

BLUEDOOR



BLUE DOOR  
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IMPACT  
**2022 BL**  
**IMPACT**  
**REPORT**  
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## LETTER FROM CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

Inflation, Pandemic, Housing and Healthcare Crises – these were issues grabbing headlines last year. While these challenges continue to squeeze society, making it hard for everyone to navigate and survive, vulnerable community members feel squeezed the most.

These are challenging times, and challenging times call for remarkable leadership.

### People like you and the team of heroes at Blue Door.

People who are passionate and persistently keeping very vulnerable people supported with innovative and thoughtful housing solutions.

As you sit and flip through the pages of this year's annual report, join us in reflecting on our 2020-2022 Strategic Plan, the overwhelming challenges faced these past three years, and continued growth together. With your support, the Blue Door team created **nine new life-saving programs and achieved its strategic goals** focused on housing, health, employment, and organizational excellence.



**2022**  
QUEEN'S  
JUBILEE  
PIN



**2022**  
NEWMARKET  
NOT-FOR-PROFIT  
OF THE YEAR

Despite the toughest of conditions, the Blue Door team helped more than 650 people from emergency, seasonal, transitional, and community housing programs move **into a home of their own!**

When housing seemed out of reach for others, Blue Door launched three transitional housing programs, INNclusion for 2SLGBTQ+ youth, Abode for families, and Forward for senior men, and with the support of generous donors purchased a house for each program.

To provide streamlined support for people experiencing longer periods of homelessness, Blue Door merged with Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold in 2021. The program continues to provide life-saving seasonal supports to hundreds of individuals, thanks to your support.

And together with The Regional Municipality of York, the beautiful Passage House opened to provide men's transitional housing in 18 one-bedroom apartments.

In this same new space, Blue Door launched a Health Hub, to provide on-site basic healthcare.

Addressing these challenging times head-on, Blue Door's construction social enterprise Construct expanded into Durham and Peel Region, celebrated its second anniversary, and successfully connected **over 200 people to meaningful and well-paying trade careers.**

We are extremely proud of this long list of accomplishments.

When the world threw challenge after challenge, you and the Blue Door team stepped up and said "Challenge Accepted".

Your passion and support fueled these significant accomplishments and milestones, and together we keep rising to meet the needs of the community.

**While the road to prevent and end homelessness is far from over,** with the launch of a bold and thoughtful new Strategic Plan in 2023 and your continued support, the future is bright.



Michael Braithwaite  
CEO



Marianne Marando  
Chair, Board of Directors

**For your passion and support, and so much more, we are extremely grateful!**





# WHERE WE'VE BEEN 2020-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

Thanks to your generous support and the passionate team at Blue Door, we achieved and surpassed our 2020-2022 Strategic Plan goals.

**HOUSING, HOUSING STABILITY AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION**  
GOAL | 600 Individuals Housed  
OUTCOME | 650 Individuals Housed

**HEALTH**  
GOAL | 75% Report Improved Health  
OUTCOME | 82% Reported Improved Health

**EMPLOYMENT**  
GOAL | 70% Enter an Apprenticeship Program  
OUTCOME | 78% Entered the Trades or an Apprenticeship Program  
80% Secured Employment

**ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY & EXCELLENCE**  
GOAL | 3 New Programs  
OUTCOME | 9 New Programs

# WHERE WE'RE GOING 2023-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Our 2023-2025 Strategic Plan tackles homelessness by focusing programming on Housing, Health, and Employment. Through Evaluation, Leadership, Innovation, and Advocacy, we will work towards ensuring that all Canadians can access dignified housing.

**NEW VISION**  
A Canada where everyone can access dignified housing.

**NEW MISSION**  
Enable housing stability by driving innovative housing, health, and employment solutions that prevent and end homelessness.







## EMERGENCY HOUSING

More than just a place to sleep, emergency housing programs provide extensive wraparound supports, including virtual and in-person mental health programming, help with housing searches, health supports, and employment-related supports.

Last year, emergency housing programs returned to regular capacity and introduced 14 additional beds across Porter Place, Kevin’s Place, and Passage House during the winter season for those escaping the cold.

At Blue Door’s emergency housing programs, we are still battling challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to work closely with Public Health, to ensure a safe environment for everyone accessing the programs.

In 2022 Kevin’s Place continued to support single individuals experiencing homelessness, who needed a place to isolate if COVID-19 positive.

