

START WITH SHELTER. SEE WHAT'S POSSIBLE.



Stability, Security.
The Future They Define.



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnaabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples and that Tkaronto (the Mohawk word from which the name Toronto is derived) is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Williams Treaty. We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this land, cared for by the Indigenous Peoples—First Nations, Inuit, and Metis—and recognize their enduring, deep-rooted connection to this land, past and present.

African Ancestry and Settler Acknowledgment

We acknowledge the ancestors of African descent who were forcibly displaced through the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and brought here against their will, as well as their descendants who continue to face the enduring legacies of slavery, racism, and systemic injustice. Many others have come to these lands as migrants or settlers. We acknowledge our collective responsibility to pursue equity, justice and reconciliation with the Indigenous Peoples who are the original stewards of these lands.



Since the opening of Eva's Place in 1994, Eva's Initiatives has set a new standard for youth-focused shelters in Toronto. Today, as one of Toronto's leading youth homelessness organizations, Eva's supports hundreds of youth each night across three shelter sites and multiple community-based housing units.

Beyond providing emergency services, Eva's supports youth in securing and sustaining housing,

breaking cycles of institutional reliance. Through sector-leading equity work that centre Black youth, Eva's continues to influence practices across Canada and shape comprehensive, responsive supports for vulnerable young people.

Eva's Shelter, Stability, Security approach turns short-term shelter into a foundation for education, employment, wellness, and long-term independence.

INSIDE

- 04 Executive Director and Board Chair Message
- 06 Impact Snapshot and Sector Context
- 08 Reopening Eva's Satellite
- 10 Smith Family Message
- 11 **SHELTER**
- 12 Where it Begins
- 13 Youth Perspective
- 14 Food Security
- 16 **STABILITY**
- 17 *Pathways to Public Joy: Reclaiming Space, Belonging, and Delight*
- 18 Integrated Mental Health Supports; Strengthening Outcomes Through Partnership
- 20 Eva's 3D Program: *Drum, Dance, Dominate*
- 21 **SECURITY**
- 22 Innovative Wraparound Supports
- 23 Rent Smart Program and Eviction Prevention
- 24 Print Shop Closure
- 25 Roses from Concrete
- 26 Financial Snapshot
- 27 Canadian Tire GTA Dealers
- 28 Youth Homelessness is Different—Our Response Must Be Too
- 30 Governance and Closing

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

A Responsibility to Act

We begin with gratitude.

To our staff, whose dedication and care continue to define Eva's. To our partners, donors, and supporters, whose commitment strengthens this work and helps it grow. And to the young people we serve, your courage and determination are not only why we do this work, but what drives us to keep raising the bar.

A Defining Year

This past year reflects steady progress and purposeful action. We have continued to build on our strengths, refining how we work, aligning our efforts, and positioning Eva's to deepen its impact. This is how we move forward: with intention, with clarity, and with a shared commitment to the futures young people are building.

As a service provider within Toronto's shelter system, we respond to the immediate realities of youth homelessness every day. But Eva's was never intended to only be a shelter.

We are Eva's *Initiatives* for Homeless Youth, an organization designed not just to meet urgent needs, but to create pathways forward. That distinction matters because it shapes everything we do: from providing safe shelter,

to building stability, to supporting young people as they move toward independence and define futures of their own.

Youth Homelessness is different. The response must be different.

Carrying Eva Smith's Legacy Forward

Carrying Eva Smith's legacy forward is a responsibility we hold with intention. As a Jamaican immigrant, activist, and community leader, Eva began with action, identifying unmet needs, advocating for change, and insisting that young people deserved more than survival. She understood that when young people are not supported, the impact reaches far beyond the individual; it shapes the future of our communities, our Province, and our long-term economic viability.

That responsibility continues to guide us. Built on the dedication of our staff, the trust of our donors, and the strength of our community, Eva's stands on a foundation that has been shaped over many years. This year, we made thoughtful and necessary decisions to build on that foundation, realigning

our structure, focusing our efforts, and ensuring our resources are directed where they matter most; supporting young people as they move from survival to stability, and toward building their futures. These choices were not easy, but they were essential to sustaining our impact with clarity, consistency, and long-term purpose.

Responsibility as Our Foundation

This work reflects a core truth that now anchors our direction.

Responsibility is not a lens we choose. It is the foundation of our work.

It is the standard by which we make decisions, allocate resources, and define success.

It is also how we deliver change.

How Eva's Delivers Change

Through our **Shelter, Stability, Security** framework, we have clarified our role as an integrated continuum of care:

- **Shelter** provides safety and immediate stabilization so young people can step out of crisis and begin to feel safe.



- **Stability** builds health, belonging, and life skills so young people can regain a sense of self and move forward with confidence.
- **Security** creates pathways to education, employment, and long-term independence so young people can build lives that are sustainable on their own.

Together, this is how Eva's moves beyond response and toward resolution—ensuring that young people are supported in crisis and equipped to thrive.

This is how Eva's delivers change—moving beyond response and toward resolution.

Strengthening for the Future

Our financial results reflect a year of intentional decisions, a deepened commitment to accountability, and continued alignment with our long-term sustainability. Building on a strong foundation, we have sharpened our focus and ensured our resources are directed where they will have the greatest impact.

