

The Door News

THE DOOR LA PORTE

YOUTH CENTRE JEUNESSE

January - April 2024

ANNUAL REPORT COMING SOON...



A cartoon illustration of a man with brown hair and a blue shirt shouting into a blue megaphone. The background is a bright blue sky with a large yellow sun, white clouds, and green trees. A large yellow starburst shape is behind the main text.

BY POPULAR

DEMAND...

Our Newsletter will be
sent monthly

The change will keep you updated on
news and upcoming events at The
Door.

Stay
Tuned!

January

2024

We're back in action after the holidays, and January was a blast! This month was packed with fun and rich programs. The month opened with a Welcome Back celebration, a delightful evening of food and bonding provided by the McPhail Church Group. Staff and youth expressed joy at being back, creating a dynamic and enriching environment in our first month post-break. The team and the youth look forward to what this year has to offer.





February

February was filled with celebrations including Valentine's Day, Black History month and the Lunar-New Year. Lunar New Year brought festive decorations and candy, with a cultural presentation from volunteer Yiming. Valentine's Day set a loving mood in the center as staff and youth created candy grams to send to each other and their loved ones. This year, youth exchanged heartfelt letters to seniors from a retirement residence. The seniors provided youth members with life advice and guidance while the youths shared their current status in life and aspirations for the future.



Lots of learning occurred this month. We kicked off the "Let's Learn" series, teaching essential skills like email etiquette, citations, and debating, which the youth eagerly embraced. Creative Baking workshops flourished with Shanecia's baking class on Dominican "Coconut Kisses". The month ended with a Career Day with Teacher Antoinetta offered valuable insights on working with children with disabilities. Youth were taught sign language, tools and equipment used to help children with disabilities and education. We are grateful for having Teacher Antoinetta in the center to end this festive and informative month.



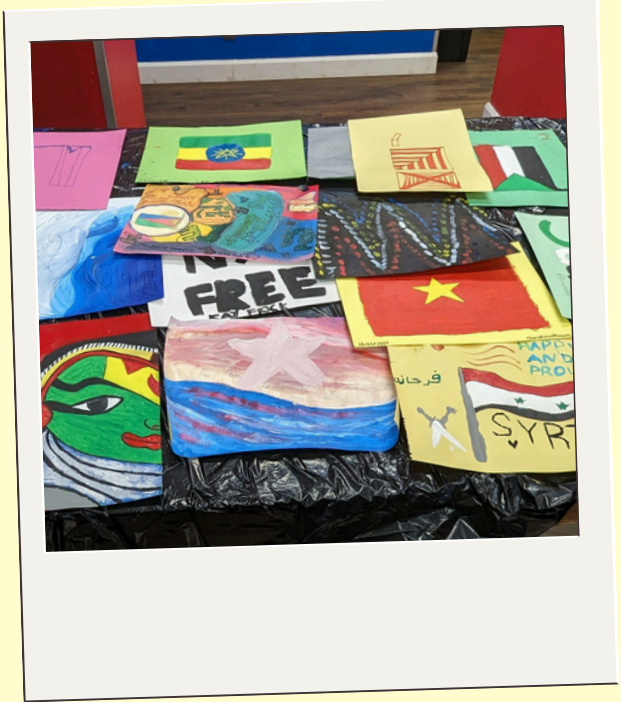


BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February was all about celebrating Black History Month in fun and engaging ways! We kicked things off with an informative session on the significance of Black History Month and the impactful contributions of African Canadians. The highlight was our interactive Jeopardy game, "Exploring Black Canadians," which made learning about significant Black figures a blast. Our collaboration with Actua for the Black Youth in STEM event was a hit, combining music and math to spark a newfound appreciation for STEM among our youth, complete with delicious treats!

To wrap up our Black History Month festivities, we took an exciting field trip to watch a Bob Marley movie. It was a fantastic experience, filled with popcorn, drinks, and an inspiring look at Marley's dedication to equality and peace. The youth were captivated, gaining deeper insights into the life of this iconic Jamaican pioneer. With around 20 enthusiastic attendees, the movie outing was a heartwarming and educational success, leaving everyone inspired and eager for more!





STRATEGIC PLAN

Click here for more information
about our Strategic Plan



5 Key Areas

1. Human resources
2. Fund development
3. Program development
4. Public awareness/branding and outreach
5. Community partnerships

We're beyond excited to announce the launch of The Door Youth Centre's first-ever five-year strategic plan! This huge milestone is a testament to your steadfast support over the past 30 years. Crafted with input from our Board of Directors, staff, and community supporters, our strategic plan will focus on 5 key areas. These initiatives are designed to empower our youth with the skills and resources they need for a bright future.

We want to thank everyone who has been part of our success. Your unwavering commitment has made a real difference in the lives of our community's youth.

MARCH



March was a vibrant month at our center, bursting with activities that catered to our youth's diverse interests. Our Affirmation Night sparked creativity and positivity, while Fancy Night brought a touch of elegance with etiquette lessons and classical music. As the weather warmed, outdoor activities like basketball gained popularity, blending learning, creativity, and fun-filled moments for everyone. The fun didn't stop there! Our Indoor Beach Party brought summer vibes indoors with mocktail piña coladas, beach games, and wavy music, creating a festive escape.





BLACK . YOUTH . EXCELLENCE

March marked the beginning of the Black Youth Leadership Program, where 10 of our youth members participate in thought-provoking discussions and activities designed to foster empowerment and critical thinking. Referring to themselves as B.Y.E (Black Youth Excellences), the group has engaged with key historical and contemporary issues impacting Black communities, sparking insightful conversations & reflections. Additionally, the youth have channeled their creativity into brainstorming innovative ideas for their upcoming podcast recordings, photo voice project, empowerment basket and cook book. These projects aim to amplify their voices and share their perspectives with the world. We are thrilled about the potential for growth and meaningful connections in the sessions ahead!

