



BLU•DOOR

2023
IMPACT REPORT





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.

OUR IMPACT

For over 42 years, Blue Door has been providing innovative housing, health, and employment solutions to address the root causes of homelessness.

VISION A Canada where everyone can access dignified housing.

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

PROGRAMS

- Affordable Housing
- Emergency Housing
- Seasonal Housing
- Transitional Housing
- Community Supports
- Employment Supports
- Health Supports



50,000+
Nights of Safety



70%
of Construct
Graduates
Employed



135,600+
Meals Provided





YOUR COMMUNITY IS AT A CROSSROADS

3 million homes are needed by 2030 to house all Canadians.
Canada is in a housing crisis.

The average monthly cost to feed a family of four is \$1,106.
Inflation has caused a cost-of-living crisis.

And to afford a one-bedroom apartment in York Region,
an employee must earn \$24/hour.

Minimum wage falls short, pushing people into poverty.

While the escalating costs are impacting everyone, vulnerable people feel it the most. **More grandparents, teenagers, newcomers, and families are on the brink of or experiencing homelessness.**

While the challenges continue piling up, community champions like you and the dedicated Blue Door team rallied together in 2023 and rapidly expanded solutions to meet community needs, helping to prevent and end homelessness.

Driven to increase emergency housing to meet the rising need, in partnership with the Regional Municipality of York and faith communities, our Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold program expanded for the season, adding 2 new sites and 34 more beds.

Expanding further, Blue Door supported York Region on a **new family emergency housing site** run out of a local hotel, providing ~15 more beds to families in need.

To meet the needs of York Region’s aging population, Blue Door’s Forward program for senior men also increased in size and put down permanent roots.

Furthermore, together with your support and four incredible partners, Blue Door began the Housing For All Land Trust. The first of its kind in York Region, the land trust is seeking support to add properties to its portfolio in 2024, **increasing the deeply affordable housing supply in perpetuity.**

As part of our health strategic program priority, in partnership with the Region of York, health supports doubled through the hiring of another Hospital In-Reach Worker and a part-time Registered Practical Nurse.

In 2023 the Health Hub saw remarkable results, by providing on-site access to a Registered Nurse **calls to EMS dropped by 50%**, demonstrating the lifesaving impact of providing both housing and health supports.

Addressing homelessness by removing barriers to employment, Construct grew rapidly. The program delivered 30 cohorts providing **over 300 individuals** with skills, on-the-job training at projects such as York University and Sherbourne Health, and support to earn a living wage and have meaningful careers as apprentices.

We are deeply proud and truly thankful for all of the efforts of the Blue Door team in 2023.

All of the growth, ability to rapidly respond to community needs, and build meaningful solutions, is made possible by you.

We are so grateful to you for showing your support each and every day.

The hill is steep, and the stakes are high, but with your ongoing support our team is ready and the future is bright.

Together, we can and will end homelessness.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Braithwaite'.

Michael Braithwaite
CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Scarano'.

Michael Scarano
Board Chair



EMERGENCY HOUSING

Emergency housing programs provide more than just a bed to sleep in, they offer extensive wraparound supports including health and employment services, and assist in attaining and retaining housing.

In 2023, Blue Door expanded our support for families by partnering with a Vaughan hotel to support an additional 20 families who are unhoused in York Region with 3 additional rooms added during cold weather alerts.

Kevin's Place also expanded its capacity to 10 men in York Region ages 16+ to address the gap in support for unhoused men.

PORTER PLACE | Serves 30 men nightly

LEEDER PLACE | Serves 15 families nightly

KEVIN'S PLACE | Serves 12 males nightly



FINDING HOPE: JOHN'S JOURNEY

In May, John fled their home country in Africa, escaping the ravages of civil war and seeking a better life in Canada. **Upon arrival, they faced an unexpected hurdle: needing a work permit to find employment.** This led to a period of homelessness while they waited for the necessary documentation.

John's refuge came about six months in when they found Blue Door's Kevin's Place, an organization that became a sanctuary.

At Blue Door, John was **provided with crucial support to obtain a work permit** and Social Insurance Number. They were also assisted in finding employment and securing housing. During a difficult time, John was met with unmatched kindness and respect.

