

CELEBRATING  
**30**  
YEARS THE  
**DOOR**  
**LA PORTE**

YOUTH CENTRE JEUNESSE



January  
Highlights at  
The Door:  
Creativity,  
Community &  
New  
Beginnings!

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# News

January at The Door was packed with exciting activities, creative programs, and meaningful discussions for youth. From reconnecting after the holidays to engaging in themed days and interactive workshops, the month provided a dynamic space for learning, fun, and community building.

Creative programs flourished, with placement student Hayley leading craft activities like slime-making and Jordan teaching painting techniques. Music sessions with volunteer Armaan remained a favorite, while "No Tech" days encouraged social interaction through group games. Informational workshops addressed essential topics, including mental health awareness on "Bell Let's Talk Day" and a discussion on Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy. The "Multicultural Young Chefs" program, sponsored by the Ottawa Food Bank, introduced youth to diverse culinary experiences, with sessions led by Rabah, Malik, and Taylor.

Special events added excitement, including National Bagel Day, National Handwriting Day, and a goal-setting workshop. Career Day sparked interest with an innovation contest introduced by board member Luc Lalande. A Lunar New Year celebration featured origami art and a festive dinner, while the first "Girls Day" of the year fostered bonding through games, bubble tea, and a nail-painting session. Plans for a Girl's Day Youth Council are underway, empowering young girls to take on leadership roles.

The month wrapped up with a lively birthday celebration for December and January birthdays. Staff, volunteers, and new placement members, including Shawn and Emma, continue to create a welcoming and supportive environment. Family meals, made possible by the Ottawa Food Bank, remain a highlight, with youth expressing gratitude for Chef Rabah's delicious meals.

With a strong start to 2025, The Door looks forward to another month of engagement, creativity, and growth!

## This Month At The Door Youth Centre

**The Door February Calendar**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FUN FRIDAY
<b>3</b> The Art of Humor Workshop with Lawrence	<b>4</b> Arts and Crafts Modern Black Canadian History Jeopardy	<b>5</b> Music with Armaan Black Movie Night	<b>6</b> Read black history month Book Club with Taylor	<b>7</b> Multicultural Young Chefs with Alejandra (Mexican Dish)
<b>10</b> Field Trip to Snowflake Kingdom	<b>11</b> Financial Literacy with Emilie Arts and Crafts	<b>12</b> Music with Armaan Mindfulness Monday with Emma B	<b>13</b> Valentines Day Cards with Taylor	<b>14</b> Multicultural Young Chefs Valentines Day Cupcakes with Hayley
<b>17</b> Family Day Closed	<b>18</b> Black Queer History with Shawn Virtual Reality with Joe	<b>19</b> Music with Armaan Black History Month Trivia	<b>20</b> Bullying with Willow Youth Network Ottawa	<b>21</b> Multicultural Young Chefs
<b>24</b> Mobile Photography Picture Day with Vincent	<b>25</b> Arts and Crafts Memory Game with Alejandra	<b>26</b> Music with Armaan Math Trivia with Simone	<b>27</b> Girl's Day!	<b>28</b> February Birthday Celebration + Pizza Multicultural Young Chefs Youth of the month!

Legend: **W** Workshop, **i** Info Session, **★** Life Skills Activity

Encouraging Youth Innovation at The Door

Director of Board Luc Lalande was invited to January's Career Day, which brought out the opportunity for youth to join in. The Rideau Hall Foundation has recently launched Ingenious+, a national award program to support young innovators, ages 14 to 18, who are developing solutions at the community level and beyond. Luc saw this as a compelling idea for The Door's youth and started to gain some attraction by introducing it to them.

In early February, five youths, Zander, Mohammed, Benny, Sean, and Noah, participated in a discussion to explore their ideas. To break the ice, they engaged in an introductory exercise where each person introduced another participant, highlighting their strengths. This simple yet effective activity fostered familiarity and built strong rapport within the group.

During the discussion, the group initially focused on a climate change-related idea—an app that rewards users for cleaning their locality. While the concept was promising, we raised concerns about similar existing platforms. This prompted a productive conversation that led to a decision to revisit and refine their approach. As a result, the youth created a group chat to continue brainstorming, with plans to present their revised ideas in the next meeting.

We are excited to align this initiative with a national opportunity. The competition is structured around five key categories: climate change and the environment, community and civic engagement, equity and inclusion, health and well-being, and technology and entrepreneurship. With this in mind, we believe The Door's youth participants would greatly benefit from forming a team to develop an innovative idea for submission. Not only would this provide a meaningful experience, but it also offers the chance to win a grant that could help bring their vision to life.

To support our youth, we will provide guidance throughout the application process. The deadline for submission is February 28, 2025, giving participants ample time to refine their proposals and make a compelling case.

