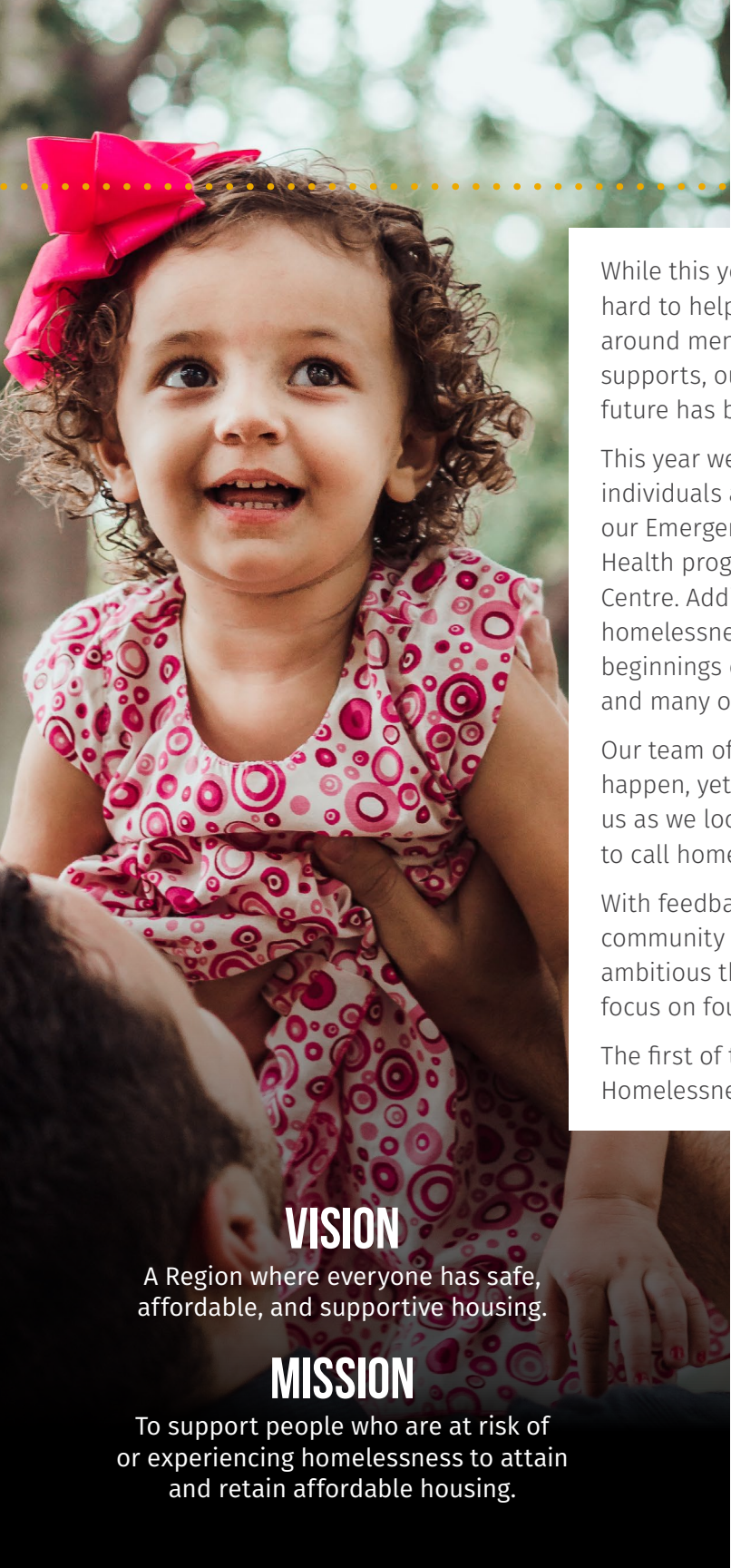




GIVING HOPE A HOME

IMPACT REPORT 2019

BLU DOOR



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

While this year at Blue Door our amazing team has worked hard to help our Region's most vulnerable to find supports around mental and physical health, food security and family supports, our biggest focus throughout the year and into the future has been safe, affordable and long-term housing for all.