The team at Blue Door's Kevin's Place went above and beyond paperwork and housing; they provided access to a free gym, English classes, and unwavering emotional support.

Each staff member's dedication played a pivotal role in John's journey toward stability and success. Their efforts helped them **transition from a state of uncertainty to one of hope and opportunity.** John has since found employment, a place to call home, and gained the confidence to build a new life in Canada.



36,500+

Nights of Safety
in Emergency Housing



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



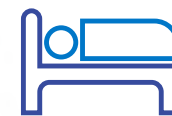
SEASONAL EMERGENCY HOUSING

Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold, a program by Blue Door, provides seasonal emergency housing seven days a week from October to June for youth, adults, and seniors experiencing homelessness in York Region.

In 2023, the program increased its nightly capacity at existing sites to 30 individuals and operated out of one of our five faith-based community partner locations.

In the fall of 2023, the program expanded to a new overflow site at Victory Baptist Church in East Gwillimbury, serving 20 individuals per night and offering an additional 6 beds during cold weather alerts.

Nearly 1 in 3 individuals experiencing homelessness present themselves as seniors (55+).



7,300+

Nights of Safety
in Seasonal Housing

TRANSITIONAL AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Transitional housing provides longer-term housing and supports to help individuals and families overcome barriers to attaining and retaining stable housing. By offering a structured environment and comprehensive support, transitional housing helps residents build the skills and stability needed to secure permanent housing and improve their overall quality of life.

INNCLUSION

Provides safe and affirming transitional housing to 2SLGBTQ+ youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness in York Region.

PASSAGE

A transitional housing program, Passage House serves adult males and provides wraparound supports and skills to access and find stable housing.

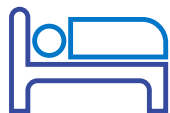
ABODE

Welcoming an increasing number of newcomers and larger families, Abode provides the necessary time and support for families to establish themselves and secure housing.

FORWARD

Providing dignified tailored assistance to empower senior men in securing independent and accessible housing.

With the support of United Way Greater Toronto and the Government of Canada, through Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, a new property was purchased and renovated by Blue Door's social enterprise Construct, offering supportive housing for 5 senior men.



6,025+

Nights of Safety
in Transitional Housing





COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SUPPORTS

HEALTH SUPPORTS

HEALTH HUB

Offers on-site medical support from a Registered Practical Nurse and Family Physician to individuals staying at Passage House, Porter and Leeder Place.

HOSPITAL IN-REACH

Working with the medical teams at Southlake Regional Health Centre, the Hospital In-Reach Worker advocates for individuals experiencing homelessness to ensure they have a safe place to go when leaving the hospital.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

HOUSING RETENTION

Provides six months of various supports related to retaining stable housing, to individuals transitioning from emergency housing into the community.

HOUSING TO HEALTH

In partnership with LOFT Community Services and the Krasman Centre, program participants receive case management, peer support, and housing market support to attain and retain stable housing.



137

People Supported through the Hospital In-Reach Program



75

People Supported through Housing Retention



50% Fewer

9-1-1 Calls thanks to On-Site Care through the Health Hub

FROM STRUGGLE TO STRENGTH

Ahmed, Fatima, and their young son, Malik, fled their home country and arrived in Canada, driven by dreams of a better life. Their initial days were filled with challenges, and the daunting task of navigating an unfamiliar society. Despite these obstacles, **they remained steadfast in their aspirations, determined to establish a place they could call home.**

Their first taste of stability came with a temporary reprieve from uncertainty. However, this relief was fleeting as they faced multiple relocations due to inadequate and sometimes hostile living conditions. Each move brought renewed anxiety and despair, threatening their hopes.

Undeterred, Ahmed and Fatima's resilience shone through as they advocated for their rights and sought better opportunities. **Their perseverance paid off when they finally secured a modest apartment in a vibrant neighbourhood,** where diversity was a comforting presence.

With stable housing, they could now address their immigration issues. Compassionate advocates and **the Housing Retention team guided them through the complex process, connecting them to supports, and slowly, the barriers began to fall,** revealing a path to a brighter future.

