

WINTER 2014

YOUR REDWOOD

your gifts at work for women and children

Incredible people like YOU help former residents share anti-violence message



New immigrants, mature women, young women, working women, students, mothers, grandmothers — **women of hope** — these are the faces of women in The Redwood's fourth Women on the Move (WOTM) Leadership and Development Program.

Thanks to your generosity and a leadership gift from **Goldie M. Lewis**, the 14 participants of WOTM have been busy over the past months. Your incredible support together

with their determination to end abuse against women has produced amazing results!

"LET'S BE STRONG AND FACE THE NEXT CHAPTER IN OUR LIVES."

The group first met in April 2013. From the very beginning the women exuded energy and purpose. United by their histories of violence, they attended monthly workshops to develop new skills. They wanted to share their stories with other women in similar situations — to let them know that change is possible. These leadership classes have been made possible by wonderful donors like you!

Maybe you met some of the WOTM participants at The Redwood's booth at the Big on Bloor festival? They were handing out bookmarks and chatting to everyone who stopped — spreading the word to end violence against women. You had so many encouraging words for them — thank you!



Since then they have spoken at Oasis Dufferin Community Centre, Parkdale Collegiate, and Stonegate Community Health Centre. Every month their anti-violence message is delivered to women and youth in our community. Your trust and investment in this program helps build confidence and strong leaders and role models.

Planning our fifth Women on the Move Leadership Program is already in the works for April 2014. Just before the new year, we received a generous grant from **The Lillian and Don Wright Foundation**. *"We are proud to support the courageous women of The Redwood",* explains Priscilla Meighen Wright. *"This gift will help more communities envision a world where women and children thrive and live joyously, free from violence."*

Visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/theredwoodTO to keep up-to-date on all WOTM activities.

LINH WAS LIVING IN A NIGHTMARE – THANKS TO YOU, SHE FOUND A PATH OUT OF VIOLENCE

Abused, broken and torn apart.

Linh's life was unbearable for herself and her four children. Her days were filled with fear and untold physical and emotional pain. Her children aged 1 year, 6 years, 8 years and 16 years had only ever known yelling and punching and cowered whenever mommy and daddy argued.

Linh's husband repeatedly beat her with his fists in front of her children. Her face and body were covered with bruises and cuts. Even after she sought help from the police, her abuser continued to violate restraining orders and did not care if the police came. She lived in another shelter many years ago but her husband found her and forced her to return to him. She has been living in a nightmare for 15 years.

Linh remembers the day in November when she called for help. Because of your committed support, she was able to move her family to a safe haven at The Redwood. Her challenges have been many and have not ended.

Her 16-year old son refused to stay at The Redwood and chose instead to live with a family friend in Richmond Hill. Being a teenager is hard enough everyday — he could not imagine telling his friends at school that he was living in a women's shelter for a second time! He wants to drop out of school and has trouble focusing on homework.

This separation has been hard for Linh but today she feels hope. On



weekends her son comes to visit and stays overnight so that they may talk and work to find ways to show love again. There are so many years of hurt and fear to work through. Your generous gifts help The Redwood staff support them with family counselling. It is Linh's hope that they will leave the shelter as a family once again.

Linh wants you to know that you are changing her life and the futures for her children. Because you understand the terrible effects of violence, you are helping this family heal with your compassionate and generous support.

"Thank you for giving us such a nice holiday. I took my 3 children to the Holiday Party where they jumped and danced and received presents too! They laughed this year instead of crying and we ate good food made by Maureen. My son liked making the gingerbread houses. Thank you Redwood donors for caring about us."



Twenty Years! Really? It feels like yesterday

THANKS TO DONORS LIKE YOU, ANNE-MARIE
CAN ENVISION THE REDWOOD OF TOMORROW

Twenty years ago, a cold and blustery December 12th, 1993, Anne-Marie Gardner, Executive Director, was here to welcome the first family to The Redwood. Within days, a second family came and then a third. A tiny staff of eight supported by volunteers and you — our loyal donors — proved that The Redwood was “the little shelter that could”.

As Anne-Marie reflects back, she smiles. “I am so inspired by the strength of the women I see every day in the shelter. I am deeply encouraged by donors who have made long-term commitments and have left a gift in their wills to ensure that there will always be The Redwood.”

Congratulations Anne-Marie on twenty remarkable years!

A gift in your will, regardless of size, will make a lasting difference in the struggle to stop the cycle of abuse. Please consider joining Anne-Marie by including The Redwood in your will.

Visit our website, theredwood.com or contact **Wendy Bray at (416) 533-9372, x 227** to make your lasting pledge for tomorrow’s world where women and children live lives free from violence.

“I envision a world where violence against women no longer exists but I know we have a long road ahead. The Redwood will continue to take a leadership role in ensuring that women’s voices will be heard and take centre stage in public and political agendas. Leaving a gift in my will guarantees there is future help and support available for women and children fleeing abuse. Thank you to everyone for your loyalty, belief and commitment to this important work and for making our world a better place.”

GIMME
SHELTER
2014

New date and venue!



DATE: June 11, 2014

VENUE: Gardiner Museum

Hold the date for The Redwood’s annual Fundraiser
Cocktail and Silent Auction

YOU HELPED
MAKE THE
HOLIDAYS
BRIGHTER FOR
MOMS AND KIDS



Your outpouring of kindness and generosity over the holiday season was overwhelming! You make such a difference in the lives of so many families.

So many of you visited our new Safe Haven online store. Your carefully chosen gift was presented to each courageous mom and child who stayed with us. You helped make their season merrier and brighter! And, many of you supported us with gifts to help with programming and day-to-day activities. Thank you!

We couldn't continue to do what we do without the generous support of community members like you. If you haven't already please Like our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/theredwoodTO and follow us on Twitter, [@theredwoodTO](https://twitter.com/theredwoodTO) to stay up-to-date with all The Redwood activities.