To encourage engagement, we are considering offering gift cards as incentives for participation. Ideally, each youth team would consist of three to five participants, fostering collaboration and a shared sense of purpose.



# HOPE Volleyball Summerfest Carlingwood Mall Engagement Pop-Up



On Saturday February 1st, placement students Emilie and Sophie joined the Carlingwood Mall Public Engagement Pop-up for HOPE Volleyball Summerfest. The Door joined other local Ottawa charities and organizations such as the SPCA and YSB as organizations who will be supported by the HOPE Volleyball Summerfest Event later this year.

Though it was a brisk day, the pop up was a great success in spreading the word for the event of the summer and introducing the public to some of the organizations the event will support. We thank the organizers of the events for inviting us to engage with the public and spread word on the Door Youth Centre while supporting such a good cause!

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## An Unforgettable Day at Snowflake Kingdom!

Our adventure at Snowflake Kingdom in Jacques-Cartier Park was nothing short of magical! There was excitement at every turn, from soaring down the Tim Hortons Chinook Super Slide to exploring a snowy maze, obstacle courses, and warm treats.

On Monday, February 10th, a group of 16 youth, 2 staff members, and 3 placement students embraced the winter wonderland, creating memories that will last a lifetime. After a thrilling day in the snow, we wrapped up with a special dinner—making the experience even more unforgettable.

A huge thank you to the Ottawa Community Foundation for making this incredible field trip possible!



invested for good

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## The Door Youth Centre Launches Girl's Day Youth Council

In an effort to promote leadership and empowerment among young girls, The Door Youth Centre is introducing its first Girl's Day Youth Council. This initiative aims to encourage mentorship, leadership, and community engagement, giving girls a platform to shape future Girl's Day events.

The idea for the council was sparked by staff at The Door, who noticed the personal interest and innovation displayed by many girls during past activities. Their enthusiasm for planning, organizing, and leading inspired the creation of this leadership opportunity. The council is looking for dedicated members to take on key leadership roles, including Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Participants will have the opportunity to develop valuable skills while making a meaningful impact in their community. Honorariums are available for those selected.

Girls must be a members of The Door Youth Centre or become one to participate. If you're passionate about youth development and making a difference, this is your chance to get involved!

A special thank you to our independent donor for generously providing funds for the 2024-2025 program. Your support makes this initiative possible and helps empower young girls to become future leaders.

For more information, contact [programcoordinator@thedooryouthcentre.com](mailto:programcoordinator@thedooryouthcentre.com).



Introducing

# GIRL'S DAY

# YOUTH COUNCIL

We are looking for the next Girl's Day Youth Council Members! In an effort to promote girl empowerment, The Door Youth is launching its first Girl's Day Youth Council program, aimed at empowering girls through leadership, mentorship, and community events.

Honorariums are available. If you're passionate about girl empowerment and youth development, join us!



Looking for leadership positions:  
Chair  
Vice Chair  
Secretary

Must be a girl member of The Door Youth Centre or become one.  
For more info email [programcoordinator@thedooryouthcentre.com](mailto:programcoordinator@thedooryouthcentre.com)

## Spreading Warmth: Winter Gear Donations Help Keep Youth Cozy

As the winter chill settles in, the importance of staying warm becomes more evident, especially for those who may not have access to proper winter gear. Thanks to the incredible generosity of Ottawa Innerscity Ministries, youth in need are receiving essential cold-weather clothing to help them stay safe and comfortable during the harsh winter months.

From coats and boots to hats, scarves, and gloves, these donations ensure that young individuals have everything they need to face the dropping temperatures with confidence. Ottawa Innerscity Ministries has long been a beacon of hope in the community, and their continued efforts to provide for vulnerable populations make a significant impact. The importance of such initiatives cannot be overstated. For many, access to warm clothing can mean the difference between enduring the winter safely and facing serious health risks associated with exposure to the cold.

As we navigate this winter season, there is an opportunity for all of us to contribute. If you have the means, consider donating winter gear to those in need. Every coat, every pair of gloves, and every warm hat makes a difference in someone's life. Together, we can spread warmth and kindness, ensuring that everyone has the chance to stay cozy this season.

A heartfelt thank you to Ottawa Innerscity Ministries for their dedication and generosity—your efforts are truly making a difference and an additional thank you to various independent donors who continue to drop off clothing and other items at the centre.




**Suit up with everything you need!**

- Coats
- Boots
- Hats
- Gloves
- More!

Thank you Ottawa Inncity Ministries!



**Stay warm this season with new winter gear donations!**





Ottawa Inncity Ministries  
justice, community, hope



We appreciate your support and generosity

Here is our winter/ early spring wish list:

- Hygiene products like body soaps, lotion, deodorant, tooth paste, and toothbrushes.
- Backpacks

For more information on how to donate email [Program Coordinator](#)



Get In Touch



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