BLACK . YOUTH . EXCELLENCE

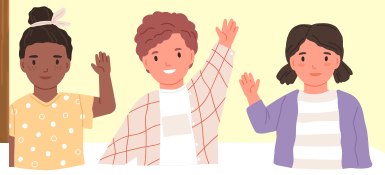


APRIL 2024

April was bursting with fun and educational activities at The Door! We've started the month with an exciting Easter Egg Hunt, followed by an engaging Math Trivia Night and an Active Listening session in our Let's Learn series. Mid-month, we enjoy creative events like a Fire Station Tour, a Vinyl Cutting workshop, and an impactful Earth Day Capital Clean Up. Every week was packed with something special, ensuring there's always a reason to join the fun! The excitement continued with a special Iftar and Eid Dinner to close out Ramadan. With activities tailored to encourage learning, creativity, and community, April at The Door was a month full of memorable moments and enriching experiences for all our youth!



GOODLUCK



We've bid farewell to our wonderful placement students: Shanecia, Alexandra, Christina, Hyatt, Malleree, and Mark. Each one of them has left an indelible mark on our hearts. Their contributions have been nothing short of extraordinary. They've led programs with passion, participated in activities with enthusiasm, and have been a source of unwavering positivity and support for our youth. Their presence has enriched our center in countless ways, and their departure leaves a void that will be deeply felt. We will miss them dearly and wish them nothing but the very best in all their future endeavors.

THE DOOR'S

Spring wishlist

EDUCATIONAL

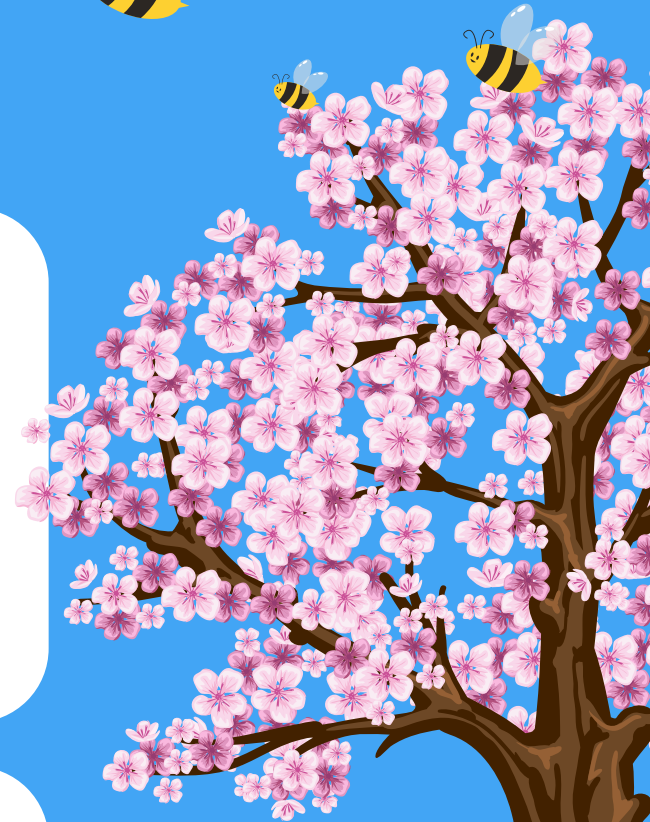
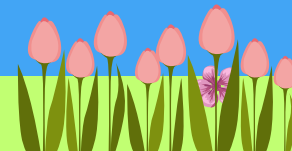
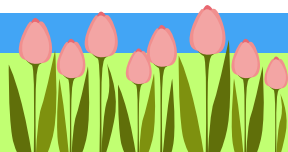
- Homework:
 - Notebook
 - Pens
 - Pencils
 - Calculators

RECREATIONAL

- Media/Tech
 - Video Games (WII, Ps3, Ps4, Ps5)
 - Ps4, Ps5 controllers
 - Phone Chargers
- Pool (Billard) Sticks

SOCIAL

- Hygienic Products
 - Liquid Soap/ Body Wash
 - Toothpaste/ Toothbrushes
 - Deodorant
- Clothes:
 - Rain boots
 - Short
 - Jackets
 - Sneakers

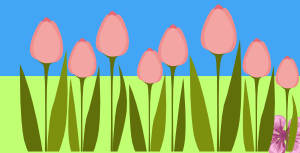
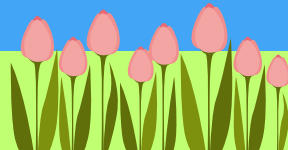
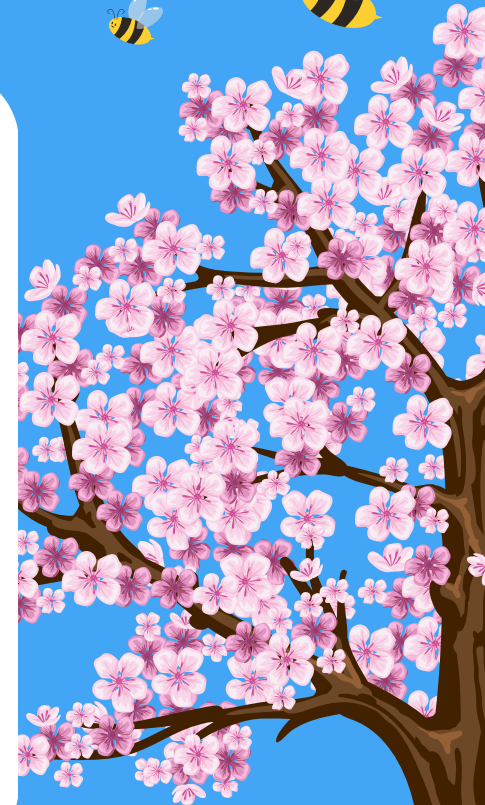




Thank You

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Welcome to our #1 Monthly Newsletter!

We invite you to join us every month as we break down the newest news happening at The Door Youth Centre

The Door is turning 30!

As of this year, The Door is celebrating its 30-year anniversary! This is a significant achievement, and we would want to express our gratitude to the youths, staff, volunteers, placement students, board members, and alumni who have contributed significantly to the development of the center over the years. **STAY TUNED** for exciting details on our upcoming 30th-anniversary bash!

