

2024

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



BLUEDOOR

CEO AND BOARD MESSAGE

Sara is living in her car with her young children because our country lacks affordable housing. Despite working 40 hours a week, Malika cannot keep up with the rising costs of inflation. Rohan has become a frequent visitor to his local food bank because his ODSP payments barely cover rent.

Canada is in a crisis.

To meet these challenges, the community, volunteers, and team at Blue Door refuse to slow down. The challenges aren't limiting our work, they are fueling it.

With your generous support and the momentum built in recent years, Blue Door has continued to grow in 2024, launching new services that have helped lift hundreds of individuals and families out of poverty.

In 2024, Blue Door's housing programs expanded. New emergency housing for individuals and couples at a local hotel in Vaughan opened. York Region's Passage House, transitional housing in East Gwillimbury supporting men, expanded its program to include couples and single parents.

Blue Door's seasonal housing program, Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold, added 60 beds, opened two new locations, and extended the program's length by four additional months. From October to June, the program provides hot meals, housing guidance, medical care and a warm, safe place to call home.

Since its launch in 2020, Blue Door's supportive skills training program Construct, has helped lift over 600 people out of poverty and into careers in the trades. Not only does this program allow people to start their trades journey with a living wage, but it also supports the construction of desperately needed new homes in Canada.



As Construct continues to grow in Durham, York and Peel Regions, Blue Door is collaborating with partners nationwide to replicate its proven model outside of the GTA, expanding its impact across Canada.

In the fall of 2024, Blue Door celebrated the opening of the new Beaverton Heights transitional housing program, which provides housing for 74 people – just in time for the holidays and the cold weather. Built by the Region of Durham, this new facility, supported by Blue Door and our community partners, will assist residents on their housing journey.

In late November, we celebrated a groundbreaking ceremony for a new development that will replace the 100-year-old building, Kevin's Place, with 14 new deeply affordable stacked townhomes, providing both emergency and transitional housing for individuals and families in need.

While Blue Door is deeply proud of the 2024 accomplishments, there is much more to be done.

As we move into 2025, Blue Door will begin construction at Kevin's Place, and grow the Housing for All Land Trust, which will focus on securing homes and land to create deeply affordable housing. Construct is also excited to expand by adding new partners beyond the GTA and Ontario.

None of this would be possible without your continued and growing support.

Our incredible volunteers, funders, sponsors, community partners, government supporters, and donors like you have gone above and beyond in supporting vulnerable people, inspiring Blue Door to keep pushing forward to prevent and end homelessness.

Thank you all for your unwavering support — it means the world to Blue Door and, more importantly, to the youth, adults, seniors, and families experiencing homelessness. Together, we will build communities where everyone has a warm, safe, and affordable place to call home.

Thank you!



Emmy Kelly
Emmy Kelly
Chief Executive Officer



Michael Scarano
Michael Scarano
Board Chair

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.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Blue Door acknowledges that York, Peel and Durham Regions where our work takes place are the traditional lands of the Huron- Wendat, Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabek, Mississaugas of the Credit, Scugog Island First Nation, and Chippewas of Georgina Island. We recognize the deep and enduring connections Indigenous communities have with these lands and honour their stewardship, resilience, and contributions. With respect and humility, we commit to listening, learning, and working toward meaningful reconciliation.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

HOUSING

Increase housing access and retention by creating and retaining new and existing affordable, transitional, and emergency housing.

HEALTH

Strengthen people's mental and physical health through physical, emotional, psychological, and social well-being services.

EMPLOYMENT

Blue Door's social enterprises will provide training and help people gain employment. Blue Door will also support the expansion or replication of its social enterprise service to other geographic areas.

INNOVATE

Foster a culture of innovation, explore innovative partnerships, research, pilot, and promote new solutions to housing and homelessness.

ADVOCATE

Advocate and raise awareness of best practices and innovative solutions through research, political submissions, and inter-sectoral engagement.

