



the REDWOOD for women and children fleeing abuse

Working with Community to End Gender-Based Violence



YOUR IMPACT REPORT | APRIL 1, 2024 –MARCH 31, 2025

The Redwood's Mission

The Redwood provides programs and services to support women and children to live and thrive without abuse, homelessness and poverty.

We work for social change through learning, collaboration and advocacy.

Who We Serve

Guided by our values of self-determination, anti-racism and anti-oppression, The Redwood provides services inclusive to all women and their children, trans, and gender-diverse individuals who are disproportionately impacted by gender-based violence.

Cover Photo: Redwood volunteers gathered at the shelter to celebrate National Volunteer Week.



Thank you to The Redwood's 2024-2025 Board of Directors for their leadership:

Laura Boudreau

Sonya Bourgeois



Olayinka Ekenkwo

Vaishnavy Gupta

Kathryn Lamothe

Lauriana Mandody



Michael Pelz

Kiran Ramnane

Allyson Samuel

Nadine Sookermany

Ivana Vaccaro

Abi Ajibolade (Executive Director)

A Message from Abi

Dear kindhearted friends of The Redwood,

Thank you so very much for your commitment to helping women and their children to live free from abuse, homelessness and poverty.

Working to end gender-based violence can be daunting. The Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability reports that in 2024, 187 women and girls were lost to femicide in this country. In the face of such relentless violence, it is understandable that some have lost hope that women will ever live free from the threat of abuse.

At The Redwood we truly believe that when the community comes together, **in hope tied to action**, we can make a safer world for women and girls.

In **Your Impact Report 2024-2025**, you will read how The Redwood is collaborating with developers to secure beautiful apartments for survivors to move to. You will read how our new **Women in Technology: IT Help Desk Technician** program brings women together with schools, businesses and donors to help them keep safer by securing a decent, well-paid job. And you will read how The Redwood is partnering with community organizations to meet survivors where they live, in neighbourhoods all over the GTA, through our unique **Hub-on-Wheels**.

Such good news for survivors!

Of course there are dark days at The Redwood. Women and children arrive having suffered unspeakable trauma. When those

days come – we can look to our community for strength.

Our amazing volunteers (see this report's cover page) give so much of their time and talents. Our compassionate donors uplift me with their generosity. Our committed staff work around the clock to safeguard survivors and their children.

And I find strength when I look to the brave women who take enormous risks, even life-threatening ones, to make their way to the shelter. They show such courage and resilience as they rebuild their lives.

The words of musician Nick Cave encourage us to stay hopeful:

"In its active form, hope is a supreme gesture of love, a radical and audacious duty, whereas despair is a stagnant rejection of life itself. Hope becomes the energy of change."

And the words of activist Dr. Angela Davis encourage us to keep working for justice for women:

"You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time."

Thank you again for all that you do – all the hopeful actions that you take.

With love,

Abi ❤️

Abi Ajibolade
Executive Director



Protecting Survivors in the Emergency Shelter

The Redwood offers a safe haven to survivors of intimate partner violence, domestic violence, and gender-based violence, and to their children. We do our best to provide both physical and emotional safety to residents of the shelter.

The building is equipped with security cameras inside and outside of the shelter that can be viewed by multiple staff. The entrance has double doors that are fortified with bullet-resistant glass. Most importantly, empathetic case workers staff the shelter around the clock.

During their stay, residents' most basic needs are provided for: a private bedroom for them and their children, healthy meals, and access to personal care items.

Residents can participate in individual and group wellness counselling to assist them to heal from their experiences. (Read about the **Wellness Program** on page 6).



Olivia is a Redwood Resident Services Caseworker.

Children are supported by programs tailor-made just for them. (Learn about **Safety and Recovery for Children and Youth** on pages 8 to 10).

If needed, residents can work with Redwood staff to resolve legal issues, including those relating to child custody and immigration. (Read about the work of our **Legal Worker** on page 7).

When survivors are ready to move from the shelter back into the community, staff can help them to secure appropriate housing. (Read about our **Housing** initiatives on pages 11 to 13).

Residents are connected to training and employment opportunities that can help them achieve financial self-sufficiency, including **The Redwood's Women in Trades and Technology** program. (See pages 14 to 17).

And Redwood staff are available to residents for a year after they leave the shelter, to support their transition back into the community, through our **Hub-on-Wheels** program (See page 20).

Impact: 119 women and children found safety in The Redwood Emergency Shelter from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

Services for residents of the shelter are supported by the **Province of Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, United Way Greater Toronto**, and our **community of donors**.



