



MEETING YOUTH WHERE THEY'RE AT

2020-21 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Land acknowledgement

We acknowledge the land we are standing on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississauga's of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat people and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississauga's of the Credit and the Williams Treaty signed with multiple Mississauga's and Chippewa bands.

We also acknowledge all Treaty peoples including those who came here as settlers, as migrants either in this generation or generations past, and those who came here involuntarily, particularly forcibly displaced Africans, brought here as a result of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and slavery.





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Visit evas.ca to access our digital Annual Impact Report.

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE BUILD BRIGHTER FUTURES

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:



We are a **reflective, learning** organization



We put **young people** at the **centre**



We are **relationship** focused



We have a **justice-doing** approach

About Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth

Eva's consists of four sites located across Toronto, housing 157 young people, aged 16 – 24, each night.

At Eva's, we help young people move from crisis to stability with the ultimate goal of moving to independence. We work with each young person to develop an achievable action plan, attain their goals, and build strong community connections.

Eva's was recognized by Charity Intelligence as one of Canada's top 100 charities in 2021.

About Eva Smith and our history

Our organization's innovative approach to supporting youth experiencing homelessness started with our founder, Eva Maud Smith. Her legacy remains central to the work we do today.

Eva's was founded in 1989 by Eva Smith under our original name, North York Emergency Home for Youth. Eva Smith was a Jamaican immigrant and Black community leader whose heart was drawn to our city's young people. She realized that the experience of homelessness had become a barrier for some. A trailblazer, Eva shed light on hidden youth homelessness, showing decision-makers the scope of the problem and rallying supporters to do something about it. She demonstrated that adult shelters were missing the specialized supports youth needed to avoid chronic homelessness in the long term.

Although Eva Smith passed away in 1993, her spirit lives on. In 1994, one year after her death and five years after the founding of the organization, Eva's Place, our first physical shelter for young people was established. In 2001, the name of the organization was changed from the North York Emergency Home for Youth to Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth.

Today, Eva's serves hundreds of young people every year. We offer a unique combination of emergency shelter and housing, counselling, training, and life skills programs, all infused with a focus on supporting youth's mental and physical well-being.



“Eva touched the lives of many and her single-minded focus on giving of one's self to help others continues to echo in our hearts as we hear her name.”

Mavis E. Burke



Our world continues to be a special place: one where change can and will be moulded into a positive presence. This will be everything we will continue to support.

A MESSAGE FROM EVA SMITH'S FAMILY

Team,

2021 was a challenge nobody could have predicted, but it was a position to have action taken upon it. Throughout the pandemic, the mission and goal continue to remain crystal clear in being the change we wish to see.

In support of the Greater Toronto Area, Eva's continues to be a leader in what it means to truly give at-risk youth a chance to be great once again. In doing so, please see the following as an in-depth message of thanks from the Smith family for your continuous efforts to make a difference in the lives of many.

Answering the call to action is everything we continue to see here at Eva's. With the unique needs of young people during COVID-19, we continue to set the standard straight in prioritizing the well-being of youth. Fear, mental health, and anxiety among the young


people we support has required our action. And we continue to inspire positive change around Toronto and bolster the argument that everyone deserves a second chance.

In the next steps, equity is now the task at hand. With the commitment to diversity and inclusion, our next steps must continue to be holistic along with being the foundation of something special.

With open arms,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcus Smith". The script is fluid and cursive.

(on behalf of the Smith family)



Eva's provides shelter, transitional housing, and health and well-being programming to help youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Toronto. Our expert staff help young people in need reach their potential and lead fulfilling healthy lives.



995

youth found shelter and safety at Eva's this year:

337

Eva's Place

237

the Delta Hotel

20

YOUth Belong*

83

Eva's Phoenix*

318

Eva's Satellite



101

young people found transitional housing

81

moved into independent housing

20

entered the YOUth Belong* program

51

received **housing bursaries** through the YOUth Belong program

60

received **follow-up support** after leaving Eva's



* Transitional housing program



903

community members accessed
Harm Reduction services

194

Naloxone
kits were
distributed

3,179

safer use
kits were
distributed

230

recreation activities
were offered

65

life skills
activities
were offered

442

Family Reconnect
sessions were held

120

clients were
supported



21

young people graduated
high school/GED/post-
secondary education

32

young people completed
training programs

29

young people
gained employment

13

youth participated in the
Graphic Communications and
Print Technologies program





A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To our staff, volunteers, donors,
and community of supporters:

Our 2020–21
fiscal year was a
challenging one, but
it was also a time of
positive momentum
for our organization.

I had the pleasure of leading
Eva's this past year as the interim
Executive Director, and formally
assumed the role of Executive
Director in September 2021.

This year, we prioritized meeting
the heightened needs of young
people experiencing homelessness
while keeping our staff safe. We
also continued to move forward on
our organizational equity journey
by undertaking some important
foundational work. Please read
on to learn more.

Meeting the unique needs of young people during COVID-19

For homeless youth, who have
already survived so much in
their young lives, the isolation,
fear, and inequities they've
experienced during the pandemic
are contributing additional trauma.
We have seen increases in anxiety,
mental health, and substance use
among the youth we serve, resulting
in a need for enhanced mental
health and harm reduction support,

in addition to housing advocacy and
employment counselling. To learn
more about mental health impacts
of COVID-19 on young people
experiencing homelessness, go to
page 22.