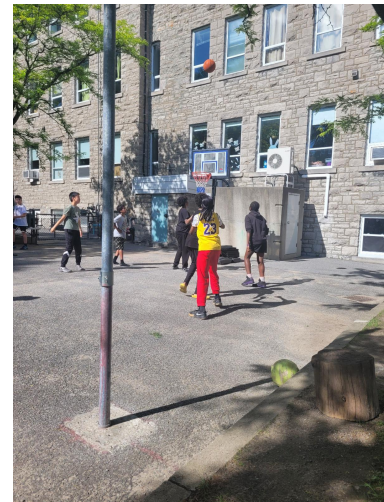
This is the first door. It was Art Stinson, who had previously served as the head of the School of Social Work at Carleton University, who had the opinion that there was a requirement to provide a location where young people could engage with one another, make new friends, and gain access to various services. The Door was created in May of 1994 as a result of this idea, which led to its opening.

Since then, the center has experienced its fair share of highs and lows, particularly during the Covid-19 period, during which the center was temporarily shut down due to restrictions. Despite these challenges, The Door has persevered and has once again managed to keep its youth members who were already associated with it. Today, The Door is more powerful than it has ever been, and it is looking forward to a positive future for another 30 years.

Schools out! Suns out!

May and June were bursting with exciting activities as the countdown to summer vacation began! Highlights included a creative Digital Art program by Metamorph Design, an adventurous Flying Squirrel Field Trip, and a powerful Anti-Human Trafficking session with the Roberts Smart Centre. We celebrated Asian Heritage Month with engaging videos and colorful artwork, while the Black Youth Leadership program showcased cultural fashion and identity through photography.

The past two months were buzzing with excitement as our summer sports programs kicked off! Every other Wednesday, youth honed their volleyball skills with one of The Door's finest alumni, Young and sharpened their soccer skills with Emmanuel, one of the best soccer players in the city. The first few sessions were a hit, with future Olympians playing competitively and having a blast. One youth even expressed their excitement for what's to come!



A Career Day to Remember!



Our Career Day was a hit with inspiring talks from amazing entrepreneurs! Tareq Hadhad, CEO of Peace by Chocolate, captivated everyone with his story of seeking refuge in Canada and starting his own chocolate company. The youth were deeply moved, asking insightful questions and engaging with Tareq long after his talk. We also welcomed ESNTL barbers, who shared their journey to becoming successful entrepreneurs, discussing the highs and lows of being their own boss. Their relatable stories had everyone hooked, and they even hinted at future collaborations, including sports tickets for the youth. The day wrapped up with a delicious dinner from Domino's, making it an unforgettable experience for all!



Flying High! A Trampoline Adventure

Our Flying Squirrel Field Trip was an absolute blast and the season's highlight! The youth had been eagerly counting down the days, and the indoor trampoline park exceeded all expectations. For a full hour, they bounced around, played dodgeball, and shot hoops, with staff members joining in the fun. The excitement was off the charts! After all the jumping, we devoured delicious pizza from Seasons. Many of the kids said it was their favorite field trip ever, making it a memorable and thrilling experience for everyone! A huge thanks to the Ottawa Community Foundation for sponsoring this fun activity,



Bittersweet Departure & Welcoming Return

The past month has been quite bittersweet for us. We had to bid farewell to our beloved youth supervisor of the past year, Gleeda, and at the same time, we welcomed back our amazing program coordinator, Susan. Gleeda's departure left a void in our hearts, and the entire youth and staff came together to organize a heartfelt farewell party for her. We decorated the center with love and

gratitude, expressing our deep appreciation for all the wonderful things she had done during her time with us. On the other hand, we are overjoyed to welcome Susan back to the team. Her absence was deeply felt, and her return has filled us with joy and relief. We will miss Gleeda dearly and wish her nothing but the very best future.



**Squeeze the Day:
Empowering Youth with
Lemonade and Cookies!**

LEMONADE & COOKIE Party



Join us outside our centre (755 Somerset St. W) after 4:30pm for a refreshing and delightful experience as our youth take the lead in a Lemonade and Cookie Sale, part of our exciting Youth Initiative Program! This vibrant event is more than just a treat for your taste buds —it's a golden opportunity for our young participants to hone their communication, teamwork, and leadership skills. By supporting their entrepreneurial efforts, you're not only enjoying delicious homemade goodies but also empowering the next generation of leaders. Swing by, savor some tasty treats, and witness firsthand the incredible growth and enthusiasm of our youth. Don't miss out on this sweet occasion to make a meaningful impact!

