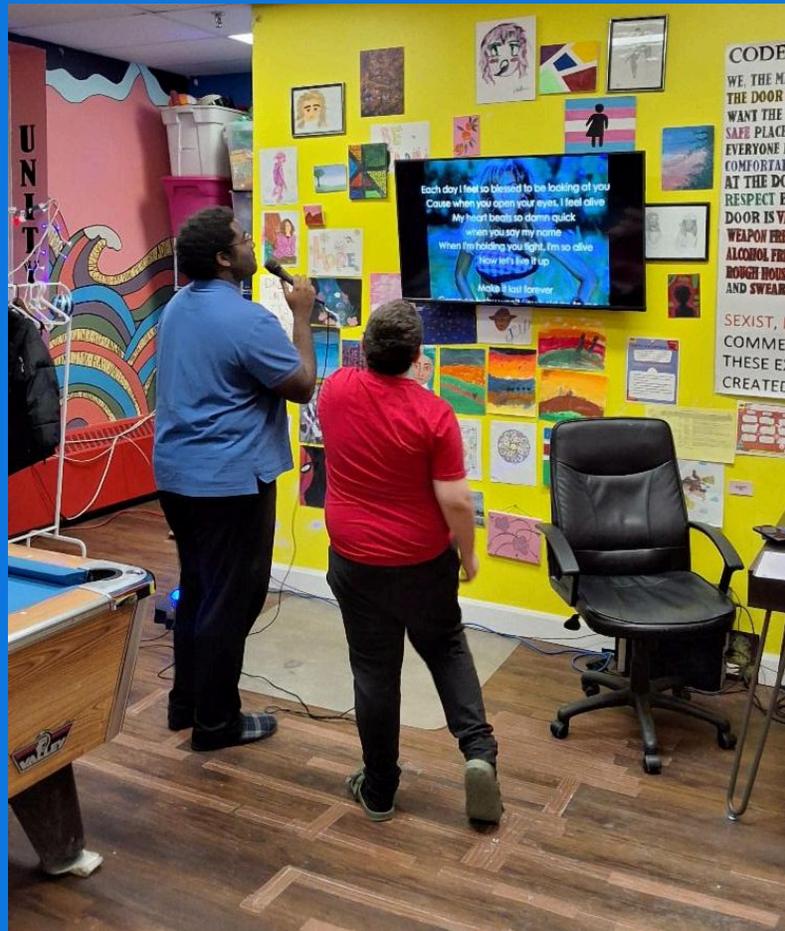


THE DOOR LA PORTE

YOUTH CENTRE JEUNESSE

Closing 2025, Welcoming 2026!



December 2025/ January 2026

Monthly Newsletter – December and January 2026
Updates from The Door

Looking Back on 2025: A Year of Growth at The Door



2025 was a year of intentional and steady growth at The Door Youth Centre. Building on the foundation of the previous year, we expanded our programming and supports to better meet the needs of the youth we serve, while continuing to provide a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space.

Youth engagement continued to grow at a healthy pace. More youth accessed The Door throughout the year, overall attendance increased, and nightly participation became more consistent. We also welcomed a strong wave of new members, reflecting the centre's growing visibility and the trust youth place in our programs.

One of the most notable areas of growth came from the significant expansion of structured programming. Life skills activities, awareness sessions, and career workshops increased substantially as The Door moved toward more frequent, youth-driven, and skills-focused programming. As programming expanded, so did the support around our youth, creating a space they returned to night after night. Academic support also became a more regular and embedded part of daily programming, leading to a strong rise in youth participation in homework and study support.

Hands-on learning opportunities expanded as well. Cooking and food-based life skills programs grew considerably, offering youth more chances to build confidence, teamwork, and practical skills. Creative programs such as music, arts, and technology remained a consistent part of centre life, continuing to provide youth with meaningful outlets for expression and connection.

This growth was made possible by a major increase in volunteer involvement. As programming expanded, so did the support provided by volunteers, strengthening mentorship, program delivery, and daily engagement with youth.

As we look ahead, we are grateful to our youth, staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters for helping make 2025 a year of sustainable growth and deeper impact. Together, we continue to build a community where youth feel supported, empowered, and excited to return.