*In Her Own Words: Thank You From Mia**

We are honoured to share messages written by a resident to staff, on the day she moved out of the emergency shelter.



"Dear Miss Mila, (The Redwood's Resident Services Manager)

I cannot express enough gratitude for what you have done for me. You came in like a big torch in the darkest of nights. I still remember on June 24th, I was at the front door with 3 luggages and didn't know where I was going or how the next few months would look like. You came out and welcomed me in with so much warmth. Since then, because of your presence and beautiful smile, everyday feels like home at Redwood.

Please know that you were like a God sent angel to me. Also, please know this, that you are capable of changing lives, like you have changed mine and many others. Thank you for everything, especially the warmth and kindness.

Dear Miss Ontlametse, (The Redwood's Food Services Worker)



How am I supposed to find the words to thank you? The one who put warm and delicious food on my plate on my coldest days... Please know that when I was not able to even get up from the bed, you made my life so much easier by preparing such lovely meals. It felt just like I was home. A good meal not only fills the belly, it warms the mind and gives so much peace and contentment. And how could I not mention the therapeutic cooking sessions I had with you, a culinary professional!

Thank you for teaching me so much. I am taking a lot of memories with me from The Redwood.

With lots of love, Mia"

**Mia is a pseudonym we are using to protect the woman's privacy.*



Redwood staff, Ontlametse and Mila.



Healing for Survivors in the Emergency Shelter

The Redwood emergency shelter meets residents' basic needs – a safe place to sleep, nutritious meals and basic personal care items. We also offer access to empowering and life-changing programs to help women heal from the trauma of experiencing gender-based violence, intimate partner violence, and domestic violence.

Our in-house Wellness Counsellor offers group and one-on-one sessions to residents with the aim of strengthening survivors' understanding of their diverse experiences of violence, to learn healthy coping mechanisms.

Residents are provided with Wellness First Aid Kits that include items designed to support self-care and mindfulness practices. Women take the kits with them when they move from the shelter to encourage them to continue to take good care of themselves as they face new challenges.

The Redwood also works with community partners to provide unique healing opportunities:

Trauma-Informed Boxing, presented in partnership with **Shape Your Life**, is a non-contact activity specifically created for women who have experienced violence. The program is survivor-centered, offering control and safety, and helps survivors reconnect with their bodies to restore a sense of control.



Wellness First-Aid Kit.

Art Therapy Workshops are presented to residents in partnership with the **Toronto Art Therapy Institute**. Placement students from the school work with residents to craft visual metaphors in art-pieces to reclaim an empowered self and build resilience.

Zumba Sessions are conducted by a certified instructor who is herself a survivor of gender-based violence. Zumba offers numerous health benefits, including improving cardiovascular fitness, building muscle, boosting mood and reducing stress.



Michele is The Redwood's Wellness Counsellor.

Empowerment for Survivors in the Courts



When survivors arrive at the shelter, we do our best to provide physical and emotional safety.

But abusive ex-partners can find new ways to continue to control and harass survivors, including using the family court system.

At The Redwood, we have had police arrive in the middle of the night, demanding the return of children that an abuser has reported as having been abducted by the mother. Police have removed a breast-feeding infant from the shelter and “returned” her to the father’s residence, a four-hour drive from Toronto. These are just two stories.

Tragically, children in our community have been killed in the context of custody disputes. Keira’s Law was enacted in 2022, requiring judges to undergo education about intimate partner violence and co-parenting, after four-year-old Keira Kagan was found dead with her father at the bottom of a cliff outside of Toronto. Her mother had warned the court that Keira’s father posed a violent threat.

Securing legal protections for children and their mothers is one of the most important services we can provide for residents of the shelter.

Many situations are so time sensitive and serious that we dare not depend only on the limited services of Legal Aid/Duty Counsel.

The Redwood has a full-time legal worker who can assist residents with issues like making an emergency motion to the court for custody. While temporary, it protects children when they first arrive at the shelter from actions that are retaliatory and further victimize them and their mothers.

The legal worker can also assist women when ex-partners threaten to move children to another country, or withdraw sponsorship, or refuse to produce documents needed to secure housing. She will also accompany women to court to provide a sense of empowerment and courage as they have to come face-to-face with the person who has done them harm.



Philomena is The Redwood’s Legal and Transitional Support Worker.



Safety and Recovery for Children and Youth in the Emergency Shelter

Safety and Recovery for Children and Youth living in the emergency shelter is The Redwood's set of early intervention, tailor-made services aimed at giving children and youth opportunities to heal from the trauma they have experienced.

