

eva's

# Community

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Eva's recreation program fosters inclusivity, confidence, and community.

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Brianna secures a job through Eva's employment program and is confident about her future.

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The Spratt Foundation partners with Eva's for 20 years, enhancing dignity, support for youth.

**“Together, we will navigate challenges, celebrate our successes, and create a brighter future with the youth we serve.”**

— LOUISE SMITH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## Message from our Executive Director

Dear supporters and friends,

I hope this message finds you well. As we shift into fall, I wanted to take a moment to update you on

the ongoing endeavors at Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth.

Throughout the summer months, our dedicated team has been tirelessly engaged in building our new strategic plan, a compass guiding us toward greater impact and innovation in the critical work we do. We are excited to announce that this plan is set to launch early in 2024, and we can't wait to share the highlights with all of you.

However, amidst our progress, challenges persist. The increasing number of refugees seeking shelter and support at Eva's has stretched our resources. We remain committed to our mission of providing a safe haven for vulnerable youth, regardless of their backgrounds, and we are actively exploring ways to address this growing demand.

As we move forward, it's important to reflect on the legacy of our founder, the remarkable Black

community activist, Eva Smith. Her passion and dedication continue to inspire us daily, reminding us of the profound impact one individual can have on an entire community.

In staying true to Eva's vision, we are unwavering in our commitment to intentionally meet the unique needs of Black youth experiencing homelessness. Their struggles and aspirations drive us to innovate and collaborate, ensuring that our programs and services are culturally sensitive and effective.

Thank you for your unwavering support. Together, we will navigate challenges, celebrate our successes, and create a brighter future with the youth we serve.

With gratitude,

*Louise Smith*

Executive Director Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth

Members of Eva's senior leadership team, board, and front-line staff team came together in July for a powerful team building day as part of the strategic planning process.



### DID YOU KNOW?

**Sankofa: "It is not taboo to go back and fetch what you forgot."**

— PROVERB FROM THE AKAN PEOPLE OF GHANA.

This proverb inspires our work at Eva's because it reminds us that to move forward, we must first look back to know and understand our history and heritage.



Thulasi, recreation coordinator at Eva's Satellite.

## Recreation key to youth recovery

**Thulasi, recreation coordinator at Eva's Satellite, says finding connection and purpose comes in many forms—and they're equally important.**

**“Recreation enhances everyone's lived experiences and makes life feel easier. It's very powerful,” says Thulasi.**

Thulasi provides programs and resources to help bolster youths' confidence and empower them to speak up and make decisions. Many youth at Eva's identify as Black, newcomers to Canada, and/or 2SLGBTQ+. Factors including costs and discrimination may have impacted their access to recreation opportunities growing up, and they may still face barriers.

Our programs strive to create an inclusive and supportive environment that supports youth in discovering their passions.

Recreation also builds connections, helping create a much-needed community. “We see a sense of unity when youth do things together. It's clear that it's improving mental health and well-being.”

## Employment program opens doors for youth

**When Brianna lost her job in customer service, she wasn't sure what to do next.**

That was until someone suggested the Youth Succeeding in Employment Program (YSEP) at Eva's Phoenix—and the experience changed her life.

**“Being a part of the program gave me a lot of skills to find a job, have a better resume and cover letter, do well in interviews and dress professionally. I also learned soft skills like conflict resolution and how to adapt to the work environment,” she said.**

Brianna achieved food handler and health and safety certifications during the multi-week program. She built on her skills further at Eva's by enrolling in the Graphic Communication and Print Training program.

Brianna said she used all the skills she learned in both programs to get her role as a theatre production intern. She went into the job interview with confidence.

Read the full story at [evas.ca/Brianna](https://evas.ca/Brianna)



# Fighting hunger and homelessness takes trust and teamwork

## The Sprott Foundation and Eva's have been making change together for 20 years.

In many ways, the work that Eva's does is the embodiment of the impact The Sprott Foundation is committed to making in Canada.

"We are dedicated to addressing homelessness and hunger in Canada, and we support initiatives that focus on self-sufficiency and dignity for those in need," said Chief Giving Officer Juliana Sprott.

"Getting stabilized with housing and food is step one. Everything that ripples out is the next part of the journey. Eva's specializes in offering critical wraparound services, and that makes them an ideal strategic partner."

Juliana's parents established The Sprott Foundation in 1988 to help eradicate poverty and hunger and, from day one, have taken a trust-

based approach to funding.

"It's incredibly important to us to put our faith in the organizations we support. We believe that our partners are experts in what they do. With Eva's in particular, we know they are putting our grants to work in a way that makes the biggest impact," she said.

The Sprott Foundation recognizes that youth experiencing homelessness are disproportionately represented by Black, Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQ+, and/or newcomer youth, and is committed to investing in Eva's as we support these communities.

"The basis of our giving is enhancing dignity and agency while ensuring the basic human rights of healthy food and housing are provided. Eva's supports youth with programming that acknowledges their unique needs and honours their strengths. This approach

leads with respect for each young person's lived experience," said Juliana.

"If we can help a young person at a critical time in their lives, the outlook for the rest of their lives can be improved. Eva's supports young people along their journeys every day and we're proud to support them."

**Juliana Sprott, chief giving officer at The Sprott Foundation.**



## How becoming a monthly donor can impact you and Eva's

Be an essential part of Eva's community by becoming a monthly donor. Consistent monthly donations provide us with the stability and sustainable funding we need to plan and implement projects that support youth experiencing homelessness in Toronto.

By contributing a budget-friendly amount each month over the course of the year, you can still benefit at tax time while making a powerful contribution to an important cause.

**To sign up today, visit [evas.ca/fall](https://evas.ca/fall)**

@ f i n t y

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

**Interested in fundraising?**  
Email [donate@evas.ca](mailto:donate@evas.ca).

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