

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. 03-07-97-0094
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 6 January 1997

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator
Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Councillor Diane Holmes

SUBJECT/OBJET **THE DOOR - YOUTH CENTRE**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

For Committee discussion.

BACKGROUND

Attached please find a package of information regarding The Door.

Would you please put this item on the agenda for the 16 January 1997 Community Services Committee meeting.

I am requesting that \$10,000 be allocated from the Provision for Unforeseen so as to keep the services at The Door in operation. In March the funding for the centre will be on a more secure footing.

*Approved by
Councillor D. Holmes*



755 Somerset Street West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 6R1

December 19, 1996

Dear Door Supporter:

The following package is an **urgent request for short-term funding** from The Door/La porte (Ottawa-Carleton) in the amount of \$10,000. The attached document outlines, in detail, the current status of The Door.

The Door/La porte has been operating autonomously for 3 years: with funding of only \$30,500, we have been providing programs for hundreds of Ottawa-Carleton youth that are valued at \$168,400 annually. We have evolved into a progressive and creative youth center with the support of partners such as the City of Ottawa (\$30,000), St. Luke's Church, the Somerset West Community Health Center, local merchants including Loblaw's and Loeb, the United Youth of Turtle Island, Youth in Recovery, and the Boys and Girls Club. Other strong Door supporters include Youth Services Bureau, Children's Aid Society, Carleton University's Social Worker program, Cognos Corporation and Mac Harb, MP (see attached letters of reference).

The Door/La porte offers youth driven programs in health, education, recreation, personal growth, lifeskills, vocational, legal and entrepreneurial skill development. It contributes to the community by providing a safe place for youth to meet and learn; opportunities for youth advocacy; a mentoring program; training for students, volunteers and youth; incentives to keep youth in school and in their families; and a well functioning partnership development model. The overall value of The Door/La Porte to youth and the Ottawa Carleton community is significant.

The Door/La porte has survived countless financial challenges in the last three (3) years. Unfortunately, recent *unforeseen financial and staffing demands* now put our entire operation in jeopardy. In the short term, we anticipate a shortfall of \$10,000 in operating funds from the beginning of December 1996 until the end of March, 1997. This represents staffing costs for - 3 part time, contractual personnel for a total of 50-55 hours per week. This is a one time only emergency request. The Door has expanded a number of its fundraising activities and is looking to establish on-going private sources of funding which will be in place by March 31st, 1997.

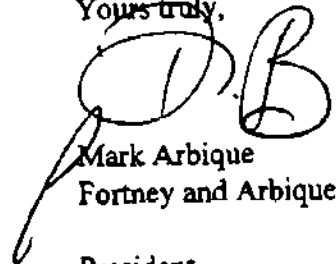
In recognition of its contributions, the Trillium Foundation has just granted The Door/La porte \$10,000 for its "Get up and Stand up" program, which was highlighted as an *Exemplary Grant* for Ottawa-Carleton. However, without our current infrastructure of staff, students and volunteers, we will be unable to support the "Get up and Stand up"

youth outreach and desktop publishing program. Ongoing and planned fundraisers cannot alleviate our present funding crisis.

Can the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton assist The Door at this time? Please contact Mark Arbique or David Smith should you require additional clarification or information.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Arbique', written over a circular stamp.

Mark Arbique
Fortney and Arbique

President
The Door/La porte (Ottawa-Carleton)

(613) 725-0303

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Smith', written over a circular stamp.

David Smith
Nates and the Place Next Door

Executive Chairman
The Door/La porte (Ottawa-Carleton)

(613) 789-7700

Attachment (1)

HISTORY/BACKGROUND

The Door/La porte (Ottawa-Carleton), Opportunities for Youth/Possibilités pour jeunes, first inspired a group of citizens (private, public and corporate), parents, youth workers and youth in May, 1993. We have a provincial non-profit Letters Patent (Oct 1993) and have Charitable status (Jul 94). We opened our "Doors" in the summer of 1994. The Door, offering a dynamic and captivating model, has been operating autonomously for 3 years now on minimal financial supports.

The Door's greatest challenge has been to establish *ongoing funding for operations*. Several fundraising efforts have been made: 2 auctions, a radiothon, a baseball fundraiser, a raffle, participation in a Beetlemania, corporate mail outs, a dinner concert, presentations to service clubs, BBQ's, a car rally, and several youth fundraisers (BBQ, car washes, dances, fashion shows). These efforts have raised approximately \$25,000. Nevada tickets from 1 site have provided most of the operating funds to date (\$700-\$1,600 a month)

FINANCIAL STATUS

The Door has traditionally operated in an *extremely cost-efficient and creative way*. This combination of creative staffing, partnership development, secondements and utilization of volunteers and students have enable us to operate programs valued at approximately \$138,400 for \$26,500 annually. This excludes, thanks to the City of Ottawa, the costs for rent and utilities. We estimate the value of The Door's contribution to the Ottawa-Carleton community to be the following:

Voluntary contribution provided	\$20,000
Partnerships - programming, resources	\$20,000
Programs (see attached list)	\$30,000
Staff/students	<u>\$68,400</u>
<u>Total</u>	\$138,400

