YOUTH WITHOUT SHELTER

In Transition

November 2015

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www.yws.on.ca

Our Vision

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

Charitable Reg. No. 11930 7817 RR0001

United Way Toronto & York Region

In my country I had come to fear for my life

How does a youth find their way to Youth Without Shelter (YWS)? Each youth comes to YWS with their own story and their own set of needs. Brit's story started far away from YWS.

"In my country at 19 years of age I had come to fear for my life. I was targeted for persecution and discrimination for my sexual orientation. The police began to seek me out and I realized that I had no protection. That they intended to hurt me. My parents were deceased. I was becoming depressed, not knowing whom to trust. I am a high school graduate and was working as a cosmetician. It was my community of friends and church members who said to me you need to leave this country for your own safety or the police are going to kill you. Without the community fundraising efforts I never could have afforded an airplane ticket. My dream was to take refuge in a country where I could find safety, give back and reach for more education. That is how I came to be in Canada.

It was through word of mouth that I heard about Youth Without Shelter. It's not been easy to share my story with strangers but I've found comfort in talking to Emme, my Case Manager. We've done a lot of talking and out of that has come a plan: I'm making a Refugee Claim to remain in Canada. There is so much to learn and I'm scared. Emme is helping me step by step (and there are many steps), so far she's connected me with a Legal Aid Lawyer, helped me to register for school to upgrade my language skills, and introduced me to other groups outside the shelter who also will be assisting me as I work towards my Claim. Most of all Emme explains everything to me so that I can understand and make my own decisions. For the first time I am beginning to feel safe.

EMME AND BRIT REVIEWING NEXT STEPS IN A CASE MANAGEMENT SESSION

My dream is to stay in Canada and become a registered nurse, I love helping babies and older people. Thank you for keeping me safe. "

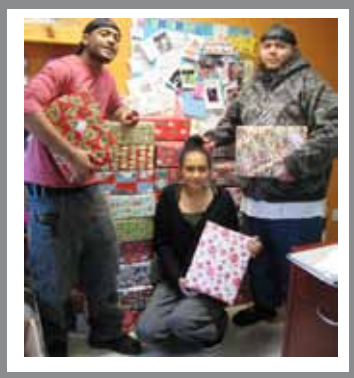
-Brit

YWS statistic: up to 20% of youth residing at YWS identify as LGBTQ2.

YWS Holiday Wish List

Gifts for our Youth

- Male pajamas
- Slippers/flip-flops
- Sweatshirts (with hoodie)
- Sweatpants
- T-shirts
- Cologne/body spray
- Lip balm
- Combs/hair brushes
- Hair accessories (ties, clips)
- Nail polish/make-up
- Male boxer style underwear
- Female underwear
- Movie passes
- Gift cards



Gifts for our Home

- Blankets (twin size)
- Towels
- Sheets (twin size)
- Male running shoes
- Female running shoes
- Body lotion (skin care)
- Body wash (large size)
- Facial tissue
- Cereal bowls and mugs

BrightWayForward meets Youth Without Shelter

There's an indescribable feeling of compassion that is both priceless and overwhelming when one experiences the act of giving back. It's one thing to volunteer on your own, but another to do it with the support from an entire organization, and in the company of your coworkers and peers. Tangerine's #BrightWayForward program has worked in close partnership with YWS for numerous years; 2015 was no exception. This past year, our staff visited the shelter on several occasions for our Orange in the Community dates, as well as participated in popular YWS fundraising events such as Cover Me Urban and Tokens 4 Change.

Through our Orange in the Community volunteer initiative, several small groups of Tangerine volunteers attended the shelter to complete various renovation tasks both inside and out. We helped build an outdoor garden shed for the youth's vegetable garden, as well as painted the ramp and deck at the front entrance and, helped sort through clothing donations. While each task seemed small, none went unappreciated and the impact of each was immeasurable. In our most recent visit, our staff painted an inspirational mural in one of the shelter's hallways. Through the use of bright, uplifting colours, our intention was to create a relaxed, playful and positive environment for the youth and ultimately, leave a piece of Tangerine at the shelter.

TEAM TANGERINE AT QUEEN STATION DURING TOKENS4CHANGE 2015

Our relationship with YWS went beyond the walls of the shelter itself. Earlier in February, a bunch of our staff headed out into one of Toronto's busiest subway stations to take part in the Tokens 4 Change fundraiser. Any subway passengers at Queen Street Station that day saw Tangerine employees dressed in bright orange, engaging with subway riders and asking for change. The experience was both humbling and rewarding, as our staff were able to not only gain awareness for the impacts of the shelter to the public, as well as raise over $2,000 in change! We ended our day by inviting several of the shelter's youth and staff to our Downtown Café where we were able to interact with the very people who inspired us and our cause – the youth. Although our goal was to raise money and awareness for the shelter, the experience proved to be even more fulfilling for our staff as well.