Our Child and Youth team makes sure children's basic needs are taken care of: nutritious meals that fulfill their dietary requirements, seasonally appropriate clothing and footwear, and supplies to fully participate in school.

They connect children to essential services in the community, like enrolling them in a local school or day care, and finding them a family doctor. They can make referrals for children to meet with our in-house Child and Youth Mental Health Clinician. (See page 10 to learn more).

The children and youth are invited to participate in programs designed to help them grow and rebuild bonds with their mothers and siblings that may have been broken by the abuse they have endured. The programs also help develop their sense of self-esteem and confidence as they learn new skills, work with other children living in the shelter – and just have fun!

On the following page you will see a gallery of activities that children and youth were able to participate in.

New programs include:



The Comfy Couch Program provides children with age-appropriate, anti-gender-based violence education so they can become empowered and retake control of their lives in positive, meaningful ways.

The Youth Leadership Program provides psychosocial education to youth residents, with a focus on cultivating leadership qualities. Youth explore what leadership means, the qualities of a good leader, how to find leadership roles, and how to put these tools and skills into action.

Impact: 72 children and youth, ranging from newborns to teenagers, resided in the shelter.



The Redwood is profoundly grateful to **Catherine Booth and Michael Kirk** for their three-year commitment to provide funding for the **Safety and Recovery for Children and Youth living in the emergency shelter** program.



Gallery of Child and Youth Activities at The Redwood!



Row 1: Art Therapy Workshops are presented in partnership with **Scribble Me Silly**. Children created “The P.A. Day Spatula Club” to cook and share lunch.

Row 2: Summer Fun outings included a trip to Riverdale Farm. **Bike Club** graduation is a highlight of the summer. **Mom and Me** activities included learning about “Orange Shirt Day”.

Row 3: Music Workshops are presented by **Rainbow Songs Foundation**. Staff and volunteers host holiday celebrations for the children.



We sincerely appreciate **The Redwood community of donors** who support children and youth through the **Summer Fun, Back to School and Winter Holiday** appeals. We thank **Catherine Booth and Michael Kirk** who sent five children to **overnight camp**, fully outfitted with everything they needed for a week of fun and adventure. We are grateful to the **Alva Foundation** for generously funding **Bike Club**.



Healing Our Young Ones



Healing Our Young Ones (HOYO) is The Redwood's response to the ongoing mental health crisis among young people, specifically designed to support children and youth living in the shelter.

The initiative provides children with the clinical mental health counselling they urgently need in-house, through the part-time, on-staff services of a child and youth mental health practitioner.

HOYO offers support and interventions tailored to the age of the child, with an emphasis on rebuilding trust, security, and normalcy. The goal is to equip each child and their mother with coping skills and resilience tools, and to foster a strong and positive mother-child bond.

Impact: 23 children and youth received one-on-one counselling and mental health supports.



103 individualized therapy sessions addressed a range of emotional challenges related to trauma exposure, displacement, and the transition to communal living in the shelter.

The Redwood is tremendously thankful to **Michael Dawson and Leslie Byrnes**, and **Randy Cousins** for their three-year commitment to funding **Healing Our Young Ones**.

An example of the creativity of **HOYO** interventions is the "HOYO Drive-In" held in Redwood Park, our outdoor, therapeutic playground for children and their mothers. Some children made a cardboard "car" and "parked" for the screening, and others sat in chairs as they watched the movie "Inside Out" together.

The story follows an 11-year-old girl whose emotions, Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness help her through the transition of moving cities. Her emotions work together until Joy and Sadness get lost and they must journey through unfamiliar places to get back home.

The screening of the movie was followed by a discussion led by our **HOYO** clinician. Many children could relate to the story of the movie, which provided them with a safe way to process emotions they may have felt in response to the upheaval they experienced.



The "HOYO Drive-In" in Redwood Park.



Safe, Affordable Housing for Survivors

The Redwood's commitment to residents of the shelter includes helping them find a home when they are ready to leave. This usually takes place about 4 months after they have arrived.

But because of the housing crisis, women find themselves remaining in the shelter for months after the crisis stage of their situation has abated, as they wait to secure housing. This is not good for them. And it is not good for women living with abuse in the community who are not able to come to the shelter because it is fully occupied.

To address this problem, The Redwood has long dreamt of having our own small building with around 40 units for survivors to move to... and that dream is coming true, just not in the way we expected.

We will soon have our 40 units – and more. But without the responsibility and cost of owning our own building.

We have been working with private developers who are building new, purpose-built rentals. In exchange for reduced development charges and property taxes, the developers designate deeply affordable apartments to social service organizations, including The Redwood, in perpetuity.