OUR SUCCESSES

In spite of our limited financial resources, The Door has evolved into a **progressive and creative** youth center with 175 registered members focused on youth development and a youth trust and competency building model. A sampling of our programs include:

- ◊ **Action Jackson's Dinner program.** This program is done in conjunction with St. Luke's church and offers nutritious, healthy meals to our youth, creating a home-like atmosphere.
- ◊ **Recreation and games.** On a regular basis, youth enjoy a variety of indoor and outdoor sports, leisure activities and games
- ◊ **Special Events and Field Trips.** Events have included BBQ'S, beach day, community clean ups, bottle drives, and special outings (Cognos corp. donated tickets to the World Hockey series at the Corel Center.
- ◊ **Talkative Tuesdays** This is The Door's longest running program. It consists of weekly discussion groups that focus on issues that affect the development of youth. Issues focused on include: date rape, aids awareness, smoking, legal, social interaction, drug prevention, addictions issues, dating, looking for work, personal safety, community associations, etc.
- ◊ **Computers ... The Way of the Future.** This is one of our planned programs and we are looking to establish a web site, creating homepages, and surfing the net to liaise with the New York City Door, etc. We would also like to develop some in-house capability to do some desktop publishing.
- ◊ **Drug Prevention/Health Promotion.** This program focuses on helping youth develop the awareness and self-confidence required to say no to drugs.
- ◊ **Clothing Boutique.** This is a small clothing exchange depot where young people have an impressive collection which can be purchased by earning credits. It is run like a small boutique and provides job training for youth wanting experience in the retail industry and clothing repair.
- ◊ **Girls Club.** This is a new program we are planning for this year whereby we are trying to encourage more girls to attend The Door's programs. We will be establishing a special evening just for 'the girls' and develop programming that meets their unique needs.
- ◊ **Respect Series** is a 12 week program using popular theater and other techniques to help youth explore issues of diversity and cultural sensitivity.

- ◊ **Custodial Program.** This program focuses on the cleaning and maintenance of The Door facility where youth contribute their time to learn how to do small repairs, do cleaning and maintain it. This teaches youth some useful life skills, responsibility and ownership.
- ◊ **Arts and Crafts.** A wide array of arts and crafts activities exist for utilizing creative energy and opportunities for developing new ideas. Some of the goods produced may be sold to provide some programming funding support for The Door.
- ◊ **To Dye For.** This is The Door's new tie dye business currently being established. We are looking to pursue this entrepreneurial venture in conjunction with Junior Achievement and a good corporate sponsor.

OTHER SUCCESSES

- ◊ **Developing youth leadership and participation** with an active Youth Advisory. The Door's programs are mostly run for youth by youth. They are organized, have influence at the board level and direct the programming and development of the center.
- ◊ **Provided a safe place** in the community for youth at risk
- ◊ **Helped keep youth with their families and in school**
- ◊ **Established a profile in the community as a training ground for students, volunteers and youth**
- ◊ **Creating and filling youth member positions** on the Board of Directors
- ◊ **Creating and maintaining well functioning partnerships** with a variety of community groups, private and public sponsors.
- ◊ **Creating a replication model** not only for youth empowerment but also for alternative, creative infrastructure based on a partnership model.
- ◊ **Facilitating a successful volunteer-driven mentoring program.**
- ◊ **Political Lobbyists.** The model has provided the youth with a voice which has been utilized to lobby both at the regional and federal political levels. They have also worked collaboratively with other youth coalitions. One event in honour of the International Day of the Child, organized in November,

1996, in collaboration with Carleton University's Social Work Society drew 85 youth representing:

- * Canadian Coalition of the Rights of the Child
- * United Youth of Turtle Island
- * National Youth in Care Network
- * Canterbury High School
- * Off-campus Aboriginal social work association (Carleton)
- * Carlington Community Resource Center
- * Rainbow Women's Center
- * Somerset West Community Resource Center
- * Southeast Ottawa Community Resource Center
- * Operation Go Home
- * Boys and Girls Club
- * Glebe High School
- * Youth Today
- * CAST
- * Youth Services Bureau

This event succeeded in providing an opportunity for young people to speak out about **issues** that were affecting them (abuse, safety, violence, drugs, families). It provided an opportunity for cross-fertilization between youth groups, outreach and awareness about youth issues and also helped raise \$500.00. A youth coalition will be co-chaired between the Canadian Coalition of the Rights of the Child and The Door.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The Door's strategy for attaining sustainable development include:

- * Creating and maintaining alliances and partnerships with other community groups to offer cost effective services
- * Develop corporate fundraising strategies, including relationship building, corporate partnerships and special events
- * Develop income generating entrepreneurial programs with youth (businesses)
- * Pursue philanthropic, grants and government funding sources for offsetting programming expenses.

FUNDING STRATEGIES

The Door has recently submitted grant proposals to: the Community Foundation, the United Way, One Time Grants for Health and Social Services and the Trillium Foundation. We appear to have been **successful** in obtaining a \$10,000 grant from the **Trillium Foundation** to hire 2 youth to develop a newsletter and do outreach.