Across the organization, there is a growing sense of momentum in

our leadership, our systems, and our relationships with partners and community. Together, these efforts position Eva's to continue delivering meaningful, lasting impact for the young people we serve, now and into the future.

Looking Ahead

Eva Smith's legacy was never about standing still. It was about stepping forward with conviction. That legacy continues to shape how we move forward today.

Together, we are building on that foundation with focus and resolve, ensuring that every young person has not only a place to call home, but the stability, support, and confidence to define what comes next. This is the work ahead, and it is made possible through the strength of our community, the commitment of our partners, and the belief that every young person deserves the opportunity to build a future of their own.

Jessica Hardy-Henry

Jessica Hardy-Henry
Chair of the Board of Directors

Aisha Francis

Aisha Francis
Executive Director

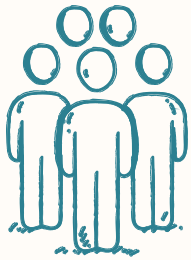
Eva's Mission and Vision

Our Mission: Inspiring and valuing youth leadership, we centre the needs of Black youth at all the intersections of their identities to cultivate a community that creates anti-racist and social justice solutions to youth homelessness.

Our Vision: Strong and diverse Black youth live in thriving communities with a safe place to call home, with the supports, respect, equity, engagement, and community belonging they need to flourish.



IMPACT SNAPSHOT AND SECTOR CONTEXT



IN 2024, AN ESTIMATED

15,418

people were experiencing homelessness, more than double the number reported in 2021.

MORE THAN

1,500

young people experience homelessness on any given night in Toronto, yet youth-specific shelter capacity remains limited.

The State of Youth Homelessness in Toronto

Homelessness in Toronto is increasing, and the data clearly shows that the system is under strain.

Outdoor homelessness alone has also more than doubled, rising from 742 individuals in 2021 to 1,615 in 2024.

Within this broader crisis, youth homelessness remains both significant and uniquely solvable.

Many young people are pushed into unsafe or unstable situations, cycling between shelters, temporary housing, or outdoor spaces not designed to support their development.

This presents a critical choice.

Do we continue to respond to homelessness after it becomes chronic?

Or do we intervene earlier—when outcomes can still be changed?

Why a Youth Focus Matters

Youth homelessness is not only about housing, but also about timing.

Young people experiencing homelessness are navigating critical stages of development, education, employment, identity, and independence. Disruptions at this stage can have lifelong consequences.

The data underscores this urgency:

- **41% of respondents cited insufficient income as the primary cause of homelessness**, double the rate reported in 2021.
- **Racialized youth—particularly Black youth—are disproportionately impacted**, reflecting broader systemic inequities.
- Experiences with **child welfare, mental health challenges, and system transitions increase vulnerability at a younger age.**

Without targeted intervention, these pathways lead to long-term and chronic homelessness.

With the right supports, they do not have to.

Eva's Role in the Sector

This is where Eva's plays a critical role.

Each year, Eva's supports hundreds of young people navigating homelessness, providing not only shelter, but the integrated supports needed to build stability and long-term independence.



631

YOUTH SERVED ANNUALLY.

82%

OF CLIENTS IDENTIFY AS BLACK.

These numbers reflect both scale and focus.

Eva's approach recognizes a fundamental truth: emergency shelter alone does not end youth homelessness.



What is required is a coordinated approach that:



Stabilizes

young people in the short-term.



Addresses

the root causes of homelessness.



Builds

pathways toward long-term security.



From Crisis to Prevention

The need is growing, but so is the opportunity to respond differently.

When we invest in young people early, we change trajectories, not just immediate outcomes. We reduce long-term system pressures, prevent chronic homelessness and we create the conditions for young people to move forward with stability, dignity, and purpose.

This is why Eva's work matters.

Not only because we respond to homelessness—**but because we know how to prevent it, and have spent decades building the experience, insight, and evidence to do so.**



MILESTONE MOMENT

REOPENING EVA'S SATELLITE

After five years of relocation, renovation, and remarkable commitment from staff, Eva's Satellite reopened its doors in May 2025, welcoming young people back to a fully re-imagined home in North York.

Located in one of Toronto's fastest-growing urban centres, the surrounding community has experienced rapid residential growth alongside rising housing costs. For many young people, this creates increasing pressure as they navigate independence in a high-cost environment, often without stable support systems.

Following its closure in 2021 for major repairs, Satellite has undergone a complete transformation and is once again providing critical youth shelter capacity in a community where demand continues to grow.

For nearly 30 years, Satellite has served youth, making history as the first youth shelter in Canada

to offer on-site harm reduction services, providing non-judgmental support that helps young people make safer choices.

Today, the revitalized space reflects the latest in trauma-informed design, creating a bright, welcoming environment where young people can begin to rebuild.



“A young person told me today that this is the best place she has ever lived.”

—Monique Thompson,
Senior Site Manager

Community Responsiveness

Satellite’s return to North York means more than reopening a building, it represents a renewed commitment to being a trusted neighbour, working alongside local leaders and community partners to build connection, stability, and shared responsibility.