We have already had survivors move into 5 units in the Junction and 10 units in Scarborough. In October 2025 we will take over 25 units in Leslieville. That is our 40!

We have signed agreements for 15 more units in Scarborough, which we expect to be ready in 2026. And, we have a commitment for 32 units in Etobicoke in 2027.

The Redwood is happy to have beautiful buildings for survivors to move to. And we are so pleased that we do not have to look after leaking roofs and misbehaving HVAC systems and snow shovelling! We have our fill of that work in our 100-plus-year-old shelter building!



Helping Survivors Move Back into the Community



Leaving the shelter can be an emotional rollercoaster for women. The excitement of making a fresh start may be tempered by the new struggles they will face as they build new lives of their own. For many women, it will mean living without help from family. For others, it will mean being a single parent for the first time. For all women, it will mean struggling to make ends meet. The Redwood is grateful to donors whose generosity helps ease the transition from the shelter back into the community.

The Market Rate Rent Fund provides income support of up to \$5,000 to cover rent and moving costs of residents of The Redwood emergency shelter who do not qualify for rent-geared-to-income community housing.

Impact: 8 women and 11 children were supported by the Market Rate Rent Fund to settle into permanent safe housing.



The Redwood is grateful to **Catherine Booth and Michael Kirk** who have been supporting residents with rent funds for six years.

The Fill-the-Fridge Fund provides women leaving the shelter with grocery store gift cards to help them fill their fridges and pantries for the first three months after they leave the shelter, when both stress and expenses can be very high. A typical family including a mother and two children receives \$1,800.

Impact: 12 women were provided with grocery store gift cards to help them put food on the table for themselves and a combined 16 children.



The Redwood appreciates **Michael Dawson and Leslie Byrnes** who have been supporting residents with grocery funds for five years.

The Moving and Furniture Fund provides residents leaving the shelter with \$800 in gift cards from houseware stores, to help them purchase a few basics to set up their new homes. We also make sure that a gift card for dinner on moving day is included!

Impact: 12 women were provided with gift cards to help them with moving and furniture expenses.



Our sincere thanks go to **kind donors who wish to remain anonymous** for their long-time support of this much-needed fund.

"To my Redwood family... just want to say a big, big thank you for your love, support and encouragement and for helping me to have a place for myself and kids.

Every day I walk into this apartment that I call home I give God thanks for the Redwood. It's so cold outside, I swell in tears when I see the people on the street and in the subway who have no place to call home.

Had it not been for the Redwood I would've been dead by now, thank you all for saving my life.

God bless you always, with gratitude" - former Redwood resident



Building Community from Garden to Lunch! 🐛

Residents of The Redwood's designated units in a partner building take part in programs aimed at creating safety through community. This summer they worked together to learn container gardening skills, and shared the harvest.



Adesola, The Redwood's Community Support and Outreach Worker, led the gardening project.



Women in Trades: HVAC Technician Program



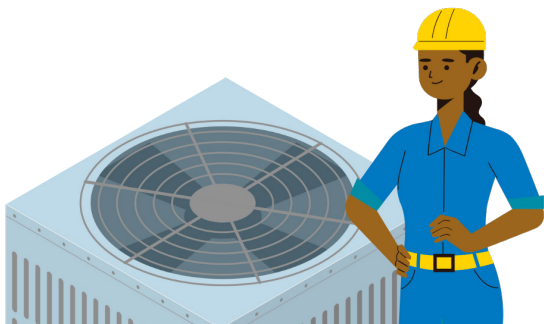
The Redwood can provide safety to survivors of gender-based violence in our emergency shelter. But another way to keep women safer from abuse is to help them secure financial independence through a well-paid job – one that can enable them not just to survive, but to thrive.

The Redwood's **Women in Trades: HVAC Technician** program offers survivors tuition-free training and wrap-around supports as they work to become certified Gas Fitters – leading to careers in the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) trades. Please read page 15 to learn about one woman's journey to independence through the HVAC Technician program.

Impact: April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025



- 15 new trainees entered the program
- 10 trainees were certified as G3 and G2 level Gas Fitters
- 13 participants were employed full-time in the HVAC field
- 38 HVAC businesses, trade unions and associations partnered with The Redwood on this program that provides them with a much-needed labour pool



Participants visiting Reliance Home Comfort, meeting with team members and touring the facility.



The **Women in Trades: HVAC Technician** program receives funding from the **Government of Canada's Union Training and Innovations Program**. It is generously supported by **The Lillian Meighen and Don Wright Foundation** and the **Bras Family Foundation**. The Redwood is a proud recipient of a **Scotiabank** community investment, a grant from **United Way Greater Toronto** and gifts from **kind donors who wish to remain anonymous**.