Meanwhile, Malik, eager to support his family, sought employment. His persistence was rewarded with a job, providing additional income and easing some of the financial strain. As days turned into weeks and weeks into months, the family became woven into the fabric of their new community. They celebrated milestones, formed friendships, and embraced new opportunities with open hearts and unwavering determination.

Throughout their journey, they found hope in their resilience and the promise of a brighter tomorrow.



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





CONSTRUCT: A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Construct is a solution to end homelessness by providing individuals at risk of or who have recently experienced homelessness with in-class training, wraparound supports, and hands-on experience in the construction industry.

Participants engage in a seamless “recruitment to employment” process that prepares vulnerable youth and adults to secure well-paying and in-demand careers in the construction trades.

Construct furthered its partnerships in 2023 by developing a new partnership with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority at Kortright Centre for Conservation to learn about and gain hands-on experience in renewable and sustainable construction through their Sustainable Technologies Evaluation Program.


A Social Enterprise by BLUE DOOR



2023

Aurora Chamber of Commerce
Business Excellence Award



183

Participants Employed
After Completing the Program

RISING FROM ADVERSITY

As a single mother of three and a domestic violence survivor, Elena faced unimaginable hardships. Starting over was daunting, and maintaining a stable home was nearly impossible with the high cost of living and the sole responsibility of supporting her children.

Elena felt alone, battling depression, and struggling to interact with her children. Worry about money consumed her, and the threat of eviction loomed large.

After job hunting for months, Elena came across the Construct program.

Elena began her journey with Construct, feeling a spark of hope. The program equipped her with the tools and certifications needed to succeed in the construction field, especially as a minority woman.

Through the training partners at Construct, Elena learned hands-on skills, including making a concrete bench and completing a solo project—a workhorse.

After eight weeks, she graduated from Construct, and within a week, became a first-year apprentice.

Elena was overjoyed after signing union papers, knowing they could finally support their family without financial worry.

The Construct team worked with Elena to provide gas money, groceries, temporary housing, and psychotherapy, offering support beyond her expectations. Their help was invaluable.

Elena was hired by a restoration company shortly after exiting the program, becoming one of the few women on the job site and paving the way for herself and her children.



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COLLABORATING FOR CHANGE



The Good Food Impact alleviates and provides educational resources on food insecurity and its root causes. They prepare nutritious and delicious individual-portion meals, for anyone in the community to access. Monthly, they donate meals to Blue Door's transitional housing programs and in 2023, provided over 8,300 meals.



Blue Door's Housing for All Land Trust will work to obtain and hold accessible and deeply affordable housing for the community. The land trust will engage with community members, developers, and municipalities to acquire and manage properties indefinitely.



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



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.



27%
of youth experiencing homelessness identify as 2SLGBTQ+

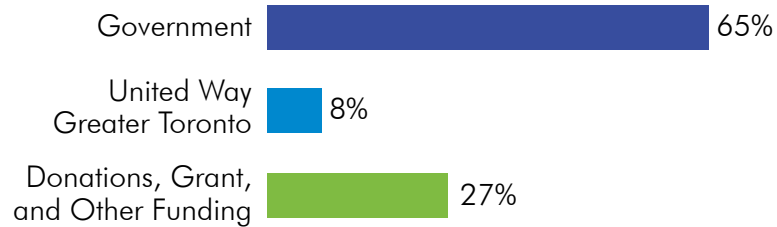


85%
of individuals experiencing homelessness identify as having some form of physical or cognitive illness.