Building culturally responsive supports for Black youth

As a result of a lack of affordable
and safe housing for Black youth,
they are over-represented in
homeless shelters and transitional
homes. Black youth also experience
higher rates of housing insecurity
and barriers to accessing long-
term housing due to the legacy of
colonialism and anti-Black racism.

In collaboration with Black
community members, we designed
a new program to help address the
structural and systemic barriers
Black youth experience when
trying to find stable housing.
YOUth Belong reached its capacity
in the summer of 2021, providing
Black youth with access to their
own housing in a community
setting with 24-hour staff supports.

To learn more about this program
and the other housing supports
available at Eva's, visit page 18.

Continuing our equity journey

Eva's was founded by Eva Smith,
a Black woman and community
activist. As an organization
founded by a Black woman, we
have a responsibility to create and
maintain a workplace that models
anti-oppressive and anti-racism
frameworks. We must do this work in
honour of Eva Smith's legacy and the
Black and racialized youth who seek
our support.


As part of this commitment, we launched an organizational equity, diversity, and inclusion audit in May 2021. This has been a holistic, ongoing process focused on reviewing all aspects of our organization, from the youth we serve, up to our senior leadership and board governance. We will use the findings from this audit to start building a strategic equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) framework for the organization in our 2021–22 fiscal year.

Looking toward the future

Even though the pandemic is creating difficulties in everyone's lives, our community of supporters recognize the unique challenges homeless youth are experiencing and continue to show their support. Thank you.

Louise Smith

Executive Director

A close-up portrait of a young man with dark, curly hair and a serious expression, looking slightly off-camera. The background is a solid, muted blue-grey color.

Even though the pandemic is creating difficulties in everyone's lives, our community of supporters recognize the unique challenges homeless youth are experiencing and continue to show their support. Thank you.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CO-CHAIRS

To our community of supporters:

As the pandemic continued into 2021, we saw Eva's staff continue to rise up and support young people when they needed it most. At the Board level, we continued focusing on our equity, diversity, and inclusion goals and led the appointment of Eva's Executive Director.

Equity at the Board level

In June 2019, we began to diversify the Board of Directors gradually and intentionally, with the recruitment of new Board members. These recruitment efforts continued into 2020–21.

In February 2021, we developed a Board Equity Committee to centre equity in the governance, operations, and strategic priorities at Eva's. This work continues at the Board level, and we look forward

to providing additional updates on the momentum we're building in next year's annual impact report.

Board governance

Our equity, diversity and inclusion work will be complemented by a governance review, led by a consultant with expertise in anti-Black racism and anti-oppression. It will be completed in the 2021–22 fiscal year. We look forward to aligning and adjusting our governance practices to support Eva's legacy and equity work.

Strategic planning

Our work in support of our EDI goals and governance review process will both help set the stage for Eva's next strategic planning exercise, which will begin in the 2021–22 fiscal year. We will continue to centre the legacy of our founder, Eva Smith, and our core organizational principles in our work as we strive to help young people build brighter futures free of homelessness.

Aisha Francis

Graeme Young

Co-Chairs of the
Eva's Board of Directors

2020–21 Fiscal Year

A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

On behalf of the Board, we extend a heartfelt thank you to the many people who give of themselves to make Eva's the community pillar it is today: the Smith Family, Eva's staff, our donors, and our supporters. Thank you also to the incredible youth who continue to show such strength and resilience during these challenging times.



EVA'S SITES



Eva's Place

Eva's Place is an emergency shelter for up to 16 youth* who are experiencing homelessness. Here, youth can access supports to help them reconnect with their immediate or chosen family and transition to stable housing in the community. We also offer life skills programming, in addition to education and employment supports, that help young people gain the skills they need to integrate into community living.

*The capacity of Eva's Place decreased due to physical distancing requirements in response to COVID-19. Additional emergency shelter spaces were created for youth through the hotel program described below.

Eva's Satellite Hotel

Eva's Satellite Hotel program provides emergency and longer-term housing for up to 41 youth. This program was originally put in place as an emergency response to the pandemic. It continues in this capacity while also housing the Satellite program while Satellite's original space is reassessed. This program has been essential to maintaining our shelter capacity during the pandemic.

The Satellite Hotel program opened in December 2021, after the 2020–21 fiscal year closed. Previously, the Satellite program operated at its original site in North York, and hotel spaces were provided via the Delta Hotel program. These programs were then merged into one.





Eva's Phoenix

Eva's Phoenix is a community of 10 shared townhouse-style units that provide transitional housing for 50 youth. The model provides young people with caring, individualized support to help them develop critical skills to live in the community. Youth can participate in workshops and hands-on programs, while also accessing wrap-around supports that will help them build strong community connections as they continue in their journeys to independence.

YOUth Belong

The YOUth Belong program reached its capacity in the summer of 2021 supporting Black youth experiencing homelessness or precarious living. Staff help young people build the skills and capacity to effectively navigate the systems they will connect with daily, while developing roots in their communities and intersectional identities. YOUth Belong provides youth with access to their own housing in a community setting with 24-hour staff support. The program operates in both scattered housing and Eva's managed properties across the city. Youth can participate in the program for up to four years.