EVALUATE

Continuously evaluate its programming to strengthen and expand the programs and the sector's capacity.

LEAD

Be a leader and create a strong, inclusive, anti-racist, and justice-based organization for employees and people served.

Note: These priorities are from Blue Door's 2022-2025 strategic plan.



BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

A YEAR OF IMPACT

Imagine Canada Accreditation

In 2024, Blue Door officially received Imagine Canada Accreditation. This recognition means we meet the highest standards in governance, financial accountability, fundraising, and transparency, ensuring we remain a trusted organization dedicated to ending homelessness.

Expanded Housing Programs into Durham Region

Blue Door proudly expanded housing supports beyond York Region with the opening of Durham Region's Beaverton Heights, a 47-unit transitional housing program in Durham Region. As the service provider, Blue Door offers wraparound supports such as meals, life skills training, and employment services, as well as safe housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

Groundbreaking Ceremony

In November, the groundbreaking ceremony for the redevelopment of Kevin's Place marked a key milestone in addressing our community's housing needs. This project will replace the existing 12-unit building with 14 affordable stacked townhomes, providing housing for vulnerable individuals and families facing homelessness.

85,610

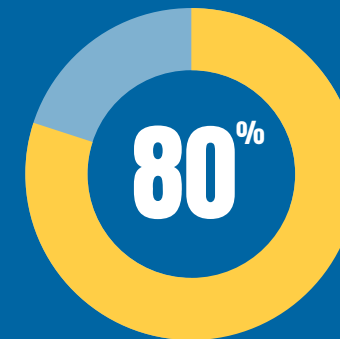
nights of safety

620

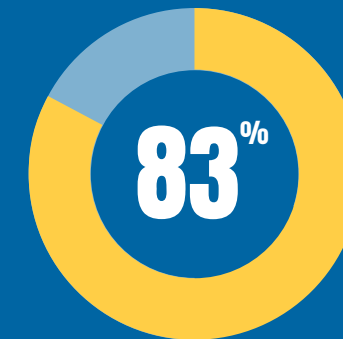
people served through Hospital In-Reach Program

266

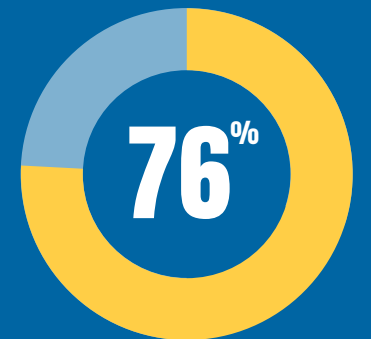
individuals successfully transitioned from housing programs into permanent homes



of housing residents reported improved health



construct participants employed after graduation



of Construct participants entered the construction sector

“Blue Door’s efforts have not only addressed immediate needs but also equipped me with the tools and knowledge to thrive independently. For all this and more, I am profoundly thankful to the entire team at Blue Door. They’ve been a true lifeline, and their support has been a cornerstone in my journey towards a better, more stable life.

- LINA*

** All names throughout this report have been changed to ensure confidentiality*

EMERGENCY HOUSING

Emergency housing provides immediate support for individuals experiencing homelessness while offering extensive wraparound supports to help people regain stability. These programs go beyond just a place to stay—they include virtual and in-person mental health services, assistance with housing searches, healthcare access, and employment-related supports, ensuring individuals have the tools they need to rebuild their lives.

“Thank you Blue Door and staff! You are unbelievable. You go beyond what I knew to be caring and understanding.

- THEODORE

PORTER PLACE

Serves 30 men nightly.
Porter Place is a year-round men’s emergency housing program in York Region serving male individuals ages 16+.

LEEDER PLACE

Serves 15 families nightly.
Leeder Place is a year-round emergency housing program for all types of families in York Region.

KEVIN’S PLACE

Serves 10 men nightly.
Kevin's Place provides emergency housing and wraparound supports to vulnerable male youth facing homelessness.

