# **BARIGHTER VISION**

Impact and Accountability Report 2017

Photo by Emily, youth resident at Eva's

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Chosen as one of Canada's top 10 high-impact charities by Charity Intelligence

# **ABOUT EVA'S**

Every day, Eva's provides shelter and transitional housing for 123 young people aged 16 to 24 who experience homelessness.



**Eva's Place** Emergency shelter for 40 residents and home to the Family Reconnect Program.

#### **Eva's Satellite**

Emergency shelter for 33 residents, with special health supports for addiction and mental health (Canada's first harm reduction shelter for young people).



#### **Eva's Phoenix**

Transitional housing for 50 residents and education and employment training for 150 young people each year. Home to Eva's Print Shop, Canada's only full-service commercial printer dedicated to employment training for homeless and at-risk young people.





Family Reconnect counseling strengthens youth/family relationships to prevent and reduce youth homelessness



**Employment Training** helps young people find jobs in high-demand fields including construction and building maintenance and print and digital communications



**Independent Living Programming** provides critical skill-building to help young people find and maintain housing and health (e.g. cooking, financial literacy, conflict resolution)



Harm Reduction supports help young people dealing with addictions and mental health concerns find safety, acceptance, and improved health



**Education Program** helps young people access education and achieve academic success (e.g. high school diploma, post-secondary studies)



**Recreation Programs** enable young people to get in engaged in sports and fitness, health and wellness, and arts and culture

#### Land acknowledgement

As we strive for justice and opportunity for young people, we must strive for justice for all. Eva's facilities stand on the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for resources around the Great Lakes. We are grateful to work here and mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

# EVA'S: A BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS



# **EVA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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\*Exited the role this year

# HIGHLIGHTS

#### We had an eventful year across our unique youth-centred facilities, Eva's Place, Eva's Satellite, and Eva's Phoenix. Here's a small sample of the activities and achievements over the year.

Recreation Programming at Eva's included camping and wilderness experiences





We celebrated special days and events



Residents ate nutritious meals and snacks ... healthy bodies, minds, and spirits mean better futures



There were many inspiring workshop, life skill-building, and learning opportuntities



Students in Eva's Graphic Communications and Print Training Program gained amazing job skills



Young people participated in outings to places such as the Ice Breakers Harbourfront art exhibit

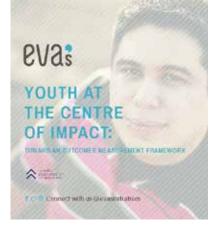


Eva's Construction and Building Maintenance Training Program gave young workers great tools for employment





We launched a manual to share best practices of our Education Program and a framework to measure service impacts





Our life-saving harm reduction workshops, tools, and approaches reached thousands this year





Residents were supported to participate in Eva's events, baking delicious treats, selling original photography, performing, and speaking



Our Family Reconnect Program built healthier family relationships to prevent youth homelessness

# OWNING THE PROMISE OF CHANGE AT EVA'S

# There is an amazing future ahead for young people, built on the foundation of what Eva Smith started for those who needed her help most, and I know we can step into this new future together.

Eva's dedicated team of support, housing, and harm reduction workers, counsellors, program providers, and facility and administrative workers do an incredible job helping young people build brighter futures. They've been the beating heart of this organization since Eva Smith's trailblazing efforts led to the opening of Eva's Place, our founding facility, in 1994. It's because of Eva's team that literally thousands of young people have found houses to turn into homes; rebuilt fraught relationships into healthy networks; transformed training and schooling into long-term careers and stability; moved from the margins to better, happier lives; and believed in and loved themselves, in all their uniqueness and diversities.

Frankly, this is exceptional. I feel privileged to be a part of what Eva's does.

In coming together with this inspiring team and the brilliant young people we work with, it has become clear that "being the change we want to see" at Eva's will mean continuing to strive toward the holistic supports young people experiencing homelessness need and deserve.

I'll be honest. There are constant pressures to focus on a "bed and three squares". That's because it's costly and difficult to address the real reasons why young people come to us in the first place, things like living on the edge of poverty, bullying, disconnection and discrimination, trauma, and family and mental health breakdown. Things like never having had a real permanent home in the first place.