<b>PORTER PLACE</b>	<b>SERVES 30 MEN NIGHTLY</b> The only year-round men’s emergency housing in York Region.		
<b>LEEDER PLACE</b>	<b>SERVES 15 FAMILIES NIGHTLY</b> The only emergency housing for all types of families in York Region.		
<b>KEVIN’S PLACE</b>	<b>SERVES 12 MALE YOUTH NIGHTLY</b> Traditionally provides a caring environment for male youth aged 16 to 26.		
<b>30,000+</b>	<b>NIGHTS OF SAFETY</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>PEOPLE HOUSED</b>

## IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

Diagnosed with autism and schizophrenia, Isaac had always lived with his family. Even though his mom still supported him, his family asked him to leave home. **Saying it was no longer safe for Isaac.**

Alone and scared, Isaac had no one to ask for help and nowhere to go.

**He arrived at Blue Door’s Porter Place with no identification, no knowledge of his mental or physical health, and no access to his limited income.**

Isaac’s mom had managed all of these pieces for him.

The staff at Porter Place helped Isaac access his medication and connected him to health supports.

Heartbreakingly, shortly after Isaac arrived at Porter Place his mom passed away.

Redoubling efforts to support him, Porter Place staff connected Isaac with his sister, secured Isaac’s new ID, and set up a power of attorney to support his finances.

Isaac was also connected with Development Services Ontario to confirm his diagnosis and York Support Service Network to provide mental health support.

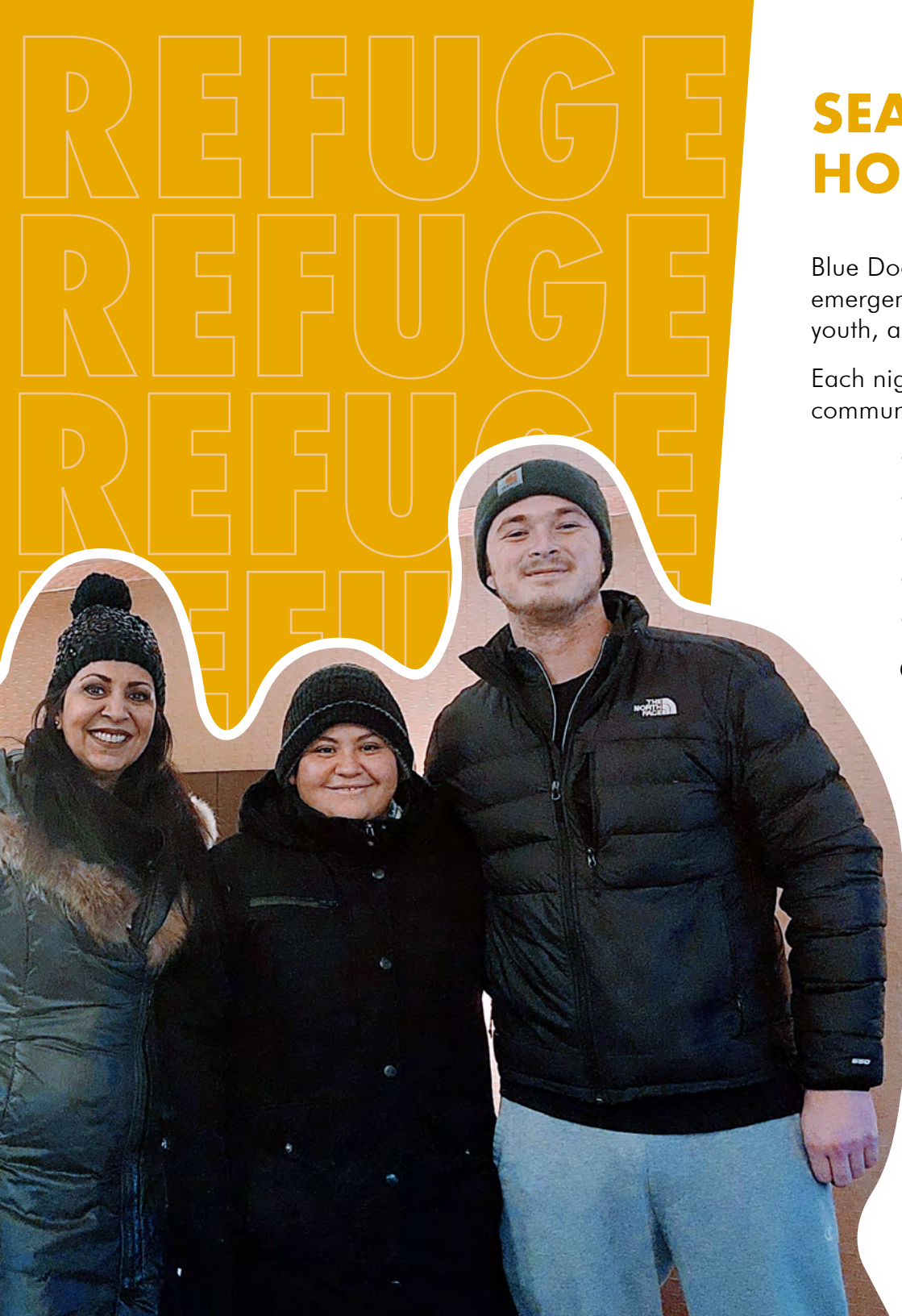
Through the collaboration of the Development Services Ontario, York Support Service Network, and Blue Door, **Isaac successfully moved into a supportive housing program and continues to be supported by his sister.**