In Her Own Words: Jane*



Participants of the **Women in Trades: HVAC Technician** program were honoured with Certificates of Achievement at a gathering that included their families, representatives from businesses, trade unions and associations that partner with the program, and generous funders and donors. The participants and guests were addressed by HVAC valedictorian, “Jane”.

“My journey in the HVAC industry has been nothing short of incredible, and I owe a huge part of it to Redwood. As a student in their HVAC program, I found more than just technical training—I found a community. Redwood not only equipped me with the skills and knowledge to excel in the field but also opened doors to opportunities I never imagined.

Through the program, I was able to network and connect with industry professionals, especially women in HVAC, which was truly inspiring. It was at Redwood that I secured my apprenticeship with Enercare and later gained experience with various institutions, ultimately leading me to my current role as a Medical Gas Field Technician at Class 1 Inc. The exposure and mentorship I received helped me grow both professionally and personally.

I later pursued my G2 Gas Technician certification and graduated from HiMark Training Centre, a class full of men, as the second-best student. That experience strengthened my resilience and confidence, proving that I belonged in this industry just as much as anyone else.

But what stands out the most is the bond I formed with my colleagues and the students I've had the privilege to tutor. Seeing them succeed and knowing that I played a small part in their

journey has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. Redwood didn't just train me—it gave me a family, a support system, and the confidence to thrive in a male-dominated industry.

I am beyond grateful for the friendships, the lessons, and the unwavering support from Redwood. If you're considering a career in HVAC, especially as a woman, this is the place to start. Redwood doesn't just create technicians—it builds leaders.”

**Jane is a pseudonym we are using to protect the woman's privacy.*



Abi presents HVAC valedictorian and peer-to-peer tutor Jane with a Certificate of Achievement.



Women in Technology: IT Help Desk Technician program

The Redwood is thrilled to announce that we have been granted \$1.2 million from the **Province of Ontario's Women's Economic Security Program** to fund our new three-year training and employment initiative for women who have been affected by gender-based violence.

Women in Technology: IT Help Desk Technician is a 24-week program that provides participants with tuition-free training. It is exclusive to Redwood participants and tailored to meet the needs of survivors. It consists of:

- 3 weeks of in-person, hands-on training in internet wiring at The Redwood
- 3 weeks of academic upgrading at **George Brown College** to prepare for their studies
- 10 weeks of IT Help Desk Curriculum at George Brown College
- 8 weeks of work readiness and placement
- Wrap-around supports including grocery store gift cards to support women during training, childcare when needed and caseworkers to support their training and employment journeys



Participants attended a Mentors Day event at The Redwood to network with professionals in the IT field.

Impact of Year 1 of the 3-Year Initiative

- 20 women completed the training, achieving above average scores - in the high 80's - across the program's complex curriculum
- Participants completed an 8-week work readiness placement program, including weekly sessions with the IT Department of **TD Bank**
- Participants are now studying for their certification exam
- Participants are working with the program's employment caseworker, and 1 has secured a position just weeks after completing the program
- 6 businesses are partnering with The Redwood to mentor participants as they seek employment

The **Women in Technology: IT Help Desk** program is funded by the **Province of Ontario's Women's Economic Security Program**. The program is generously supported by **The Lillian Meighen and Don Wright Foundation**, the **Bras Family Foundation**, the **Lang Family Foundation** and by a grant from **United Way Greater Toronto**. The Redwood is grateful to **TD Bank** for their mentorship and friendship to program participants.



In Their Own Words: IT Help Desk Technician participants



Participants received hands-on training in internet wiring in a workshop set up at The Redwood.

“Our placement at TD was a highlight. The mentors there were very clear in their guidance, especially when it came to troubleshooting ticketing and hardware issues. Thanks to their mentoring, we gained practical experience and confidence in real-world IT support scenarios.”

“I was excited to complete the course with a good grade, and it amazed me how quickly we were able to learn and grow. Collaborating with group members and instructors made the experience even more rewarding. The instructors were incredibly supportive and friendly, always encouraging us to stay motivated.”



Julia (right), Manager of the Women in Trades and Technology program and participants of the IT Help Desk Technician program take a break during their first visit to TD!



The Redwood Connects with our Community



Redwood staff, volunteers and friends joined the International Women's Day March to spread the word.



Our Canada Summer Jobs staff distributed posters all over the GTA to let survivors know that help can be found by texting, calling or live chatting on iDetermine.ca, our 24/7 digital helpline.



