

**PAVE THE WAY  
FOR A FRESH START**

eva's

# HOMELESSNESS IN CANADA

photo: Globe and Mail

## BY THE NUMBERS

**39**

Average life expectancy for a person experiencing homelessness in Canada.

**235,000**

Number of Canadians who experience homelessness over the course of a year and of this 40,000 are youth.

**40,000**

Number of Canadians experiencing homelessness on a given night. Approximately 7,000 are youth and of this 2,000 experience homeless in Toronto alone.

**8%**

Portion of Canadians 15 and over who at some point in their lives experience 'hidden homelessness', such as couchsurfing, sleeping in a car, or other precarious housing.

**20%**

Portion of the homeless population who are young people, ages 13-24.



photo: : Toronto Star





## MAIN CAUSES OVERALL

**The Economy** – A key driver of homelessness in Toronto is the increasing costs of housing over the past 10 years exacerbated by low vacancy rates (1.0 per cent) and a lack of new affordable housing. Higher child and family poverty and stagnant social assistance rates that don't respond to economic factors contribute to the growing affordability gap.

**Newcomers** – Displacement – Worldwide, the number of refugees is on the rise and more and more people are seeking refugee claims in Toronto. There has been a marked increase starting in late 2015 which intensified in 2017 and into 2018.

Many claimants are families with children needing shelter, support and services to get going on their Canadian journey and more than half are under 15. Claimants in Toronto's shelter system on an average monthly night will climb to 4,485 (53.6%) by November 2018.

**Youth at Risk** – 80% of homeless youth leave home because of family conflict, often grounded in difficult issues (e.g. financial stress, mental health). 63% report childhood trauma and abuse. 83% report bullying in school. Youth may feel unwanted because of their sexual orientation or gender identity (29.5%). Nearly half have 'aged out' of child protection involvement and did not get all they needed to thrive into adulthood.

Many young people experiencing homelessness also face additional forms of marginalization, such as racism, homophobia, and transphobia. For instance, 30.6% of youth in shelters identify as Indigenous and 28.2% identify as members of racialized communities.

Homelessness is high risk. 85.4% of homeless youth fall into the "high symptom/distress" category for mental health. 42% reported at least one suicide attempt. Nearly 1 in 5 homeless youth in US/Canada study identified experiencing some form of human trafficking.





SUPPORT AND IMPACT



# FUNDING RESOURCES

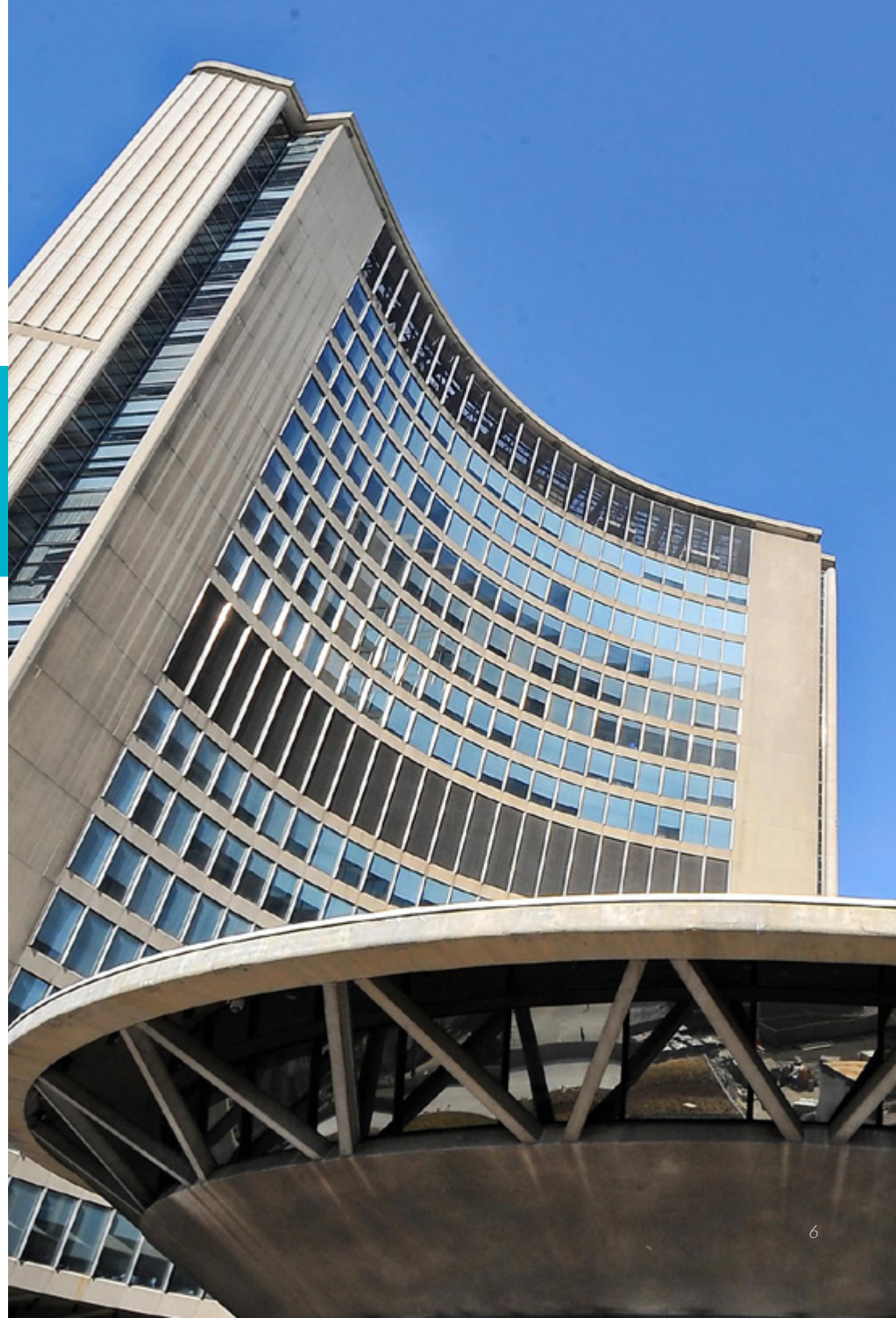
Though Government invests Some Resources, Need Outstrips Investment – Short-Term Approaches to the Problem Creates Huge Costs in the Long Run

