

Donation from Private Giving Foundation to City of Toronto's Robertson House Emergency Shelter

Date: January 16, 2024

To: Executive Committee

From: General Manager, Toronto Shelter and Support Services

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report seeks approval from City Council to accept a donation from Private Giving Foundation in the amount of \$92,675.88. The donation has been made to Toronto Shelter and Support Services' Robertson House emergency shelter. Robertson House offers emergency shelter to women and their children experiencing homelessness.

The donation will be used as an opportunity to enhance the programming area of Robertson House. A welcoming, client-centred space for children's programming helps to improve social, health and recreational outcomes of vulnerable families staying in the shelter program.

The value of this offer exceeds the \$50,000 threshold for donation acceptance under the [Donations to the City of Toronto for Community Benefits Policy](#). As a result, City Council approval is required to accept this donation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Toronto Shelter and Support Services recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Toronto Shelter and Support Services, or their designate, to accept the donation of \$92,675.88 from Private Giving Foundation for the City of Toronto.
2. City Council authorize the General Manager, Toronto Shelter and Support Services, or their designate, to negotiate and sign on behalf of the City a donor agreement with Private Giving Foundation or their designate, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Toronto Shelter and Support Services and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

3. City Council authorize the General Manager, Toronto Shelter and Support Services, or their designate, to allocate and disburse the donated amount to Robertson House Portfolio.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The donated funds will be used for one-time costs in the Robertson House emergency shelter and will not create any future year pressure on the City. The proposed changes are not included in Toronto Shelter and Support Services Division's 2024 proposed budget. This donation provides an opportunity to improve the space for residents that otherwise would not be undertaken in 2024. City staff will submit a request for an in-year adjustment through the first 2024 Operating Variance report.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial implications as identified in the Financial Impact section.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on October 30, 31 and November 1, 2012, City Council amended its Donations to the City for Community Benefits policy:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.EX23.17>

At its meeting on September 25, 26, 27 and 28, 2006, City Council adopted its Donations to the City for Community Benefits policy.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/council/cc060925/cofa.pdf>

COMMENTS

Private Giving Foundation approached the City of Toronto with a donation of \$92,675.88 for Robertson House shelter.

Robertson House offers emergency shelter to women and their children experiencing homelessness. Robertson House operates using a Housing First approach that supports families to transition back into the community, as quickly as possible. Families are supported by:

- A case manager who assists with short-term goals and housing searches
- Referrals to counselling and advocacy
- Children and youth programs
- Onsite life-skills (workshops on financial literacy, health, benefits, community services) and recreational programming (women and children)
- Partnerships with community agencies and a family health team
- Follow-up support after they move to their own home

Donated funds will be used to enhance the programming area of Robertson House emergency shelter. Specifically, the family centre will be renovated to create an age-appropriate space for children and youth staying at the shelter, and the resident kitchen area will be renovated to include a family cooking space.

The donation provides an opportunity, that was not otherwise available, for an improvement to the space for shelter residents. A welcoming, client-centred space for families, with a focus on children and youth programming, helps nurture growth and creativity, improve social, health, and recreational outcomes, and supports the families staying at Robertson House in rebuilding their lives.

CONTACT

Joseph Stalteri, Director, Service Planning and Integrity, Toronto Shelter and Support Services, 416-397-1275, Joseph.Stalteri@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Gordon Tanner
General Manager, Toronto Shelter and Support Services