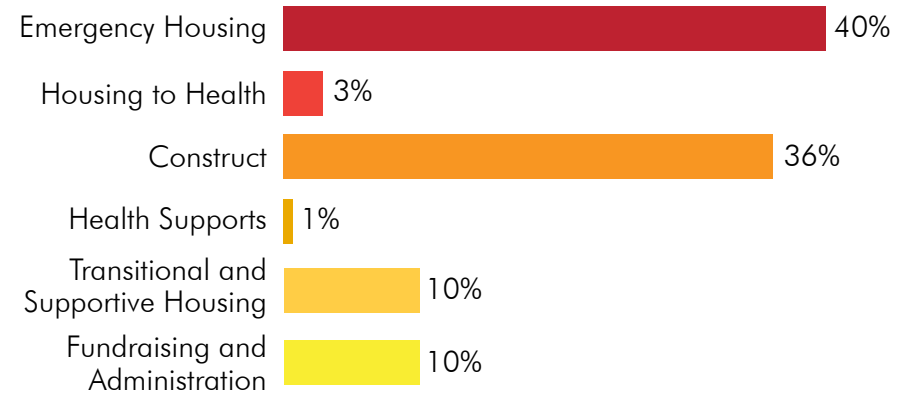


FINANCIALS

REVENUES



EXPENSES





THANK YOU FOR YOUR IMPACT

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

STAFF TEAM

Thank you to our incredible and passionate staff members, our 2023 accomplishments would not be possible without each and every one of you.

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to our generous volunteers who donate their time to support within our programs, at events, administrative tasks, and so much more. Your dedication is truly appreciated.

FUNDERS

Thank you to the following funders who generously provided over \$250,000 in 2023:



2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thank you to Michael Scarano - Board Chair, Marianne Marando - Former Board Chair, Anika Mifsud - Vice Chair, Martin Dunstan - Former Vice Chair, Julie Ralph - Secretary, Alana Kanapka - Former Secretary, Al Jones - Treasurer, and our dedicated Board Members Ankita Rao, Caroline Hunter, Chirag Bhatt, David Rawcliffe, Denise Le Bel, Nathan Tran Trinh, Quinnie Kwok, and Vidia Dhanraj.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

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 2023.

