



Merry Christmas
~FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT~
Haven 
ON THE QUEENSWAY



Haven 
ON THE QUEENSWAY
HOPE STARTS HERE ...



WINTER NEWSLETTER

A Message *from the* Director

Looking back on this year it was not what any of us expected. It has been difficult to witness the devastating impact COVID-19 has had on our community. Some have lost loved ones while others struggle financially. Our staff at the Haven have had to pivot which has allowed us to continue to serve our community and adapt to their growing needs.

Haven on the Queensway has received an incredible amount of support which has allowed us to continue to provide our services to the most vulnerable. Our food bank has been impacted the most with a client increase of over 100% creating a greater need for food donations. The Haven aims to provide at least 3 days worth of food per week based on family size.

Our Haven's closet continues to be an essential service during these challenging times as we provide much needed clothing free of charge to families and individuals in need.

Rain or shine our Hope with Wheels program has maintained a strong presence in the community and has not only continued to provide food, hygiene kits, and sleeping bags on Tuesdays but has increased their nights to Thursdays as well.

It has been especially hard for our seniors, many of whom have been isolated and are unable to meet with friends and family. Marta and our Haven helping seniors' volunteers have maintained contact with our seniors by making weekly calls and delivery of grocery items and art kits.

I am so grateful for the many ways our community has responded with both financial and food donations as well as offers to volunteer. In these tough times, I have found solace in the countless amazing stories of how our services have been able to provide comfort and security in small and big ways. *(Keep reading to hear the incredible stories).*

The way we work may look different right now, but I am grateful that with your support, our commitment to the most vulnerable people in our community hasn't changed.

Let's all remember to continue to maintain our distance, wear a mask, wash our hands and get tested if we are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. We are all in this together!

Wishing you and your families a MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HOLIDAY season.

Stay safe & healthy,



Aretha Khaloo



HAVEN'S CLOSET



The past few months in Haven's Closet between renovations and COVID lockdown have been a challenge, to say the least!

But our staff, volunteers, and donors have all risen to that challenge to ensure that our clients have warm clothing for the winter.

My job as Haven's Closet Coordinator is incredibly satisfying. I have been moved to happy tears on many occasions listening to our client's stories and the ways we have been able to make life a little bit easier for them.

I would like to share a few of these highlights with you.

A mother who has been living in a shelter with her son for the past year was finally moving into their own apartment and we were able to provide kitchen items and bed linens. She was so excited about being able to cook her son his

favourite meal from their home country.

Providing a gentleman in a wheelchair with a brightly coloured coat as he was afraid that cars would not see him when he crossed the street.

Outfitting a new mom with all the clothing and baby items that she would need for the first few months.

Making sure that a family that had five growing boys all had winter jackets and boots.

All of these stories would not be possible without the amazingly generous support of our donors.

So whether it was one pair of shoes or hundreds of items a huge THANK YOU!

Della

Havens Closet Coordinator



THE FIRST CARE SERVICE



One of our cutest clients couldn't wait to get home before taking her formula. In this last quarter, the First Care program has been able to put more smiles than ever on the faces of mothers with children as well as the expecting mothers who have little or no income. We supported moms and their families with formula, diapers, wipes, and clothes for their babies.

One of the clients said:

"All these for me? Thank you so much. I never thought I could get help for my child. I'm pregnant, I cannot get a job until I deliver my baby. This is so much help. Thank you so much".

Kemi

First Care Coordinator



HAVEN HELPING SENIORS



We care about our seniors!

We understand how challenging this year has been for the seniors we support. In addition to the food deliveries, we have been providing them with hygiene kits, art kits, This holiday, our seniors received wonderful Christmas baskets donated by Amica Helping Hands Charity.

A big thank you to our donors and volunteers who have made this possible!!

Marta

Haven Seniors Coordinator



**A HUGE THANKS TO OUR DONORS.
WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT
YOU!**



GLOBAL MEDIC, HEROS INTERNATIONALLY AND LOCALLY

Thank you, Rahul and your team at Global Medic for making an amazing impact on families locally in need.

Global Medic has succeeded in the following:

- Donated nutritious hampers and boxes of lentils, chickpeas, rice, pearled barley, green peas and kidney beans, that clients were able to convert into meals for themselves and their families.
- Packaged food in a way that was efficient, effective, and ethical, allowing those accessing our food bank the dignity of choosing from items that are visually pleasing.
- Provided and distributed hundreds of gift cards. By giving gift cards, you provided the liberty, pride, and respect of free will and choice.
- Provided quality soap and deodorant to our homeless friends served by our Hope with Wheels program, through The Soap revolution.