Nearly every young person who comes to us has fallen through so many cracks to land at our doors. When you've been burned so many times at such a young age, it's hard to trust that anyone will be there for you. It's terrible to feel alone like that.

I can't express to you how much Eva's wants to be there for young people who need us. To authentically do that and meet the ever-growing complexity of our day and age, we know we need to be strategic. We need to focus on preventing homelessness through supporting families and expanding housing options for young people because it is ridiculously expensive to put a roof over your own head. We need to build a young person's sense of community connection and "All My Relations" because no human being can survive as an island. We need to cut the pipeline into youth homelessness by changing the systemic problems. And we need to build an environment where young people and adults who are their allies can thrive and achieve excellence together.

Owning the promise of this level of change is a huge undertaking, but there's a lot to be hopeful about. So much of my hope starts with you. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for enabling the journey with your energy, funds, smarts, volunteerism, and undeterred commitment.

I'll end by saying this: please don't give up on the promise of better tomorrows. There is an amazing future ahead for young people, built on the foundation of what Eva Smith started for those who needed her help most, and I know we can step into this new future together.



JOCELYN HELLAND Executive Director



"The flower symbolizes a discovered hope. In trying times, we must persevere, embracing wellness in all forms. When we see flowers, we don't often remember the dirt from which they stood, or the seeds that they emerged from. We experience their beauty. We have all experienced heartache, disappointment, or despair. It is important to celebrate ourselves in our current form, but like a flower we must reach out and absorb all the world has to offer to become our best. Without growth there is no change. Without change there is no beauty. This flower reminds me you can be born anew as long as you are willing to accept change and embrace it."

Rebirth By Emma Oliva

Background by Jessica, Eva's Graphic Communications and Print Training student

# CASTING ASIDE ASSUMPTIONS TO INVEST IN YOUTH FUTURES

# Rather than cobbling together bits and pieces of funding around the most visible emergency needs of homeless youth, we need to view young people as an investment.

Whether or not we realize it, we believe in many assumptions that have harmed our ability to tackle youth homelessness.

There's the common assumption that families can support children all on their own and the assumption that child protection systems are equipped to act as healthy, capable substitute families when needed. There's the assumption that schools are suitable for students and that mainstream healthcare services can meet the complex physical, mental, and emotional needs of individual young people. We also tend to assume that our communities are mostly fair and safe, that homelessness is an exceptional condition in extraordinary circumstances, and that people in this country generally have access to housing options, land, finances, and social acceptance.

The problem is that these assumptions don't universally hold true, but a great deal of legislation, spending decisions, political platforms, and voting decisions are based on them. For many young people experiencing and at risk of homelessness, their lived experience belies many or all of these assumptions. Many don't have natural supports, have not received what they've needed from mainstream systems and services, and have been impacted by a great deal of unfairness and injustice in their young lives.

It's about time we cast these assumptions aside. Rather than cobbling together bits and pieces of funding around the most visible emergency needs of homeless youth, we need to view young people as an investment. This means higher standards and bigger goals for child and youth supports, putting more money into families and communities and less into child protection systems. It means aiming for zero youth homelessness across the country and more transitional and supportive housing, robust programs, and intergenerational mentorship for young people in all their unique identities. It means building safer schools for youth who are highly targeted, less push for criminalizing youth, and more mental health and harm reduction programs. It's about establishing a truly functioning social safety net that address the historic gaps through which many youth fall. It means pursuing a path of truth and reconciliation, because homelessness is also a direct outcome of our country's colonial roots.

Of course, young people's futures rely on it. But the well-being of our communities at large is absolutely wrapped up in whether we continue to choose an emergency-based approach or break with our past and choose to invest in our collective future. Make no mistake, every analysis of youth homelessness demonstrates how expensive it is when measured through a lens of human suffering and financial cost.