City Councillor Lily Cheng’s support and belief in Eva’s work helped ensure we had a smooth landing back at 25 Canterbury. Joining the Community Liaison Committee has been a meaningful opportunity to connect with residents, partners, and local stakeholders, working together to share updates, respond to neighbourhood concerns, and foster strong, respectful relationships between Eva’s Satellite and the community around us.



SMITH FAMILY MESSAGE

Eva’s Satellite’s return to North York carries special meaning for our family. It is here that Eva M. Smith first began her work with young people, offering support, stability, and a deep belief in their potential. To see that work continue in the same community feels, in many ways, like a homecoming.



As Eva’s younger daughter, I was my mother’s shadow in the early days of her work in North York. I watched her attend countless parent-teacher meetings advocating for young people, host Saturday morning classes and deliver high school Summer School programs to ensure no student was left behind. Eva believed that every young person deserved more than a place to stay—they deserved the opportunity to build a future with dignity and purpose. I witnessed firsthand the incredible commitment, passion and dedication that lives behind every act of advocacy, and it is powerful to witness that legacy still in action.

Today, that work continues to create lasting impact. Those early efforts—the late-night council

meetings, summer school drop-ins, and relationships built across the community, laid the foundation for what Eva’s has become. We see the spirit of Eva’s vision reflected in the profound stories of growth, transformation, and perseverance of the young people this organization serves every day.

In a time when housing instability remains a pressing challenge, Eva’s continues to provide not only shelter but a path toward greater stability and independence.

When we say, “welcome home,” we mean more than a return to a physical place. It reflects the sense of belonging Eva’s creates every day—a place where young people can find stability, and where a community comes together to support them.



SHELTER

SAFETY FOR TODAY

Shelter is where we first meet young people, often in moments of uncertainty, exhaustion, or crisis. At Eva's, it is more than a bed. It is a place to land, to be seen, and to catch your breath.

For young people experiencing homelessness, safety and stability cannot be taken for granted.

Through welcoming spaces and compassionate support, Eva's provides immediate access to shelter, meals, and connections to the services young people need most.

Meeting basic needs is only the beginning. By creating environments grounded in dignity, belonging, and trust, Eva's helps young people take the first steps toward building brighter futures.

WHERE IT BEGINS

Across our three sites, we meet youth as they are, where they are. This is where our work begins, offering immediate stability and building trust over time, so young people are safe today.

This is where relationships take root. Where walls start to come down. Where something shifts.

For many, it is the first step forward.

And from that first step, a different future starts to take hold.

Snapshot of Central Intake

For young people taking a crucial step toward independent housing, the journey begins with a single, important connection at Eva's Phoenix Transitional Housing program, our Intake and Assessment Worker, Raquel. From application to move-in, Raquel approaches the entire process as an opportunity to build confidence and set young people up for success.

"It really starts from that first interaction," she shares.

We're already building skills and helping young people see what they're capable of.

This is where the transition from stability to independence begins.

Phoenix's 50-bed program offers far more than a place to stay.

Over the course of a 12-month stay, youth develop essential independent living skills including budgeting, saving, cooking, and maintaining their health and wellness, laying the groundwork for long-term stability.

Phoenix also sets clear expectations to support success. Residents are required to be working or enrolled in education, and save 30% of their income. This approach helps them build the financial resources needed for rent, deposits, and other move-in costs as they transition to permanent housing.

Together, these supports ensure that young people leave not only housed, but prepared to sustain their independence.

For Raquel, the application process itself is where skills-building begins.

Completing an application requires focus, attention to detail, and the ability to follow through. When an application is accepted, Raquel meets with each young person to assess their readiness for the program, a crucial step that encourages punctuality, communication, and accountability.

After completing the program, Raquel is there to support them in preparing for the next chapter by connecting them with furniture banks and assembling move-out packages with essentials like cookware, kitchen supplies, and linens. "At intake, many young people are still finding their footing. By the time they leave, they have built routines, skills, and a level of confidence that really sets them up for what's next."



YOUTH PERSPECTIVES



“Eva’s gave me the stability to focus, save and plan for my future. That meant everything.”

—Youth at Eva’s Satellite

“Because of the stability I’ve found here, I’ve been able to keep my job and start saving for my own apartment—a big step that finally feels within reach!”

—Accolade, Former Youth at Eva’s Phoenix

“I feel like there’s so much possibility here. And thanks to Eva’s, I have a chance to chase it.”

—AJ, Youth at Eva’s Place

“Youth homelessness is a critical intervention point where early, developmentally-informed support can prevent long-term chronic homelessness, systems involvement, and social exclusion later in life.”

—Aisha Francis, Executive Director, Eva’s Initiatives

FOOD SECURITY

At the heart of Eva’s Food and Nutrition Program is a simple belief that shared meals create connection and support stability. Our founder, Eva Smith, recognized that food is more than sustenance; it is a link to culture, community, and a foundation for wellbeing.



Across our emergency shelters Eva’s Place and Eva’s Satellite, young people receive three meals a day and two snacks each day, seven days a week. Meals are thoughtfully prepared to reflect the diversity of the young people we serve, from jerk chicken with rice and peas to saltfish fritters and frybread tacos. Dietary needs including Halal, Kosher, and Vegan, are respected to ensure that every young person feels seen and supported.

