



In Transition

April 2011

You reached for change

“Reach into your pocket and make change! Support Youth Without Shelter.” This message was called out in 10 subway stations across the city by almost 300 students on February 11, 2011. Thousands of Toronto commuters listened, reaching into their pockets to donate almost \$30,000 to Tokens4Change (T4C) in just 12 hours.

Tokens4Change’s goal was to raise 5,000 TTC tokens and engage youth to support youth. Why? Tokens are essential so that homeless youth can use public transit to visit the doctor, get to school, find housing and employment. YWS serves over 1,000 homeless youth annually, so the need for tokens adds up very quickly. You made it possible for T4C to double its target raising funds to buy 10,000 tokens. Those funds and tokens are now changing youths futures.



Greenwood College students & teachers spreading the word at Yonge and Bloor Station

More than tokens the event shed light on youth homelessness. TTC stations came alive with dancing, song, a live-to-air DJ session with KiSS 92.5, poetry, tableau—all with the goal of bringing the issue of youth homelessness front and centre. Project: Humanity, a local non-profit organization raising awareness through the arts, led workshops with Toronto high schools and professional artists, creating the T4C performances. Performances were both powerful and emotional. You might have been one of the transit riders who encountered youth performers holding signs of times they felt invisible to the public. While the

Continued inside

Inside this issue

Emptying pockets	2
Student view of T4C	2
Why we support YWS	3
Name needed	3
Adopt-A-Bed	3
On The Right Track	4

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Our vision

To end homelessness, one
youth at a time, one step at a
time





Emptying pockets to say thank you

performances caught attention, it was the youth canvassers from 15 high schools that captured donations. Student support was truly incredible. T4C touched the hearts of participants and public alike. There were stories of former YWS youth residents emptying their pockets to say thank you for their second chance.

This grassroots partnership of artists, students, schools, YWS, Project: Humanity, and sponsors Rogers and Barrick Gold, inspired stories on radio, television and in print media. You can see photos and videos from this inaugural year of T4C at: www.tokens4change.com or on the YWS Facebook Page. Yes, it is a big project but it has a huge impact. I left the experience impressed with the generosity of people. So many people gave their time and it showed me that people really do care about helping youth in need. Thanks to all of you. Plans are now underway for next year. Want to get involved with the T4C organizing committee? Please contact me, Scott Parish, 647-502-7496 or parish_scott@hotmail.com

By: Scott Parish (Director, YWS Board of Directors)

Students give you their view of T4C

"I found Tokens4Change to be an eye opening experience because it really made me think about the challenges homeless youth face every day. Namely, the cold weather (a cold alert day). I also felt like I was really making a difference by directly collecting donations from people. (Megan, Mentor College)

"I had an amazing time at Tokens4Change. It was a fun experience standing raising money with my friends and seeing the generosity of the community. (Lindsay, Mentor College)



"It (Tokens4Change) was a unique thing to do. It felt nice to be with everyone to see and meet all of the different kinds of people in the city. (Schevene, Mentor College)

Mentor College students in between musical breaks at Kipling Station

"My experience at Tokens4Change was a very rewarding one. As a student myself, the feeling of being able to help fellow students in my community through raising funds was a phenomenal experience. I know Youth Without Shelter provides amazing opportunities and a quality education for street youth. To be able to help YWS with this new initiative is a great opportunity for students." (Alex, Mentor College)

Why we support Youth Without Shelter



Having raised teenage children of our own, the two of us considered opportunities for volunteering and giving back to the community in a meaningful way. Believing that children are our most valuable investment, we were drawn to Youth Without Shelter. A visit to the shelter inspired us—both the positive and caring attitude of staff as well as youth with the courage to move ahead.

We decided to focus our efforts on the “Clothing Room”.

Many youth arrive at YWS with only what they are wearing and urgently need additional clothing. A well-stocked clothing room is essential to meeting this need. Having teenage children of our own, we know how important appearance is for young people. We also believe that looking good can make you feel better about yourself.

Our goal was to create a clothing room where youth could come and select clothing in a store-like atmosphere. To achieve this we renovated the space. We painted, installed custom shelving and lighting, and displayed the clothing in an attractive, organized manner. Manuel Ventura of Space Age Shelving quickly became a partner by providing and installing the new shelving. We trust this transformation allows the youth using the Clothing Room to feel respected and cared for as they select their clothing, and that the experience preserves their dignity.

Moving forward we plan to hold an annual fundraiser with the proceeds going towards purchasing new and fashionable clothing. Our hope is that when youth leave the “Clothing Room” they feel good about themselves and have one less issue to worry about.

By: Catherine Campbell and Adrienne Lapinsky

(Pictured above with Manuel Ventura)

YWS Clothing Room needs a new name

The YWS Clothing Room is much more than a clothing storage area. Get your creative juices flowing with this video: <http://tiny.cc/nqf6j>. Submit your idea by May 2, 2011 to communications@yws.on.ca. Name selected to be announced in the fall newsletter! Creator will be invited to the room naming!



I was introduced to YWS by a colleague at work.

Ten years later I am still volunteering at YWS.

Through my involvement I saw how much the shelter does with so little. Now, I donate monthly through the **Adopt-a-Bed Program** to help the youth re-build their lives. I find monthly giving is simple, easy and manageable.

April 22nd YWS begins our **25th year** of providing solutions to youth homelessness. Today, \$25 provides 1 youth with 1 night of safe shelter. In this 25th year I invite you to **Adopt-A-Bed** for \$25 each month.

So, what are you waiting for? Start changing young lives today.

By: Debbie Auty



ON THE RIGHT TRACK

RACING TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Sunday, May 29, 2011 12:00 pm



This is not a gala affair. You don't have to cycle, run or walk or collect pledges. An afternoon in the splendid trackside tent at Woodbine Racetrack in support of Youth Without Shelter. Thrill to the sound of the thundering races and delight in superb dining. Short of being a jockey you can't get much closer to the racetrack than this.



Tickets: \$95 per person / Tables of 8 available. On sale now
416-748-0110 ext 26 or www.yws.on.ca



Yes! I/We would like to provide a safe haven for a youth tonight at Youth Without Shelter. Here is my gift to build a better future for youth:

- \$25 will provide a youth with a safe place to sleep for one night at YWS
- \$35 will provide a food/hygiene package for one youth as they move out
- \$50 will provide TTC tokens for one month to help a youth look for a job, visit a doctor and find a place to live
- \$100 will provide a TTC pass for one month for one student in the YWS Stay in School Program to go to school
- \$150 will provide one "On the Move" moving package for one youth with the basic necessities such as bed linens
- \$200 will provide juice for one week for Youth Without Shelter's 50 youth residents

I prefer to contribute \$ _____ I would like to Adopt-A-Bed by contributing monthly \$ _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

Credit card: circle MasterCard/VISA no. _____ Expiration date: _____

Signature: _____ E-mail: _____ Phone number: _____

To make a donation on-line, please visit www.yws.on.ca and click on CanadaHelps.org

You can make a difference in a youth's life by returning this form with cheque (payable to Youth Without Shelter) or credit card information to: Youth Without Shelter, 6 Warrendale Court, Etobicoke, ON M9V 1P9.

YWS respects your privacy and adheres to all legislative requirements with respect to privacy. We protect your personal information and do not rent, sell or trade our mailing lists. From time to time YWS will send you updates on our solutions to homelessness and other opportunities for your involvement. If at any time you would like to be removed from our list, please call 416.748.0110 ext. 26. Thank you for "ending homelessness, one youth at a time, one step at a time."