Nearly 1 in 4 people experiencing homelessness in York Region self-identify as having cognitive or intellectual limitations.



\* Names, dates, and photos have been changed to ensure confidentiality and respect of privacy.





## SEASONAL EMERGENCY HOUSING

Blue Door’s Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold provides seasonal emergency housing seven days a week from November to May for youth, adults, and seniors experiencing homelessness in York Region.

Each night in 2022, the program operated out of one of five faith-based communities:

- Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church
- Holy Trinity Anglican Church
- Ebenezer United Church
- St. Mary’s Anglican Church
- Richmond Hill United Church

Comprehensive housing and wraparound supports were provided on-site to support individuals, assisting with case management, housing searches, housing retention, advocacy with landlords and basic needs as well as support with applications, legal assistance, and employment supports.

4,359+

NIGHTS OF SAFETY

Nearly 1 in 3 individuals experiencing homelessness are seniors (55+).

## TRANSITIONAL AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Crucial in ending homelessness, transitional housing provides longer-term housing and supports to overcome barriers to attain and retain stable housing.

Tour York Region's  
New Passage House  
VIDEO BY R-HAUZ

ABODE	<b>5 HOMES   SERVES 5 FAMILIES NIGHTLY</b> With more newcomers and larger families arriving at Blue Door, Abode offers the time and support needed for families to find their footing and secure housing.
FORWARD	<b>1 HOME   SERVES 3 SENIOR MEN NIGHTLY</b> In response to our community’s aging population, Forward offers tailored support to help senior men find accessible and dignified independent housing.
INNCLUSION	<b>1 HOME   SERVES 4 2SLGBTQ+ YOUTH NIGHTLY</b> The first safe housing in York Region for 2SLGBTQ+ youth who are experiencing homelessness often because of identity-based abuse and discrimination.
PASSAGE HOUSE	<b>18 ROOMS   SERVES 18 MEN NIGHTLY</b> York Region’s Passage House opened in the fall of 2022 with Blue Door providing personalized support to help the men achieve permanent housing.
6,555+	<b>NIGHTS OF SAFETY IN TRANSITIONAL HOUSING</b>







# COMMUNITY HOUSING AND HEALTH SUPPORT

<b>HOUSING TO HEALTH</b>	<b>45 PEOPLE SUPPORTED</b> A collaborative Housing First program involving Blue Door, the Krasman Centre, and LOFT Community Services, Housing to Health helps people experiencing chronic homelessness find and keep housing by providing a wide range of supports related to health, finance, and independent living.
<b>HOUSING RETENTION</b>	<b>51 PEOPLE SUPPORTED</b> Provided when leaving emergency housing, Housing Retention prevents reentry into homelessness by helping people keep their housing. Housing Retention supports include connection to furniture banks, healthcare, and food banks as well as landlord advocacy, employment searching, and applications to education.
<b>IN-REACH WORKER</b>	<b>159 PEOPLE SUPPORTED</b> The In-Reach Worker advocates for individuals experiencing homelessness by working directly with the medical teams at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket to ensure that individuals have a safe place to stay and recover when leaving the hospital.
<b>HEALTH HUB</b>	<b>RESULTED IN 50% FEWER 9-1-1 CALLS</b> Accessing medical appointments and health services are challenges for individuals experiencing homelessness. In response, Blue Door opened the Health Hub in October 2022, a physical space equipped for all on-site medical appointments, staffed with a Registered Practical Nurse and family physician.