**FEDERAL** – It costs \$4.5 to 6 billion annually to care for the homeless in Canada.

**The Ontario Trillium Foundation** – A Government of Ontario agency, and Canada's largest granting foundation currently assisting over 1,000 nonprofit and charitable organizations across the province.

**The City of Toronto** – Working with the Ministry of Health and local networks to develop better solutions.

**The United Way** – Operating across Canada supporting more than 6,200 programs for people in need.





## NOTABLE FUNDRAISING AND AWARENESS BUILDING INITIATIVES

Various Lifestyle Sectors Bring People Together to Raise Funds and Awareness for People in Need

**Dixonlicious** – A Dixon Hall event raising support for food programs and weekly meals for different community groups including people facing food security challenges and those living with HIV/AIDs.

**Hockey Helps The Homeless** – Leverages Canada's affinity for hockey to raise awareness and financial support for the homeless through education, fundraising, and by partnering with solutions-based local homeless support agencies.

**Sleep Out** – A Covenant House event where leaders and personalities spend one night on the streets with nothing but a sleeping bag and a piece of cardboard to make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable.

**Toronto Taste** – Over 70 chefs; 30 beverage purveyors; 60 sponsors; 400 volunteers and 1,500 guests come together annually to raise funds in support of **Second Harvest**.



# THE TOP TEN IMPACT CHARITIES 2017 – ACROSS CANADA

Charity Intelligence Analysis of Impact per Dollar Donated

**Aunt Leah's Place** – (Vancouver, 1988) Life Skills & Food Security program for youth.

**Calgary Urban Project Society (CUPS)** – (Calgary, 1989) Wrap-around programs to help the homeless and high risk through health care, education, and housing.

**Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières Canada (MSF)** – (Toronto, 1991) Operates in over 70 countries to reduce suffering and provide medical care.

**Eva's Initiatives (Eva's)** – (Toronto, 1989) Prevent youth homelessness providing shelter and support services.

**Food for Life Canada (FFL)** – (Burlington, 1995) Food bank that redistributes foods to local agencies and residents.

**Fort York Food Bank (FYFB)** – (Toronto, 1998) Food bank that directly helps people and families beyond food distribution.

**Fresh Start Recovery Centre (Fresh Start)** – (Calgary, 1992) Helps men who are alcoholics or addicted to drugs.

**Indspire** – (Ohsweken, 1985) Helps Indigenous students in Canada complete their post-secondary education.

**JUMP Math** – (Toronto, 2002) Math programs for children in kindergarten to grade 8 based on cognitive science research.

**Moisson Montreal (MML)** – (Montreal, 1984) Largest food bank in Canada, providing food aid to people in Montreal.



# THIS IS WHERE I USED TO BATHE

Thanks to Eva's, now it's where I come for dinner with colleagues.