Thank you Rahul, for your insight, kindness, and for providing donations in a resourceful, and dignifying way.

[Go to website](#)





NO WORRIES! WE GOT TURKEY!

Thank you to Second Harvest for their generous donation of 130 Turkeys this season! Thanks to their annual Holiday turkey drive, our families will receive turkeys this Christmas. Thank you Second Harvest!

[Go to website](#)



NEED KINDNESS & GENEROSITY? JUST ADD SOBEYS

Thank you, Lisa, and your team at the Kipling Sobeys Store 741 for your help, generosity, and kindness. In the past few months, you have gone above and beyond in the following:

- Donated nutritious hampers that clients were able to convert into meals for their themselves and their families.
- Donated food items that we were able to redirect where needed, including to hungry adults, children, and venerable seniors.
- Donated complete Christmas packages for our most vulnerable families.

Kipling Sobeys Store #741 has contributed, and continues to contribute, tonnes of food to the Haven Food Bank via food hampers. Big "thank you" to Lisa, specifically, for the wonderful ideas and initiatives you have taken to provide donations in an efficient, effective, and ethical way.

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OUR CHRISTMAS ANGEL

Our Christmas Angel Luisa has been an absolute angel to the Haven these past few months. She will fly in, listen to our prayers, and provide exactly what we need. She has a great, kind heart for others. She is always joyful and happy to help. We cannot thank you enough Luisa for the countless contributions you have made to the Haven. Additionally, she raised \$6,000 for the Haven with their fundraiser. A heartfelt thank you to our friend Luisa Piccirilli and her network of generous friends.

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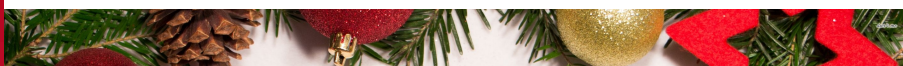


HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

ANIMAL RESPON PROGRAM, FEEDING OUR FUZZY FAMILY

Elana and Larysa from the Covid-19 Animal Response Program, Humane Society International - Canada. They have been providing the Haven and our clients' food for all our furry friends these past few months. These two diligently drop off pet food twice a month. They are always kind and enthusiastic; we love seeing them!

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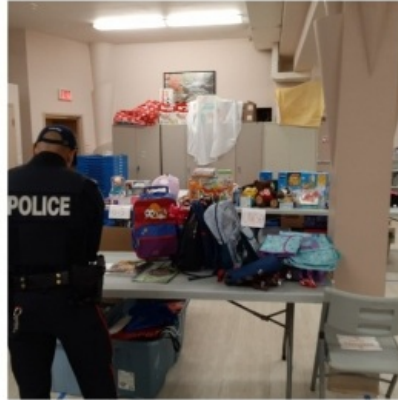


THE GRILLE GIFTS

Thank you to the Grille on the Queensway for your wonderful gifts donated by your annual toy drive! We had well over a hundred toys donated by the Grille. These toys were brand new, wonderful toys of all ages, and gift cards for our teenagers. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and care every year. We are grateful that we can rely on you for support, donations, and great food!

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22 DIVISION, OUR HEROS!

Thank you to the Toronto Police 22 Division for your help and donations for our annual toy drive! You contributed dozens of toys and gift cards for children in need this Christmas. Thank you, officers Lisa and Marley for helping us sort the toys. Thank you, Eddie for organizing, collecting and dropping off these wonderful gifts at the Haven! Our heroes!

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THANK YOU, FER-PAL CONSTRUCTION Ltd!

Thank you to the kind Fer-Pal Construction Ltd. For donating much needed food items to The Haven on the Queensway Food Bank this season! Your donations go a long way in meeting the physical needs of people in our community. Thank you to your kind drivers who delivered the donations with carefulness and helped us unload all the items. Your kindness is evident by the care and thoughtfulness of your president, Shaun, and the wonderful employees of Fer-Pal Construction Ltd!