# TO MY MARKO WE WERE SO CLOSE

To escape the war, I came to Canada with my son and husband.

As our plane landed and we stepped into the airport, **I remember feeling terrified and voiceless.**

We had only a few bags. We only knew a few words in English.

And we didn't have a place to stay.

**Swallowing my fear, we looked for help,** for a place to stay.

That's when we came to Blue Door. The staff at Blue Door helped with everything, providing us right away with a room at Leeder Place and with interpreters. I had found my voice again.

My family was then connected to refugee services and Blue Door continued to help with court appointments and looking for a more permanent place for us to live.

**But the biggest gift was the support Blue Door gave to my husband Marko.**

Marko had been sick for a while. At first, we wondered, was it stress from the war and this new country?

It was through Blue Door's Health Hub that Marko was connected to a doctor who ran tests and referred us to more doctors.

Marko was dying. **There are no words for our pain.**

Marko, we were so close to safety and peace.

In this tough unbearable time, Blue Door's Housing Retention Worker helped with all the decisions Marko had to make at the end of his life, connecting him with a hospice and remaining with us until Marko passed away.

It is a gift I will never forget, and will do my best to repay.

– *Vira*



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# EMPLOYMENT SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CONSTRUCT: A YEAR OF GROWTH

A highly successful employment social enterprise, Construct provides comprehensive 8-week skills training to vulnerable job seekers facing barriers to employment. The program includes in-class training, on-the-job work experience, wraparound supports, and direct connections to employment to help vulnerable individuals secure long-term, well-paying careers in the trades.

In 2022, Construct expanded into Peel Region, partnering with Humber College to offer specialized training in drywall, flooring, tiling, and millwork.

In December, Construct got the keys to a new 6,300sqft training facility, to provide hands-on training, in-class instruction, counseling in a soundproof pod, and employer connection events.


**A real solution to ending homelessness, Construct is also a business with a heart.** Construct turns job sites into on-the-job learning experiences helping to propel participants into careers in the trades.

Book Construct for your next renovation!



[ConstructGTA.ca](https://ConstructGTA.ca)



125	CONSTRUCT GRADUATES
98%	OF PARTICIPANTS GRADUATED
79%	OF GRADUATES ENTERED EMPLOYMENT OR EDUCATION
	2022 PROCORE GROUNDBREAKER AWARD WINNER FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

63% of people experiencing homelessness shared low income as a barrier to finding housing.

# EMPOWERING WOMEN IN THE TRADES

Growing up, I was facing homelessness, abuse, incarceration, depression, and PTSD. Throughout my life, I have always relied on Ontario Works and have never been able to maintain a well-paying, stable career.

As a single mother of four, **I knew I had to create a better life for my children. I needed to show them that anything is possible.**

I learned of Blue Door’s Construct program through a friend, and I was ready to start this new challenge as a woman in the skilled trades.

At Construct, not only did I get certifications and learn hands-on skills at LiUNA Local 506, I was supported throughout the program with transportation, groceries, and psychotherapy.


**Being at Construct gave me a feeling of accomplishment and motivation to keep going.**

Construct connected me to a career that provides good benefits, a livable salary, and stable employment.

Now, I am a first-year apprentice with the Carpenters Union, I have a full-time job, and I can proudly support my family.

– Marina

Hear from Construct participants about your impact



\* Names, dates, and photos have been changed to ensure confidentiality and respect of privacy.





## PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION



### 125+ EPISODES

With the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, Blue Door's CEO Michael Braithwaite hosts the On The Way Home podcast. In the weekly episodes, hear and learn from lived experts, leading researchers, and industry innovators from around the world. [OnTheWayHome.ca](https://OnTheWayHome.ca)



### 150+ WORKSHOPS

Canada's first non-profit supporting youth facing homelessness and their animal companions. Based in the Greater Toronto Area, the non-profit promotes the mental well-being and health of youth. [TheCanadianCourageProject.org](https://TheCanadianCourageProject.org)



### 5,000+ MEALS

A non-profit, The Good Food Impact alleviates and provides educational resources on food insecurity and its root causes. The Good Food Impact prepares nutritious and delicious individual-portion meals, for anyone in the community to access. [GoodFoodImpact.org](https://GoodFoodImpact.org)



### 10+ SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Powered by The Home Depot Canada Foundation, TradeWorx, is a growing investment in successful Canadian employment social enterprises helping prevent youth homelessness through skills training and access to well-paying careers in the trades.