Summer wishlist



EDUCATIONAL

- Homework:
 - Notebook
 - Pens
 - Pencils
 - Calculators

RECREATIONAL

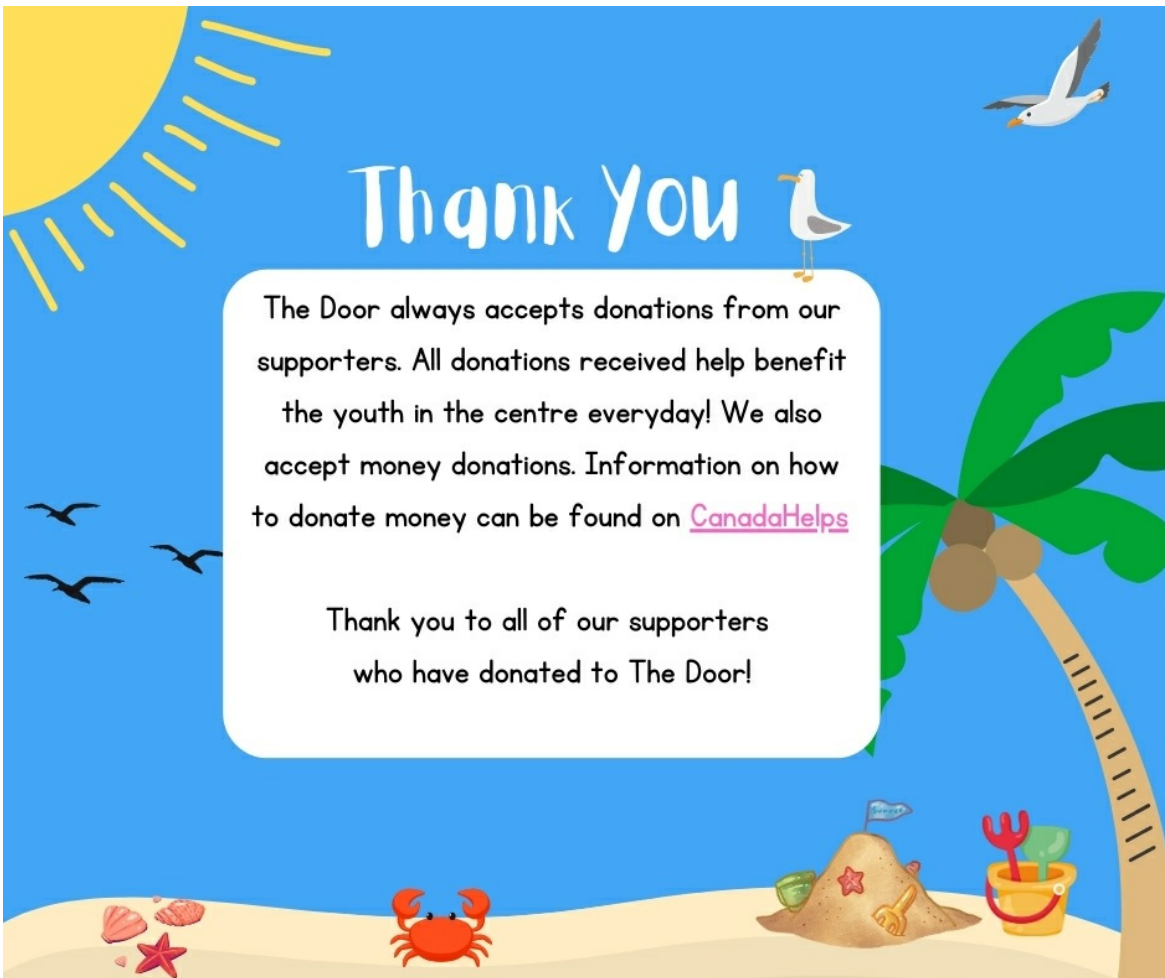
- Media/Tech
 - Video Games (WII, Ps3, Ps4, Ps5)
 - Ps4, Ps5 controllers
 - Phone Chargers
- Pool (Billard) Sticks

SOCIAL

- Hygienic Products
 - Liquid Soap/ Body Wash
 - Toothpaste/ Toothbrushes
 - Deodorant
 - Sunscreen

Clothes:

- Rain boots
- Short
- Jackets
- Sneakers



Thank You

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30
YEARS

THE
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LA PORTE

YOUTH CENTRE JEUNESSE

July Jams:
Summer Fun
at The
Door!



July at The Door was buzzing with energy and creativity! The Door's community spirit shone brightly throughout July. We started the month off with our beloved summer sports—volleyball and soccer activities —keeping everyone active. Thank you to Catherine-Maxwell for sponsoring our recreational supplies. Jordan Danger's "Bring Out Your Creativity" sessions added an artistic flair, where youth explored sketching and watercolor painting. Though participation started small, it steadily grew as the youth became more engaged with the different mediums.

Rain couldn't dampen our spirits as we seamlessly transitioned from outdoor sports to indoor fun. From ping pong and indoor basketball to music lessons with Armaan and a lively FIFA tournament led by Emmanuel, the youth had plenty to keep them entertained. The Group Games session was a standout, with fierce but friendly competition leading to a big victory for the red team. Volunteer Nhi's crochet program introduced some of our members to new crafting skills, while Taha's word search challenge had everyone in deep concentration.



The Catherine and Maxwell
MEIGHEN FOUNDATION



SPECIAL DINNER & BACKPACKS

BACK TO SCHOOL

Party



HALAL SHAWARMA



Get ready to kick off the school year in style at our Back to School Party! □ Join us on Tuesday, September 3rd at 6 PM for an evening full of fun, food, and freebies! We're serving up a special dinner featuring delicious Halal Shawarma—perfect for fueling up before the school year begins. But that's not all! □ We're also giving away free backpacks filled with school supplies, so you'll be set to start the year on the right foot. Don't miss out on this awesome event at The Door—where friends, food, and school supplies come together for one epic night! See you there! ☞ □

Thank you OSEG Foundation for the backpacks and supplies!

OSEG
FOUNDATION

Thrift, Treats & Pizza Feast: A Glam Girls' Night Out!

Girls' Night was an absolute blast as the girls hit the town with a fabulous field trip to Thrive Select Thrift Store! The excitement was through the roof as they scoured the racks for the perfect finds, filling their bags with stylish treasures and unique pieces. To keep the energy high after all that shopping, the staff treated the girls to refreshing snacks, making sure everyone was ready for the next adventure—a fun stop at Pizza Pizza! With four enthusiastic staff members and 19 girls, this trip was a smashing success, almost as big as our very first one back in 2022. Shopping, snacks, and slices—what more could a girl ask for?

A warm thank you to [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada](#) and [Thrive Select Thrift](#) for their pleasant welcome and wonderful overall experience! Also thank you to [RBC](#), the [City of Ottawa](#), and our independent donor, for funding our monthly Girls' Night!





*Thank
you!*



**Cookies and Lemonade
Made by Young Chefs &
Sold by Future CEOs!**



The Young Chefs program whipped up some serious fun with a cookie-making extravaganza, all in the name of a great cause! With flour flying and dough rolling, the kitchen was buzzing with excitement as the youth mixed, baked, and decorated delicious cookies. Najwa and Manal were right there in the mix, guiding the young bakers through every step and adding her own sprinkle of magic to the sweet treats. But the fun didn't stop in the kitchen! The youth then took their freshly baked cookies to the streets for their very first youth-led fundraiser. Paired with refreshing lemonade, the tasty treats were an instant hit, drawing a crowd of eager customers. The youth beamed with pride as they sold out their goodies, turning their culinary skills into a successful fundraiser that left everyone with a smile (and maybe a few crumbs) on their faces!