Every week, Eva’s Food and Nutrition team, under the leadership of Leanne Rabinowitz, delivers cooking programs at each Eva’s location, creating space in our kitchens for young people to gain skills, practice recipes, and work with their peers on collaborative meals and learn from guest chefs from local restaurants and partners.

At Eva’s Phoenix Transitional Housing Program, food becomes part of preparing for independence. Young people are supported to shop, cook, and plan meals for themselves, building practical skills that contribute to long-term stability. Our Health and Wellness team provides guidance on budgeting, sourcing affordable food, and meal planning, while a shared pantry helps ensure continued access to essentials.

Together, these supports move beyond nutrition, helping young people build confidence, community, and the skills needed to sustain themselves.

As clients prepare to move into independent housing, understanding food security becomes essential.

In 2024, one in four Toronto households experienced food insecurity, with the risk significantly higher for those experiencing homelessness. This is the reality that young people are stepping into.

Eva’s Food and Nutrition team supports this transition by equipping young people with practical tools for independence. This includes connecting them to reliable community food resources in their new neighbourhoods and providing strategies to stretch food budgets when needed.

Across every stage of a young person’s journey, Eva’s Food and Nutrition Program is grounded in the belief that food is both sustenance and connection.

Whether through shared meals in shelter, skill-building in the kitchen, or independent food planning at Phoenix, our approach centres dignity, cultural connection, and stability.

“I really appreciate having access to some culturally relevant spices and ingredients, which help me prepare meals that feel familiar.”

LEGACY STAFF

Eugene's 28 Years at Eva's

For 28 years, Eugene Silva has gone above and beyond to make every young person feel at home at Eva's Place. His kitchen is the hub and heart of the shelter, serving diverse meals from a thoughtfully curated and evolving menu. Eugene knows every young person's name who comes to his kitchen, but he also knows

their allergies, cultural dietary needs, and their favourite meals. Like our founder, Eva Smith, Eugene understands that supporting young people requires more than providing basic services—it means continually adapting, innovating, and responding to each client's unique needs.



STABILITY

SUPPORT FOR TOMORROW

Stability is about who a young person becomes once they are safe.

It is where we move beyond immediate needs and into the deeper work, recalibrating, rebuilding, and strengthening a sense of self. This is where our initiatives take shape.

Through consistent, culturally responsive care, young people begin to restore their well-being,

mental, physical, and relational. They build confidence, develop life skills, and find belonging. They begin to see themselves clearly again, name their story and understand that their circumstances do not define them.

Even in uncertainty, stability creates grounding, a right sense of self, meaningful relationships, and the ability to move forward with clarity.

It is what makes long-term security possible, and sustainable.

PATHWAYS TO PUBLIC JOY: RECLAIMING SPACE, BELONGING, AND DELIGHT

In 2025, Eva's partnered with acclaimed placemaker Jay Pitter through *Pathways to Public Joy*, a pilot initiative funded by the Bell Diversity Fund and later featured in an *Azure* magazine series on public joy. The initiative invited young people experiencing homelessness to engage with Toronto's public and cultural spaces in ways that fostered belonging, curiosity, creativity, and mental wellness.

Over the course of three experiences—visits to the Toronto Botanical Garden, the Art Gallery of Ontario, and a music and DJ workshop led by Juno Award-winning electronic producer and DJ BAMBII—youth were encouraged to explore an important idea: that public spaces belong to them too.

For many young people experiencing homelessness, public spaces are often associated with surveillance, exclusion, fear, or judgment. This innovative program challenged those experiences by creating opportunities for youth to move through the city with confidence, reflection, and joy. The program was rooted in the belief that access to beauty, creativity, and

meaningful public experiences is not a luxury, but a human right.

At the Toronto Botanical Garden, youth participated in a guided exploration of the gardens and ravine, reflecting on the connection between nature, peace, and well-being. In one particularly memorable moment, a small group of young men wandered further into the ravine and discovered a quiet creek surrounded by trees and flowing water. When the group reunited, they invited everyone to join them, speaking openly about how calm, grounded, and free they felt in the space. Inspired by their reflections, the entire group crossed over the creek together—some barefoot—to experience the moment collectively.

The experience became a powerful reminder that healing can sometimes begin with something as simple as stillness: listening to birdsong, hearing wind move through leaves, touching trees with deep histories, and feeling connected to the natural world.

At the AGO, youth explored artwork in small groups and reflected on pieces that resonated personally with them. Through art, conversation, and shared meals, young people engaged questions of identity, belonging, and self-expression while taking up space in environments that can often feel inaccessible or exclusive.

The final workshop brought youth together through music, DJing, and storytelling. This session encouraged participants to create joyful soundscapes and express themselves creatively through rhythm, energy, and play.

Across all three experiences, one thing became clear: when young people are invited into spaces of beauty, care, and cultural expression with dignity and intentionality, they respond with openness, insight, creativity, and joy.

Pathways to Public Joy reminded us that supporting youth well-being means more than helping young people survive. It means helping them reconnect to community, possibility, and their right to fully belong in the world around them.



STRENGTHENING OUTCOMES THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS



Recognizing that young people experiencing homelessness often face complex mental health challenges, Eva's has intentionally built partnerships to expand access to on-site, integrated supports.