February Monthly Calendar

THE DOOR FEBRUARY CALENDAR!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>2 ★ Match The History - Black History Month Activity</p> <p>9 ★ Heart Health Month Awareness activity BHM: Spoken Word / Poetry Night</p> <p>16 CLOSED FOR FAMILY DAY</p> <p>23 Charades Mental Health with Upstream Ottawa Info Session</p>	<p>3 ★ VR with Joe Eating Disorder Awareness Week Activity</p> <p>10 ★ VR with Joe Heart Disease Awareness Week activity</p> <p>17 ★ VR with Joe Lunar New Year celebration Jeopardy night</p> <p>24 ★ Young Men's Motivational Tuesdays with Vincent Martial Arts with Dan</p>	<p>4 ★ World Cancer Day Activity Bingo</p> <p>11 ★ BHM: Did You Know Activity with Gabriela Valentines Day Arts and Crafts with Kirsten</p> <p>18 ★ Preventative Health Awareness month activity BHM: Special Meal</p> <p>25 ★ Pink Shirt Day activity BHM: How To Take Care Of Your Hair with Sandrine</p>	<p>5 ★ Music with Armaan Quick Math Quiz BHM: Myth-Busting & Stereotypes Discussion</p> <p>12 F Winterlude Snowflake Kingdom Field Trip</p> <p>19 ★ Music with Armaan Show and Tell Day with Vincent</p> <p>26 Girls' Day And New Council Elections Henna with Mariam</p>	<p>6 ★ Fun Friday Karaoke with Elijah 3D Printing with Bingchen</p> <p>13 ★ Fun Friday Self-love Activity with Semira 3D Printing with Bingchen</p> <p>20 ★ Fun Friday Karaoke with Elijah 3D Printing with Bingchen</p> <p>27 ★ Fun Friday Karaoke with Elijah Pizza night + Birthday celebration 3D Printing with Bingchen</p>

Legend:
 📍 Field Trip Invite Only
 ⓘ Info Session
 ★ Life Skills Activity
 🗳️ Workshop

Surprise Santa Brings Holiday Cheer to The Door



December 19 marked a joyful and heartfelt last day of the year at The Door Youth Centre. The afternoon was filled with excitement as the youth gathered to receive their Christmas gifts from our Surprise Santa, Alex Harden. Laughter and anticipation filled the room as the youth opened their gifts, sharing smiles and genuine moments of joy. Three youth were also selected to receive extra-special gifts, making the day even more meaningful and memorable.

We extend a sincere thank-you to Alex and her incredible team for their generosity, kindness, and care. Their support helped us end the year on a warm, celebratory note and reminded everyone of the power of community during the holiday season



McPhail Memorial Baptist Church Christmas Dinner

On December 11th, members of the McPhail Memorial Baptist Church arrived at the Centre for their annual Christmas Dinner with our youth—a cherished tradition that continues to bring warmth and connection to the holiday season. The church members generously prepared a delicious homemade Christmas meal, featuring turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and all the classic fixings, served buffet-style for everyone to enjoy.

The atmosphere was filled with holiday spirit as youth and guests shared a meal, laughter, and meaningful conversation. The evening concluded on a sweet note with an assortment of festive desserts, including fudge, cookies, and haystacks, which were a big hit with everyone.

We are incredibly thankful to the members of the McPhail Memorial Baptist Church for their generosity, kindness, and 25 years of unwavering support to the Centre. Their continued commitment has made a lasting impact on our youth, and we are grateful for the sense of community they help create each year. We look forward to welcoming them back next Christmas for another unforgettable evening together.



New Faces at The Door Youth Centre

Nathy: Floor Supervisor



We are pleased to welcome Nathy as the new Floor Supervisor at The Door. Nathy holds a bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management and brings seven years of experience in administration and event organization. She is currently completing a second bachelor's degree in Communications, specializing in Public Relations at the University of Ottawa, with graduation expected in 2026.