End of a Delicious Era

July 26 marked the end of an era as The Door said a heart-wrenching goodbye to Najwa, our fellow kitchen supervisor and chef. Her relentless passion and extraordinary talent for crafting incredible meals were more than just a culinary delight; they were a source of warmth and comfort. We expressed our deepest gratitude for her unwavering dedication, support and love through her culinary magic. While saying goodbye is difficult, we take comfort in knowing that her influence will continue to inspire us. Though her presence will be deeply missed, Najwa will always hold a special place in The Door's story. We are hopeful that the spirit of her dedication will live on in the way we carry forward

the warmth and care she exemplified, reminding us of the incredible legacy she leaves behind. We will miss Najwa dearly and wish her nothing but the very best future.

We recognize and thank the Ottawa Food Bank for its years of assistance and for providing us with the food to make many of Najwa's delicious meals!



Ottawa Food Bank
La Banque d'Alimentation d'Ottawa



□ The Door Youth Centre is turning 30! □ Join us on **Friday September 13th** as we celebrate three decades of empowering and supporting our amazing youth community. From fun-filled activities to nostalgic throwbacks, this is an event you won't want to miss! Whether you've been with us since day one or are new to the family, come be part of this special milestone. **Spaces are limited!** If you're interested in attending, please send an email to info@thedooryouthcentre.com. Let's make this anniversary unforgettable together! □

THE DOOR'S Summer wishlist

EDUCATIONAL

- Homework:
 - Notebook
 - Pens
 - Pencils
 - Calculators

RECREATIONAL

- Media/Tech
 - Video Games (WII, Ps3, Ps4, Ps5)
 - Ps4, Ps5 controllers
 - Phone Chargers
- Pool (Billard) Sticks

SOCIAL

- Hygienic Products
 - Liquid Soap/ Body Wash
 - Toothpaste/ Toothbrushes
 - Deodorant
 - Sunscreen

Clothes:

- Rain boots
- Short
- Jackets
- Sneakers



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YOUTH CENTRE JEUNESSE

August Adventures: Wrapping up Summer with Creativity & Fun!

August was an action packed month, marking a lively way to end the summer for our kids at The Door. We kicked things off with an inspiring career day event featuring a visit from Police Officer Admir, who engaged conversations on his role in the

community, his career journey and experiences. The youth engaged remarkably in the Q&A session which sparked conversations where Officer Admir addressed questions about mental health resources available to police officers.

Youth also headed over to Plant Bath, where they dove right into the water. The pool was filled with laughter, splashes, and pure joy as everyone soaked in the fun, making it a field trip to remember!

Our “Bring Out Your Creativity” session with Jordan Danger offered a fantastic outlet for artistic expression. The kids dove into creative projects, exploring their imaginations and showcasing their talents. This month, our youths completed their face drawings, painted beautiful pieces from reference photos, and finished this workshop with designing custom keychains from their drawings. Special thanks to the Christina Mary Hendrie Trust Foundation for making this program possible.

Overall, August at The Door was filled with diverse activities and joyful moments, wrapping up the summer with a perfect blend of learning, fun, and community connection.



Christina Mary Hendrie

TRUST

Touchdown for a Cause: Join the Redblacks vs. Alouettes Fundraiser!

THE DOOR PRESENTS
FOOTBALL
GAME

REDBLACKS VS ALOUETTES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
TD PLACE | GAME STARTS: 3:00 PM

TICKETS: \$50 (SECTION B17 AND B18) - EXTRA PROCEEDS GO TO THE DOOR!

STEPS:

1. SCAN QR CODE - THIS WILL BRING UP A STANDARDIZED MESSAGE WHICH WILL BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DOOR'S FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE.
2. WITHIN 1-2 BUSINESS DAYS, THE FUNDRAISING CHAIR WILL REPLY AND ARRANGE FOR PAYMENT AND RELEASE OF TICKETS.
3. ENJOY THE GAME!

Please join us on **September 21st at 3pm** as the Ottawa Redblacks face off against the Montreal Alouettes. Email us at **fundraising@thedooryouthcentre.com** to secure your tickets and support the Door! All proceeds from the tickets go into ongoing programming at the Door.

BBQ BLAST!: Indoor Fun & Flavor

Despite the rain, our Civic Day barbecue turned into a cozy indoor celebration that showcased the true spirit of community. Our Civic Day barbecue was a great way to bring the community together. The event featured delicious food, fun activities and engaging conversations. The weather may have kept us inside, but it couldn't dampen our enthusiasm or sense of fun! The space was abuzz with laughter and friendly competition as everyone jumped into games like musical cups and hangman. Winners were rewarded with chocolate bars and gift cards, adding a sweet touch to the festivities. The nice and cozy indoor setting created a warm, inviting atmosphere where everyone could enjoy delicious food and great company. It was a beautiful reminder of how we can come together and make the most of any situation, rain or shine. We are grateful for the City of Ottawa Civic Event Project Funding for making this event possible.



Revved Up and Connected:
A Night with the Chrome

Divas!"

We had a great Youth Night with the Chrome Divas of Ottawa. We started the evening taking pictures on the motorcycles and listening to those strong engines roar. Youth had so many great questions about their bikes and the biking lifestyle. Afterward, we indulged in some delicious sugary treats and had a meaningful discussion about the importance of building a strong community where you can bond and receive guidance.



The Divas shared how their passion for motorcycles has shaped who they are today and talked about the significance of giving back to the community. It was inspiring to see everyone connect over their shared interests and values. Many thanks to the Chrome Divas for their continuous support and for devoting time to interacting with The Door Youth Centre youths. The night was truly special for everyone because of their kindness and commitment.





Farewell Nadira: Celebrating a Legacy of Kindness and Dedication

The month came to a close with a bittersweet farewell as we gathered on August 23rd to celebrate Nadira's incredible contributions to The Door. Surrounded by laughter, music, and the vibrant energy of the community she helped shape, we spent the evening creating new memories through fun games and lively karaoke. As we honored Nadira, it was clear just how much her presence has meant to everyone. Her warmth, kindness, and unwavering dedication have left an indelible mark on both the youth and staff, and she's been a shining example of what it means to lead with compassion and heart.



