their visit was a beautiful reflection of the connections built at The Door, as Eva returned to present thoughtful gifts to three current members. Her generosity exemplifies the meaningful impact of giving back to the community that shaped her journey.

Eva's visit was an inspiring reminder of the power of mentorship and generosity. Her actions offered a living example to our youth of what it means to pay it forward. We are immensely proud of all Eva has achieved and grateful for her continued involvement in our youth center family. Thank you, Eva, for your kindness and for showing us the enduring strength and beauty of community.. Adding to the festive cheer, Santa, portrayed by Elijah, made a surprise visit. Everyone enjoyed a feast of pizza, fries, soda, and ice cream bars. At 5:30 PM, the youth departed with goodie bags in hand.



13th Annual International Dinner

We are thrilled to announce that our 13th Annual International Dinner Fundraiser raised over \$14,000! The event was a tremendous success, thanks to the support of our community. Guests enjoyed a diverse menu, with contributions from local restaurants like The Green Door, Seasons Pizza, Govinda's, and Laheeb Shawarma. We are grateful to our dedicated fundraising volunteers, including 10 youth volunteers who helped ensure the event ran smoothly. The evening also featured silent auctions and door prizes donated by local businesses.

The funds raised will directly support youth programs at The Door Youth Centre, providing essential resources and opportunities. This achievement is a result of the collective effort of over 20 volunteers, local business sponsors, and generous donors. We are deeply grateful for your contributions, which are empowering youth and creating a brighter future. Thank you for your belief in our mission!





Floor supervisor Vanessa And Youth volunteer Soliana hand out juice and water to guests.



This year we had 15 delicious dishes were served 🍷



And there was so much delicious food 🍰



E.D Malik and Chair Rick Desclouds running through the nights events.



Youth volunteers and placement students help serve



Thanks to everyone who came and made it so special!



Former Councillor Catherine Mckenney, Councillor Ariel Troster, former Councillor Diane Holmes, Lee Bennett, Debbie Barton and others enjoy dinner together



Ashley McMullan and family came out attend the dinner 📸



It was a night to remember! ✨



Ex-staff Elijah Dorval, Nadira Kulane and Program Coordinator Susan Agobia

E.D Malik and Councillor Ariel Troster

Sebastian Gaisert, Malik Ayass and Tammy Copp of Ottawa Community Foundation

Placement students Hayley and Emilie

Photo booth station pictures

13th Annual Fundraiser

INTERNATIONAL DINNER

We raised **\$14,000**

Thank you to our supporters, attendees, vouleteers and staff !

GOLD SPONSOR



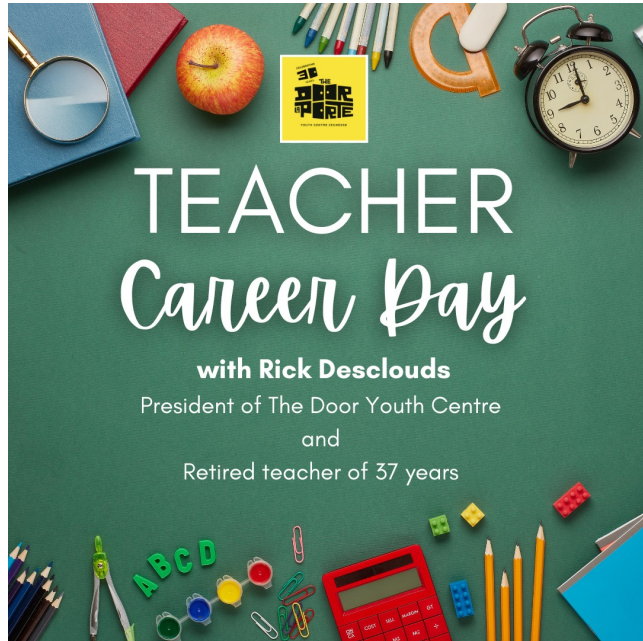


BRONZE SPONSORS





THANK YOU!