This year we were able to rapidly rehouse close to 400 individuals and families in the community, who came through our Emergency Housing programs, as well as our Housing to Health program run in partnership with LOFT and The Krasman Centre. Additionally, 2019 saw the launch of our national homelessness/housing podcast "Out of the Blue" and the beginnings of new partnerships with medical professionals and many other community partners.

Our team of staff and volunteers worked hard to make this happen, yet we know that there is much more work ahead of us as we look to create a Region where everyone has a place to call home.

With feedback from our team, our Board, our funders and our community partners, Blue Door has launched an exciting and ambitious three-year Strategic Plan for 2020-2022, that will focus on four specific themes to support our vision.

The first of those themes is Housing, Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention. Not only will we use a Housing First

VISION

A Region where everyone has safe, affordable, and supportive housing.

MISSION

To support people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness to attain and retain affordable housing.

A BRIC

approach to rapidly rehouse 1,500 people over three years, but we will also have a strong focus on programs that support the prevention of homelessness and the retention of housing.

One of the key components of finding and retaining housing is Health and that's why it's our second theme. Working with our community partners, Blue Door will provide access to both physical and mental health supports.

Our third theme for our strategic plan is Employment, as not only do we have to find affordable housing for people, but we have to as well create employment opportunities that make housing affordable.

Lastly, as an organization, we'll look to increase our capacity to serve more people with new and innovative programming, that will provide them with the tools they'll need to move forward in life and to find secure and long-term housing.

Reflecting on the past year, we are proud of the work we've done, and grateful for the incredible support we continue to receive from our community. We are excited about this coming year, and already are working hard on new and innovative programs and supports that will allow Blue Door to have a greater impact across York Region.

Together, we can and will end homelessness.



Michael Braithwaite
Chief Executive Officer



Tracy Porter
Chair, Board of Directors

BRIGHT FUTURE

CORE PROGRAMS &

EMERGENCY HOUSING

PORTER PLACE

..... Men • 30 people nightly

Porter Place is the only emergency housing program for single men experiencing homelessness in York Region.

LEEDER PLACE

..... Families • 15 families nightly

Leeder Place is the only emergency housing program for families facing homelessness in York Region.

KEVIN'S PLACE

..... Youth • 12 people nightly

Located in Newmarket, Kevin's Place provides a supportive environment for male youth ages 16 to 26.