EMERGENCY SHELTER

Eva's Place and Eva's Satellite Hotel program provide emergency and longer-term housing for youth who are experiencing homelessness. Here youth can access a variety of supports such as family reconnect, life skills programming, and education and employment supports.

Impacts of COVID-19 on youth experiencing homelessness

For young people experiencing homelessness, the isolation, fear, and inequities they've experienced during the pandemic are contributing additional trauma.

36%

of 2SLGBTQ+ youth in the GTA experiencing homelessness have attempted suicide since the COVID-19 pandemic began and 82% engaged in self-harm.¹

85%

of service providers reported an increase in youth experiencing anxiety.²

75%

service providers reported an increase in youth experiencing depression.³

Helping youth find their own path out of homelessness

For youth experiencing homelessness, the journey from chaos and crisis to stability often starts at one of Eva's emergency shelter sites. At both Eva's Place and Eva's Satellite Hotel, youth receive immediate support day and night from our expert staff.

"The shelter is not the final destination for young people," reflects Sophia Smith, Youth Support Worker. "It's just where they're at now." Our emergency-based shelter programs offer a safe and reliable environment for youth in need. We meet the youth's urgent food and shelter needs while also helping them stabilize through a focus on their health and well-being. Once youth have stabilized, they can begin to think about their next steps like finding housing and employment.

Staff emphasize that round-the-clock support is key to helping young people find stability. "Youth are struggling to cope with feelings of anxiety, depression, loss, and fear that can bubble up," Kenisha Morales, Overnight Residential Supervisor explains. "We are here to support them through these difficult feelings, showing them that we care and that they are not alone."

Challenges worsened by the pandemic have caused some youth who transitioned out of the shelter to return. "We saw one young person who lost their job due to pandemic restrictions, lose their housing in the community and return to Eva's. We first helped them access emergency shelter at Eva's Satellite Hotel and then were able to provide them with housing at Phoenix within weeks," says Sophia.

While COVID-19 has placed additional strain on our staff and the young people we support, our approach remains consistent. Staff work hard to connect with each youth that comes through our doors. In building trust and rapport, youth can feel comfortable sharing their feelings of anxiety and fear, allowing us to help them better understand the impact of the traumas they have experienced.

"Even though a young person is struggling now, they don't need to struggle for the rest of their lives,"

says Kenisha Morales, Overnight Residential Supervisor.

892

youth accessed emergency shelter at Eva's




HOUSING AND LIFE SKILLS

Eva's Phoenix and Eva's YOUth Belong program provide transitional housing to young people experiencing homelessness. Eva's Phoenix provides youth with caring, individualized support to help them develop critical skills to live in the community. YOUth Belong supports Black youth, providing young people with access to their own housing in a community setting with 24-hour staff support.

Structural and systemic barriers impacting Black youth

The YOUth Belong program was designed to help address the structural and systemic barriers Black youth experience when attempting to find stable housing in the city of Toronto:

- As a result of a lack of affordable and safe housing for Black youth, they are over-represented in homeless shelters and transitional homes.
- As a result of a legacy of colonialism and anti-Black racism, Black youth experience higher rates of housing insecurity and barriers to accessing long-term housing.
- As a result of structural inequities, youth are impacted by multiple systems of oppressions across different sectors (e.g., health care, justice, education, employment, etc.).



From house cleaning, cooking, laundry, home maintenance and financial literacy to conflict resolution, self-esteem and emotional control, these skills will help ensure that our youth are able to maintain stable housing when they leave Eva's.

Supporting the intersecting identities of youth through housing

Every night, more than 6,000 young people experience homelessness across Canada. For the youth we serve, leaving home is not an impulsive decision. “There is an idea out there that youth can just go back home, but a lot of youth are leaving unsafe conditions,” says David Channer, Program Manager for YOUTH Belong Scattered Sites. More than half of homeless youth report that violence in the home has contributed to their homelessness. And 58 per cent of homeless youth have experience with the child welfare system.

While youth of all backgrounds can experience homelessness, youth who are Black, racialized, Indigenous and/or 2SLGBTQ+ are over-represented. To help meet the needs of these youth, we centre equity and inclusion in the way we deliver our programs and services, including through our housing support.

Our approach acknowledges the systemic barriers racism, in particular anti-Black racism, have on the young people we support, which may be compounded for those with intersecting identities. We provide culturally responsive support to help youth find and maintain housing while developing a community around them.

It’s critical that our housing supports also meet the unique needs of youth, which are different than adults experiencing homelessness. In the case of youth, housing is just one piece of the supports needed. Life skills programming, from helping the youth learn about house cleaning, cooking, laundry, home maintenance, and financial literacy to conflict resolution, self-esteem, and emotional control are critical to the continuum of care.

The supports youth receive centre and affirm their identities and cultures, taking into consideration the barriers they navigate in their daily lives. “We deal with the legacy of slavery, colonialism, and racism and how it impacts the experiences of the young people we support,” says Troy Samuel Logan, Program Manager, Housing and Life Skills. We work to ensure services respond to the specific needs of youth instead of compounding the barriers they are already facing.