Nathy began her journey at The Door as a volunteer and now serves as a Floor Supervisor, bringing a calm, encouraging presence and strong interpersonal skills to the space. Passionate about helping youth feel heard, valued, and supported, she is deeply aligned with The Door's commitment to compassion, hard work, and meaningful youth engagement. We are excited to have her step into this role and continue making a positive impact.



Julien: Youth Worker



Julien joined The Door Youth Centre as an adult volunteer in May 2025. He is currently studying in the Police Foundations program at Algonquin College and works professionally as a Direct Support Worker, supporting individuals within vulnerable populations.

Known for his kind, approachable nature and strong listening skills, Julien is passionate about making a positive impact in his community. He proudly represented The Door at the Hope Volleyball Summerfest 2025 and looks forward to continued involvement in future community events. Julien values encouragement, respect, and positive role-modeling, and brings a dependable, hardworking, and growth-focused approach to supporting and empowering youth.

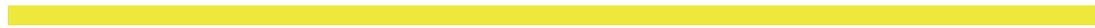


Kirsten: Placement Student



I'm in my fourth year at Carleton University studying Criminology and Criminal Justice. I chose The Door because it's a welcoming space that genuinely supports and listens to youth.

My favourite part so far has been building connections and getting to know everyone. I have also enjoyed many of the activities! It was very fun seeing the excitement about the Talent Show. This placement is helping me strengthen my communication and interpersonal skills, and the experience will stay with me as I move forward in my future education and work.



Project F.L.Y.: Be the Lead Workshop

On January 22nd, Project F.L.Y. delivered an engaging workshop titled "Be the Lead," focused on entrepreneurship and leadership. The session introduced youth to key aspects of starting and running a business, including building a strong business model, identifying a target customer base, and thinking creatively about innovative ideas.

Youth were actively involved throughout the workshop, working in teams to develop their own business concepts and present them to their peers and the facilitators. Their creativity, confidence, and problem-solving skills were on full display.

Prizes were awarded for first, second, and third place, with first place going to Daniel for his innovative men's shoe business concept featuring footwear that transforms from heeled to flat.

We extend our sincere thanks to Project F.L.Y. for providing youth with meaningful, hands-on business education and for inspiring the next generation of young entrepreneurs.



Showcasing Youth Talent at The Door





On Tuesday, The Door held its first Talent Show of the year, with youth showing great enthusiasm and engagement throughout the event. The show featured a wide range of creativity, including singing, magic tricks, dancing, drawing, and even a special appearance by a youth's pet pigeon. The atmosphere was lively and fun, filled with positive energy and encouragement. Prizes added to the excitement, with first place receiving a \$25 McDonald's gift card. Many youth shared that they would love the opportunity to participate in another Talent Show in the future. We look forward to hosting more Talent Shows and welcoming even more youth to engage, participate, and showcase their talents.

Girls' Day at The Door Featured on CBC

The Door Youth Centre was recently featured on Ottawa Morning, highlighting a special Girls' Day led by teens at the centre. The interview took place on November 27 and aired on December 12, 2025 on CBC Radio.

The segment spotlighted how youth took the lead in planning and facilitating Girls' Day, creating a welcoming and empowering space designed by girls, for girls. The event focused on connection, confidence-building, and peer support, giving participants the opportunity to build meaningful relationships in a safe and inclusive environment.

Girls' Day was organized by a dedicated youth committee made up of Julia (President), Joanna (Vice President), and Soliana (Secretary), whose leadership and teamwork were central to the success of the event.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the anonymous donor whose generous support helped fund Girls' Day and made this meaningful youth-led experience possible. This feature reflects The Door's commitment to youth-driven programming and leadership. We also thank Rebecca Zandbergen for the opportunity to share this work and help amplify the voices of youth at The Door.

[Click here to hear the clip](#)





Open the Door to Opportunity: Support Our Youth

We've been fortunate to receive many of our previous wishlist items over the past few months, but we still truly need your support. Your financial donation makes a real difference in the lives of our youth. Even a small monthly contribution of \$10–\$20 helps sustain our programs.

A monthly gift of \$100 provides one youth with full access to all of The Door's programs, including hot meals, workshops, music lessons, life skills training, and a safe space to belong.

[**Donate Here**](#)



The Door's
Website



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