- 100 Women Who Care – Central York Region
- Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama' at Canada
- Alair South Etobicoke/Mississauga
- Alana Kanapka
- Alectra Inc.
- Allan & Shirley Holditch
- Allstate Foundation of Canada
- Allstate Insurance Company of Canada
- ATC Corral
- Atrium Mortgage Investment Corporation
- Aubrey & Marla Dan Foundation
- Beertown Public House
- Bell Let's Talk
- Bingo World Newmarket
- Cambria Design Build Ltd.
- Canadian CED Network
- Canadian Women's Foundation
- Capital Power – York Energy Centre
- Carol-Ann, Steve and Peter Dennis
- Catholic Women's Guild St. Elizabeth Seton Parish
- Charles H. Ivey Foundation
- CMLS Financial
- Community Foundations of Canada
- Community Housing Transformation Centre
- Counsel Public Affairs
- Cristian Dragoi – Premiere Mortgage Centre Inc.
- David and Lisa Fickel
- Dax Sukhraj
- Delano Academy
- Descon Integrated Conveyor Solutions
- DG Group
- Diner Agency Inc.
- Drechsel Business Interiors
- Ebenezer United Church
- Edmunds Home Improvements
- Eli Lilly Canada
- Elizabeth MacGillivray
- Elliott-Ferraro Family Foundation
- EllisDon Community Builders
- Enbridge Gas Inc.
- Equipco Ltd.
- Equitable Bank
- Generation Capital
- Government of Canada
- Government of Canada – Canada Summer Jobs
- Government of Canada – Youth Employment and Skills Strategy Program
- Government of Canada's Future Skills Program
- Government of Canada's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy
- Government of Ontario
- Gurupedam
- Heather Mason-Wood
- Hockey Helps the Homeless
- Holy Trinity Anglican Church
- Home Trust
- Jason and Melanie Deliman
- John Howard Society of York Region
- Junior League of Toronto
- JVSC Holdings Ltd.
- Kathy and Terry Munro
- Kenn Bell & Friends
- Kenvue
- Knights of Columbus #10586 – St. Elizabeth Seton Parish
- Knights of Columbus, Oakridges Council 13094
- Kylemore Homes Ltd.
- Leah Taylor Roy, MP
- LiUNA Local 506 Training Centre
- Lynwood Family Foundation
- Magna International Inc.
- Market Brewing
- Martha Younger
- Martin Dunstan
- Mathew Broadbent
- Mazon Canada
- MCAP
- Melinda and Darryl Moore
- Metroland Media
- Michael Scarano
- Michael Tulk
- Mr. David Sloan
- Mr. Wasim Jarrah
- North Newmarket Lions Club
- Northpine Foundation
- Oak Ridges Lions Club
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Our Lady Queen of the World – Knights of Columbus Council 14411
- P. & L. Odette Charitable Foundation
- Pathy Family Foundation
- Powell (Richmond Hill) Contracting Limited
- Premiere Mortgage Centre
- Pretium Engineering Inc.
- Provident Energy Management Inc.
- RBC Foundation
- Real Canadian Superstore – Newmarket
- Redwood Properties
- Reetu and Rashmi Gupta
- Region of Durham
- reSource Thrift Shop – Bradford
- Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church
- Richmond Hill United Church
- Rick and Linda Dennis
- Robert & Marianne Bahlhieda
- Robert Kerr Foundation
- Rotary Club of Newmarket
- Royal Canadian Legion (Branch 375)
- Sagen
- Schomberg Firefighter's Association
- SCS Consulting Group
- Shoppers Foundation for Women's Health
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- St. John Chrysostom Parish Church
- St. Mary's Anglican Church
- Staff Relief Healthcare Services
- Strive
- Stuart Scott Public School
- Susan Pearce – Keller Williams Realty Centres
- Suzanne Galloway Coaching and Consulting
- TD Bank Group
- Techemet
- TELUS Friendly Future Foundation
- Tessier Design Corp.
- The Bridge – A Markham Community Church
- The City of Richmond Hill Mayor and Council
- The Corporation of the City of Vaughan – Talent City Vaughan
- The Country Day School
- The Dunin Foundation
- The Egan Family Foundation
- The Home Depot Canada Foundation
- The McLean Foundation
- The Peter Gilgan Foundation
- The Renoir Residents' Council
- The Rose Corporation and The Bakerfield Apartments
- The Starbucks Foundation
- The Tenaquip Foundation
- Titans Baseball Club
- Toronto Christian Community Church
- Toronto Foundation
- Toronto Pearson
- TMS
- Truckstop.com Canada Ltd.
- Unilock Ltd.
- Unitas Community Health and Safety Services
- United Way Greater Toronto
- United Way Greater Toronto's - Toronto Enterprise Fund
- United Way Simcoe Muskoka
- Unity Connected Solutions Inc.
- Vani Pasupathy, Suneil and Jayen Sastri
- Vipond Inc.
- Wesley United Church
- Wideman Mennonite Church
- York Regional Police



TOGETHER IN ACTION



COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR – RICHMOND HILL

In February, our community rallied together for our first in-person event since 2020 and raised over \$160,000. Over 395 walkers stepped outside the warmth and comfort of their home to brave the cold so others don't have to. CNOY.org/RichmondHill



ON THE WAY HOME PODCAST

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



HOCKEY HELPS THE HOMELESS – YORK REGION

In December, Hockey Helps the Homeless hosted its annual York Region Pro-Am hockey tournament. With the generous support of the community, the event surpassed its goal, raising over \$120,000. HockeyHelpsTheHomeless.com



NEWSLETTER

To stay up to date with all Blue Door events, initiatives, and information, sign up for our bi-weekly e-newsletter. BlueDoor.ca/Newsletter

BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES AHEAD

KEVIN'S PLACE RE-DEVELOPMENT

Together with EllisDon Community Builders, Blue Door will redevelop Kevin's Place, a 100-year-old residential house in Newmarket occupying less than roughly 30% of the property. Demonstrating responsible land use, Blue Door will develop a 14-unit purpose-built townhouse, offering emergency and affordable housing, and tripling the number of people housed.

EXPANDING EAST

Blue Door is thrilled to begin operating the Region of Durham's new 47-unit Beaverton Transitional Supportive Housing residence. This facility provides longer-term housing and comprehensive wraparound supports. Each unit offers a comfortable living space, promoting security and dignity. This initiative marks a significant step in addressing homelessness and housing insecurity in Durham, demonstrating Blue Door's commitment to building resilient communities through compassionate support services.



BLUEDOOR

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