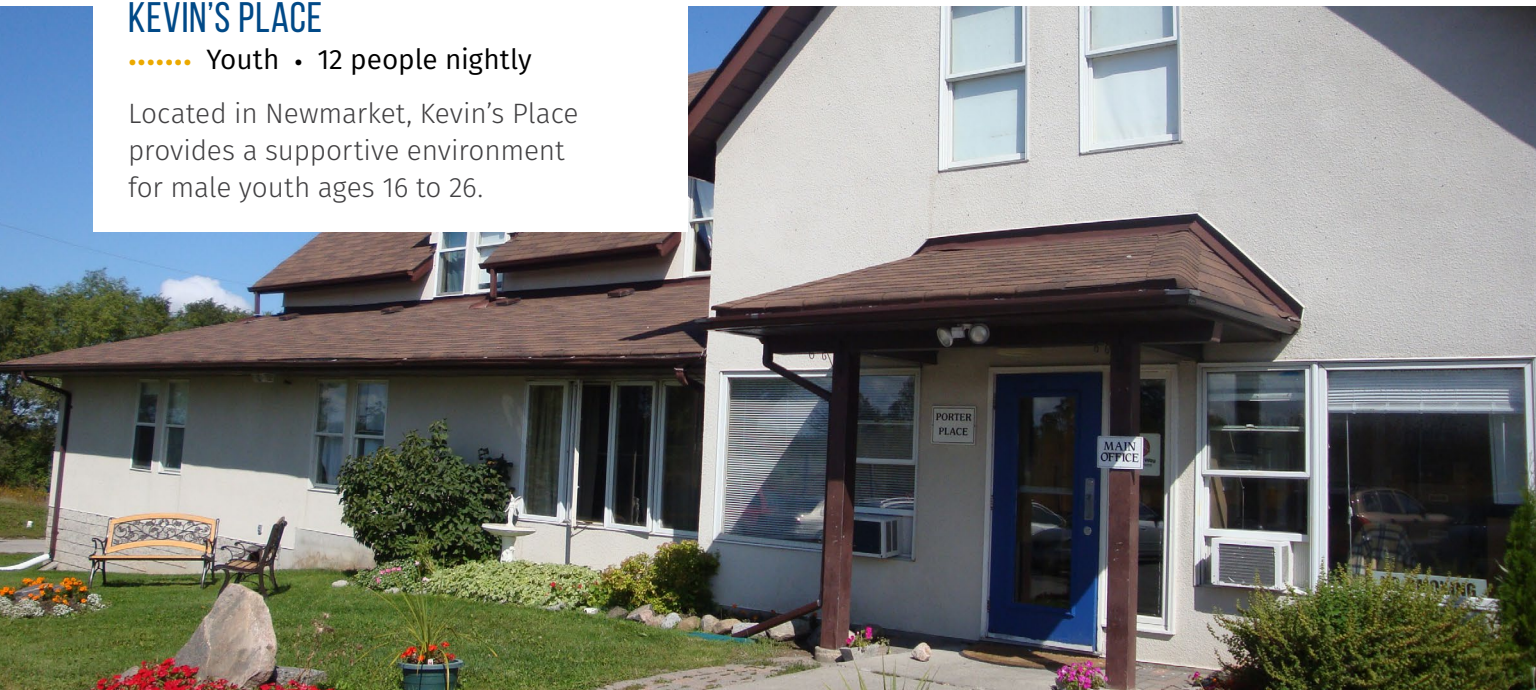
Every day of the year,
**BLUE DOOR IS NEAR
OR AT CAPACITY**



AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY
for a person facing
homelessness



1 IN 5 CHILDREN
are homeless before
the age of 16



g SERVICES

COUNSELLING & SUPPORT PROGRAMS

BUNNY CLUB

While families focus on housing stability, the volunteer-led Bunny Club uses fun activities to develop the social, emotional, cognitive, and motor skills of preschool-aged children staying at Leeder Place.

HOUSING RETENTION

Housing Retention helps individuals achieve longer-term housing stability by providing follow-up support and resources to navigate potential issues that could lead to eviction.

HOUSING TO HEALTH

Housing to Health provides people experiencing chronic and episodic homelessness with wraparound supports to improve their quality of life and increase the likelihood of long-term housing retention. Housing to Health is a proud partnership between Blue Door, The Krasman Centre, and LOFT Crosslinks Housing and Support Services.

WRAPAROUND SUPPORTS

Wraparound supports are critical in the transition from homelessness to home. Key supports include landlord/tenant mediation, job skills training, physical and mental health support, addictions counselling, legal assistance, protection from abuse, and much more.

For children, vital supports include school assessments, homework club, school supplies, birthday parties, and more.



STRATEGIC PLAN

Aimed at ending homelessness, Blue Door's new three-year Strategic Plan focuses on housing individuals and families. Using a Housing First approach Blue Door will prevent people from entering chronic homelessness, rapidly rehousing those that do, and support individuals and families at risk of losing their homes.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



HOUSING, HOUSING STABILITY AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

As the largest provider of emergency housing in the Region of York, Blue Door provides 102 emergency beds for families, men, and youth and is a partner in Housing to Health, a Housing First program. Looking through a "Housing First" lens, we have identified the need to transform our model of service delivery to include new housing options. Options such as transitional and shared/supportive housing will allow people to live more independently with tailored supports. To demonstrate our commitment to ending homelessness, we will turn attention and energy towards programming that aims to prevent homelessness.