Nadira has been more than just a staff member — she's been a mentor, a friend, and a beacon of positivity for everyone who walked through our doors. Whether it was offering a listening ear, providing guidance, or simply sharing a smile, she always made people feel seen and valued. Her impact will continue to ripple through our community, and while we are sad to see her go, we are filled with hope and excitement for the next chapter in her journey. We send her off with deep gratitude, love, and our heartfelt wishes for success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

GOODBYE



THE DOOR'S

Fall wishlist

EDUCATIONAL

- Homework:
 - Notebook
 - Pens
 - Pencils
 - Calculators
 - Backpacks

RECREATIONAL

- Media/Tech
 - Video Games (WII, Ps3, Ps4, Ps5)
 - Ps4, Ps5 controllers
 - Phone Chargers
- Pool (Billard) Sticks

SOCIAL

- Hygienic Products
 - Liquid Soap/ Body Wash
 - Toothpaste/ Toothbrushes
 - Deodorant
- Clothes:
 - Snow boots
 - Hats/Caps
 - Boots
 - Scarves
 - Mittens
 - Gloves
 - Winter socks
 - Jackets

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Happy 30th Anniversary to The Door Youth Centre!



30th Anniversary Cake



To celebrate, we held a barbeque dinner open to specific key members of The Door's community who have played important roles in the center throughout the past 30 years. A lot of work went into setting up for this event, and we would like to thank all of the staff, adult & youth volunteers, and placement students who participated. It was great to see everyone participating in the activities set up around the event, such as bean bag toss, mini golf, and the map activity. Dinner was a great success as well and included hamburgers, salad, and corn. After dinner, a few key individuals made speeches about their personal histories at The Door and how the Centre is such an important part of this community. There was also a time to recognize and appreciate the efforts of specific members of The Door's community. A beautiful piñata was brought out towards the end of the event and the youth had a great time destroying it! Overall the event was a great success and a wonderful time for the community and members of The Door. Thank you again to everyone who helped out and attended!

ED Malik and former Councilor Catherine McKenney pose for a photo after being honored with a 30th Appreciation Canvas.





Our wonderful youth and adult volunteers did a great job!



Smiles and giggles all around!



Sebastian Giassert from RRRC and Suzanne Obiorah from SWCHC receive 30-year appreciation canvases from Malik ED and Chair Rick Desclouds.

Farahnaz- Kitchen Cook, Joe- Board member volunteer, Malik- ED, Susan- Program Coordinator, Vanessa- Floor Supervisor, Evan- Youth Worker, Elijah- Youth Worker, and Nadira- previous Floor Supervisor take a moment for a picture.



Joe and volunteers fire up the grill!

Super September at The Door Youth Centre!



Club Nourish, learning about food with Foods

The Club Nourish program, in partnership with Just Foods, provided a rich and engaging experience for 9 enthusiastic youths over three sessions.

The journey began with an informative session in the ping pong room, followed by outdoor activities where participants explored the fundamentals of soil, seeds, and germination. They eagerly watered their seeds, looking forward to seeing them sprout by Monday.

In the second session, the group delved deeper into the anatomy of



Just Food
Alimentation juste

seeds, Canada's seed imports, and the critical role of seed preservation in maintaining ecological balance. The youth were thrilled to take home a variety of seeds, allowing them to continue their learning beyond the program.

In the final meeting, the youth reflected on how food nourishes not just the body, but also the mind and spirit. They shared personal food memories and discussed the cultural significance of these experiences. A highlight of the session was enjoying a delicious salad made from the herbs they had grown, celebrating their hard work and fostering a sense of accomplishment.

Overall, Club Nourish created a positive and inclusive environment, enhancing the youth's understanding of food systems while cultivating meaningful connections to nature and their cultural heritage.



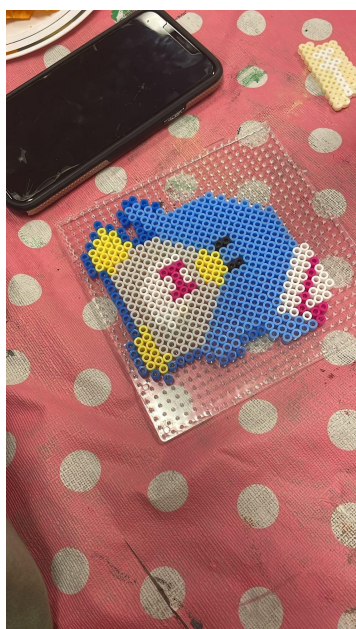
Goodbye Elijah!

Late in September, we held a heartfelt celebration for Elijah on his last day at The Door. The event featured a special dinner, cupcakes, games, and karaoke, with youth actively engaging in the fun. Elijah's adaptability and influential presence made a significant impact on the centre.

Joining us in August 2021 as a placement student, he quickly won the hearts of the youth with his outgoing personality and encouragement. He played a key role in fostering a lively and supportive environment, especially during karaoke and recreational activities.



Known for his humor and reliability, Elijah also contributed to producing our newsletters and outreach efforts that welcomed new youth into the center. He will be deeply missed, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors!



September Girl's Night - Perler Beads Fun!

During this Girl's Night, the girls enjoyed working on arts and crafts with perler beads. They created colorful designs and then melted the beads together using an iron, with Julia's helpful supervision. The atmosphere was fun, with snacks, drinks, and music playing in the background. Some girls even sang together while crafting.

Everyone seemed to really enjoy the activity. Julia did a fantastic job of explaining the process and engaging the girls, encouraging some of them to try using the iron themselves, which they loved. By the end of the night, each girl had completed at least one design, showcasing their creativity and helping one another along the way.



Our New Fall Placement Students

This month, we will welcome several dedicated placement students: Sophie, Emilie, and Taylor from Carleton University, Hayley from Algonquin College, and Eva from the University of Ottawa. Their enthusiasm and support are expected to make a significant impact on many areas of the center.

Over the next 3 to 6 months, they will be actively involved in workshops and information sessions focused on youth empowerment, mentorship, and community engagement. Their diverse skill sets will contribute to the development of engaging

content that enhances our programs and outreach efforts.

They have already shown their commitment and hard work by assisting with the September 13th Door 30th Anniversary celebration, helping to ensure the event was a success. Through their collaboration, they will help create a supportive environment that fosters personal growth and encourages active participation among youth. We are excited to see the positive influence they will have during their time with us!