At Eva's, our strategic plans focus on what an investment approach would truly mean in our facilities and services, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for investing in young people by enabling the organization's impact in their lives. In the coming months, we encourage you to hold decision-makers accountable for their investment in diverse young people in our neighbourhoods, regions, and country.



ADRIAN ISHAK President, Board of Directors

# LIVES ARE TRANSFORMED AT EVA'S



residents found shelter and safety at Eva's



306

youth and family

to build healthier

members supported

relationships to prevent youth homelessness

12

homeless youth

moved into

supportive,

with family

involvement

transitional, or

private housing

Ages of residents



Demographics: any young person can experience homelessness, but some face higher risks/barriers and have less access to supports (e.g. LGBTTIQQ2S youth, Indigenous youth, racialized youth, youth leaving foster care)

youth served by Eva's Family **Reconnect Program** 

## 39

homeless youth moved home from a shelter

vouth at risk of homelessness remained at home or moved into another family member's home and did not become homeless

At Eva's: we serve many youth impacted by poverty; racism; transphobia and homophobia; multiple traumas and exposure to violence; and criminalization

# 9 youth at risk of

homelessness remained in private or supportive housing, with family involvement, and did not enter or return to homelessness

in graphic communication and print technologies Independent Living Skills, Financial Literacy, 113 youth **Health and Wellness** sessions for youth received ЛГ employment in construction and building maintenance training youth supported to complete high school in fundamentals and/or go to college/ of securing university employment

# BRAND NEW LENS FOR BRIGHT NEW FUTURES: EVA'S STRATEGIC PATH TO ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



#### **Prevention**

Preventing homelessness leads to vastly better outcomes for young people. The longer they are homeless and the more episodes of homelessness they experience, the harder it is for them to get housed and stable in a community and the greater the negative impacts on their health and well-being.

We will apply a preventative lens to improve our responses. Our primary prevention efforts will focus on changing systems that create youth homelessness. Our secondary prevention work will centre on supporting young people at risk of becoming homeless. Our tertiary efforts will focus on getting young people back home quickly or getting them permanently housed so they do not return to the shelter system.



#### **Permanency**

Too often, young people cycle in and out of shelters and don't remain housed in the long run. Each time young people lose housing, their risk of future homelessness and other harms only increase.

It's no wonder that young people often identify the importance of stability in a place that feels like home. This "physical permanency" includes access to safe, affordable, and sometimes, supportive or transitional housing. Research shows that successful strategies to keep young people housed include other kinds of permanency too. In addition to factors such as suitable employment, wages, and life skills, there is strong emerging evidence about the power of positive relationships to enhance young people's resiliency. These relationships constitute "relational permanency", which includes solid community support, friends to check in on you, and a natural network of people who are like family to you.



## Leadership and Innovation

A vast array of systems, policies, practices, institutions, experiences of discrimination and marginalization, and individual factors converge to increase a young person's risk of homelessness and affect their access to relevant and helpful services. The analysis is complex and takes constant reflection, critique, and collaboration with young people and youth-serving partners.

Eva's has a responsibility to be exceptional and adaptive in our responses. Good research informs us and we're always learning from young people and keeping researchers on their toes. The organization has already proven its willingness to take risks to do the right thing. By venturing into new areas, we've discovered great solutions. Eva's needs to keep going forward in that vein, pushing ourselves to be a leader.

#### Read the full plan: evas.ca/publications

Have you ever dreamed for a second Took a breathe in, looked in on yourself To absorb it all in Wondering why, your life is currently how it is? So, you try to make a difference, to make it better then it is Though you feel all down in the dumps, And, you don't know how to stop the feeling, because your stuck in a stump So, I have one word & this is it Have determination & dedication In everything there is Do it while you can, and get your feet back up, to get out of that quick sand Cause everyone can help you, but you got to help yourself too So put that foot forward There's no way in stopping you!!

> "... sometimes it's so hard to see where you're going, especially with the environment around you, and your mental health. It's even hard to dream or even see your future, so the poem reflects my life at one point, trying to dream, looking around where I'm at, and wondering why things are how they are, and why I keep going downhill, and it's my choice, or my drive, to be accountable for how I decide where I want to be, and not to stop that drive!"