Community members were invited to our International Women's Day Learning Event to build their ability to help survivors in the community using iDetermine.ca. The event was hosted by Redwood Volunteer Coordinator, Hannah.



SCAN HERE



You can view our International Women's Day Learning Event by scanning the code to connect to The Redwood's YouTube channel.

Mobilizing Community to Support Survivors



Ending the epidemic of gender-based violence will require the commitment of many community members to become equipped to assist those who are experiencing abuse. The Redwood's **iDetermine.ca** and **Safety Assessment and Risk Management (SARM)** project are two examples of how we are engaging community members to become intervenors.

iDetermine.ca is The Redwood's online platform that provides the community with interactive tools to assess the safety of their relationship. It can assist them to make decisions about how to leave or cope with an abusive relationship more safely.

The platform includes a 24/7 digital helpline that gives individuals the opportunity to text or live chat with a crisis responder.

In addition to Redwood staff, community members undergo training to become iDetermine.ca crisis responders. Without them, we would not be able to offer this critical service.

Impact: 46 Volunteer Crisis Responders contributed 2,961 hours to iDetermine.ca.

iDetermine.ca is fully funded by **The Redwood's community of donors**.

The Redwood's Safety Assessment and Risk Management: Sharing Promising Practices is a project that provides community members who may encounter survivors in their own work, with training and a toolkit that they can use to identify and respond to survivors' needs.

The training provides individuals with tools to offer support safely and appropriately. Participants will:

- Learn how to recognize warning signs of abuse and red flags
- Gain practical skills to help someone stay safe
- Learn how to use the toolkit to identify, screen and assess risks
- Build confidence in having difficult but important conversations
- Know how to connect survivors with the right resources

Impact: The SARM Project trained 142 community members from 8 organizations to assist survivors.

We continue to offer training to community members who may encounter people experiencing abuse. If you are a dentist, hairstylist, educator, physiotherapist, financial advisor, or work in hospitality, you may have had concerns about a patient or client, but didn't know what to do.

We encourage all businesses, faith groups, unions and clubs who wish to keep women safer, to get in touch with us. Please connect with the team at **sarmproject@theredwood.com** to learn more or schedule a training session.

The **SARM Project** is fully funded by **Women and Gender Equality Canada** for three years.



The Redwood's Hub-on-Wheels



While The Redwood provides safety for survivors of abuse in our 35-bed shelter, there are so many more women in our community living in a dangerous situation. Last year we turned away 286 callers who connected with our crisis line seeking shelter. Others need help, but for many reasons may not wish to use the services of a shelter. Some simply do not know where to turn to for assistance.

The Redwood's **Hub-on-Wheels** keeps more women from harm by meeting survivors where they live, in neighbourhoods all over the GTA. The custom outfitted RV brings many of the same services out to the community that The Redwood has been providing to survivors in-house:

- Crisis intervention and prevention, including making a personalized plan to leave or cope with a relationship more safely
- Referrals to access emergency shelters, legal supports, rent-geared-to-income housing, and harm reduction services
- Consultations for basic primary health care, sexual wellness and health education
- Trauma-informed counselling support

The **Hub-on-Wheels** partners with social services organizations whose clients are affected by gender-based violence and would like The Redwood to help. To protect the privacy and security of those served we are not sharing the names of our community partners.

We believe that the **Hub-on-Wheels** is the first and only one of its kind in Canada: a mobile service that is focused on offering anti-gender-based violence counselling and prevention to survivors of abuse.



Lola, The Redwood's Hub-on-Wheels Caseworker & Wellness Counsellor.



The Redwood's Hub-on-Wheels team from left: Labisi, Celestine, and Lola.

Services of the **Hub-on-Wheels** are supported by the **Province of Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services THS Program** and **The Redwood's community of kind donors.**

Thank you Redwood Community Volunteers

The Redwood is grateful to its committed group of community volunteers who strengthen every aspect of our work.

In the shelter:

Art Therapy Workshop Assistants
Music Therapy Workshop Assistants
Food Services Assistants
Child and Youth Tutors
ESL and Computer Literacy Tutors
Parenting with Heart Program Administrative Assistant
Donation Room Organizer
Holiday Party Supporters
Creating Welcome Bags for shelter residents
Women in Technology Child Caregivers



In the community:

Women in Trades Ceremony of Achievement Supporters
iDetermine.ca Crisis Responders
International Women's Day Learning Event Supporters
International Women's Day March and Rally Participators
Thank you Card Creators
Monthly Donor Stewardship Helpers



Impact: 69 Volunteers contributed 3,228 hours of time and talent!