In partnership with **COTA** Health and North York General Hospital, Eva's provides dedicated mental health and community support across its programs, including Eva's Place, Eva's Satellite, and Eva's Phoenix. **COTA's** expertise in community-based mental health care strengthens Eva's ability to respond to the diverse and evolving needs of young people.



“Support goes beyond accessing services, it’s about helping young people build confidence and see what’s possible for themselves.”

—Sherica, COTA Case Manager

This approach reflects a critical need. Youth experiencing homelessness are significantly more likely to face mental health challenges, including anxiety, depression, and trauma-related impacts. Without coordinated support, these challenges can create barriers to housing, stability, education, and employment.

By embedding mental health and case management supports directly within its programs, Eva’s ensures that young people can access services in a familiar, trusted environment. This includes support in navigating complex systems such as mental health care, education, and employment services.

This integrated approach strengthens outcomes across every stage of a young person’s journey:

Short-term

stabilizes wellbeing and reduces immediate barriers.

Medium-term

supports engagement in education and employment.

Long-term

contributes to sustained independence and improved life outcomes.

By working in partnership with **COTA**, Eva’s expands the circle of support around each young person, ensuring they are not navigating complex systems alone but are supported every step of the way.



PROGRAMMING SPOTLIGHT

EVA'S 3D PROGRAM: *DRUM, DANCE, DOMINATE*

Thanks to the generosity of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment and in partnership with Bongo and B Drumming and Afiwi Groove School, Eva's delivered our 3D Program: *Drum, Dance, Dominate* for its second year.

This unique program combines the dynamic movements of African Dance with the powerful energetic rhythms of African drumming, offering young people an engaging way to stay active while supporting their overall well-being.

Rooted in traditions across African and Caribbean cultures, drumming and dance are forms of communication, storytelling, and celebration, creating space for expression, connection, and community. Through this program, young people, build confidence, reduce stress, and experience a sense of belonging, reinforcing the role culturally grounded programming in supporting both mental and physical wellbeing.

By blending recreation, life skills development, and youth leadership, 3D cultivates more active lifestyles, increased heart health, cultural connections, and introduces young people to invaluable community resources and practical tools for emotional regulation and self-care.

Helder Costa, Senior Site Manager at Eva's Place, saw the positive impact of the 3D program on everyone who participated, whether they joined one session or ten.

Programs like 3D reflect Eva's commitment to supporting the whole person, mind, body, and spirit. By creating space for creativity, cultural expression, and connection, young people are not only building skills but also strengthening their sense of identity and belonging.

“Our residents were engaged and really enjoyed learning the techniques, especially experimenting with new instruments, creating beats together, and leading dances they choreographed themselves. It was a great opportunity for leadership and camaraderie, and it filled the space with music and positive energy.”

—Helder Costa, Senior Site Manager,
Eva's Place





SECURITY

INDEPENDENCE TO THRIVE

Security is about what comes after Eva's, and what lasts.

It is the point where young people begin to stand on their own, with more knowledge, income, skills, and supports to sustain a life beyond homelessness.

This work is practical and personal, accessing education, building skills,

finding and keeping work, defining or refining a career path, managing money, understanding your rights, and navigating systems that were once barriers.

It is having what you need, and knowing how to use it.

Security means young people leave Eva's housed and equipped, with the confidence to move forward and build a life that holds.

INNOVATIVE WRAPAROUND SUPPORTS

Youth at Eva's continue to identify education and employment as among the most significant barriers to moving beyond homelessness, and where they are seeking support.

At the same time, Canada is entering a period of significant workforce transition. With an aging population and increasing demand for labour, ensuring that young people are prepared to participate in the economy is more important than ever.

For young people who have experienced homelessness, this preparation is not guaranteed. Without targeted support, young people may face barriers to education and employment that limit their ability to fully engage in the workforce.

In response, Eva's delivers education and employment programming designed to provide tailored, individualized support that reflects each young person's goals and pathway, helping close the gap between potential and opportunity.

One example is Rise & Thrive, Eva's signature career development event. This hands-on experience equips young people with practical skills, guidance, and networking opportunities to help them move confidently toward meaningful employment. Building



on strong youth feedback, Rise & Thrive continues to evolve expanding opportunities for deeper engagement with industry leaders, mentors, HR professionals, and corporate partners who are invested in the potential of young people.

The event brings together youth, staff, and community partners for a day focused on skill-building, confidence, and access to opportunity, creating tangible pathways toward employment and long-term independence.

Program highlights include:

- Career and employment workshops.
- Resume and interview support.

- Interactive booths and experiences (headshots, grooming, LinkedIn, mentorship, etc.).
- Networking opportunities with corporate partners and professionals.

Beyond events like Rise & Thrive, every young person at Eva's is supported by a dedicated case manager who provides regular, structured guidance. Together, they develop individualized case plans that reflect each young person's goals and priorities. Whether preparing for interviews or completing academic credits, case managers connect youth with the resources and support they need to move forward with confidence and build their own futures.

RENT SMART PROGRAM AND EVICTION PREVENTION

This year we partnered with WoodGreen Community Services to deliver the Rent Smart workshop series. For many youth transitioning out of homelessness, this training was a turning point in preparing for independent living.