[Go to website](#)

A HUGE THANK YOU, TO LOWE'S CANADA RONA ISLINGTON



RONA

Islington

994 Islington Avenue, Etobicoke, Ontario, M8Z 4P8



THANK YOU, AMICA PEEL VILLAGE SENIORS

Amica Peel Village's Seniors are always thinking about the Haven's seniors. They are spreading their love by putting baskets together each year. From the Haven Seniors to the Amica Seniors, "Thank you so much!" This picture is Margaret and her daughter Beth delivering car full of baskets.

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Upcoming COVID Safe Fundraising Event CNOY 2021

On February 20, 2021, Haven on the Queensway will be participating in our annual Coldest Night of the Year. Every year, we walk in solidarity with those who are homeless, hungry, or hurting in Etobicoke and surrounding communities. This year, our walk will be more fun than ever while also following COVID precautions and social distancing. Join us on our new Olympic Stadium style route where participants can walk 2km or 5km in support of the hungry, homeless and hurting. There will be music, prizes, and thank you packages of snacks and LUSH products for every participant.

This year, our goal in this walk is to raise at least \$50,000 (or more!) by February 20th. Please support the Haven by becoming our sponsor or/and starting a team, fundraising, and walking with us (in person or virtually) on February 20th. For more information, feel free to contact us using the information below.

You can also check out Coldest Night of the Year's website [HERE](#).

If you would like to start a team, click [HERE](#)

If you would like to sponsor Haven on the Queensway, please contact us [HERE](#).

If you cannot participate but would like to donate please click [HERE](#).

*Any donations over \$20.00 before Dec 31st, 2020 will receive a 2020 tax receipt.

No amount is a small amount!

MEET OUR CNOY SPONSORS

Major Lead Sponsor



feb. 20, 2021
it's cold out there

walk with us! #cnoy21
The **Coldest Night of the Year** is a covid-safe, family-friendly walk to raise money for charities serving people experiencing homelessness, hurt, and hunger. Walk virtually or in-person – there's a place for everyone!

coldest night
OF THE YEAR

walk / donate / volunteer / share



MANTELLA
CORPORATION
PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



Haven ON THE QUEENSWAY
RAISING FUNDS FOR
HAVEN ON THE QUEENSWAY

for more info or to register: cnoy.org/etobicoke

Thanks to Mantella Corporation for their Major Lead Sponsorship. This is the 7th year of their support for the Etobicoke's Coldest Night of the Year. Your support will go a long way in meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of people in our community. We are looking forward to walking with your team on Feb. 20th, 2021.

Supporting Sponsor



AUDI QUEENSWAY
DILAWRI GROUP OF COMPANIES



Rest Stop Sponsors



Distant Sponsors



Haven Programs running during COVID-19

Food Bank: Feeding over 400 people weekly -

Haven's Closet: Free clothing for the less fortunate

Hope With Wheels: Responding to the needs of the homeless -

Haven Helping Seniors: Support for isolated seniors

First Care: Meeting material and nutritional needs of pregnant women and newborns

call 416-640-2005 or visit havenontheq.com for more information



COVID-19

With Ontario beginning to open and safety restrictions loosening, Haven is taking the necessary measures to respond to this complex situation. While we cannot say when we will be able to open our doors fully, we will be slowing adjusting our programs, ensuring the safety of staff and community. Thank you for your continued encouragement.

Haven Services

Food Bank ● Haven's Closet ● First Care ● Lakeside Dinner
Hope With Wheels ● Stepping Out ● Alcoholics Anonymous ● Parents Hope
Children's Book Center ● Seniors Helping Seniors ● Inmate Rehabilitation

How You Can Help

Food Bank

Toilet paper, canned fish, canned fruit, juice boxes, coffee, tea, cooking oils, dish soap, laundry detergent, empty plastic juice drink or water bottles

Haven's Closet

New, clean, or gently used clothing, children's books

First Care

New infant items, diapers, formula for baby care bags, small baby equipment items

Hope With Wheels

New socks, new underwear, new sleeping bags, men's and women's hygiene products

For a complete list of donation items accepted, [click here](#)
Clothing or Financial Donations can be dropped off at the Haven
Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:00pm

Please note that we do not accept furniture or adult books

If you prefer to mail your donation:

Haven on the Queensway
1533 The Queensway
Toronto, ON M8Z 1T8

Please make cheques payable to:

Haven on the Queensway

For more information about donations, please contact info@havenontheq.com

[Make an Online Donation](#)



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