Fundraisers and Upcoming Events

THE DOOR LA PORTE

Fundraiser Launch
Walk, Run and Bike for the Door

ONGOING THROUGHOUT OCTOBER 2024

HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES YOUTH BY RUNNING, WALKING, OR BIKING!

WITH EACH KILOMETRE TRAVELLED YOU OR YOUR TEAM CAN SECURE DONATIONS AND PLEDGES FROM FRIENDS, FAMILIES, COLLEAGUES AND MORE.

CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE!

A PRIZE WILL BE GIVEN TO THE INDIVIDUAL OR TEAM WITH THE MOST DONATIONS!

FOLLOW THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER



Join the Door Youth Centre Fundraiser!

Walk, Run, and Bike for the Door
Ongoing throughout October 2024

Help raise funds for our community's youth by getting active! With each kilometer you travel, you or your team can secure donations and

pledges from friends, family, colleagues, and more.

Win Prizes!

A special prize will be awarded to the individual or team with the most donations!

Follow the QR code or email fundraising@thedooryouthcentre.com for more information and to register! Let's make a difference together!



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

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Try email marketing for free today!



Fall News At The Door

[View
Website](#)

Correction email: To purchase tickets for The 13th Annual International Dinner please email E.D Malik Ayass at info@thedooryouthcentre.com

October Summary

October at The Door Youth Centre was filled with creativity, learning, and fun. The month featured art sessions, No Tech Tuesdays, and engaging events like a study prep quiz and a field trip to Dalhousie Gardens, where youth explored urban farming and composting. A visit to Saunders Farm for spooky activities and a fall-themed scavenger hunt added excitement, while "Fun Fridays" included UNO tournaments and pool competitions. The centre celebrated Invisible Disabilities Week with an educational video and word search and marked Halloween with a decorating session and a special Day of the Dead activity. Noor was named Youth of the Month for her leadership and kindness. Other highlights included a Girl's Night with snacks a Halloween movie, and a dinner celebrating Black Youth Leadership. The centre also welcomed new kitchen cook Rabah, who has quickly gained the youth's approval. Staff and placement students continue to build strong relationships with the youth.

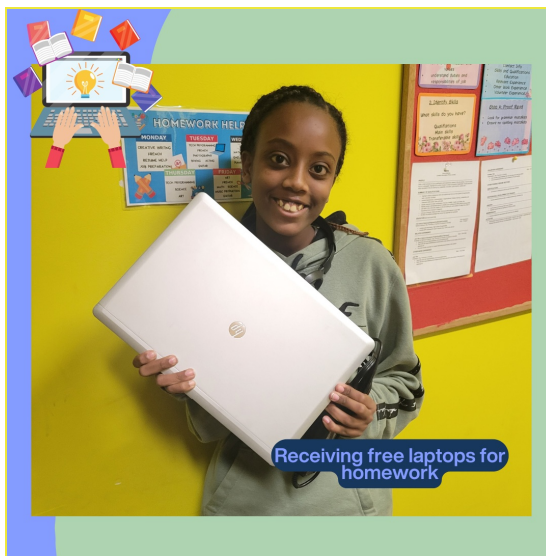
News



Welcome Rabah our New Kitchen Cook

We now have a new kitchen cook, Rabah, who has previous experience cooking for children. In a short time, Rabah has done very well integrating herself in the kitchen and the youth have already expressed their like for her food and flavor.

With extensive experience in meal preparation and kitchen hygiene, Rabah is passionate about providing nutritious meals for youth, including a variety of international and Canadian dishes, with a special focus on traditional Moroccan cuisine. We hope Rabah continues with us for a while.



Free School Laptops for the youth

We're thrilled to announce that our centre has received 8 lightly used laptops, which are now available for students who need them. While we may not be able to provide a laptop to every student, we hope these 8 will be a helpful resource for those who need them to complete assignments, especially when they are unable to come to the centre in person.

Please reach out to us for more details on how to access a laptop if you're in need!

Upcoming events at The Door

Nov
27

13th Annual International Dinner
Event starts from 6 to 8 PM

Dec
20

Happy Holidays
The Door Youth Centre closes at 5:30 PM

Jan
6

Happy New Year!
The Door Youth Centre is back open for the new year

What's happening this November



13th Annual
International Dinner
*correct email is
info@thedooryouthcentre.
com

Its back! Back for its 13th year, join The Door for our largest annual fundraiser at our centre. It will be a chance to enjoy international flavors, socialize, and participate in a silent auction. Tickets are \$50 and can be bought through emailing info@thedooryouthcentre.com. Don't delay, tickets sell out quickly!



THE DOOR YOUTH CENTRE PRESENTS

The 13th Annual International Dinner Fundraiser



Join The Door for our largest annual fundraiser at our centre.

It will be a chance to enjoy international flavors, socialize, and participate in a silent auction

To purchase tickets email info@thedooryouthcentre.com

November 27th 6 PM



755 Somerset
West, 2nd floor



Ottawa
Insulation

Empowering Change: The Door Youth Centre's Black Youth Leadership Program

The Door Youth Centre proudly received the Power of Youth grant from the Michaëlle Jean Foundation, which supports projects promoting racial equity and community change. The grant funded the Centre's Black Youth Leadership Program, running from October 2023 to September 2024, empowering young Black Canadians to lead change through activities such as exploring the Halifax Declaration, creating a podcast, a photovoice project, a cookbook on Black culinary traditions, and sewing workshops.

Under the coordination of Nadira Kulane, eight youth participants developed skills in research, photography, audio design, cooking, and community engagement. The program culminated in a graduation celebration at Blue Nile Ethiopian Restaurant, where the youth were recognized for their leadership, cultural contributions, and accomplishments.

The Door Youth Centre is grateful for the Michaëlle Jean Foundation's support and looks forward to continued collaborations to inspire and empower youth in the future.



Halloween Spookiness at Saunders Farm

Our annual field trip to Saunders Farm was an absolute blast! 30 adventurous youths dove into a night filled with thrills, spooky fun, and haunted houses while trying to make it out alive!

From eerie wagon rides to haunted houses and creepy critters, every moment was filled with laughter, screams, and excitement!