Rent Smart workshops cover a broad range of topics that empower young people entering the rental market in one of Canada's most expensive cities with the confidence they need to navigate moving out on their own. From understanding Tenant Rights and Responsibilities to creating budgets for monthly expenses, these sessions provide crucial foundations for successful independent living.

Young people who completed all three sessions received a certification demonstrating their provincial tenancy knowledge.

For youth who are living independently for the first time, the You Got This program provides comprehensive follow-up support for up to one year after they leave the shelter system. You Got This staff meet with clients regularly, offering a further layer of support as they navigate their independence. From connecting young people to supportive organizations in their communities to finding affordable food sources and supporting eviction prevention, Eva's remains committed to helping clients achieve successful independence through innovative, wraparound supports.



PRINT SHOP CLOSURE

Evolving Pathways to Employment and Opportunity

For nearly 25 years, Eva's Print Shop created meaningful opportunities for hundreds of young people to gain hands-on training, paid work experience, mentorship, and pathways toward employment and independence.

As both a social enterprise and workforce development program, the Print Shop reflected Eva's longstanding commitment to ensuring that young people experiencing homelessness have access not only to shelter and support, but also to the skills, confidence, and opportunities needed to build sustainable futures.

Over time, however, both the labour market and the needs of young people have evolved

significantly. Advances in technology, changes within the print industry, and the increasing demand for digital, flexible, and diversified employment pathways have reshaped how young people prepare for the workforce.

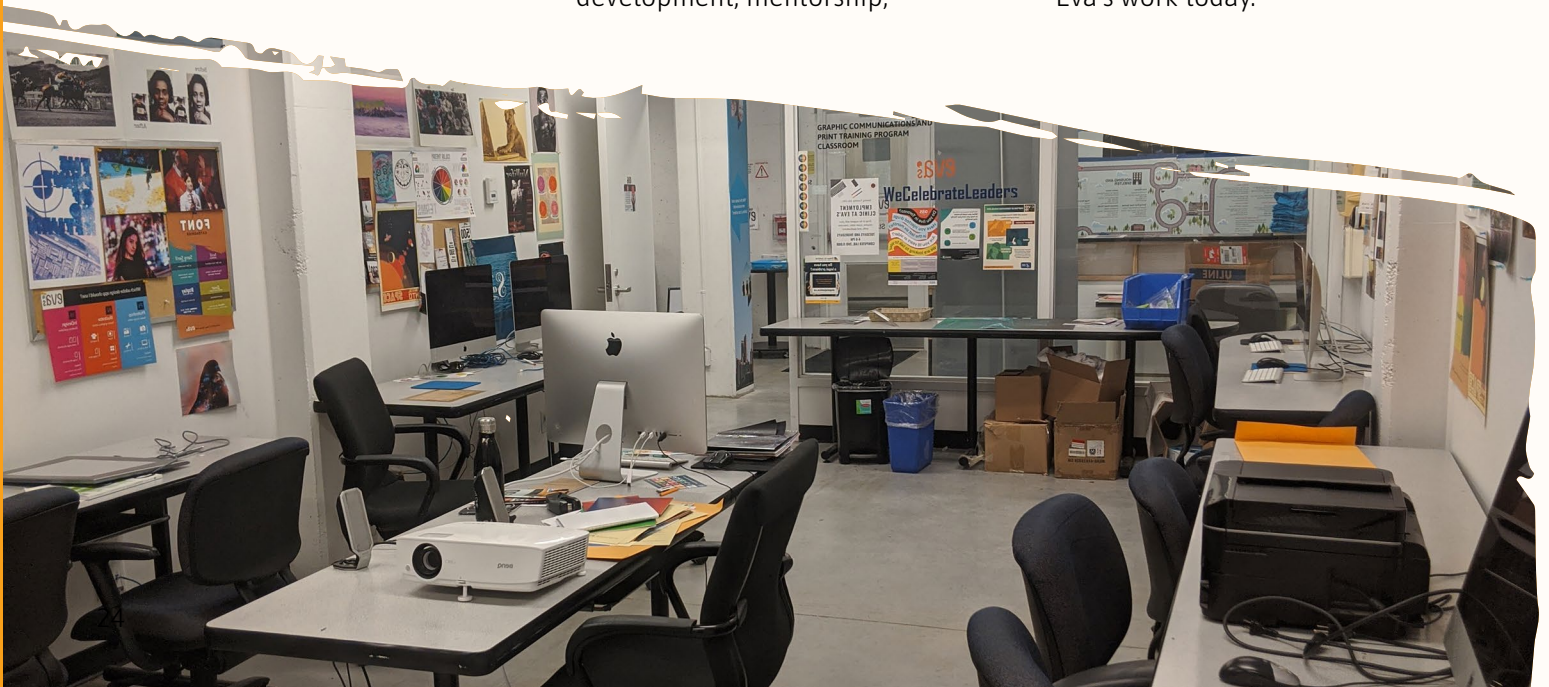
Following careful consideration, Eva's made the difficult decision in 2025 to wind down the Print Shop program. While this marked the conclusion of an important chapter in Eva's history, it also reflected the organization's responsibility to continuously evolve our programs to ensure they remain relevant, impactful, and aligned with emerging opportunities for youth.

