

Nellie's "Hello Autumn" 2017 highlights the crisis we faced when an unprecedented influx of children - mainly toddlers - swamped our shelter this summer.



Nellie's News
Autumn 2017



**Hello
AUTUMN**

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Social media saves the day

This summer, Nellie's faced an unprecedented influx of children - mainly toddlers - to our shelter writes Margarita Mendez, Nellie's Executive Director.

Where did the year go?! For many people, summer is a time to escape the everyday routine of the year; a chance to relax and enjoy the warmer weather.

But such was not the case for Nellie's. Our routine changed as we were faced with the mounting costs to care for these young children, we turned to social media for help, and the community response was tremendous. Hundreds of individuals and corporations donated diapers and baby formula, and made financial donations which will allow us the flexibility to respond to future emergencies.

While we are still grappling with the challenges of providing long-term emergency care to so many children, we want to take this opportunity to thank the community for rallying around us in our time of need.

We continue to be overwhelmed by the response, not only in Toronto, but as far away as British Columbia. Thank you!



Nellie's in the News

As you can see and hear, in responding to the crisis, Nellie's was all over the news



[Watch us on City-TV](#)



[Hear us on CBC Radio](#)



[Read about us in The Toronto Star](#)



Ontario Government Introduces Strategies to Impact Homelessness

Is it enough?

Recognizing that shelters are not proper places for people to live on a long-term basis, in early September, the Ontario government announced \$90 million in funding to help combat chronic homelessness. This commitment will provide the "tools and pathways" to lead people to permanent housing. While these funds are earmarked for the chronically homeless and to support Toronto's Open Door Program, this doesn't address helping women and children fleeing violence or those that are under-housed. [Read More.](#)



[Read more](#) about the Open Door Affordable Housing Program



[Read the report](#) of the Open Door Program



Meet our new Board Members

On September 13th, Nellie's confirmed five new board members at our Annual General Meeting. The new board members bring a depth of knowledge from various fields ranging from banking, human resources, law, housing and government relations.

The AGM also gave us an opportunity to say thank you to outgoing board members Michelle Bain, Lori Loewen and Sienna Leung.

Please [click here](#) for the complete board list.

Leave a Legacy

Leaving a legacy to Nellie's guarantees that the work we do will continue well into the future. [Learn More.](#)

Joan: In Her Own Words

The sky is just a stepping stone

I came to Nellie's shelter with my children in 2015 from an abusive relationship, abusive in every way - physically, emotionally, financially and sexually - so much so that I had lost all sense of self-esteem and self-worth. Despite working as a marketing/customer service representative with a bank in my country of origin and holding a Master's Degree in Business Administration, once in Canada I was unable to achieve my potential in life. [Read More](#)



"We must open the doors and we must see to it they remain open, so that others can pass through." — Rosemary Brown

A small gift can make a big difference: Paramjeet Kaur

Join me in becoming a monthly donor

I consider myself lucky to have been associated with Nellie's for over three years. Working at a nearby bank, by speaking to different Community Workers and staff members while completing their transactions, I learned about the work Nellie's does.

I always wanted to help people, but never knew where to start. Out of curiosity and to learn more, I visited Nellie's colourful Community Support and Outreach office. On display were pictures drawn by small kids. The pictures just spoke about hope, love and dreams which are full of life. [Read More](#)

Become a monthly donor today and help transform the lives of women and children experiencing abuse, homelessness, and poverty. To set up your monthly gift, please [visit nellies.org](http://nellies.org) or call 416-461-8903.



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Financial Donations:

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In Kind Donations:

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