GOAL 1

Support the expansion of housing options to meet the needs of adults, families, and youth in the Region of York

1500

individuals housed in 3 years



HEALTH

Poor physical and mental health not only contribute to homelessness but are often barriers to housing stability. By enhancing access to physical and mental health care for families, men, and youth, we will improve their ability to find and sustain adequate housing.

GOAL 2

Improve the health and well-being of people at risk of or experiencing homelessness

75%

of clients report improved health as a result of Blue Door's support



EMPLOYMENT

Meaningful employment is essential for people to secure and retain housing. Not only do we need to add more affordable housing but we need to create opportunities for higher-paying jobs so that housing becomes affordable and sustainable. We will add innovative employment opportunities through a social enterprise run by Blue Door, as well as by working with current and new partners to provide easy access to existing employment programs.

GOAL 3

Create new employment opportunities for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness

70%

of participants enter into apprenticeship programs in the trades



ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY & EXCELLENCE

To best serve the needs of marginalized individuals in our community, Blue Door will focus on the growth of programming and revenue generation. This will require well trained and motivated staff who have the tools to deliver on this new level of excellence. Blue Door, working collaboratively with our many partners, will become a recognized leader in the Region of York as it adds new programs and partners to facilitate innovative approaches to ending homelessness.

GOAL 4

Increase organizational capacity to innovate and revise existing service offerings while cultivating new competencies that fuel innovation and progress in delivering relevant programs and services

3

new programs: housing, employment, and health

CONSTRUCT

AN EMPLOYMENT
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



CONSTRUCT

..... 55 Participants in Year 1

Structured as an employment social enterprise, Construct will provide participants with skills training, wraparound supports, and the experience needed to secure well-paying in-demand careers in the trades. By connecting graduates directly to employment, Construct will lift participants out of poverty and enable them to afford and retain a home of their own.

ABODE & FORWARD

..... 5 Houses

Aimed at reducing chronic and episodic homelessness, Abode (one-year stay) and Forward (six-month period) will provide second stage low-rental housing for vulnerable families, seniors, and LGBTQ2S+ youth who need longer-term support to overcome barriers.

NEW IN 2020

THEIR STORY



TOGETHER IN OUR OWN HOME

It's just me and my three-year-old little girl Maya*.

People say it all the time, but she really is my whole world. **It breaks my heart to think how close I came to almost losing her.**

I was clean years before she was born, but still it was hard holding our little family together.

For two years before coming to Blue Door, Maya and I stayed with friends, couched surfed, and stayed at shelters - but we were together.

Earlier last year, Children's Aid Society got involved and a judge told me what I already knew, that **Maya needed a stable place to live.**

But the judge did something else, he gave me a deadline. Maya would become a crown ward if we didn't find housing by June 10th, 2019.

That's when we got lucky. We came to Blue Door.

I asked Blue Door staff for help and they supported us through it all. Being a single dad, Blue Door connected me to parenting supports, an ongoing program to keep me from relapsing, and they even helped me to fill out the application for our two-bedroom townhouse!

Now, Maya and I are together - in our own home.

- *Jack and Maya*

*Names and dates have been changed to protect the family's privacy.



34,080
NIGHTS OF SAFETY



102,240
MEALS



339 men accessed
Porter Place, and **168**
moved into permanent
housing



316 family members
rebuilt their lives at
Leeder Place, and
159 secured a home



177 youth stayed
at Kevin's Place, and
88 found housing



330
preschool-aged children
built skills and played
in the Bunny Club



204
individuals received
supports to keep
their home



832
children, youth, men,
and women received
supports and a safe
place to sleep



7,339
transformational
wraparound
support sessions

YOUR IMPACT

THANK YOU

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers transform lives! From providing haircuts to employment assistance to children's birthday parties, volunteers spread hope and happiness to everyone at Blue Door.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tracy Porter (Board Chair), Marianne Marando (Vice-Chair), Martin Dunstan (Treasurer), Alana Kanapka (Secretary), Caroline Hunter, Al Jones, Gregory Lawrence, Julie Ralph, Catherine Sigmar, and Christine Walterhouse

LEADERSHIP DONORS

Thank you to the following generous donors for their significant financial or in-kind contribution of \$1,000 or more in 2019.

