

SPRING 2014

YOUR REDWOOD

your gifts at work for women and children



It takes just one person—YOU—to change a child's life forever and create a lifetime of memories

YAY! School's Almost Out!!

YOU CAN GIVE KIDS A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES THIS SUMMER

The summer months always seem to fly by, don't they? June arrives, we make all kinds of fun plans, and then suddenly the end of August is here and it's time for school to start again!

For kids arriving at an emergency shelter just as school is ending, summer feels anything but fun. Surrounded by strangers, far away from friends and family, there is nothing to look forward to. Wiggling your toes in the hot sand or splashing in the cool water at the beach seems remote. And, what do you do about the nightmares that won't go away, and the very real fear you still feel every day about the next explosion of violence between mama and dad?

Approximately 25 to 30 families will spend at least part of their summer at The Redwood. Most of the residents will be children under the age of eight.

You can bring magic and laughter into the lives of the children living at The Redwood this summer. You can give a child the gift of becoming an underwater explorer at Ripley's Aquarium. You can give a mom and her children an old-fashioned picnic under the trees with yummy hot dogs and ice cream complete with kite making and flying.

You can help give kids a chance to heal from the abuse they have seen and heard. You can give them moments of intense happiness and for a while they

continued...

will forget the anxiety and scary memories they hold. You can give the gift of an amazing summer.

Last year, you helped The Redwood raise just over \$10,000 to offer exciting programs and outings for the families living with us over the summer.

This year The Redwood has a **summer goal of \$12,000**. We can stretch your gift to offer new and inspiring programs and outings for the kids. Here's how you can have an immediate — and memorable — impact!

\$50 will send a mom and her pre-teen to the Science Centre for a day of exploration and enjoy the IMAX Dome film.

\$75 will send a mom and two children to Ripley's Aquarium for a fish-eye's view of the amazing creatures that live underwater.

\$100 will give a child the best birthday ever. There will be cake, party favours, games, prizes and everyone living in the shelter is invited.

\$450 will send a child to a summer arts camp for 5 days. Being creative gives the children the chance to express their feelings and help them heal from the violence they have seen.

\$1,500 will send all the families, via bus, to visit a local country farm in the fall. They will go for hay rides and pony rides and get a chance to pet all the animals.

Your gift of any amount means that you are helping families create a lifetime of special summer memories. We are finalizing our summer plans right now, and you can help us give amazing, positive experiences to families at The Redwood this summer!

Thank you for everything you do for us. If you can find it in your heart to make a special gift now, that would be fantastic! The smiles your gifts will bring will be the biggest and brightest smiles you could ever see! I wish you could hear the squeals of excitement!

You can visit our Safe Haven Store for more ideas for moms and children this summer and all year round!
www.theredwood.com/store/

YOU ARE HELPING MOMS AND KIDS HEAL FROM VIOLENCE

New program gives children a fresh start



Your generous gifts throughout the year help us run so many inspiring programs and workshops.

Because of your wonderful support, The Redwood's two child and youth counsellors received extra training to enhance the work they do every day. Ngasseu (*left*) and Niamh (*right*) are now Positive Discipline Parent Educators!

You understand the devastating effects of violence on a family. Children are especially fragile. They may feel sad and quiet, or act out with angry outbursts. Abuse has a wicked way of making people feel unlovable.

How can moms help their children heal from the angry words they've heard and the hurt they hold inside?

Every Monday night the family room at The Redwood is full! Niamh and Ngasseu have set up weekly parenting sessions for all the moms. They are eager to share their new knowledge.

Moms are now learning concrete ways to help their children feel a sense of belonging again. Using magical words like "you decide" helps children gain decision making skills, cooperation and respect for others. They are learning ways to teach important life and social skills too.

After only seven sessions, moms are already seeing positive changes in their children's actions and attitudes! Niamh and Ngasseu are practicing the new teachings with their own kids and love the results — less arguing and more smiles!

Thank you for caring for the women and children at The Redwood. You help create safe spaces for healing and learning and growth at The Redwood.

We couldn't continue to do what we do without you!

SETTING GOALS, LEADING WORKSHOPS, CHANGING LIVES

THANKS TO YOU, 11 WOMEN
CELEBRATED SUCCESS ON APRIL 12TH



Women on the Move Graduates!

Margaret is a shining example of how you help to transform lives. With your generous support, the Women on the Move (WOTM) Leadership and Development program gives women the opportunity to make life-changing differences in their lives.

I feel like I have overcome a milestone in my life...

For as long as I can remember, my father beat me. He was unpredictable especially after he had been drinking. The atmosphere in our house was charged with fear. I was constantly afraid.

I pretended to have a normal life. But, it was hard because I had to go to school with bruises on my face and on my back. Other kids avoided me. I had no one to talk to — my mother was not able to be there for me. I couldn't get into a groove at school because I could never escape the pain I always felt.

One day, at the age of thirteen, I asked the principal to call Children's Aid Society for me. I never returned to the house where my father lived. For the next five years, I was bounced from foster home to foster home. I wasn't able to finish school. I developed a learning disability — I have trouble processing information.

I'm 43 years old now. I have two children and a wonderful partner. I still feel really emotional when I talk about the past. I'm trying to repair the pain in my heart I have from my early years. This is where The Redwood has really helped me.

Joining the Women on the Move Leadership and Development program at The Redwood changed my life! Thank you to the donors who make this program possible!

I want you to know I felt solace every time I attended a workshop. I enjoyed building relationships with other women. Our stories of violence are different but in some ways they are the same. Learning how to deliver presentations really helped me to be more confident when sharing my personal experiences with the women at Oasis Dufferin Community Centre.

And, I feel like I have been energized and I'm ready for the next chapter in my life. I'm going back to school!"

Margaret is determined to use her new skills to help her return to school. She wants to become a Disability Service Worker so she can help other people with special learning needs.

Thanks to wonderful people like you, Margaret is building a new life and is becoming an advocate on behalf of other women — a leader in our community.

Congratulations to all our graduates!

To keep up to date on all Women on the Move activities, please follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/theredwoodTO or Twitter [@TheRedwoodTO](https://twitter.com/TheRedwoodTO)

YOU are The Redwood

YOU – OUR CARING AND PASSIONATE DONORS HELP US CREATE A SAFE HAVEN FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN LEAVING VIOLENT HOMES.

Our heartfelt appreciation

goes out to every single one of our donors. We are grateful that you choose to support The Redwood. You give the women and children here hope for beautiful futures free from fear and threat.

Today, we are honouring and extending a special thank you to the members of our **Symbol of**

Hope Donor Circle, our leadership supporters who gave over \$1,000 to The Redwood in our last year. **THANK YOU** for your generous leadership role in ending violence against women and children!

If you would like more information about becoming a member of the Symbol of Hope Donor Circle, please contact **Wendy Bray** at

(416) 533-9372, ext. 227 or **wbray@theredwood.com**. You can join these incredible supporters and give women and children opportunities that will help them reach new goals and establish new directions in their lives, free from violence. Thank you for everything you do for us!



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