LEEDER PLACE (VAUGHAN)

Serves 33 families nightly.
The Leeder Place (Vaughan) program provides short term emergency housing for families who are experiencing homelessness. In 2024, the program grew from supporting 10 families to 33 families in the York Region.

THE LANDING PLACE

Serves 20 individuals/couples nightly.
The Landing Place program is a year-round emergency housing program for couples and individuals, who are experiencing homelessness.

BUILDING NEW BEGINNINGS

Kevin's Place is one of Blue Door's longest-standing programs, over the years it has served as a vital source of support for many, but with the growing demand for more affordable housing solutions, Blue Door recognized an opportunity to expand its impact in the community.

On November 29, the groundbreaking ceremony for the redevelopment of Kevin's Place marked a major milestone for the community. In partnership with EllisDon Community Builders, this project will replace the existing 12-unit facility with 14 affordable stacked townhomes, ensuring housing for vulnerable individuals and families. With construction underway, the redevelopment represents a crucial step in addressing the ongoing housing crisis, and Blue Door remains steadfast in its commitment to providing lasting solutions.



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Passage House

**18 Rooms, 9 Adult Men and 9 Couples/
Single Parents with one-child**

Passage House is a transitional housing program that supports individuals, couples, and families with working towards their personal goals. In 2024, Passage House increased capacity from 18 to 27 by offering supports to couples and single parents with one-child.

Abode

3 Homes, 3 Families

Abode provides newcomers and larger families with the necessary time and support needed to establish themselves and retain and attain safe, stable housing.

INNclusion

1 Home, 5 Youth

The INNclusion program provides transitional housing for up to five 2SLGBTQ+ youth in a community setting through a five-bedroom house. The length of stay at INNclusion is up to four years.

Forward

2 Homes, 8 Senior Men

Seniors are York Region's largest population experiencing homelessness. Forward provides tailored support to senior men in finding accessible and dignified housing.



EXPANDING EAST!

Durham Region's Beaverton Heights is a 47-unit transitional housing program offering long-term housing to individuals ages 18+ who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Beaverton Heights offers supports for up to 4 years at a time, with length of stay being dependent on a person's long-term goals and their readiness to move back into independent housing in the community.

936 nights of safety
since opening in
November

“The collective impact of the Blue Door staff's assistance has been nothing short of extraordinary. Their dedication went far beyond simple acts of help; they provided a holistic support system that has empowered me to rebuild and move forward with confidence.

- PATRICK

YORK

DURHAM



SEASONAL EMERGENCY HOUSING



Blue Door's Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold program provides emergency housing, meals, and support 7 nights a week from October to June in partnership with dedicated faith-based communities across York Region.

In 2024, bed capacity increased from 26 to 30 beds per night, with six additional beds available during cold weather alerts, and two new sites were added in Newmarket and Markham. Despite these expansions, the program operated at or near full capacity most nights.

Thank you to our faith-based community partners who generously donate their space each night: Ebenezer United Church, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Rouge Valley Mennonite Church, St. Mary's Anglican Church, Victory Baptist Church, and Wideman Mennonite Church.