Youth build a sense of agency and advocacy within our programs, along with a better understanding of their own identities and what they are capable of. “With the support from an amazing team, we continue to learn that the youth we assist have incredible skills, talents, interests, and passions,” explains Troy.

“For youth coming into our housing programs, a big part of our work is helping them figure out their cultural, individual and community identities,”

says Rita Asare, Senior Site Manager, YOUTH Belong, Housing Supports and Stabilization Programs.

31

young people were moved into **independent housing** through the YOUTH Belong program

JADEN'S FUNDRAISER

YOUTH HELPING YOUTH



**“We’ll continue
to work under the
idea and mantra
of youth helping
youth for youth,”**

said Pamela Osorio-Kettle.

Thank You

There are lots of ways for high school students to achieve their required community service hours. Grade 10 students Jaden DaSilva and Beketa Million made theirs count by co-organizing a neighbourhood event that raised \$1,800 for Eva's last summer.

It all started when Pamela Osorio-Kettle received a call from Eva's fundraising team during the early days of the pandemic. "They talked about the impact of COVID-19 on youth and the services that Eva's provides. That conversation really stuck with me. It made me think about what's in my control and what I could do to help."

With a limited budget to donate to charity, she considered other ways to raise money for youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

"I had some new toys that my kids had outgrown piling up in my basement and thought, 'Why not sell them in a yard sale, collect the monies, and give them to Eva's?'" she said.

"When I started reaching out to my broader community to see if others had toys to contribute, Jaden put his hand up and said, 'I don't have much to do during the pandemic. How can I help?'"

The two quickly put their heads together and came up with the idea of a neighbourhood fundraiser where youth could pitch in to help other youth. Jaden's Fundraiser became a special community event that included a lemonade stand, bake sale, yoga class for kids, bootcamp exercise class for adults, as well as a toys and games sale.

As the event date neared, Jaden's friend Beketa came on board and the two reached out to friends, family, and local businesses for bake sale and toy donations. They helped organize all the details

that went into planning and led the older youth volunteers on the day of the event.

Involving as many young people as possible was important to Pamela. "We recruited volunteers as young as 6 to 11 years old to staff the lemonade stand. The volunteers didn't have numeracy skills and we helped by pairing them with older youth volunteers. This was youth empowering youth!" she said.

For Jaden, the experience was invigorating. "I really enjoyed working on the fundraiser. I knew that the harder I worked and the more effort I put into things like the posters and the number of toys I could get for us to sell, the more money would be raised for youth who really need support."

Being part of the day's events was especially gratifying. "It was so fun interacting with people and seeing everyone enjoy it. I felt confident in what I was doing, I felt that what we were doing was good, and I was proud of us for surpassing our goal," he said.

Pamela and Jaden plan to use what they learned from their first event to organize another fundraiser this summer. They're already brainstorming, and Jaden has lined up 15 friends from school to pitch in.

Looking to set up a community event in support of Eva's?

Please contact Suzanne Vu,
Manager, Annual and
Community Giving at
svu@evas.ca.

HARM REDUCTION

Eva's Harm Reduction program is about meeting and helping youth where they're at.

We offer various supports and services, some virtually due to the pandemic, while others are in person. These include group and individual counselling, education on safer drug use strategies (such as overdose prevention, harm reduction 101, and naloxone training), and access to safe drug use equipment. In addition, we provide case management services and workshops that promote healthy lifestyle practices (safer sex education, stress reduction/coping techniques and recreation).

Helping youth rise from trauma

Systemic barriers are prevalent for youth experiencing homelessness. They experience disparities from access to quality resources, mental health supports, education, good jobs, and healthy living conditions. And for youth who are Black, Indigenous, racialized and/or 2SLGBTQ+, they also face more violence, police brutality, flawed justice systems, and micro and macro aggressions. Eva's Harm Reduction program recognizes the resulting trauma from these barriers. Our staff's main goal is to work with young people to make decisions with their best interests at the centre.


"The season of youth is most challenging and impactful on our lives. The experiences at this age shape our character and mindset for the future," says Natalie Smith, Program Manager of Eva's Health and Wellness team.

As the pandemic persists, so too does the decline in youth mental health. The needs of homeless youth populations have been heightened. These youth

have experienced the loss of employment, income, housing, family members, social supports, and community connections. As a result, their well-being has spiraled—mentally, physically, and emotionally. Substance use is a coping method that has increased during this challenging time.

Building trusting relationships is a priority in our Harm Reduction program. Eva's approach provides youth with a non-judgemental environment and a sense of belonging. In removing the stigma and judgement around substance use, Eva's staff can build positive, honest connections with young people and help them learn positive coping skills.

"Any of us could be in a position to experience homelessness at some point in our lives," says Natalie. "Think about the way you would want to be treated, thought of, and cared for." Youth in our Harm Reduction program are accepted for who they are, not defined by their substance use.

A young man and woman are smiling and looking at each other outdoors. The man is wearing a tan beanie, glasses, and a grey jacket with large headphones around his neck. The woman is wearing a light-colored jacket and a necklace. A teal square with white diagonal lines is in the top left corner.

“Being homeless is already a big life challenge and putting support in place to meet the individual needs of youth is key.”