TEACHER Career Day

with Rick Desclouds
 President of The Door Youth Centre
 and
 Retired teacher of 37 years

Teacher Career Day with Chari Rick Desclouds : A Legacy of

Education and Community Impact

After 35 years of dedicated teaching at Glashan Public School in Ottawa's Centretown, Rick Desclouds has retired, leaving behind a remarkable legacy. Known for his commitment to creating a "Global Village" at Glashan, Rick developed numerous multicultural and human rights units that enriched the school's curriculum and fostered a deeper understanding of the world for his students.

Beyond his work at Glashan, Rick has also made a significant impact on the community at The Door Youth Centre. His ongoing involvement and support have helped shape the Centre's programs, and his dedication continues to inspire both staff and youth alike. For this month's Career Day, Rick was invited to share his wealth of knowledge and experience as both a teacher and coach. The youth were captivated by his presentation, actively engaging in a series of interactive challenges, including basic geometry, spelling exercises, and team puzzle-building tasks. His hands-on approach allowed the youth to learn in a fun and meaningful way, and they expressed how much they gained from his insights.

Rick's continued dedication to The Door Youth Centre leaves a lasting mark on the community, inspiring curiosity, teamwork, and a deeper understanding of learning and personal growth. His contributions have shaped the lives of many, and his impact will be felt for years to come.







We want Girl's Day!

Since 2021, Girl's Night at The Door Youth Centre has offered youth a unique opportunity to participate in girl-focused activities and explore their individual interests. This year, girls asked to extend this monthly tradition from Girl's Night to Girl's Day, allowing more time to fulfill projects and interests. It was inspired by a passionate presentation from youth members Soliana and Joan, who advocated for transformation. Their idea was embraced, with Malik supporting the change as long as it continued to engage a strong group of participants.

Girl's Day has since become a space for creativity and empowerment. The youths engage in a variety of activities, such as decorating flip phones with beads, stickers, and charms, enjoying karaoke, playing games, and crafting, and discussing hygiene, mental health, and social issues. These activities provide a chance for the girls to bond, express themselves, and take part in projects that cater to their unique interests, explore new topics, and engage with women who have accumulated knowledge and experiences. T

Initially sponsored by the Telus Friendly Future Foundation from 2022-2023, this year, Girl's Day has been made possible by the generosity of an independent donor, ensuring its continued success and impact. Girl's Day has quickly become a highlight at The Door, offering the youth an opportunity to connect, build confidence, and celebrate their individuality and creativity in a supportive environment.



December 1st - December 31st

The Door's Month of Giving

How it works:

1. Donate to the Door Youth Centre through the link in the caption
2. Every time the donations cumulatively increase by \$150, youth and friends of The Door will spread kindness to others over the month of November.

Acts of Kindness include:

- Donate to another Ottawa based charity or non-for-profit
- Give a gift to a holiday gift giving program
- Bake some holiday goodies or cook a meal to donate
- Making care packages to donate and distribute
- And many more!



The Door's Month of Giving: December 1st - 31st

This December, we're spreading kindness and making a difference together! Here's how it works: donate to The Door Youth Centre through the link below. Every time donations increase by \$150, we'll give back by spreading kindness throughout Ottawa.

Acts of kindness include donating to local Ottawa charities or non-profits, giving to holiday gift programs, baking treats or cooking meals for those in need, creating care packages to distribute, and so much more!

Let's make this holiday season brighter for others!
Donate here: [The Door's Month of Giving Campaign](#)

Winter/Fall Wish List

We appreciate your support and generosity

Here is our fall and winter wish list:

- Men/boys winter jackets (S, M, L, and XL)
- Women/Girls winter jackets (S, M, and L)
- Winter Boots for girls and boys (sizes 7-10 and 9-14)
- Gloves and scarfs
- Backpacks

For more information on how to

WINTER CLOTHING DONATION



THE ITEM YOU CAN DONATE



GLOVES



BOOTS



SCARF



JACKET

Donate your used clothes that are suitable for the youth.
Thank you!



Get In Touch



The Door Youth Centre | 755 Somerset St W, 2nd Floor | Ottawa, ON K1R 6R1 CA

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