In the future, Tangerine is excited to continue to grow with our BWF partners at YWS. Our interactions with the staff and most importantly the youth, have been nothing but positive and enrichening. While our organization is proud to witness the impact our volunteer hours have made, the impression the youth have made on our staff has been just as much inspirational and rewarding.

Create change with Tokens4Change

Tokens4Change (T4C) returns for its 6th year on Friday, February 5, 2016. In this one day event, over 450 volunteers come together to create change. Volunteers takeover TTC subway stations, PATH locations, and office spaces where they canvass for donations for Youth Without Shelter. In addition you can catch special art performances by high school students at selected locations and at Tangerine Downtown Café for the T4C Central Rally at 1:30pm. Special thanks to T4C 2016 sponsors: Presenting Sponsor: Tangerine; Metro Pass Sponsor of Arts and Activism Experiences: Mantella Corporation; and Pattison Outdoor Advertising and Faren Agency for making this coming year's event possible.

You too can help create change by getting involved with your school, company, or community. Visit tokens4change.com for more information.

HAVERGAL COLLEGE STUDENTS PERFORMING A SPOKEN WORD PIECE AT BELL TRINITY SQUARE

"I don't just do it because it is my job but because it is my passion."

As a Primary Case Manager at YWS my main goal is to advocate for my clients (our youth residents), foster resiliency and empower each youth to achieve economic stability and independence. My job is difficult in nature but I love what I do. I am person centred, advocating for the most vulnerable in our community. I always focus on the goal at hand which is getting youth the support they need. My approach with each youth is respectful and compassionate.

What does a day in the life of a Primary Case Manager look like at YWS?

CASE MANAGEMENT MEETING IN SESSION AT YWS

Each youth who lives at YWS in the emergency residence meets with a Primary Case Manager (I'm one of two in the emergency residence). Our initial meeting is one of conversation and listening to establish: what is the youth's history, their skills, strengths, educational background and employment experience? Does the youth need support with replacing identification, legal or immigration issues, mental health, addiction, or family? As our meetings and conversation continue we work together to identify goals, options and develop plans of action. Each plan is youth driven and personalized to the youth. We work in partnership with over 100 community agencies enabling youth access to services such as specialized health care providers.

As a youth's plans unfold we continue to meet to talk about progress, give support, identify difficulties, and many times change our plans. Yes, at times I find myself overwhelmed but the fact that I am making a difference in a youth's life, I would not have it any other way.

-Emme Pineda, *Primary Case Manager, YWS*

A great morning at 'A home for the holidays' breakfast

Thank you to the nearly 200 guests who joined Youth Without Shelter for breakfast at the 3rd annual 'A home for the holidays' on November 18. It was a morning of inspiration as guests witnessed two youth sharing their story on the big screen at Cineplex Queensway. Guests also tested their knowledge of youth homelessness with the Family Feud style Snow Globe Challenge.

Thanks to our host Tiffany Pratt, our breakfast sponsor, Woodbine Entertainment Group, Mentor College student volunteers, Cineplex Entertainment, Graphic Apparel, Lakeview Lodge #272 I.O.O.F., Ogilvy CommonHealth, and Page Activiations. See photo highlights on the YWS Facebook page.

VOLUNTEERS AND GUESTS HAVE SOME FUN AT THE 'A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS' BREAKFAST PHOTOBOOTH

Notes from the kids you've helped

"My dream job is to help youth and make a difference in their lives the same way staff at YWS have helped me."

"You not only provide us with food but give us hope and reason to live."

"Thank you for the help and the smile that you put on everyone's faces every day."

"Thank you for taking the time to look beyond my struggles and mistakes."

"I am the impact of donations to the shelter. What I have achieved would not have been possible without all those who support YWS."

"I am the product of YWS. Yes I did the actions, but you were there with the supports."

"I wouldn't be the adult I am today if I didn't have the support YWS gave me."

"You do more than build lives, you save them."

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 an After-Care Food Package so youth can use their budget for other necessities, like housing.***

☐ ***$75 will provide a Stay in School Starter Package including a blanket, pillow, sheets, towel, alarm clock, hygiene kit.***

☐ ***$127 will provide milk with each meal for one week for all 53 youth.***

☐ ***$160 will an "Equipped for Employment" Package including safety shoes, transit fare and any requiredwork clothing.***

☐ ***$206 will provide juice for one week for Youth Without Shelter's 53 youth.***

☐ ***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**

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."