The Redwood is grateful for the **Ontario REALTORS Care Foundation's** support of the Volunteer Program.



Meet Krishna, a Redwood volunteer

Krishna has been a volunteer at The Redwood for four years. His most recent contribution was as a volunteer with the Youth Leadership Program, working with children aged 7 to 11, living in the emergency shelter.

"My name is Krishna. I am an ex-finance professional with a passion for social impact, creating safe spaces for youth, and teaching. During the pandemic, I had a moment of reflection and realized that there is more to life than just focusing on the 9-5, so I pivoted my career to what brings me joy in life, which is teaching, and giving back through volunteer work."

"I've always had a lot of respect for shelters and then I saw this opportunity at The Redwood. I thought, in whatever capacity that I could be useful and offer assistance, I would do. I started volunteering with the tutoring program, helping some of the kids in the shelter."

"I think that the work that The Redwood is doing is absolutely incredible. The need for shelter, safe spaces and communities for women and children fleeing abuse is extremely important, and the more people that can give in either a monetary or a personal time commitment in any way is advantageous to the community. I'm very, very happy to be able to be a part of that."



Abridged Financials 2025

Statement of Financial Position as of March 31, 2025

ASSETS

Current	2025	2024
Cash	\$1,176,400	\$742,100
Investments	514,100	460,600
Accounts receivable	56,200	105,500
HST refundable	131,300	56,700
Prepaid expenses	41,300	103,800
	1,919,300	1,468,700

Internally Restricted Assets

Cash	–	600,000
Safe Housing Project	3,500,000	2,900,000
	3,500,000	3,500,000

Capital Assets	885,700	930,000
	\$6,305,000	\$5,898,700

LIABILITIES

Current

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	345,800	202,800
Government remittances payable	–	7,600
Deferred revenue	516,300	489,300
	862,100	699,700

Net Assets

General Fund	1,942,900	1,699,000
Safe Housing Project	3,500,000	3,500,000
	5,442,900	5,199,000
	\$6,305,000	\$5,898,700

Complete audited financial statements for the year ended March 2025 are available upon request and on our website: theredwood.com

Statement of Operations For the Year Ended March 31, 2025

Revenues	2025	2024
Grants	\$1,428,700	\$1,654,800
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	1,539,800	1,571,900
Fundraising and donations	1,646,600	1,097,300
United Way Toronto	192,000	192,000
Investment Income	148,400	147,800
City of Toronto	16,700	38,500
Other Income	12,900	11,800
Total Revenue	\$4,985,100	\$4,714,100

Expenses

Salaries, benefits and staff development	2,882,900	2,644,900
Violence prevention program	743,400	546,600
Shelter program	529,400	356,400
Occupancy	323,600	336,300
Fundraising	48,000	98,400
Professional	99,900	72,200
Furniture and Equipment	69,000	69,100
General and operations	30,400	43,600
Personal needs allowance – City of Toronto	16,600	21,600
Communications	19,200	12,800
Governance and leadership	–	10,400
Total Expenses	\$4,762,400	\$4,212,300

Excess of revenue over expenses from operations	\$222,700	\$501,800
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Unrealized loss on investments	65,600	148,900
Amortization of capital assets	(44,400)	(47,600)
	21,200	101,300

Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	\$243,900	\$603,100
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The Redwood is profoundly grateful

to donors who have made transformational gifts and pledges to support women and children fleeing abuse, homelessness and poverty.

Lifetime Contribution of \$500,000 or more

Catherine Booth and Michael Kirk

Michael Dawson and Leslie Byrnes

The Lillian Meighen and Don Wright Foundation

Private Giving Foundation - Anonymous Donor

Royal LePage Shelter Foundation



Anthea Windsor Planned Giving Circle

Thank you to our supporters who have included a bequest to The Redwood in their estate plans:



Richard Clarke

Dan and Mary Cornacchia

Randy Cousins

Michael Dawson and Leslie Byrnes

Diane and Richard Dowsett

Anne-Marie Gardner

Carmen J. Hanson-Hoyte

Barbara and Stan McDowell

Priscilla McLellan

Eleanor Murdoch

Sonia Pinkney and David Giesbrecht

Anthea Windsor

Anonymous (2)



Michael Kirk and Catherine Booth have been generous supporters of The Redwood since 2017.



Our heartfelt thanks

to faithful donors who have contributed to The Redwood for 20 years or more!



Kathy A. Baillie
Kaye and Paul Beeston
Dana Clarence
Richard Clarke
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Randy Cousins
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Humber
David Townsend
Unifor Social Justice Fund
Gail and Glen Warnock
Anthea Windsor
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Thank you!