## FINANCIALS

### REVENUES



73%	Government
17%	Donations, Grants & Other Funding
8%	United Way Greater Toronto
2%	Construct's Services

### EXPENSES



48%	Seasonal & Year-Round Emergency Housing
29%	Construct
11%	Transitional & Supportive Housing
5%	Housing to Health
4%	Health & Support Programs
3%	Fundraising & Admin







## THANK YOU

### VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers who donate their time and passion to supporting our community's most vulnerable. Their remarkable commitment is helping to change lives every day.

### 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marianne Marando (Board Chair), Martin Dunstan (Board Vice-Chair), Al Jones (Treasurer), Alana Kanapka (Secretary), Anika Mifsud, Ankita Rao, Caroline Hunter, Chirag Bhatt, David Rawcliffe, Denise Le Bel, Jack Harding, Jai Sahak, Julie Ralph, Michael Scarano, Nathan Tran Trinh, and Quinnie Kwok.

### STAFF TEAM

Thank you to the passionate and dedicated team at Blue Door. Staff have shown outstanding perseverance and leadership, continuing to grow programs to meet community needs.

### FUNDERS

Thank you to the following funders who generously donated over \$250,000 in 2022 to provide life-saving support and services:



## YOUR IMPACT

Thank you to the following generous leadership donors and grant funders for their significant financial or in-kind donations of \$1,000 or more in 2022.

- 105.9 The Region
- Abuse Hurts
- Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association
- Air Whistle Media
- Alectra Inc.
- Anderson Family Foundation
- Aubrey & Marla Dan Foundation
- Bell Let's Talk
- Beneva
- Beth Lawrence
- Bingo World & Gaming Newmarket
- Bombay Frankies
- Cambria Design Build Ltd.
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Canadian Mortgage Capital Corp.
- Capacity Canada's Creative Day for Social Good
- Carol Ann Trabert
- City of Richmond Hill
- Community Housing Transformation Centre
- Cordelia Abankwa
- Crier Media
- David and Lisa Fickel
- David & Nancy Thwaites
- David Sloan
- Diner Agency Inc.
- District 13 - O.S.S.T.F.
- Donner Canadian Foundation
- East Gwillimbury Mayor and Council Charity Golf Tournament - Youth and Community Initiatives Fund
- EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church
- Ebenezer United Church
- EllisDon Community Builders
- Enbridge Gas Inc.
- Equitable Bank
- Felicia Salomon
- First National Financial
- Gabriel Fleisher
- Government of Canada
- Government of Canada's Future Skills Centre
- Government of Canada's Reaching Home Strategy
- Government of Canada – Canada Summer Jobs
- Government of Canada – Youth Employment and Skills Strategy
- Government of Ontario
- Gurupeedam
- Hazel Ma
- Healthcare Excellence Canada
- Hockey Helps the Homeless
- Holland Landing Snowmobile Club
- Humanity First Canada
- Innoweave
- INSCAPE Ltd.
- Inter-World Paper Overseas Limited
- Janet Williams
- Jennifer Dreher
- John Howard Society of York Region
- Johnson & Johnson Inc.
- JVSC Holdings Ltd.
- Kenric & Alison Leung
- KFC, Newmarket
- Knights of Columbus Council 14411 of Our Lady Queen of the World Church
- Kylemore Homes Ltd.
- Lianne Megarry
- Little Caesars, Newmarket
- LiUNA Local 506 Training Centre
- Magna International
- Marianne Marando
- Martin Dunstan
- Maxxian
- Mazon Canada
- MCAP
- Melinda and Darryl Moore
- Metroland Media
- Michael Scarano
- Michael Tulk
- Mr. and Mrs. Miller
- Mr. and Mrs. R. Bahlleda
- Mr. and Mrs. Vissers
- Mr. Quast
- Ms. Gupta
- Nathan Buccella
- Newmarket Lions Club
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- OUTSaskatoon
- Part Time CFO Services
- Peter and Carol-Ann Dennis
- Philip & Linda Armstrong Foundation
- Premiere Mortgage Centre
- Pretium Engineering Inc.
- Provident Energy Management Inc.
- P. & L. Odette Charitable Foundation
- Rachael Sedman
- Raising the Roof + Rate-My-Agent.com Youth Homelessness Prevention Grant
- RBC Foundation
- Reetu Gupta
- Resource Thrift Shop Bradford
- Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church
- Richmond Hill United Church
- Robins Appleby LLP
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Sagen
- Schomberg Firefighter's Association
- Schomberg United Church
- SCS Consulting Group
- Second Harvest
- Seneca College
- SKYGRID Construction Inc.
- Staff Relief Healthcare Services
- Stuart Scott Public School
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- St. Cecilia Catholic Elementary School
- St. Elizabeth Seton Parish
- St. John Chrysostom Parish
- St. Mary's Anglican Church, Richmond Hill
- TD Bank Group
- TELUS Friendly Future Foundation
- Tessier Design Corp.
- The Country Day School
- The Dunin Foundation
- The Elliott-Ferraro Family Foundation
- The Food Bank of York Region
- The Home Depot Canada Foundation
- The Northpine Foundation
- The Regional Municipality of York
- The Starbucks Foundation
- The Tenaquip Foundation
- Thornhill Holy Trinity Anglican Church
- Tony Dableh
- Toronto Christian Community Church
- Toronto Pearson
- Town of East Gwillimbury
- Truckstop.com Canada Ltd.
- Unilock Ltd.
- United Way of Greater Toronto
- United Way of Greater Toronto, Toronto Enterprise Fund
- University of Toronto
- Vani Pasupathy
- Vaughan Community Church
- Victory Baptist Church East Gwillimbury
- Walterhouse Realty Group
- Wasim Jarrah
- Waverley Wealth
- Wesley United Church
- Willowool Foundation
- York Regional Police