Washrooms like these give homeless youth temporary shelter and a place to get cleaned up. But what they really need is employment and life skills training, and that's what makes Eva's different.

Eva's is more than just a shelter. Eva's gives homeless youth a fresh start.

eva's

Donate at [evas.ca](https://evas.ca)





eva's 20

LOOKING BACK  
LOOKING FORWARD



## JODY'S STORY

*"Six months ago I wasn't registered in school, six months ago I was emotionally troubled, six months ago I had no stability ... Now, I wake up at 6:00 AM to be on the construction job site at 7:00 AM and I work my butt off all day and I couldn't be happier."*

*Jody's big smile brightens the whole room as she explains how living and learning at Eva's Phoenix for the last six month has transformed her life. Jody's family faced deep poverty and she grew up moving from one family shelter to another.*

*"It's hard to imagine enrolling in school or getting a job or any of those long-term plans when you don't know where you are going to sleep next."*



## GRAHAM'S STORY

*"I've slept on the street about 2 or 3 times in my life in Toronto and a lot more in Wiarton. It's not fun."*

Warton is a small town about two and half hour drive north of Toronto. It's where Graham is from and where he lived with his Dad.

*"My dad is a huge alcoholic so sometimes I just wouldn't go back to the house to avoid having arguments with him. Sometimes I'd just sleep outside, make a fire, like it's not fun. Not being able to go home every night to your own bed definitely leaves a huge impact on you."*

Eva's Satellite and Eva's Place, our two emergency shelters, have both provided shelter and support for Graham. He's at Eva's Place now.







## OLIVIA'S STORY

Olivia grew up in a foster home. Like many young people who are involved in the children's aid system, the time arrived when support came to an end and she had to leave that familiar place. But she didn't have anywhere else to go.

*"I wasn't ready to be completely alone because I deal with mental health issues, I don't feel safe being completely on my own."*

Olivia applied to live at Eva's Phoenix and soon got a call that a safe space would be available for her. She was excited to be a part of Eva's because she knew about the programs offered to young people there. She knew she needed to learn an array of life skills she hadn't learned before, things like cooking, budgeting, and problem-solving with roommates.

*"I like seeing another face when I wake up and come home."*



## CHAHID'S STORY

Chahid was born in France. When his father passed away 10 years ago, his mother couldn't handle it and wasn't really able to take care of them anymore. Despite the struggles of the family, he and his brothers did their best to continue getting an education. After finishing high school, Chahid came to Canada and enrolled at York University, but it wasn't easy.

*"I was alone in a new country and I didn't know how to do things myself. For a lot of things you have to wait until you're 21."*

*"I was homeless for a year before I found Eva's Place. You learn a lot when you are homeless. People don't really see you as someone. When my father was alive people would tell him that he had a good son and that I was clever. But when you became homeless, they think of you differently. It's like, 'Look at this guy, he doesn't do anything,' but they don't know about your life."*



# EVA MAUD SMITH

## THE VISIONARY LEGEND

*“By losing them, we were also losing our strength and future.”* - Eva Smith

Eva Maud Smith was a woman of action. In 1956 at the age of 33, she immigrated to Canada from Jamaica as a domestic worker. Nothing was easy about her first years in this country, but it wasn't long before she became a Toronto community leader and a school outreach worker.

No matter her personal circumstances, Eva's heart was drawn to our city's young people. She wanted to help them grow up healthy and happy and get a great education, but she realized that the experience of homelessness had become a barrier for some. Eva shed light on hidden youth homelessness, showing decision-makers the scope of the problem and rallying supporters to do something about it. She demonstrated that adult shelters were missing the specialized supports youth needed to avoid chronic homelessness in the long term.

It is through Eva Smith's trailblazing work that the original emergency shelter and the first youth-focused shelter in North York, Toronto, Eva's Place, was opened for homeless youth.

Eva's Initiatives remains inspired by the legacy of Eva Maud Smith. Eva's Place first opened its doors posthumously in 1994. Over the next 10 years, Eva's expanded with Eva's Satellite and Eva's Phoenix. Each facility offers unique services for homeless and at-risk youth.



Eva Maud Smith (1923-1993)

# THIS USED TO BE MY LIVING ROOM

Thanks to Eva's, now  
it's just somewhere I pass  
on my way to work.

Eva's is more than just a shelter. Eva's gives homeless youth a fresh start. By providing life skills training and support, we make sure that being homeless becomes part of someone's story—not their future.

eva's

Donate at [evas.ca](https://evas.ca)

## EVA'S INITIATIVES

Eva's Serves Hundreds of Young People and Their Families Every Year, Offering a Unique Combination of Safe Shelter and Housing, Counseling, Training, Healthy Living Support and Life Skills Programs

**Eva's Place** – A 40-bed emergency shelter for homeless youth aged 16-24. It provides supports youth need to return home or to transition to housing in the community. It was the first youth shelter in North York, Toronto. 2019 marks its 25th anniversary.

