

eva's

Community

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Message from our Executive Director

Dear supporters and friends,

Since 1994, Eva's Place has been a safe haven for young people. This summer, we celebrated our 30th anniversary with staff, youth, and special guests, honouring Eva Smith's legacy and the powerful work that has influenced youth homelessness services nationwide.

Each night, Eva's supports over 200 youth facing homelessness in Toronto, offering them not only a safe space but also the unwavering belief that every young person deserves a chance to thrive.

As we look to the future, we're committed to making critical upgrades at Eva's Place to ensure stability, warmth, and nourishment for the young people we serve. With your continued support, we can provide the tools and opportunities youth need to overcome adversity and build brighter futures.

Thank you for supporting this vital work.

With gratitude,

Louise Smith

Executive Director
Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth

Celebrating an important milestone in Eva's history

We enjoyed celebrating the 30th anniversary of Eva's Place with so many supporters and community members in June.

To see photos from the event, visit our photo gallery.



Photo left: Dancers and drummers from the Afiwi Groove School presented an incredible performance for eventgoers.



Photo right: (L - R) Mayor Olivia Chow with Ed Smith, Edeva Smith, and Marcus Smith, members of the Smith family.



Donations to Eva's foster strength and creativity for youth like Isaac.

Awakening an artist

Isaac arrived in Toronto from Uganda on a cold February night in 2023.

“I was homeless for four nights. I slept on a bench at 129 Peter St. [a Toronto intake centre]. I was given numbers of shelters to call but they were full,” he said.

At 3 a.m. on the fourth night, he called the city’s shelter intake centre again. When they learned that, at age 22, he was eligible for a youth shelter, they put him in touch with Eva’s.

“It was the beginning of a new life,” said Isaac.

He met with an Eva’s case worker that evening and learned about the life skills and other programming he’d eagerly participate in throughout the coming months.

Isaac and his canvases became a familiar sight in Eva’s common areas, and he often gave them to admirers. His work was so popular that several staff members encouraged him to submit his artwork for publication in Eva’s annual report. One of his paintings was chosen for the cover.

“It felt good to be asked permission to use my art. They valued my time and my talent and that made me happy,” he said.

Today, Isaac is living independently and planning to pursue a career in electrical engineering or plumbing.

To read Eva’s annual impact report, visit evas.ca/ar-2023.

New savings program sets up youth for success

Financial setbacks impact youth experiencing homelessness in unique and challenging ways.

Take Adam. Living at Eva’s and trying to save, he turned to payday loans when his income fell through. The high-interest rates worsened his situation.

“The situation just sank him, and that’s not uncommon with our youth,” said Annik Scholz, Team Lead for Eva’s Youth Belong program.

A new savings program at Eva’s helped him recover. Once Adam was working again, he committed to saving monthly, paying off his debt, and securing a place.

Integrated into the culturally responsive life skills programming at Eva’s Phoenix and Youth Belong, the savings initiative is part of the broader support offered to youth.

One highlight is a four-workshop series by Checks Over Strikes, a financial literacy mentoring program for Black-identifying youth. **“We’ve run the series once so far and youth have really got a lot out of it. From considering emotions and finances to investing to entrepreneurship, there’s something for everyone,” said Annik.**

One of the goals of the savings program is to teach youth to save in the short term so they can dream bigger in the long term.

“When you’re in a shelter, things seem so far away. Our hope is that planting the seed that starting small and slowly working at financial goals will bring possibilities later on. It’s a step-by-step process,” said Annik.



Your investments in Eva's are helping youth make the right investments themselves.



Scotiabank drives home impact at the 2023 Eva's Golf Classic.



As we honour Scotiabank's impact, we invite you to join us in creating lasting change. Contact us to learn more about employee engagement opportunities.

Scotiabank's enduring commitment to supporting youth experiencing homelessness

Scotiabank has been a longstanding supporter of Eva's. Most recently, the Bank has contributed \$150,000 over three years through its social impact initiative, ScotiaRISE, to fund employment services at Eva's Phoenix.

"It is vitally important that youth experiencing homelessness get the support they need to secure shelter, skill building, and future employment," says Jason Charlebois, Regional Senior Vice President, Toronto Region at Scotiabank. "Through ScotiaRISE, Scotiabank is pleased to continue to support Eva's to empower and improve the lives of young people as they work to overcome barriers to their future success."

Through various campaigns, Scotiabank employees have been remarkable supporters of Eva's, generating

more than \$275,000 in total donations. Patricia Gloudon, a retired Scotiabank director with a 40-year career with the financial institution exemplifies this commitment. To fundraise and garner support from Scotiabank employees for Eva's, Pat would visit the bank's trading floors with candy, gum, and other items.

Reflecting on her dedication, Pat said, **"Nobody was doing the work like Eva's was doing it, and Scotia was a big contributor. The Eva's team was so committed—they really cared for the young people—and it inspired me to be committed too."**

Thank you, Scotiabank, for your unwavering support and partnership.

Support Eva's and scan the QR code to donate today.

Help us celebrate the 30th anniversary of Eva's Place with a \$30 monthly donation.

Your donation will help us ensure every young person has the targeted supports they need to build a brighter future.



evas.ca/fall24



Call: **416-977-4497** ext. 2025

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