23,520

Meals Served

29

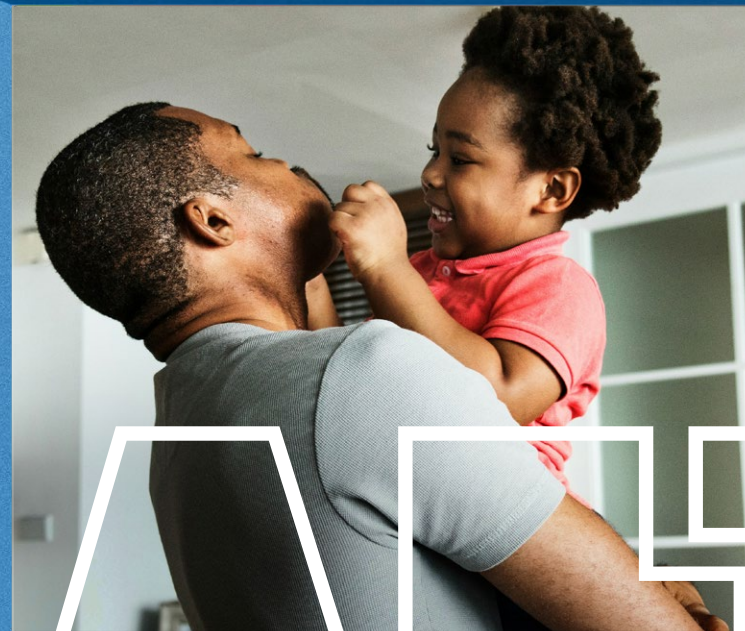
People Housed

508

People Supported

241

Nights of Safety



HALT

HOUSING FOR ALL LAND TRUST

BUILDING COMMUNITY, BUILDING CHANGE

The Housing for All Land Trust is a critical response to the housing crisis, addressing the root causes of homelessness by rapidly expanding affordable, sustainable housing solutions for individuals and families.

The goal is clear: to secure land and retain it in perpetuity, ensuring that affordable housing is built, retained and maintained for generations. HALT equips residents with the long-term stability they need, providing access to essential support services, economic opportunities, and a strong sense of community.



“I finally feel like I’m healthy. This is the healthiest I have ever felt.”

HEALTH SUPPORTS

Once a person is without a safe place to call home, health issues intensify, and new health problems arise. Exposed to the Canadian elements, health issues are made worse by highly stressful nights sleeping on the streets, and poor nutrition brought on by a lack of access to food.

Health Hub

The Health Hub offers individuals and families supported by Blue Door access to on-site health services, led by Registered Practical Nurses and family physician. The Health Hub offers services and supports ranging from health referrals, mental health support, dental hygiene, and more.

148 Individuals Supported through the Health Hub

Hospital In-Reach Worker

In partnership with Southlake Regional Health Centre and York Region’s CPORT team, Blue Door’s hospital In-Reach Worker works with hospital patients experiencing homelessness in finding a safe place to recover and live upon being discharged from the hospital.

231 Individuals Supported through In-Reach and Diverted from Discharging into Homelessness

COMMUNITY HOUSING SUPPORTS

Housing Retention

The Housing Retention program offers supports to individuals and families in Blue Door’s emergency housing programs. Services include systems navigation, connection to health care and mental health services, and community reintegration, to support families and individuals in sustaining their housing.

156 Individuals Supported through Housing Retention

Housing to Health

In partnership with LOFT and The Krasman Center, Housing to Health is designed to assist individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in attaining and retaining housing.

53 Individuals Supported through Housing to Health



EMPLOYMENT

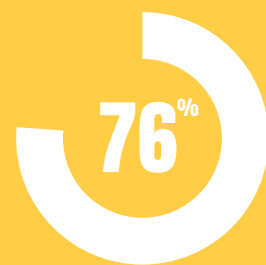
Construct is an 8-week skilled trades training program helping launch vulnerable individuals into successful careers in the trades.

In 2024, Construct redeveloped their online training portal to enhance its functionality for participants and graduates. Additionally, to ensure greater accessibility for diverse learners, the portal was translated into French.

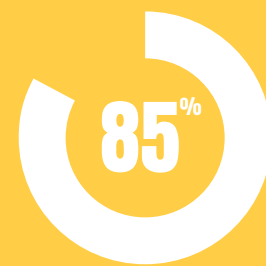
Construct made significant strides in further supporting participants and now offers beginner level tool kits for all graduates, to help them on their construction career paths.

“The Construct program is amazing and inspiring for its mission to help those in need of assistance, coaching, education, and encouragement to build a good sustainable life. Also, to share these skills and the knowledge acquired to carry it forward to help others. This is how strong, supportive, and compassionate communities are created.