## IN THE COMMUNITY

Your community support is crucial in helping provide life-saving services for our community's most vulnerable!



### COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR-RICHMOND HILL

For many, every night is the Coldest Night of the Year, for over 300 of our community members that was February 26th, 2022. Our community stepped outside the comfort and warmth of their home to brave the cold so others don't have to. For the second virtual event, the community rallied together forming over 50 teams to help raise over \$160,000 – surpassing our goal! [CNOY.org/Location/RichmondHill](https://CNOY.org/Location/RichmondHill)



### HOCKEY HELPS THE HOMELESS

On December 9th, 2022, Hockey Helps the Homeless hosted its annual York Region Pro-Am hockey tournament. Through the generous support of the community, the event surpassed its goal and raised over \$100,000 to support Blue Door and people experiencing homelessness. [HockeyHelpsTheHomeless.com](https://HockeyHelpsTheHomeless.com)



### 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENT

On a family-friendly afternoon in the park, community members gathered to become part of the solution! Attendees had the opportunity to learn firsthand from individuals experiencing homelessness, unwind to local music, participate in auctions, and learn about their impact over the past 40 years.

1 in 7 people experiencing homelessness are youth.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### KEVIN'S PLACE REDEVELOPMENT

Owned by Blue Door, Kevin's Place is a 100-year-old house, sitting on a small piece of a large property. To better utilize the space and help meet the demand for affordable housing, Blue Door is seeking funding to create new 14-unit purpose-built stacked townhouses offering a mix of emergency, affordable, and accessible housing.

### YORK REGION'S NEW MEN'S EMERGENCY & TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Over 40 years ago, Blue Door began providing dignified support to senior men at York Region's Porter Place. After decades of use, Blue Door supports York Region's proposal to build a new inclusive and centralized men's emergency and transitional housing building, to replace the aging building in East Gwillimbury.

### HOUSING FOR ALL COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

In collaboration with SHS Consulting, Blue Door is launching the first affordable housing land trust in York Region. Properties generously donated to the trust will be used by charities to provide affordable housing in perpetuity.

### TAKING CONSTRUCT ACROSS CANADA

An instant success and proven solution to preventing and ending homelessness, Blue Door will replicate Construct in communities across the country.

Stay up to date  
with Blue Door  
by signing up  
for our newsletter





Land Acknowledgement: Blue Door acknowledges that the land across Canada on which we are grateful to have the opportunity to work is the home and territories of many Indigenous peoples. In York Region where Blue Door's head office is located, we respectfully recognize we are on the traditional territories of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabe peoples, and that this is the treaty land of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

# BLUE DOOR

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Follow us on  
social media!

Charitable Registration Number: 13057 1896 RR 0001

*Blue Door's 2022 Impact Report was printed by Eva's Print Shop, an employment social enterprise supporting youth experiencing homelessness.*

# BLUE DOOR 2022 IMPACT REPORT