The legacy of the Print Shop continues to inform how Eva's approaches employment, education, and future-readiness today. The program demonstrated the transformative impact of combining practical skills development, mentorship,

paid experience, and relational support for young people facing significant barriers to employment and stability.

As Eva's continues to evolve, we are investing in new pathways that reflect the realities of today's economy, and the futures young people are working toward. This includes strengthening education and employment supports, expanding partnerships, and developing innovative initiatives such as Roses from Concrete, a new education-bridging partnership designed to help young people access long-term opportunity, belonging, and success.

To every young person, staff member, Board member, educator, mentor, donor, customer, and partner who helped shape Eva's Print Shop over the past 25 years: thank you. Your contributions created a lasting legacy that continues to influence and inspire Eva's work today.



ROSES FROM CONCRETE

Audacious Hope as the Foundation for Mentorship and Success

In partnership with George Brown Polytechnic and funded in part by the NBA Foundation, Roses from Concrete is a bold new education-to-employment bridging program designed to support youth as they transition into post-secondary education and long-term careers.

The program's name reflects a powerful truth: young people who have experienced homelessness are not defined by the "concrete" of poverty, displacement, racism, or systemic barriers. When given stability, mentorship, and opportunity, they rise, and thrive.

Education is one of the most reliable pathways to long-term economic mobility. Post-secondary graduates earn significantly higher lifetime

incomes and are far less likely to experience housing instability.

Roses from Concrete responds to this reality by recognizing that homelessness is not only a housing crisis, it is also an educational one.

By investing in education, mentorship, and meaningful pathways to employment, Eva's is supporting young people build the stability and opportunity they deserve.

YOUTH PERSPECTIVES Gerald's Story

Less than a year after arriving in Canada for the first time, Gerald was accepted into the YOUth Belong Program, where young people receive rental bursaries for up to 18 months in independent housing units across the city. YOUth Belong layers regular support from a dedicated case worker with opportunities to flourish in long-term independence.

Right away, Gerald sprung into action, quickly becoming an enthusiastic participant and

engaging in every available opportunity for learning, growth and empowerment. From accessing community resources, taking part in Eva's programming and making plans for the future, Gerald's resilience has been evident in every step of their journey.

After quickly securing a job, Gerald set a new goal: to achieve certification as a Personal Support Worker, a career that allows them to give back to their community and support others in need.

When staff at YOUth Belong learned that Gerald was set to graduate, the whole team showed up to cheer them on, and celebrate their achievement.



"Attending Gerald's graduation felt like witnessing the full arc of resilience, courage and self-belief come to life. Seeing the pride on Gerald's face as they crossed the stage was a profound reminder that with the right support, young people can choose perseverance over circumstance."

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Behind every number in this report are people who chose to stand beside young people at some of the most critical moments in their lives.

This year, the generosity of donors, volunteers, partners, and community supporters helped Eva’s continue strengthening our organization while ensuring young people remained at the centre of everything we do. Your support provided stability during a period of significant transition and growing demand.

Because of you, young people accessed safe shelter, mental health and wellness supports,

education and employment pathways, life-skills development, and trusted relationships that help create the foundation for long-term stability and independence. Your support does more than sustain programs; it helps young people rebuild confidence, reconnect to community, and imagine a future beyond crisis.

Youth homelessness in Toronto continues to rise, making the pathway toward stability increasingly difficult to navigate.

Yet we remain deeply optimistic about what is possible when communities come together with compassion, commitment, and belief in young people’s potential.

Thank you for building more than shelter. Together, we are helping young people build safety, stability, confidence, connection, and hope for the future.



Thank you to Donors and Volunteers

At Eva’s, we are inspired by the generosity and dedication of our many donors and volunteers. Your time, energy and care are felt in countless ways each day, and we can’t thank you enough for standing with us.

Because of you, young people are welcomed into spaces where they can feel safe, seen and supported.

Every contribution, whether financial, in-kind, or through the gift of your time, plays a meaningful role in helping young people build their futures.

Thank you for standing alongside Eva’s and the young people we serve. Your generosity and belief in their potential continues to make a lasting difference every day.

REVENUE

Government Funding	\$8,227,253	70%
Donation, Fundraising & Grants	\$2,960,829	25%
Investment Income, Print Shop, Other	\$609,697	5%
Total Revenue	\$11,797,779	

EXPENSES

Shelter Services	\$6,034,743	48%
Administration	\$2,590,397	21%
Youth Programs	\$1,600,564	13%
YOUth Belong	\$1,400,146	11%
Fundraising & Volunteer Services	\$824,727	7%
Total Expenses	\$12,450,577	

STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHT

CANADIAN TIRE GTA DEALERS

This year, we are proud to recognize the leadership of Canadian Tire GTA Dealers, whose collective efforts—through Funding Innovation’s Art Easel Program and our annual Golf Classic—have reached an extraordinary \$500,000 milestone.

Through this partnership, Canadian Tire Dealers and their customers are creating meaningful opportunities for young people, helping them access the stability, support, and resources they need to move forward.

At a time when youth face rising costs, limited housing options, and declining affordability, your generosity is making a tangible difference. Your support enables Eva’s to respond with flexibility and care, addressing urgent needs while continuing to invest in long-term pathways out of homelessness.