**Eva's Satellite** – Emergency shelter for 33 youth with special health supports for addiction and/or mental health. The journey from chaos and crisis to stability often starts at Eva's Satellite, Canada's first harm reduction shelter for youth. It provides comprehensive supports that focus on health, wellness, and stabilization.

**Eva's Phoenix** – Multiple award-winning transitional housing for 50 youth aged 16 to 24 experiencing homelessness. It also provides educational support, employment training, and independent living skills programming for youth in residence as well youth in the community.



# EVA'S PROGRAMS

**Family Reconnection** – Prevention/early intervention for youth/families.

**Employment training** – In high-demand fields (e.g. construction, digital graphics/print).

**Education Support** – To access high school/post-secondary opportunities.

**health and recreation** – Access to healthcare, reduce risk of substance use, promote healthy living.

**Independent Living** – Skills for finding and keeping housing.

**Eva's Print Shop** – When clients print Eva's, they help prepare youth experiencing homelessness for employment in the graphics and print sector. The organization reinvests every dollar of profit into shelter, food, caring support, and basic needs for all youth at Eva's.



Eva's Print Shop, Eva's Phoenix



## EVA'S FUNDRAISERS

**Eva's Home For Life** – A home-themed marketplace and auction presented by Scotiabank, hosted by **Colin & Justin** – featuring virtual homes by top Toronto designers plus fabulous food and drinks and a curated exhibit of art made by young residents at Eva's. The 2018 event raised \$267,910 allowing Eva's to provide one month of emergency shelter for 73 youth.

**Eva's Taste Matters** – An annual event that brings together Toronto's finest of the food and beverage sector. Proceeds go to safe shelter, nutritious food and 24-7 support for homeless youth at Eva's.

**Eva's Golf Classic** – Held at the Glen Abbey Golf Club, funds raised help Eva's provide safe shelter and new opportunities for 123 youth aged 16–24 each night.

**Hockey Helps The Homeless** – Raised over \$419,000.00 for Eva's in April 2018.

**Mode Canada Rocks Eva'S 2020** – A new initiative launching 2020 - World famous stars unified by their Canadian heritage and international excellence in music, food and fashion, unite to raise funds and awareness for Eva's.



KNOWLEDGE WITH VISION  
DELIVERS LIFE CHANGING  
OPPORTUNITIES



*Kitchen, Eva's Phoenix*

# EVA'S SOLUTIONS

By The Numbers

**\$35**

Food for 2 weeks

**\$80**

2 weeks of TTC transportation

**\$150**

A Fresh Start Kit for new beginnings

**\$250**

Feed the shelter for 1 day

**\$500**

Safe shelter for 1 week



Neighbourhood, Eva's Phoenix





inFlow volunteering at Eva's Taste Matters

## EVA'S VISION

Eva Smith's Trailblazing Advocacy Resulted in the Opening of Eva's Place in Toronto in 1994. Today, Eva's Initiatives For Homeless Youth Operates on Guiding Principles She Inspires.

**Eva's is a Reflective, Learning Organization** –

Committed to growing the organization's own knowledge and finding out how it can do better.

**Eva's Puts Young People at the Centre** – Not only aims to provide excellent resources and programs tailored to young people's developmental, cultural, and individual needs, but also to bolster their self-determination, efficacy, self-advocacy, and strengths.

**Eva's is Relationship Focused** – Helps youth grow healthy relationships with the organization and their families, neighbours, peers, colleagues, and communities.

**Eva's Approach is One of Justice Doing** – Supports its teams to pursue equitable outcomes through anti-oppressive, intersectional service approaches and stands as an organization that is reflective of the diverse communities it serves.

Visit [EVAS.CA](https://evas.ca) for more.

# MODE CANADA ROCKS

Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth Partners with  
Delectant Media to Raise Funds and Awareness and  
Honour Eva Maud Smith

Every \$1 Invested Creates \$9 of Social Benefit.

Enable Eva's to continue to play an important role at a critical  
turning point in young peoples' lives.

The longer youth are homeless, the more they are exposed to  
the risks of sexual and economic exploitation and the more  
likely they are to experience trauma, declining health, nutritional  
vulnerability, and addictions.



Visit [modecanadarocks.ca](http://modecanadarocks.ca) for more.

# MODE CANADA ROCKS

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UNITED TO END  
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

06.26.'20