12

Harm Reduction 101
sessions offered



FAMILY RECONNECT

“It’s important for youth to choose what they want and what will be safest for them.” No matter what they choose, the need for support is crucial and with the pandemic, the need is even greater.

The Family Reconnect Program provides services to youth (aged 14 – 24), who are in the early stages of homelessness.

We help young people strengthen connections to their immediate or chosen family to prevent them from entering the shelter system or shortening their time within the system.

Building bridges out of homelessness

Eva's Family Reconnect program helps prevent the cycle of youth homelessness. By building bridges to reconnect youth to themselves, their families (immediate or chosen), and their communities, our program helps young people re-establish, keep, and expand healthy and supportive relationships.

Family Reconnect offers a trauma-informed and strengths-based approach, recognizing the trauma young people have experienced and how it impacts their behaviour and actions. Through coping mechanisms, family counselling, community connections, and skill-based training, we help youth decide how they want to proceed with their families. "Sometimes they want to work it out with their families and other times, they do not," says Audrey Taylor, Clinical Lead with the Family Reconnect program.

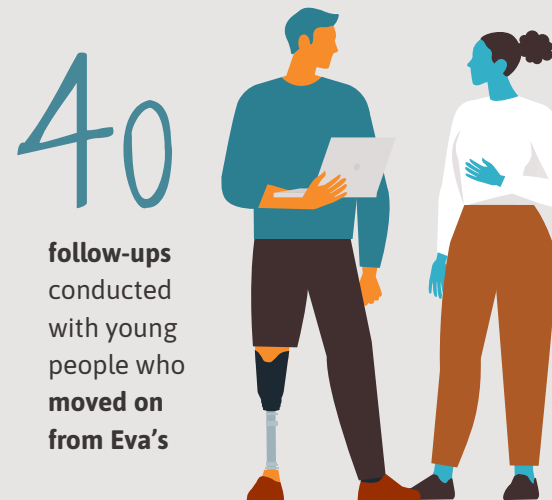
Throughout the pandemic, Family Reconnect counsellors have noticed increased anxiety and

isolation, sparking other issues for youth. "Some are reluctant to get up and get out of bed. The alone time and lack of schedule are difficult and overwhelming for the youth," says Joan Rogers, Registered Psychotherapist with the Family Reconnect program. In response, we have made access to the program more convenient through virtual sessions, texting, and phone calls. We are also ensuring youth have the right equipment, along with a private and safe space, to connect virtually.

Family Reconnect carves out space for youth to pause and reflect—something that may not be possible when youth are navigating homelessness. "Trauma is often intergenerational, and survivors of trauma have a tendency to unconsciously repeat the trauma in their day to day lives," explains Maria Desmott, Registered Psychotherapist with the Family Reconnect program.

"The youth are eventually going to move on to independence, so we need to provide them with the skills and techniques to regulate their emotions on their own."

By helping youth learn to manage setbacks and recognize their resiliency, we can either prevent them from entering the shelter system or, for those experiencing homelessness, enable them to develop the skills and community needed to exit.



What is a trauma-informed approach?

Our approach to working with young people takes into consideration the trauma they've experienced and how this impacts their experiences, behaviour and actions. We also recognize the impacts that different systemic barriers have played in creating trauma for the young people we support. Our expert staff are trained to provide individualized support to each young person we serve, helping to meet their unique needs so that they can stabilize, heal, and focus on the future.

What is a strengths-based approach?

This approach views each young person from a holistic lens. It is a client led approach centred on recognizing and honouring each individual's unique skills and traits to help them effect change in themselves. The goal is for young people to harness and further develop their strengths to enhance their resiliency in challenging situations.

CADILLAC FAIRVIEW

EVA'S A KEY PART OF CADILLAC
FAIRVIEW'S PHILANTHROPIC
STRATEGY



**Looking to become
a corporate partner
at Eva's?**

Please contact Anastasia
Gordon, Corporate
Partnerships Manager at
agordon@evas.ca.

Thank You

Cadillac Fairview cares about the communities it serves. In fact, that's one of the defining characteristics of the commercial real estate company, says their Director of Brand, Patricia Ing.

"Our purpose, 'transforming communities for a vibrant tomorrow', has been a guiding light for us for many years. We believe that human connection is at the core of individual and societal health and well-being, and we take pride in supporting organizations that share similar values and beliefs."

For more than 17 years, Eva's has been a part of Cadillac Fairview's ongoing strategy to build up communities. Over the years, they've contributed capital gifts and targeted donations, including donations to Eva's Safe Shelter and Crisis Services and donations through our Hockey Helps the Homeless and Golf Classic events.

In 2021, Eva's was selected as one of eight charitable partners to be a part of Cadillac Fairview's new philanthropic commitment to creating positive change for Canadians facing social isolation.

"We know that youth experiencing homelessness are a group of society that acutely experiences social isolation. In 2021-22, we're trying to push beyond contributing dollars and learn from our partner organizations about the strengths and needs of our communities. We're looking forward to collaborating with Eva's in this capacity."

When it comes to their goal of combatting social isolation, Patricia says Cadillac Fairview is pleased to partner with Eva's as a "hyper-local organization" that provides thoughtful, culturally relevant, and sustainable programs for youth experiencing and at risk of homelessness.

