



Community

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Where friendly competition, meaningful connections, and life-changing impact come together on the green.



We Want to Hear from You!

Why your voice matters at Eva's—Participate in our survey.



Message from our Interim Executive Director



Dear supporters and friends,
Having served as Board Chair, I've witnessed Eva's incredible impact, and I'm honoured to step into this new role.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Louise Smith for her outstanding leadership.

Her contributions have left an indelible mark and a strong foundation to build upon.

We've worked steadfastly to ensure our organization, values, and people truly reflect the communities we serve. This journey has been challenging, humbling, and rewarding—and we are stronger for it.

Inspired by Eva Smith's vision, we will continue centring the needs of Black youth while supporting all young people who turn to us for shelter, resources, and hope.

We cannot do this alone.

As we shape the future of Eva's, your voice matters. We want and need to hear from our community of supporters. Your insights and feedback will help guide our work as we champion brighter futures together.

With gratitude,

Aisha Francis

Interim Executive Director
Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth

Your Voice Matters

You believe in the work we do at Eva's. You give, you support, you care. But are we truly meeting your expectations? As we continue Eva Smith's legacy of supporting Black youth and all young people in need, we want to hear from you. Your insights will help us improve how we communicate the impact of your generosity and better serve our community. Can you take a few minutes to share your thoughts?

Take the survey now and make your voice count. We're listening.



Scan the QR code to access the survey and share your thoughts. Please complete it by April 15, 2025.



Oloruntoyin, an overnight youth worker at Eva's Satellite, brings warmth, stability, and a listening ear to youth facing challenges.

Overnight Youth Worker Fulfills Dream Helping Youth

Oloruntoyin's journey to supporting youth began with his own early challenges. After losing his mother at 11, he learned independence and resilience, vowing to help others navigate tough times.

A teacher in Nigeria before immigrating to Canada, Oloruntoyin studied youth addiction and mental health and worked with agencies supporting young people. One transformative overnight shift at Eva's Satellite confirmed his calling.

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Black Mental Health Matters

How Eva's Creates Safe, Culturally Inclusive Spaces for Healing



Homelessness is difficult for any young person, but for Black youth, systemic racism and discrimination add extra challenges. These barriers limit youth's access to education, housing, and work, while also increasing their risk of mental health struggles.

Eva's is breaking these barriers with culturally responsive programs that address the unique mental health needs of Black youth. "Culture plays a significant role in how health care is received and provided. Being Black adds another layer of challenges," explains Natalie Smith, Eva's Manager of Program Development and Partnerships.

Through partnerships with Inner City Health Associates (ICHA) and The Thriving Roots Wellness Collective Group, Eva's provides access to psychiatrists and Black psychotherapists. For newcomer and refugee youth, life-skills programs help ease the stress of adapting to new systems and communities.

During Black Mental Health Week (March 2 – 9), Eva's partnered with Taibu Community Health Centre and CAFCAN to host activities like Socasize workouts and haircare workshops. These programs celebrated self-care and cultural identity.

"Haircare reflects self-esteem and identity, and physical activity boosts mood and reduces stress," Natalie adds.

By providing culturally relevant care, programs like this foster belonging and stability for Black youth to overcome challenges.

When individuals don't see themselves reflected in mental health professionals, it can be harder to seek support. That's why Eva's prioritizes targeted mental health supports year-round.

60%

of Black Canadians reported they would be more willing to speak to a mental health professional if they were Black.

Mental Health Commission of Canada (2021)

"I fell in love with Eva's that night," he shared.

Now a full-time overnight youth worker at Eva's Satellite, Oloruntoyin arrives with a warm smile and an open heart, offering stability and comfort during the challenging nighttime hours at the emergency shelter. He focuses on building trust through small, meaningful interactions.

"At night, someone might need to talk, and I'm always there. It's about understanding who the young people are and supporting them through their challenges," he explained.

Oloruntoyin's goal is to be a trusted, dependable presence for all the youth at Satellite. His work

is instrumental in creating a sense of safety and belonging for young people facing instability.

Thanks to dedicated staff like Oloruntoyin, youth at Eva's gain the guidance and support they need to stabilize their lives and work toward brighter futures.

P.S. Stay tuned for more information about our return to the original Eva's Satellite location at 25 Canterbury Place in North York coming this spring.

We serve 86 youth each night across our two emergency shelters.

Swing Into Action: Join Us for the 2025 Eva's Golf Classic

Get ready for another unforgettable day on the greens as we gear up for the 2025 Eva's Golf Classic, taking place on **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**, at the stunning Glencairn Golf Club. This annual signature fundraising event is more than just a round of golf—it's a powerful opportunity to drive real change for youth experiencing homelessness.

Bringing together leaders from the construction and real estate industries, along with corporations, foundations, community groups, and individuals, the Eva's Golf Classic raises crucial unrestricted funds that provide vital housing, mental health, and career development support for youth experiencing homelessness. Your participation helps create brighter futures for youth in our community.

Foursome opportunities start at \$3,000, giving you and your team the chance to enjoy a fantastic day of golf while making an incredible impact.

This year's event also features a special golf clinic where youth from Eva's will learn from the pros and join participants on the course. It's a unique opportunity to connect, hear their stories, and witness firsthand the power of your support.

Don't miss your chance to be part of this unforgettable experience—register today and swing into action for youth at Eva's!

Last year, thanks to the incredible support of our community, Eva's Golf Classic event raised an astounding \$320,000, helping us deliver essential services to youth who need it most. With your support, we can aim even higher in 2025!



Don't wait—secure your spot today!

Join us at Glencairn Golf Club on September 16, 2025.

Register your foursome or explore sponsorship opportunities starting at \$3,000 by visiting evasgolfclassic.ca.

For more information contact:

Cara Williams, Director of Development
📞 416-417-0242 ✉️ cwilliams@evas.ca



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