Further, The Door will be undertaking a "Friends of The Door" campaign this December, a Corporate campaign as well as a raffle in January. Additional Nevada sites will be sought out.

The Door, has recently established a fundraising committee to coordinate all fundraising efforts and proposal development.

URGENT REQUEST FOR SHORT-TERM FUNDING

The Door has survived countless growing pains and we have met several challenges along the way. We feel we now have the right combination of staff, volunteers, students, management structure to be in a position to offer a better quality of programs, to obtain ongoing funding and establish ourselves in this community.

Unfortunately The Door was dealt a severe blow this month when the licencing renewal for our Nevada site was not renewed properly. The delay related to this process combined with a number of unforeseen annual dues (Director's liability, supplies,) as well as additional staffing requirements (higher numbers of high risk youth) have now put The Door's entire operation in jeopardy.

The Door is presently seeking bridging funds for a 4 month period which would allow for the proper infrastructure and staffing complement to run the programs, coordinate the outreach activities (Trillium Grant) and ensure safety to our youth members. The Door requires \$10,000 which would provide staffing salaries while the monies that do begin to come in from the Nevada site, once reestablished will support programming costs.

Should additional demographic, program or general information be required, please contact:

Mark Arbique
President
Fortney and Arbique

725-0303

David Smith
Executive Chairman
Nates, The Place Next Door

789-7700



The Children's
Aid Society of
Ottawa-Carleton

La Société de
l'aide à l'enfance
d'Ottawa-Carleton

1602 Telesat Court
Gloucester, Ontario
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(613) 748-0670
Fax (613) 747-4456

September 27, 1996

To whom it may concern:

This letter is written in support of The Door. The Children's Aid Society of Ottawa-Carleton has been a proud partner of The Door since its opening. In 1995, we made a major financial commitment by seconding a staff person for a period of 10 months to coordinate programming and assist with The Door's development.

We believe The Door provides an important service for youth in Ottawa-Carleton. Not only does it offer young people enriching relationships and activities, it helps support families by providing a safe haven for youth needing respite from stressful homes or who are experiencing other problems. The value of such programs to youth at risk cannot be underestimated.

Through its unique philosophy and mentoring approach, young people gain skills and experiences that lead to increased self-confidence and the ability to make healthy life choices. The opportunities for participation provided are also valuable. They help young people develop a sense of responsibility and constructive approaches to problem solving. This excellent prevention program in effect saves society expensive resources down the line by working with youth before they develop problems requiring more extensive support.

During our partnership with The Door, staff have reported first hand some of the benefits youth have enjoyed i.e. placement prevention, improvement in parent-child relationships and an increased sense of purpose and community spirit.

The Children's Aid Society looks forward to future collaborations with The Door and hope you are able to provide support to this important community service as well.

Yours truly,

Mel Gill
Executive Director

/jb



Providing services to
children and families
since 1893

Assurant des services aux
enfants et aux familles
depuis 1893

ACCREDITED



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
OF OTTAWA-CARLETON



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Fax: (613) 520-7496

September 30, 1996

Anne Longley
The Door
755 Somerset Street West
Ottawa, Ontario
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This is a letter of support for the work that The Door has done and is doing in Ottawa.

My main contact with The Door has been through student placements. I coordinate the field placements for undergraduate students in the Social Work program at Carleton University. Over the past two years we have had several students complete their field practicum requirements at The Door.

Consistently the students have found that The Door offers service to a diverse group of youth with a range of needs and demands. The students have been impressed with the number of youth who make use of the services offered and who have come to see The Door as a place that is responsive to them. It seems that it has struck the right cord with the young people it is trying to serve.

For the students The Door has provided a stimulating and challenging learning environment. This facility has been open to new ideas and has been adaptable to the needs identified by the students, by the community and by the youth. I am impressed with the level of commitment to service that The Door offers.

The Door clearly is an important resource for youth and deserves the support of the entire community.

Yours sincerely

Martha Wiebe
BSW Field Coordinator



Mac Harb, M.P. (Député)
Ottawa Centre

September 24, 1996

To Whom It May Concern:

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter of support on behalf of *The Door*, an impressive and valuable community service provided for youth in the Ottawa-Carleton region.

Since young people are vulnerable to certain risks associated with their stage of development, programs like *The Door* are effective in preventing problems like delinquency, depression, and drug and alcohol abuse. *The Door* offers a safe place for youth to gain pre-employment and leadership skills while engaging in enriching activities. Given the current competitive market for youth employment, such opportunities are essential for youth wanting to have an advantage.

The youth from *The Door* also take an interest in their community and policies which effect their lives, and have met with me to discuss issues and concerns important to them. I was greatly impressed with these articulate and confident young people, and I know that they are positively influenced by their involvement with *The Door*. Programs offered by this organization help these young people feel good about themselves and develop the confidence necessary to become active members of their communities.

I strongly support the efforts of *The Door*, and I thank you in advance for your consideration of this worthwhile organization. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at anytime.

Sincerely,

Mac Harb, MP