How To Get There By Jersie St. Cloud

Background by Theodore, Eva's Graphic Communications and Print Training student

# **YOUTH PLANNING FOR ACTION**

Eva's gives a big shout out to residents across our facilities for sharing their ideas on how to bring the new strategic vision to life. If the results of all these plans mean that young people get better supports to feel safe and welcome to achieve housing for life, belonging, and bright futures, we will have done our job.

# Here's some of what young people told us would make a positive difference at Eva's and what we'll focus on improving.



### **1. Strong Facilities**

- More clarity in guidelines for using the space and its resources (e.g. access to common areas)
- Improved maintenance and chore structures for smooth facility operation
- More conflict resolution supports for residents while in shelter
- Initiatives to build safer spaces and sense of welcome and shared community
- Less emphasis on rules and more on building youth rights
- Improved food and nutrition options



## 2. Great Programming

- More housing, harm reduction, and family reconnection supports
- Programming to promote equity and anti-oppression
- Violence prevention skill-building
- More culturally appropriate family supports
- More opportunities for selfdevelopment and non-traditional healing approaches

# You are right where you are Supposed to be

"If the Universe could talk, this it what it would say."

Universal Message By Joey Huff (LazerCat)

Background by Theodore, Eva's Graphic Communications and Print Training student

# FROM EMERGENCY TO EMERGENCE: COMING ELECTIONS



In 2018 and 2019, we will participate in elections for Toronto, Ontario, and Canada. We can hold elected officials accountable on how they're moving beyond emergency, short-term responses to youth homelessness and changing the conditions that make young people vulnerable to homelessness. What about the candidates you're considering? What will they do in these key areas?

#### **Mental health**

Homelessness seriously harms a young person's mental health, and substance use is often a coping mechanism in these situations. Eva's and other shelter providers have identified a lack of appropriate, relevant mental health services for homeless youth through mainstream healthcare.



What could help: in-shelter youth mental health and substance use supports, training for health professionals to better serve homeless youth

#### **Colonization and discrimination**

Some young people face high risks of homelessness due to a legacy of colonization and social discrimination. For instance, Trans, Two-Spirit, and racialized young people, particularly Indigenous and Black youth, are in a very precarious position. We can't end youth homelessness with "one-size-fits-all" approaches, and we have to prioritize those at highest risk to get the biggest positive impact.



What could help: targeted community funding for highly impacted young people

#### **Child protection**

Over half of all homeless youth have experienced child protection involvement. At the least, it's indication that the child protection system is failing to prevent youth homelessness. Some reforms of child protection are in progress in Ontario, but more needs to happen.



What could help: intentional youth homelessness prevention approach to child welfare; lifelong guarantee of support, including housing, for former young people in care

#### Housing, education, and income

Housing is becoming more expensive and good jobs are disappearing. More individuals and families are slipping under the poverty line. These big trends mean an increase in youth homelessness is inevitable if efforts aren't made to turn the tide.



What could help: initiatives to increase affordable housing (e.g. Inclusionary Zoning) and education access, poverty-reduction supports for families Who am I? Better question is? Who de laspire to be I lean't seem to find my idently. I'm lost at sea Life a sailor without acompess As I stare into this mirror A stranger exanges a look. She's beautiful, but She look's trouble d. I asted her what's wrong? She opens her mouth to speak And replies with a question Do you know me?

> " ... represents my view on the future, well, the future is unwritten and I find we go through life blindfolded and lost, and I find the message behind my painting is you have to know yourself truly to move forward in life ..."

By Minie Media

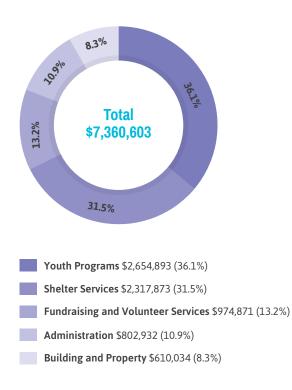
Background by Jessica, Eva's Graphic Communications and Print Training student

# YEAR AT A GLANCE

# \$3,670

Cost per month to provide one young person with safe shelter, nutritious food, basic needs, and a supportive 24/7 environment

Eva's Construction and Building Maintenance Training Program



#### Your donations helped support:

#### Where our revenues came from:



# THANK YOU FOR GIVING EVA'S WINGS

When we discovered we had to move Eva's Phoenix transitional housing and employment training facility from its original location in Liberty Village, we reached out to our donors and supporters for urgent help. We're so grateful you came through in spades.