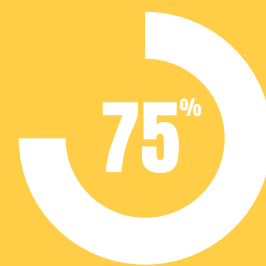
- ISABELLA, CONSTRUCT GRADUATE



Of 2024 graduates found employment



Of 550 individuals have secured employment



Of 550 individuals reported increased stability of housing



CONSTRUCT CANADA

A proven solution to preventing and ending homelessness, Blue Door will replicate the Construct program with community partners across Canada. In 2024, Construct focused on strengthening internal structures and processes, and developed the program adoption model to prepare for expansion.

CONSTRUCTGTA.CA



TRADEWORX

Powered by The Home Depot Canada Foundation, TradeWorx is a collaboration of Canadian employment social enterprises, including Construct, helping bridge systemic gaps and prevent youth homelessness through skills training.



“I learned how to stay consistent and motivated. Construct put me in a better position in life, with experience, job opportunities, housing - everything. Construct made me a better person.

- ALEX, CONSTRUCT GRADUATE

THANK YOU

Our achievements this year are a true testament to the dedication of our passionate staff, generous volunteers, and committed Board of Directors.

To our staff—your hard work and dedication drive real change, and we are so grateful for every one of you.

To our volunteers—whether supporting programs, events, or administrative tasks, your time and energy never go unnoticed and make a lasting impact.

To our donors and funders—we are deeply grateful for your incredible generosity. Thank you for believing in our mission and standing with us every step of the way.

To our community—your support makes it possible for us to create life-changing opportunities for individuals and families in need. Together, we're building stronger, more inclusive communities and a brighter future for all.

And to our Board—your leadership and guidance help shape our success. Thank you to Michael Scarano (Board Chair), Anika Mifsud (Vice-Chair), Al Jones (Board Treasurer), Julie Ralph (Board Secretary), and our dedicated Board Members, Caroline Hunter, Chirag Bhatt, Christopher Achkar, David Rawcliffe, Denise Le Bel, and Vidia Dhanraj.

We are deeply grateful to each of you for being part of Blue Door's commitment to preventing and ending homelessness. Thank you!

EVENTS

Coldest Night of the Year Richmond Hill

The Coldest Night of the Year is a winterrific family-friendly walk in support of people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. On February 24th, 2024, over 75 volunteers and 52 teams braved the cold to raise life-saving funds.

\$153,587
Raised

Hockey Helps the Homeless York Region

Hockey Helps the Homeless Pro-Am York Region tournament was held on December 12, 2024 where players raised funds to make a direct impact in their community. Thank you to the 67 volunteers, 21 teams, and incredible support from the community for making this year's event a success.

\$401,946
Raised



ADVOCACY

Advocacy For Lasting Change

Recognizing the impact all levels of government have on housing, health, and employment, Blue Door engaged a government relations consultant to strengthen partnerships and drive change through policy. In 2024, Blue Door had over 40 meetings with federal and provincial officials, helping spotlight Blue Door's Construct and Housing for All Land Trust solutions.



The On The Way Home Podcast

On the Way Home podcast brings together the voices and issues involved in ending homelessness in Canada.

