

EVA'S INITIATIVES FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Building on the Legacy of Eva Smith



A Message From Louise Smith, Interim Executive Director

Eva's has never been afraid to lead change and innovation. Like our founder, our approach has always been bold and visionary. Whether as the first youth serving homeless shelter in Canada to provide Harm Reduction services or through the development of a ground-breaking Family Reconnect program for young people, that has been replicated and studied by many social services organizations, visionary and bold leadership is embedded in the essence of who we are as an organization. It is, in fact, what makes us unique. Our 2019 fiscal year was one in which that 'vision' was a particularly important anchor for our work.

We have welcomed new staff and new Board members; we have established a centralized intake process for young people entering Eva's - the first centralized process to be used in a youth shelter in the GTA. I am extremely proud of the achievements of our Print Shop. A social enterprise that provides young people with tangible job skills to help give them a solid foundation for the future. This year, we have doubled production capacity with extensive infrastructure improvements, all of which means more enhanced programming for young people participating in our Graphic Communications and Print Training Program, a 7 week introduction to pillars of the graphic arts industry.

We've also continued to help our young people build strong connections to live an inter-dependent life, by increasing our life skills program at Eva's Phoenix and we continue to build and maintain follow-up support services for the youth we serve.

This year, we've also looked at our past in order to help us shape our future. This has meant taking a critical

look at our approach to equity, working on strengthening relationships with our community partners, and collaborating with staff to better understand and meet their needs. All of this allows us to effectively build on and improve our good work, to eliminate youth homelessness.

We're proud of the work we've accomplished this year with the help and support of our donors and partners; and as we look to the future, we are committed to building on the legacy of impact and social accountability laid for us by our founder, Eva Smith.