A huge thank you to the Ottawa Community Foundation for sponsoring this unforgettable trip! Your support made it possible!

ParticipACTION kept the youth in action!

Thanks to ParticipACTION's Sponsorship, Youth-Led Recreational Programs Were a Success!

From June to September, The Door Youth Centre offered youth-led recreational programs, made possible through the generous support of ParticipACTION. Alumni Young and Emmanuel took the lead, organizing volleyball, soccer, and basketball sessions—Young for 9 weeks and Emmanuel for 8.

This initiative underscored the importance of physical activity for both mental and physical well-being. Rather than simply reacting to inactivity, we're proactively fostering healthier habits within our community, particularly among youth. With a focus on skill development and teamwork, the programs encouraged healthy competition and used sports equipment to enhance the experience. Soccer sessions were held at Cambridge High School, while basketball and volleyball took place on the centre's sports court. These activities brought participants together, promoting an active lifestyle and teamwork.

We're deeply grateful to ParticipACTION for their support, as well as to everyone who helped make these programs possible. Let's keep moving towards a healthier future!





THE DOOR YOUTH CENTRE

Fundraiser Complete!
Walk, Run and Bike for the Door

THANK YOU TO ALL PARTICIPANTS AND DONORS

THANK YOU TO OUR PRIZE DONORS:

PARTICIPANTS RAISED A TOTAL OF 1700\$

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!
LARGEST TEAM: "RUNNING A LITTLE LATTE"
MOST DONATIONS: MYRIAM

THANK YOU

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT ONGOING PROGRAMMING AT THE DOOR YOUTH CENTRE

A Heartfelt Thank You to All Who Supported The Door Youth Centre Ottawa!

A huge thank you to everyone who participated and helped raise funds for The Door Youth Centre Ottawa! Your support is truly invaluable in enabling us to continue developing our programs and providing essential resources to both the centre and our youth members.

Congratulations to the team at Running a Little Latte for being the largest team, and a special shoutout to Myriam for securing the most donations! Your dedication and efforts are making a meaningful impact in our community.

Winter/Fall Wish List

WINTER CLOTHING DONATION

	THE ITEM YOU CAN DONATE	
	 GLOVES	 BOOTS
	 SCARF	 JACKET
	Donate your used clothes that are suitable for the youth. Thank you!	

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 donate email Susan at programcoordinator@thedooryouthcentre.com



Get In Touch



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

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CELEBRATING
30
YEARS THE
DOOR
4 PORTAL

YOUTH CENTRE JEUNESSE



Festive
Moments At
The Door
Youth
Centre!

[View
Website](#)

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](#)

BRING YA EH GAME PRESENTS
THE 10TH ANNUAL

Hip Hop

FOOD DRIVE

PERFORMANCES BY
CHEKOTEVEN · NAYEF
PETER DARKER · FAE · 4K
NAMBI · KING KIMBIT
MOUN FOU · THAREALNV

FEATURING
DAN E O
CAP CITY CYPHERS

SOUNDS BY CIRCABEATZ
HOSTED BY J MORRIS

DOORS: 7PM / DECEMBER 13 2024
76 MURRAY ST, OTTAWA

ADMISSION
\$10 WITH A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM
\$20 WITHOUT

ALL AGES EVENT ID REQUIRED TO DRINK

WWW.HIPHOPFOODDRIVE.COM

Sponsors: CRANKY, VANIER, CHUD 85.1 FM, FLEE, THE RAINBOW, WICK & STAMM, THE CYPHERS, JIMMY'S, DAVID & RAYOL, LEE WHO'S, HIPHOP CANADA, The Origin, pearly, dreamland, CAPCITY.





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.



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.



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

(613) 237 3667 | INFO@THEDOORYOUTHCENTRE.COM | WWW.THEDOORYOUTHCENTRE.COM
THEDOORYOUTH613 | @THEDOORYOUTH613 | THEDOORYOUTH613



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!



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 Gäissert, Malik Ayass and Tammy Copp of Ottawa Community Foundation

Placement students Hayley and Emilie

Photo booth station pictures

INTERNATIONAL DINNER

We raised **\$14,000**

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

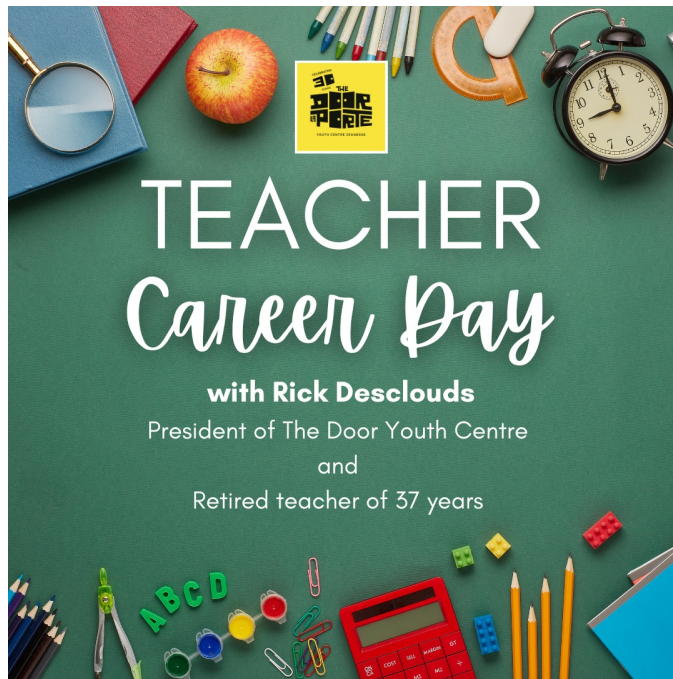
GOLD SPONSOR



BRONZE SPONSORS



THANK YOU!



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. Very 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 donate email [Program Coordinator](#)

WINTER CLOTHING DONATION

	THE ITEM YOU CAN DONATE	
	 CLOVES	 BOOTS
	 SCARF	 JACKET

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

CELEBRATING
30
YEARS
THE DOOR OF THE PORT
YOUTH CENTRE JEUNESSE

Get In Touch



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