Your generous contributions totalling over \$12 million enabled the successful relocation of the facility to the historic Waterworks redevelopment site at 60 Brant Street in downtown Toronto. It's a new wheelchair accessible facility where young people transitioning out of homelessness can live up to a year while accessing critical independent living skills, coaching, employment training, and educational support. What's more, you've enabled:

**Exposure.** The facility's opening resulted in incredible media coverage to showcase the pervasiveness of youth homelessness and highlight the potential of young people. When Top Chef Susur Lee won Food Network's Chopped Canada all-star chef battle, he even gave us an on-air shout out!

**Recognition.** Since relocation, the new Eva's Phoenix won the Ontario Association of Architects Design Excellence Award, Interior Design Award from Canadian Green Building, Frame Award, and National Trust for Canada's Ecclesiastical Insurance Cornerstone Award.

**Strengthening of the Model.** Eva's Construction and Building Maintenance Training, Education, and Graphic Communications and Print Training Programs have thrived in this space as they provide young people tools they need to get housed for life.

> On Main Street in Eva's Phoenix transitional housing and employment training facility Image by LGA Architectural Partners and Ben Rahn/A-Frame



# **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

	2017	2016
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 1,406,113	\$ 1,944,040
Short term investments	152,604	150,000
Accounts receivable	192,498	191,784
Prepaid expenses	101,177	85,990
	1,852,392	2,371,814
Property and equipment	11,774,217	12,322,038
	13,626,609	14,693,852
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	479,616	384,712
Construction and holdback payable	79,889	1,992,511
Deferred grants	583,990	346,365
Loan payable		1,500,000
	1,143,495	4,223,588
Deferred capital contributions	11,252,941	9,637,768
	12,396,436	13,861,356
NET ASSETS		
Operating fund	536,378	107,242
Net assets invested in property and equipment	693,795	725,254
	1,230,173	832,496
	\$ 13,626,609	\$ 14,693,852

#### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

	Year Ended September 30, 2017	Pe	line-Month riod Ended September 30, 2016
Donations, fundraising and grants \$ Toronto Community Services funding Eva's Print Shop sales Investment income Other	4,442,472 3,016,232 244,868 5,089 80,965	\$	3,010,110 2,100,349 129,028 2,469 51,607
	7,789,626		5,293,563
EXPENSES			
Youth programs Shelter services Administration Building and property	2,654,893 2,317,873 802,932 610,034		1,674,637 1,751,010 607,838 454,628
Fundraising and volunteer services	974,871		434,828 705,941
	7,360,603		5,194,054
Excess of revenues over expenses before the following Depreciation of property and equipment Amortization of deferred capital contribution	429,023 (611,185) 579,839		99,509 (33,391) 27,724
\$	397,677	\$	93,842

#### Read the full statement: evas.ca/publications

# EVA'S CARING COMMUNITY

Thank you to the donors and sponsors who helped Eva's create opportunities for homeless youth with their cumulative financial or in-kind contributions made between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017.