“The GTA Dealers and I have chosen to support Eva’s because of the incredible work and opportunities you provide to youth experiencing homelessness.”

—Kevin Estey, Canadian Tire Partner and Fundraising Leader of Eva’s Golf Classic

“Today’s youth are tomorrow’s future, and we must give them every opportunity to succeed. With your programs and our support, the possibilities are endless.”

We are deeply grateful for your partnership and look forward to building on this momentum together.



SPOTLIGHT June 19th Open House

In June, we welcomed our donors and supporters for an evening of gratitude and celebration, beginning with an insider look at Eva’s Phoenix. This wasn’t just a tour, it was a guided journey, led by youth, through the spaces that provide them a safe haven, welcoming our guests into their homes, kitchens and shared spaces. Next up was a program of reflection and learning at the Waterworks Foodhall next door, where our community heard directly from past and present Eva’s clients in a thoughtful fireside chat with members of our leadership team. We hope you’ll join us at our next event, we can’t wait to invite you in again.

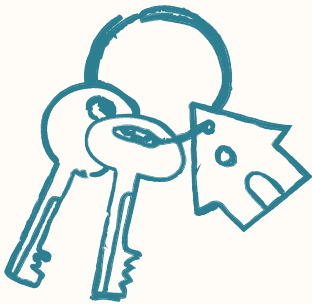


How to
Connect

donate@evas.ca

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IS DIFFERENT— OUR RESPONSE MUST BE TOO

This year, Eva's joined youth-serving organizations, policymakers, frontline leaders, and more than 90 young people with lived experience at Toronto's first-ever Youth Homelessness Summit, a landmark gathering focused on building a coordinated, youth specific response to homelessness in our city.



The Summit reinforced an urgent reality; while youth homelessness continues to rise, Toronto lacks a dedicated youth homelessness strategy. Too often young people experiencing homelessness are served through systems primarily designed for adults, despite the fact that youth homelessness is fundamentally different in both its causes and solutions.

Young people are still building their identities, education, relationships, and futures. With the right intervention at the right time, homelessness does not have to become a lifelong cycle.

That is why prevention, early intervention, mental health supports, education, employment pathways, housing stability, and trusted relationships matter so deeply. Research, and lived experience of young people themselves, continue to show that youth homelessness can be prevented, shortened, and resolved far more effectively when community response is early and with intention.

At Eva's, this work is already underway.

Every day, we see the realities behind the statistics. We see young people navigating impossible housing markets, mental health challenges, family breakdown, racism, discrimination, disrupted education, and systems



that too often were not designed with youth in mind. We also see something else: resilience, leadership, creativity, and extraordinary potential.

Across our programs, we are strengthening access to education, and employment, expanding mental health and wellness supports, centering youth voice in program design, and building community partnerships that help young people move from crisis toward long-term stability and independence.

We are also continuing to advocate alongside our sector partners for a coordinated youth homelessness strategy in Toronto, one that recognizes that preventing youth homelessness is not only possible, but essential to the future health and wellbeing of our communities.

The Summit reinforced much of what young people at Eva's have already been telling us for years:



Connection

matters as much as housing.



Prevention

and early intervention is critical.



Youth voices

must shape the systems intended to support them.



Long-term solutions

require collaboration across housing, health, education, employment, and government sectors.



The Summit was an important milestone, and for many of us, a call to action.

Because with the rights supports, at the right time, a young person's trajectory can change forever, shaping not only their own future, but the strength, health, and wellbeing of communities across the GTA.



GOVERNANCE AND CLOSING

Eva's is guided by a committed and engaged Board of Directors that provides strategic oversight, ensures strong governance, and upholds accountability to the young people we serve, as well as to our partners, donors, and community.



The Board brings together a diverse group of leaders with expertise across sectors, including finance, law, public policy, human resources, and community services. This breadth of experience supports thoughtful decision-making and strengthens Eva's ability to navigate a complex and evolving landscape.

Working closely with the Executive Director and leadership team, the Board plays a critical role in setting direction, stewarding resources responsibly, and ensuring that Eva's remains focused on its mission to prevent and reduce youth homelessness.

This past year, the Board remained actively engaged through a period of transition, providing guidance and oversight to support organizational alignment, financial discipline,

and long-term sustainability. Their leadership has helped position Eva's to respond to growing demand while continuing to deliver meaningful outcomes for young people.

At the core of Eva's governance is a commitment to integrity, transparency, and continuous improvement. The Board regularly reviews organizational performance, monitors risk. And ensures that policies and practices reflect best-in-class governance standards.

Together, the Board and leadership team are united in their responsibility to ensure that Eva's continues to evolve, strengthen, and deliver on its promise, supporting young people not only in crisis, but as they build stability, independences, and what comes next.





OUR SINCERE THANKS

For over 200 youth a night, your generosity means the world.

Every gift you give helps build something lasting. Eva's is more than a place to stay. Because of your support, every youth is met with care, opportunity, and the tools they need to build thriving futures.

Together, we are building the future of Toronto, one young person at a time.



Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth
60 Brant Street, Toronto, ON M5V 3G9
416-977-4497 | donate@evas.ca

Charitable Registration Number:
13223 9013 RR0001

    evas.ca