"It starts with our team listening and learning from organizations and partners like Eva's to better understand what social isolation means to their communities, including the nuances and complexities that are not commonly understood," said Patricia.

Cadillac Fairview hopes to instill a sense of optimism for the future in Canada—an ideal that Eva's shares as we work with youth to develop personalized action plans that will help them attain their goals and build community connections as they continue in their journey to independence.

"It's inspirational for us to have opportunities to work together and get that firsthand experience. It helps us see how we're making a difference."

"The feeling of loneliness is a growing concern, often resulting in the lack of meaningful relationships and strong interpersonal connections. It's a threat to the vibrancy of our communities,"

said Patricia Ing,
Director of Brand,
Cadillac Fairview.



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING



Eva's Employment and Training Programs provide youth who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness with skills-based, experiential training as well as individual education and career consultations.

These programs support youth in identifying career goals, accessing hands-on training, and connecting with on-the-job placements or entry-level employment. The goal of the program is to help young people in their journey to accessing secure housing and transitioning to independent living.

Employment and training help pave the path to self-sufficiency

Eva's Employment and Training program provides youth with the skills and support to gain training, experience, and a stable income. The goal of the program is to enable young people to actualize their potential and lead productive, self-sufficient lives.

The Employment and Training program follows a strengths-focused, skills-based strategy. "Knowledge is power; the more knowledge youth get, the more confident they become," explains Donna Lee Marshall, Employment Advisor and Facilitator in Eva's Youth Succeeding in Employment Program (YSEP).

The program is youth-centred and built on transparency, honesty, and mutual respect. Donna Lee connects with each young person to build their confidence, helping them to cope with barriers along their path. "If people are constantly telling a young person who they are, they start to believe it. I tell them, 'Don't let anyone's opinion of you become your

reality,'" (Les Brown, Motivational speaker) she says.

The importance of a growth mindset is especially important for youth navigating homelessness alongside the ongoing pandemic. During the pandemic, 50 per cent of young workers in Canada under the age of 30 experienced either reduced work hours or employment loss, or both.⁴ In addition, 26 per cent of Canadian youth aged 18 – 20 and 19 per cent of Canadian youth aged 18 – 34 stopped or postponed their postsecondary studies because of the pandemic.⁵

These circumstances have impacted youth mental health and well-being. The wrap-around supports from other program areas are crucial to providing a comprehensive approach. Resources from Eva's Family Reconnect program have included workshops and community supports to help youth build positive coping skills and strengthen their resiliency.

Youth in the program build meaningful and lasting connections with staff. Support and check-ins continue even after youth have made progress towards being self-sufficient. One alum shared these thoughts:

"After securing my placement with an art organization, I continued to get support in every way while attending the program and especially while on placement... I was hired full-time at my placement to continue developing what I learned about myself during the program."

Eva's Education and Employment program has been a place of hope and optimism for many youth at Eva's, especially during COVID-19.

36

individual **consultations**
were provided to youth
exploring education and
job/career opportunities

"Eva's employment program is a stepping-stone," says Donna Lee. "That next step might be an apartment, the job they want or going back to school."

EVA'S PRINT SHOP

Our Graphic Communication and Print Training Program, offered by the Eva's Print Shop, provides youth with a safe and welcoming learning space where they gain exposure to job skills training, including technical and soft skills.

Graduates are supported as they make choices about their future, be it pursuing a career in print or a related industry, other career paths, or continuing with schooling.

62%

youth moved into either **part-time** or **full-time employment** shortly after **graduating** from the program

Fuelling work opportunities for youth

Eva's Print Shop is a full-service digital printer and social enterprise that opens doors for youth experiencing homelessness. The Print Shop's goals are to be a self-sustainable business providing a paid employment training course and employment opportunities for youth. The program also strives to foster a community of support through connections with businesses, schools, and other local organizations that use the Print Shop for services or to employ program graduates.

"Lots of youth who come through here have phenomenal skills and get the opportunity to experiment in a low-pressure environment" says Jonathan Gault, Manager of Eva's Print Shop. Youth learn the operations of the graphics and print sector, from making t-shirts and creating logos and digital art, to the ins and outs of print production.

Youth equally benefit from the soft skills they learn. "Mentorship is a big piece for anyone when growing up and a lot of young people have lost this piece in their life," explains Jonathan. "It's good to set an example for the youth in this safe space. Here youth can learn the value of communication, professionalism, and being part of a team."

With the ongoing pandemic, helping the youth at Eva's build resilience is key to them overcoming new obstacles, such as

loss of work hours or employment. While the Print Shop was affected, the print production team pivoted to different service offerings to maintain the business. In addition, Eva's connected the Print Shop to its Youth Succeeding in Employment Program (YSEP), providing courses online and sustaining paid work experiences. By providing youth with access to a comprehensive complement of services and supports, the program works to meet youth's individual needs.

"Confidence is one of the biggest things youth develop when they leave Eva's or the Print Shop," says Jonathan, "They can approach challenges a little more sure-footedly with confidence knowing 'I've done this before; I can do this again.'"

"You can only build experience if you are given the opportunity to get experience,"

explains Jonathan Gault,
Manager of the Eva's Print Shop.