#### FOUNDER: \$500,000-\$750,000

The P. & L. Odette Charitable Foundation

#### BENEFACTOR: \$100,000-499,999

Hockey Helps the Homeless The Home Depot Canada Foundation John and Myrna Daniels Charitable Foundation Sprott Foundation The Tawse Family Charitable Foundation Union Lighting & Furnishings

#### LEADER: \$75,000-99,999 Scotiabank

#### CHAMPION: \$40,000-74,999

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#### ADVOCATE: \$10,000-39,999 Anonymous

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#### PARTNER: \$5.000-9.999

Aki Latvala Foundation Avison Young Commercial Real Estate Donnie Blais C.B. Powell Foundation Charity Intelligence Canada The Ciro and Caterina Gucciardi Charitable Foundation Dawn Tattle Family Foundation at the Aqueduct Foundation Lionel & Winsome deMercado Economical Insurance Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario Estate of Helen Allen Stacey First Gulf Corporation Giuseppe Flammia Gensler Inclusive Love Inc. Jam3

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#### FRIEND: \$1,000-4,999

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**Inscape Solutions** 

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# **EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

#### EVA'S WALK FOR HOMELESS YOUTH (March 7, 2017)

500 students embarked on a 7 KM journey to raise awareness and funds



#### BAY STREET TOURNAMENT, HOCKEY HELPS THE HOMELESS (April 22, 2017)

Hockey pros and hockey lovers alike teamed up on the ice to compete and raise essential funds



#### EVA'S HOME FOR LIFE (June 7, 2017)

Presented by Scotiabank and hosted by design duo Colin Lewis McAllister and Justin Patrick Ryan, this auction enabled attendees to beautify their homes and make home possible for young people







**EVA'S GOLF CLASSIC** (September 18, 2017) Golf enthusiasts teed off to raise funds for safe shelter, meals, and 24-7 support





**EVA'S TASTE MATTERS** (November 2, 2017) Presented by TD and hosted by Julie Albert and Lisa Gnat of BiteMeMore.com, attendees sampled some of the city's best food and drink and raised funds



# **EVA'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

We can't do it alone. We want to acknowledge and thank our Toronto community partners who help us achieve impact, raise our voices to promote systemic change, and provide a more holistic approach to support the young people we serve. These invaluable partners include:

**APLUS Institute** A Way Home Toronto Breaking the Cycle Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Canadian Observatory to End Homelessness Centre for Addictions and Mental Health **CHEERS Mentorship Program** Children's Aid Foundation Chit Chat Hearing **Covenant House Toronto CUPE 4358** East Metro Youth Services Egale Canada **Evangel Hall Mission** FOCUS Community Mental Health Team Frontier College Garment District Neighbourhood Association Hockey Helps the Homeless Horizons for Youth Inclusive Love Inc.

Inner City Health Associates Justice for Children and Youth Kennedy House Youth Services Inc. Mealshare National Learning Community on Youth Homelessness The Period Purse **Rhema Christian Ministries** Toronto Youth Partnership & Employment Program Second Harvest Social Enterprise Toronto Social Planning Council of Toronto Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness Toronto Harm Reduction Network **Toronto Public Health Turning Point Youth Shelter** Yonge Street Mission Toronto Youth Empowerment Project Youth Without Shelter YMCA Toronto



Mealshare and Second Harvest are two of our fantastic food security partners, helping Eva's provide healthy food to young people living at our facilities



# **GETTING INVOLVED AT EVA'S**

Community involvement is essential to ending youth homelessness, and Eva's is thankful to get involved in events and opportunities.

Day of Pink Celebrations







Tabling at Pride Toronto Streetfair



Former resident speaker Desran and performer Charmie at Eva's Young at Heart Awards, acknowledging youth excellence and the exceptional people who support them



At Homeless Connect Toronto



Residents at Eva's Satellite baking treats for the neighbourhood



At Toronto Youth Cabinet's Youth Week meeting with the City Manager



Participating in Overdose Action Day Rally

# **EVA'S VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN**

Many people freely offer their time and energies to young people at Eva's. Volunteers prepare meals and treats, support building maintenance and repairs, help with events, serve as leaders and committee members, run their own fundraisers for the organization, and so much more. Here's a small snapshot of volunteers in action.





















# EVA SMITH, FOUNDER (1923-1993)

Our namesake Eva Smith was a Toronto community leader whose trailblazing advocacy resulted in the 1994 opening of our first facility, Eva's Place.

More about Eva: evas.ca/history

# eva:

EVA'S INITIATIVES FOR HOMELESS YOUTH www.evas.ca | info@evas.ca f y (in) @evasinitiatives

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