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Neighbours of Rosedale

Leading with
Passion and
Purpose *with*
Tamara
Bahry



Best Version Media



Photo by Steve Blackburn



Photos by Steve Blackburn

Leading with Passion and Purpose

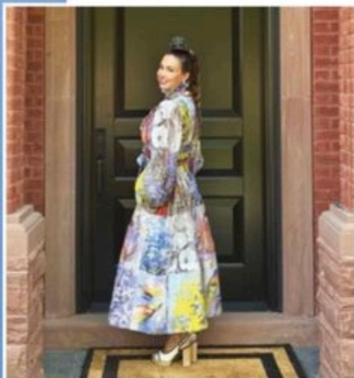
By Richard Todd

Residents of Rosedale are connected by a deep desire to give back. This generosity of spirit brings us all a little bit closer together and provides connection points to build relationships that last a lifetime.

When we think of a community champion and true philanthropist, local resident, Tamara Bahry already comes to mind. A first generation Canadian[a], Tamara was born and raised by Ukrainian parents in the west end and from an early age, her family instilled in her the importance of humility, gratitude and service. This defined her path and values early on and she has worked hard to instill the same values in her own three children.

Tamara provides them with global perspective and context through experiences while encouraging family conversations about issues they are passionate about, problems they would like to see resolved and how as a family, they can together take action.

If you've met Tamara, you know her energy is contagious and that she has a unique ability to forge authentic connections that raise funds and mobilize change. She's energized by bringing different groups of people together with complementary skills to do great things. Through The Bahry Foundation, she has supported more than a dozen causes including The Covenant House, CANFAR, Boost



Child & Youth Advocacy Centre, Partners in Art, National Ballet of Canada, WWF, Sick Kids Hospital, Women's College Hospital, Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, HART, Rise and Rethink Breast Cancer. If a community member has a purpose-driven idea, Tamara is always the first to ask how she can help. She means it and she'll follow through.

What some may not know about Tamara,



is that she is equal parts philanthropist and creative. In fact, Tamara supports her family foundation's underlying charities by donating the proceeds from the sales of her fine art photography. Her work, largely inspired by the natural world and high design, has been featured in *American Photo*, *House & Home*, *En Route*, *Photo Life*, *Cottage Life Magazine*, *Living Luxe Magazine*, *Magnificence*, *Dolce* and *Architectural Digest*.

"My priority has always been giving back to causes close to my heart," Tamara says. "Through The Bahry Foundation, I focus on education and impact to improve outcomes where and when it matters most. I am passionate about women's issues, children, animals, mental health, breast cancer and the arts."

"I have always tried to see the world through a positive lens to stay focused on the change we can drive together. I am grateful that my photography has touched so many people and proud of the meaningful funds I have been able to raise. Being able to do so through a form of creative expression I love so much is the icing on the cake."

One of Tamara's collections, "Out of Africa," was inspired by a volunteer service trip to Kenya with her family. While in Nairobi they visited Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, an orphan elephant rescue and wildlife rehabilitation program. While in Africa she saw the poaching

of wildlife first hand and knew they needed to find a way to help.

From this collection and others, Tamara has won several industry awards from respected publications including *American Photo*, *Photolife Magazine* and *Leica Foundation* for her visual essays on the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. Her work has been celebrated and showcased in prestigious galleries, private and corporate collections, art fairs worldwide and most recently, an installation in the foyer of the Four Seasons Hotel Toronto.

When we asked Tamara to share her most memorable fine art accomplishment, she smiled and told us it was when she won the Best Smile Portrait at The Toronto Contact Photography Festival which captured her son's infectious grin and spread joy. We know her collections and list of accolades will only grow.

Tamara has served on several non-profit boards and committees. She supports The Covenant House, CANFAR, Boost Child & Youth Advocacy Centre, Partners in Art, National Ballet of Canada, WWF, Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, Merry Go Round Children's Foundation, and most recently, Rise and Rethink Breast Cancer.

"Only a survivor can accurately understand and articulate the transformative effects of cancer on all aspects of your life. Rethink provided a safe environment for me to connect with others going

through the breast cancer journey when I needed resources and support the most."

Tamara is perhaps most well known for being a founding director of HART which recently pledged one million dollars to Women's College Hospital. She advocates for both local and global action knowing all too well how trafficking affects all of our communities. HART's goal is to enable increased awareness of the issue, assist in the creation of clinical programs, inform government policy, and facilitate the strong action required to stop trafficking in Canada in collaboration with the hospital.

While you may wonder how she finds the time, you might find Tamara unwinding by walking her dog Bella in the Rosedale ravine, picking up fresh sourdough bread at one of the many local bakeries, hitting balls at the Rosedale Tennis Club, or enjoying a Picantissima and the funghi trifolati salad of baked, oyster mushrooms, arugula, pecorino, breadcrumbs, pine nuts at her favourite neighbourhood restaurant, Quanta Basta with her group of girlfriends or her blended family of 6 kids!

"I am so happy to be back in the neighborhood, I'm already so grateful for this community. We show up, we hand raise and we ask how we can help. For me, that's the true definition of community