126K+ **30K+**

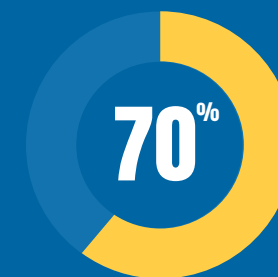
Youtube views
in 2024

listens on Apple
and Spotify



FINANCIALS

Revenue



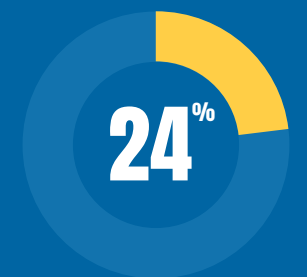
Government



United Way
Greater Toronto

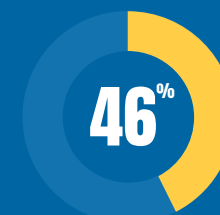


Construct

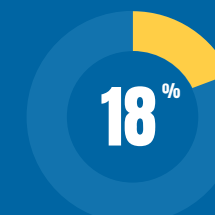


Donations, Grants,
& Other Funding

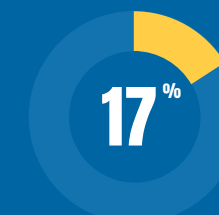
Expenses



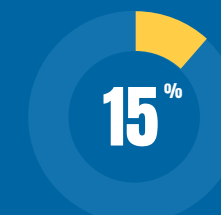
Emergency
Housing



Transitional
& Supportive
Housing



Construct



Fundraising &
Administration



Housing to
Health

KEY SUPPORTERS

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 2024.

- Alectra Inc.
- Aubrey & Marla Dan Foundation
- Bingo World
- Cambria Design Build Ltd.
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)
- Capital Power - York Energy Centre
- Chris Pridham
- CIBC Foundation
- City of Richmond Hill
- Compu-SOLVE Technologies Inc.
- Cordelia Abankwa
- Descon Conveyor
- DIBS Scratch Bakery
- DJ Rez
- DS Consultants
- Ebenezer United Church
- Edmunds Home Improvements
- Eli Lilly Canada
- EllisDon Corporation
- Federal Reaching Home Strategy funding administered through United Way Greater Toronto for York Region.
- Glynnwood Retirement Living
- Government of Canada
- Hockey Helps the Homeless
- Holy Trinity Anglican Church
- Home Trust
- Homeward Public Affairs
- J.P. Bickell Foundation
- John and Jocelyn Barford Family Foundation
- Kenvue Inc.
- Knights of Columbus #5957
- Knights of Columbus, Oakridges Council 13094
- Lauremont School
- Legacy Protection Services
- LiUNA Local 506 Training Centre
- Longo's Richmond Hill
- Magna International Inc.
- Mark Zeidenberg
- MCAP
- Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD)
- MP Majid Jowhari
- Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF)
- Pathy Family Foundation
- Premiere Mortgage Centre
- Ralph M. Barford Foundation
- RBC Foundation
- RC Design
- Robert & Marianne Bahlleda
- Rouge Valley Menonite Church
- St. Mary's Anglican Church
- Staff Relief Healthcare Services
- Superstore Newmarket
- TD Bank Group
- Tenaquip Foundation
- Tessier Design Corp.
- The Charles H. Ivey Foundation
- The Corporation of the City of Vaughan
- The Dunin Foundation
- The Home Depot Canada Foundation
- The Regional Municipality of Durham
- The Regional Municipality of York
- The Rose Corporation
- Toronto Christian Community Church
- Victory Baptist Church
- Widemen Mennonite Church

Thank you to the following funders who generously provided over \$250,000 in 2024



“HOMELESSNESS CAN AFFECT ANYONE—IT COULD BE SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY, SOMEONE YOU WORKED WITH, OR EVEN A STUDENT YOU ONCE TAUGHT. IT’S OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE EVERYONE HAS ACCESS TO SAFETY AND STABILITY