We deeply appreciate our Symbol of Hope Donor Circle

April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025



Leading the Way

Annual Contribution of \$165,000

The Lillian Meighen and Don Wright Foundation

Annual Contribution of \$150,000

Catherine Booth and Michael Kirk

Annual Contribution of \$117,000

Michael Dawson and Leslie Byrnes



Inspiring Forever

Annual Contribution of \$50,000-\$99,999

Scotiabank

The Bras Family Foundation

The Lang Family Foundation

The Lillian Meighen and Don Wright Foundation in memory
of Mary Louise Dickson

Ensuring They Soar

Annual Contribution of \$20,000-\$49,999

Mrs. Irene Bean

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Randy Cousins

Frederick and Douglas Dickson Memorial Foundation

Greater Toronto Apartment Association Charitable Foundation

Greenrock Real Estate Advisors

Remembering Otto and Marie Pick Charitable Foundation

Shoppers Foundation for Women's Health

Anonymous



Liam Scott and Priscilla Wright of the Lillian Meighen and Don Wright Foundation with Executive Director, Abi Ajibolade (centre).



Helping to Fly

Annual Contribution of \$5,000-\$19,999

Airlie Foundation
Lonti Ebers
Cadesky Tax
Canadian Tire Store – Keele and St. Clair
The Glover Family
Grace's Places Inc.
Jonathan Hackett and Sonia Markes
Holt Renfrew's H Project
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Humber
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TD Securities Underwriting Hope Fund

Naomi and Michael Tomczak

Trozzo Family Foundation

tuck

Milos Vranesevic and Stacey Roderick

Ward Family Foundation

Gail and Glen Warnock

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Giving Wings

Annual Contribution of \$2,500-\$4,999

Heather Conway

Lisa (Elisabeth) DeMarco

Garfield Maintenance

Heather Hisey and Paul Jarvis

In memory of Alex White

In memory of Paul Murphy

Kingsway-Lambton United Church Women

Kathleen Mahaffy

The Newall Family Foundation

Paul Ostrander

Guy Poulin and Janice Copeland

Retrofit Pilates

Dax Sukhraj – Keybase Financial Group Inc.

Douglas and Moira Ward

The Ward Canada Group Inc.

Anonymous (5)



Symbol of Hope

Annual Contribution of \$1,000-\$2,499

Abi Ajibolade in memory of her

father Ganiu Kotun

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 113

Rebecca Best

Christopher Beveridge

Craig Binning

Laura Boudreau

Marcus Calloo

Peter Chauvin and Shelagh McPherson

Rosemary Christopher

The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields

Dana Clarence

Richard Clarke

CN Employees' and Pensioners'

Community Fund

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Michael Cowley

Roswitha Davidson

Ron Denham

David and Natalie Duncan

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Shari and John Ezyk

Mark Ferraro

Sean and Shauna Forbes

Forest Hill Lions Club

Paul Forestell and Lisa Schrenk Forestell

Laurie Gallant

Mario Galofaro

Gandy Charitable Foundation
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 Chris Graham
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 Marian Hoffmann and Luke Earl
 Howard Park Children's Centre
 Leslie Howsam
 Humanitree
 Rob Hyndman
 IODE Kathleen Drope Chapter
 In memory of Alex White From The Staff
 and Adjudicators at Tribunals Ontario
 In memory of Susan Forrest
 In memory of Veronica Cizmar
 Helen Jansons
 Kevin Burke Family Foundation at Toronto
 Foundation
 Mohammad Khodavandi
 Helen and Mark Kolberg
 Carina Kwan
 Ryan Lafuente
 Tannisha Lambert
 Kathryn Lamothe
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 David Lock
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 The Management Centre
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 Mary Ferraro Foundation

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 Sonia Pinkney and David Giesbrecht
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 in loving memory of Eva Joyce Watts
 Susan Whelehan
 Gregory Frederick White
 Josanne White
 David Woodard
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Thank you to our Funders!

Province of Ontario's Ministry of Children,
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Ontario Women's Economic Security Program

Employment and Social Development Canada

Women and Gender Equality Canada

United Way Greater Ontario

Women's Shelters Canada

Toronto Foundation



Every effort has been made to ensure this is an accurate list of donors. If you notice an error or omission please accept our apology and let us know so we can update our records.

For a complete list of Redwood donors, please visit:

www.theredwood.com/symbol-of-hope-donor-circle/





Women in Trades: HVAC Technician participants celebrate their achievements.

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**Black Lives Matter
Indigenous Lives Matter**