BICKLE-WILDER FOUNDATION

FAMILY LEGACY CONTINUES THROUGH
SUPPORTING YOUTH IN NEED



**Are you part of a
foundation looking
to support young
people in need?**

Please contact Rebecca
Grace, Foundations
and Grants Manager at
rgrace@evas.ca.

Thank You

He may not be a household name, but EW Bickle's legacy looms large in Toronto.

As a successful financial professional in the 1950s, he created a charitable foundation in his own name to help elevate the lives of Torontonians who didn't share his good fortune. He also helped co-found the United Way and served as Chair of the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute where, today, the EW Bickle Centre for Complex Continuing Care treats people of all ages who live with chronic and complex health issues.

"My grandfather was very civic-minded and compassionate. He wanted to help the most vulnerable among us," said Martha Wilder, President of the Foundation that continues to endow charitable organizations across the city.

In 2020, Martha's father William Price Wilder passed away and left a generous legacy gift to the foundation. In recognition, it was renamed the Bickle-Wilder Foundation.

In keeping with EW Bickle's original intention, the Bickle-Wilder Foundation supports all manner of social, health, and community organizations across the city. Eva's has been a grateful recipient of support from the Bickle-Wilder Foundation since 2010.

She noted that our broad scope of supports, from our emergency shelter to mental health programs to employment and training opportunities, help youth create pathways to independence, which appeals to the foundation's directors.

"I love the idea that Eva's has a social enterprise: Eva's Print Shop. Our hope for the youth who are

receiving these services is that they can build the competence they need to move forward and build productive lives," said Martha.

Eva's longstanding reputation for transparency in our commitment to reducing youth homelessness is also a factor.

"When selecting organizations to support, we look for consistent and comprehensive delivery of services. We also refer to Charity Intelligence Canada and Eva's consistently comes up in the top 100 charities, and often the top 10," said Martha.

She recognizes the important role Eva's staff play in helping youth find their unique footing in the world and reach their potential to lead fulfilling, healthy lives.

"I was lucky that I grew up as part of a nice family with two parents, but I also had a mentor outside of my family who was a huge influence. These are people who can make a difference in a young person's life. That's a role that Eva's provides and we're proud to support them as they do that."

"About 10 years ago, the directors decided to focus on youth at risk, health care, and education. Eva's is certainly within that area of focus, and we appreciate the comprehensive services that are provided. Our support for Eva's carries on my grandfather's legacy in the sense that it's helping the most vulnerable," said Martha.

FINANCIALS

Prioritizing youth services during the pandemic

Revenue for the 2020–21 fiscal year included the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), which was one-time, non-recurring funding. This funding was critical to supporting our staff team as they delivered essential programming to youth in need during multiple waves of COVID-19.

Our donors provided 20 per cent of the total revenue for this fiscal year, and a breakdown of the various donation streams received is included in the chart below. We are so grateful to our donors for their generous support during this particularly challenging time.

Understanding our surplus

Due to the CEWS funding, Eva's ended the fiscal year in a stronger financial position than anticipated with a surplus of \$1.175 million. Total net assets as of the end of the 2020–21 fiscal year are \$6.287M. This includes the board reserve of \$1.420M (more information on the board reserve is included below).

This surplus provides Eva's with the operational stability to make significant investments in building our organizational capacity over the next two fiscal years:

- We are investing in our youth programming by expanding the delivery of holistic, culturally relevant programming for Black youth at Eva's.

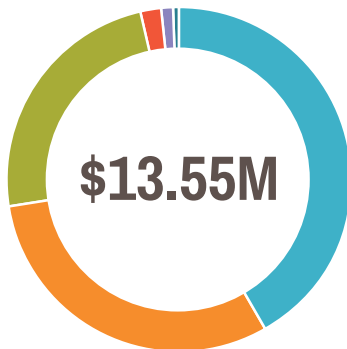
- We are dedicating much-needed resources towards our commitment to our equity, diversity, and inclusion goals through the development of a dedicated department to do this important work.
- We are making investments in building our administrative capacity, ensuring our IT, People and Culture, Philanthropy, and Communications teams have the resources needed to move our organization forward to support young people and staff. Dedicating donor funds to service delivery is critical and in order to ensure organizational efficiency we must have the right people and infrastructure in place.

The purpose of our Board reserve

Eva's ended the fiscal year with a designated Board reserve of \$1.420 million. The purpose of the reserve is to build and maintain an adequate level of unrestricted net assets to support Eva's day-to-day operations in the event of unforeseen shortfalls. It may also be used for one-time non-recurring expenses to address unexpected expenditures.

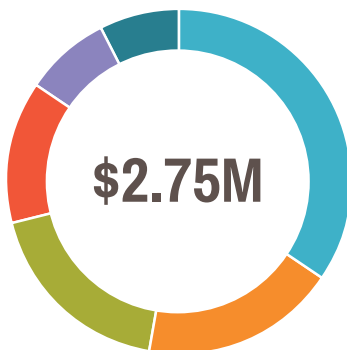
We are committed to ensuring financial sustainability for years to come as we recover from the pandemic and remain resilient in the face of future challenges. Thank you for your support.

For Eva's full, audited financial statements, visit evas.ca.