- BRIAN MIDDLETON,
BLUE DOOR LEGACY DONOR



MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

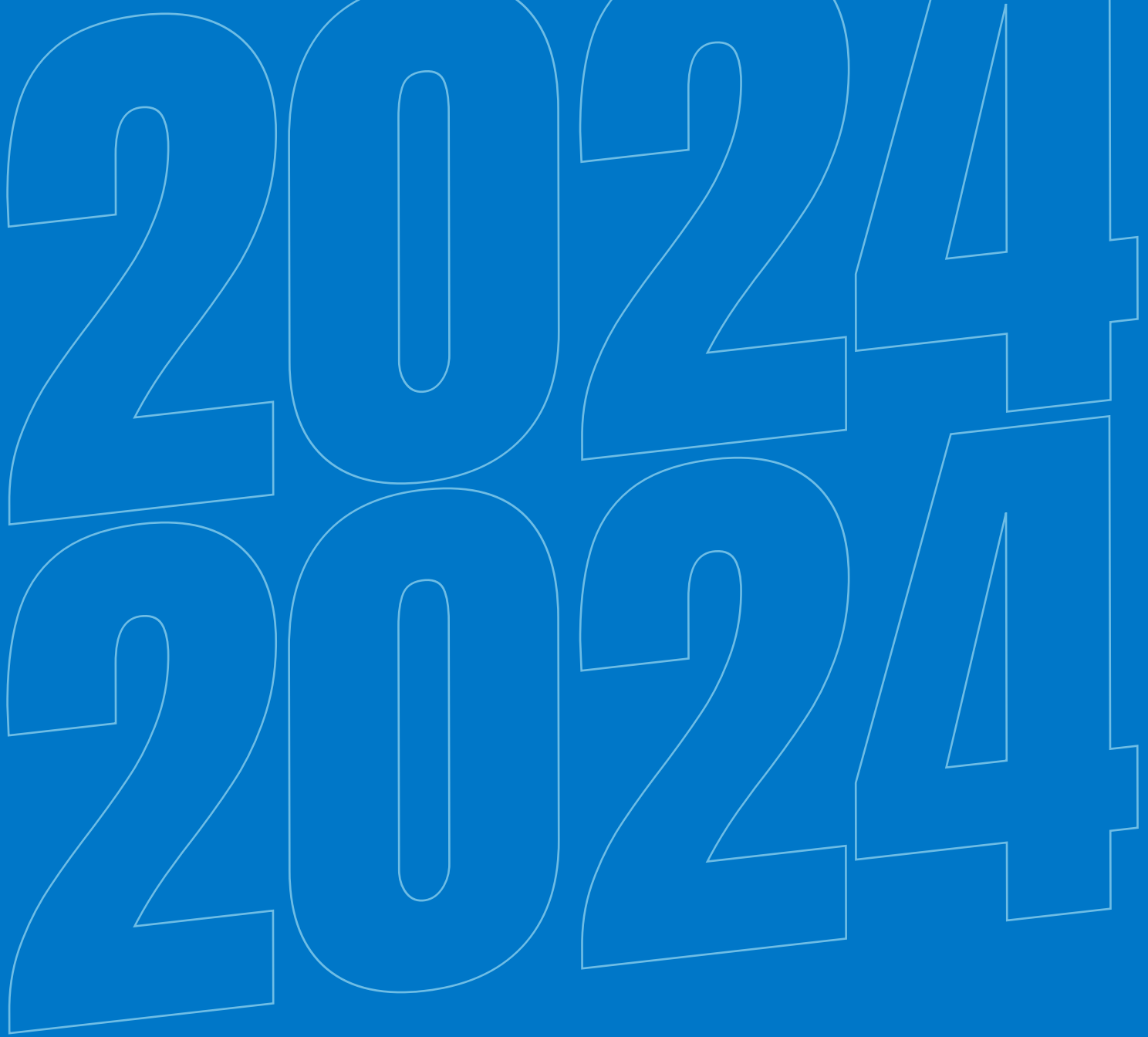
Become a monthly donor and provide stable support to help youth, seniors and families experiencing homelessness access safe housing, vital health services, and employment opportunities.

bluedoor.ca/ways-to-give/donate/

To stay up to date on all Blue Door events, information, and initiatives, sign up for the bi-weekly newsletter.

bluedoor.ca/newsletter/





18838 Highway 11,
East Gwillimbury,
ON L9N 0C5
905 898 1015
Info@bluedoor.ca

BlueDoor.ca
Charitable Registration Number:
13057 1896 RR 0001



BLUE·DOOR