Antamex Industries	Loblaws	St. John Chrysostom Parish
Bingo World and Gaming Newmarket	Longo's Green Lane	St. Mary's Anglican Church
Cambria Design Build Ltd.	Marianne Marando	St. Matthew's United Church Women
ClubLink	Martin Dunstan	TD Bank Group
Country Toy Tea	Metroland Media	The Dunin Foundation
Desjardins	O'Malley's Catering	The Home Depot Canada Foundation
Huron Heights Secondary School	Ontario REALTORS Care® Foundation	The Renoir Residents' Council
Ian Walterhouse	Paul Meredith	The Rose Corporation
Inter-World Paper Overseas Limited	Region of York Quilters Guild	The Tenaquip Foundation
John Howard Society of York Region	Re-Source Thrift Shop Bradford	Truckstop.com Canada Ltd.
KFC, Newmarket	Ron Van Noort	Verico Premiere Mortgage Centre
LifeCorps	Rotary Club of Newmarket	Vince's Market
Little Caesars, Newmarket	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 375	Wasim Jarrah
	Royal LePage Shelter Foundation	Whole Foods Market, Leaside
	St. Elizabeth Seton Parish	York Region Food Network

YOUR SUPPORT SAVED THE LIVES OF **OVER 800**
CHILDREN, MEN, AND WOMEN. *Thank you!*

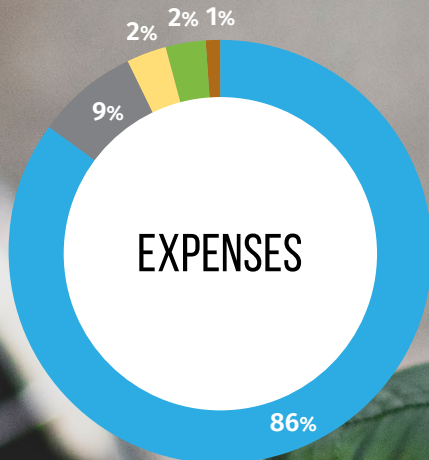
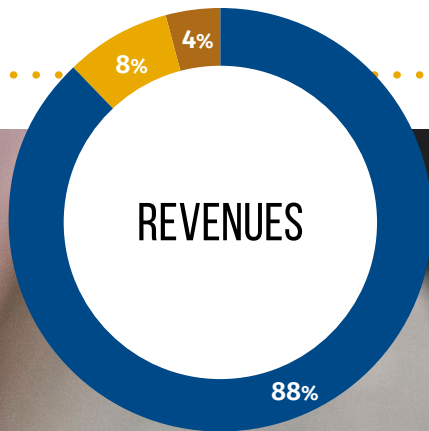
YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK

REVENUES

- 88%** Government
(Federal, Provincial, Municipal)
- 8%** United Way Greater Toronto
- 4%** Fundraising Donations

EXPENSES

- 86%** Emergency Housing
- 9%** Housing to Health
- 2%** Support Programs
- 2%** Administrative Costs
- 1%** Fundraising



Help end and prevent homelessness.
VOLUNTEER • DONATE • ADVOCATE



Saturday, February 20, 2021



BLUEDOOR

18838 Highway 11
East Gwillimbury, ON L9N 0C5

TEL: 905-898-1015

TOLL-FREE: 1-888-554-5525

info@bluedoor.ca • bluedoor.ca

Charitable Registration Number:
13057 1896 RR0001

We greatly value the generous support of:

