

CCS benefits from The Orange Door Project campaign

As part of its commitment to help end youth homelessness in Canada, The Home Depot Canada Foundation launched its annual The Orange Door Project fundraising campaign last week, which collects \$2 donations from customers and gives 100 per cent of the proceeds to local youth-serving organizations.

Customers shopping in the Bolton Home Depot store can donate \$2 at the checkout in exchange for a (paper) Orange Door. One hundred per cent of proceeds stay in the community and go to support the housing and life-skills development programs at Caledon Community Services (CCS). The campaign runs until July 2.

CCS supports youth, seniors, families and businesses in Caledon and surrounding communities by offering programs that address health and care, transportation, employment, training and social service needs. They work with clients to develop personal care plans and facilitate improved social, physical and mental health.

“Every night in Canada, more than 6,000 youth don't have a safe place to call home,” said Bill Lennie, chair of the board of directors of The Home Depot Canada Foundation and president of The Home Depot Canada. “We believe this has to change. Our associates are passionate about this cause and together with our customers and local, youth-serving charities; we can give vulnerable youth opportunities for a brighter future.”

Youth are one of the fastest growing segments of the homeless population in Canada, with one in five shelter users being between the ages of 16 and 24. As well, 41 to 43 per cent of youth experiencing homelessness were in foster care or group homes. Youth who successfully leave the streets within two years or less are more likely to make a healthy transition to adulthood, so making an intervention early is key to solving the problem.