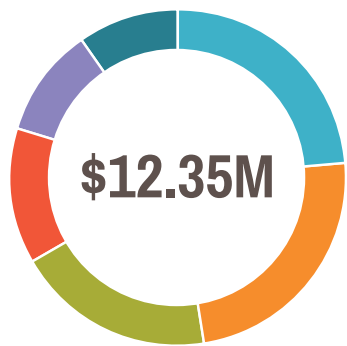
REVENUE

- 42% Donations, Fundraising, Grants
- 31% Toronto Community Services Funding
- 24% Government Assistance
- 2% Eva's Print Shop Sales
- 1% Other
- <1% Investment Income



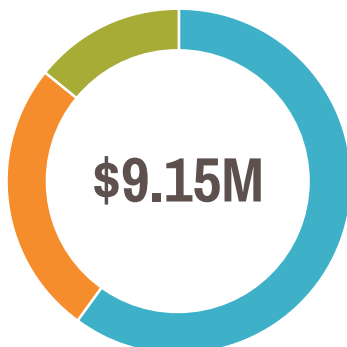
SOURCES OF DONATIONS

- 35% Foundation
- 18% Annual
- 18% Community
- 14% Corporate
- 8% Special Events
- 7% Major Gift



EXPENSES

- 36% Shelter Services
- 20% Youth Programs
- 16% Administration
- 11% Inter-Dependent Living
- 9% Fundraising and Volunteer Services
- 8% Building and Property



DIRECT SUPPORT

- 60% Shelter Services [Incl Building]
- 26% Wrap-around Support
- 14% Interdependent Living

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Graeme Young, Co-Chair

Senior Vice President
Colliers International Company

Aisha Francis, Co-Chair

Project: Restore FIBI (Families
Impacted by Incarceration)

Bill Furlong, Vice President,

Exec Commissioner
Ontario Securities Commission

Adrian Ishak, Past Chair

Senior Corporate Counsel
Salesforce

Stephen Redding, Treasurer

Corporate Banking
CIBC

David E. Witkowski, Exec., Secretary

Lawyer
EY Law LLP

Vicki Rodgers, Finance Committee

Chief Financial Officer
York Heritage Management

Su L. Taylor, HR Committee

President
Taylor Advisory Services

Louisa Benedicto, HR Committee

Vice President
Hays Specialist Recruitment Canada

Rachael Carswell

Director, Digital Experience
Strategy and Corporate
Development
RBC

Bethel Woldemichael

Research Analyst
Ontario Health

Chris Stevens

Director
TD Securities

Dr. Andrew D. Brown, MD, MBA

Staff Physician
Niagara Health System

Jessica Hardy-Henry, JD, MBA, Bcom

Corporate Associate
Dentons Canada LLP

Nadine Watson

Staff Lawyer
Hamilton Community Legal Clinic

Michelle Wagner, CPA, CGA

Director, Finance & Operations
IFSE Institute

HONOURARY BOARD MEMBERS

Ed Smith and Edeva Smith

HONOURARY PATRON

Gerald W. Schwartz

Founder, Chairman & CEO
Onex Corporation

EX-OFFICIO

Louise Smith,

Executive Director









NOTES

- 1 Abramovich, A., Pang, N., Moss, A., Logie, C. H., Chaiton, M., Kidd, S. A., & Hamilton, H. A. (2021). Investigating the impacts of COVID-19 among LGBTQ2S youth experiencing homelessness. *Plos One*, 16(9). doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0257693
- 2 Thulien, N.S., Noble, A., Akdikmen, A., Ali, D., Coplan, I., Daley, M., French, D., Hwang, S.W., Kidd, S., & Roglich, J. (2020). *Pandemic Proof: Synthesizing Real-World Knowledge of Promising Mental Health and Substance Use Practices Utilized During the COVID19 Pandemic with Young People Who Are Experiencing or Have Experienced Homelessness*. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.
- 3 Thulien, N.S., Noble, A., Akdikmen, A., Ali, D., Coplan, I., Daley, M., French, D., Hwang, S.W., Kidd, S., & Roglich, J. (2020). *Pandemic Proof: Synthesizing Real-World Knowledge of Promising Mental Health and Substance Use Practices Utilized During the COVID19 Pandemic with Young People Who Are Experiencing or Have Experienced Homelessness*. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.
- 4 Environics Institute. (2021). Making up time: The impact of the pandemic on young adults in Canada. Retrieved from: report_making-up-time_the-impact-of-the-pandemic-on-young-adults_end292f4ad71b84173b1c6c4da5353acd8.pdf (environicsinstitute.org)
- 5 Environics Institute. (2021). Making up time: The impact of the pandemic on young adults in Canada. Retrieved from: report_making-up-time_the-impact-of-the-pandemic-on-young-adults_end292f4ad71b84173b1c6c4da5353acd8.pdf (environicsinstitute.org)

Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth

401 Richmond St W., Suite 245
Toronto, ON M5V 3A8
416-977-4497

communications@evas.ca

Charitable Registration Number:

13223 9013 RR0001

Connect with us on social media:

@EvasInitiatives   

@Evas-Initiatives 

evas.ca



This annual impact report was
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services available at the Print
Shop, visit **store.evasprintshop.ca**.