



# YOUTH WITHOUT SHELTER

## In Transition

August 2016



### Inside this issue

- YWS will always be my first home in Canada 1
- 20 years of serving Sunday dinners at YWS 2
- The Home Depot Foundation Regional Partnership 2
- Wish List: On The Move Packages 2
- Resilience... 3
- Visitors to YWS this summer 3
- Notes from the kids you've... 3

### YWS will always be my first home in Canada

Throughout my stay at YWS, I never felt lonely or abandoned. Imagine a stranger from nowhere knocked on YWS' door, and the door was widely opened with welcome smiles from the staff's faces. Shelter, clothes, tokens, food, counselling, advice, and consolation are a few of the services I benefited from.

The YWS Case Manager helped me get my status in Canada. What amazed me the most was what my case manager said to me, "Don't worry even if your claim is rejected from the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB)...I will be there for you until the end." The moment I opened my decision letter, I could see her face filled with so much fear of me being rejected, but as I told her I had been accepted, she jumped and shouted with joy. Even I didn't celebrate as much as she did! That moment, I felt the selfless love she has for me and everyone she has helped (and is still trying to help) through immigration.

Soon after, the YWS Housing Program helped my two friends and I find a place of our own. When it was time for us to leave YWS, although we were excited about sharing our own place, we were also sad about leaving the great people we had met. The help I received from YWS, I have never seen anywhere, even in my home country.

When we left, the staff said to my friends and me, "Come back for food and anything you need". We looked at ourselves and smiled. YWS will always be my first home in Canada.



**YOUTH WHO TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENT LIVING LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE NEW 'WENDY HORTON LEGACY' MURAL IN THE YWS STEPS TO SUCCESS PROGRAM ROOM**

**Youth Without Shelter**  
 6 Warrendale Court  
 Etobicoke, ON M9V 1P9  
**Tel: 416.748.0110**

To receive this newsletter via email subscribe at:  
[www.yws.on.ca](http://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



**YWS Wish List:**

**On The Move Packages**

The YWS Housing Program is in need of On The Move Packages. You can help ease the costs associated with moving out on your own for the first time by sponsoring an On the Move package for \$150 or by organizing a collection drive of these essential items for our youth:



- Pillow
- Sheets
- Blanket
- Cleaning products
- Posts and pans
  - Dishes
  - Cutlery
- Toilet paper
- Paper towel
  - Towels
- Laundry soap
- Dryer sheets

Please place items in a laundry basket. *New items only please.*

To learn more, contact [volunteer@yws.on.ca](mailto:volunteer@yws.on.ca) or 416-748-0110 ext. 39.

**20 years of serving Sunday dinners at YWS:**

**Martin Grove United Church you've nourished many youth**

In 1996, as part of our Outreach programme at Martin Grove United Church, we decided, in collaboration with Youth Without Shelter, to provide Sunday dinner to the residents one Sunday every second month. At that time there were about 22 residents. Members of our Church family would donate the food – vegetables, salads, baked goods, fruit and I would prepare the meat entrée and put the meal together in the YWS kitchen for the designated Sunday dinner.

When the 'Stay in School Program' opened its doors in 2006, we had a new, much bigger kitchen to work in, but with the new kitchen came the challenge of now preparing dinner for another 20 residents! And our committee met the challenge.

For a number of years, our Church has put up a "Mitten Tree" during the Christmas season for our members to donate, hats, mitts, scarves and items from the Christmas wish list provided by YWS. The week before Christmas, we make our delivery to YWS to help fill Christmas stockings.

Many of our Church members over the years have been directly involved as my helpers and many more have been faithful contributors of food items. Although many residents at YWS are there for a short term, it always amazes me that there are those who remember the mashed potatoes, the cabbage salad, and especially the cherry cheese cake we serve.

We all enjoy preparing and serving the Sunday dinners to a very appreciative group of young men and women. And, we do get many thank yous from the group!

- Merle Federchuk and the Martin Grove United Church Members



**YWS FOOD SERVICES MANAGER BRENT LAWSON WITH MERLE FEDERCHUK**

**The Home Depot Canada Foundation Regional Partnership**

The Home Depot Canada Foundation has named Youth Without Shelter (YWS) as a 2016 Regional Partner. This 2016 partnership has been made possible through The Orange Door Project, that supports initiatives that help and prevent and put an end to youth homelessness in Canada. The gift of \$100,000 provides both integral project and program funding to Youth Without Shelter. Funds have enabled YWS to replace the damaged vinyl tile flooring in our emergency residence dining and common room spaces with new safe flooring; and the construction of an office/resource space for the YWS Employment Program.



**THE HOME DEPOT TEAM PRESENTING THE YWS TEAM WITH THEIR REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP DONATION**

This support will enhance services within YWS's Employment Program to remove barriers to employment for youth in our Stay in School Program and After-Care Programs; along with access to employment training and certifications.

Thank you to The Home Depot Canada Foundation for this significant investment in young people challenged with homelessness. Through this investment youth will be empowered with the tools and resources to make a successful transition to independent living; and ultimately a home to call their own.

YWS Annual

General Meeting

At the YWS Annual General Meeting on Thursday, September 15, 2016, 6 PM, we honor your role in helping unlock opportunity for our youth. To attend, please contact our Development Office at 416.748.0110 ext. 26.

Notes from kids you've helped move to independent living



"Now I'm 17 and living on my own, finishing school and working part-time. The YWS Housing Program workers helped me find a place, connected me with furniture, and supplied me with a starter kit of household items. You can find me at Supper Club every two weeks, having dinner and checking in. I'm excited to start my apprenticeship."

"Before I came here I was unable to find myself a home. The programs they had were very helpful, they taught me life skills such as budgeting. Even after I left I am still able to come back and receive food and personal care packages."

"I registered for school and I have my own place to live. I'm finally self-sufficient. They (YWS) changed my attitude. They showed that people actually care. They don't have to know you. They care a lot. Now I have hope for the future."

"Resilience-it's when you decide to give up on giving in"

Within the first few days, weeks and months at YWS it was clear that the young people experiencing homelessness staying at the shelter and staff alike are extremely resilient in their own right. They're courageous and determined to thrive.

The best part of my job is being a story teller and cheerleader for the team. The staff do an exceptional job! They demonstrate commitment, empathy and compassion to meet the youth at their individual stage of readiness. Nothing better than watching lives being transformed- "Gusto for life!"

In less than three months, a cluster of young people who arrived as refugees were supported to gain status, they quickly simulated into Canadian culture and gained a sense of peace- freedom and safety. They could proudly express their individuality and sexual orientation without reprisal. I watched one young man grinning from ear to ear as he waited at the front steps for a taxi to arrive. His bags at his feet and friends close by to wish him farewell and good wishes as he moved on to start a new chapter in his life. With every move another is inspired to do the same.

For me, another highlight was being able to celebrate with a small group of young people involved in the Stay in School program who graduated this year. Proud of their accomplishments and eager to succeed- some going onto college working towards a brighter future. The other piece that stands out is remarkable work of the development team! They have an exceptional ability to form and sustain strong community partners. It is incredible to work with such an amazing group of people who share in my passion and drive to end homelessness, one youth at a time.

-Nilda Patey, YWS Executive Director



NILDA (SECOND FROM LEFT) WITH YWS VOLUNTEERS, STAFF, AND YOUTH DURING A FUN GAMES NIGHT HOSTED BY THE YWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Visitors to YWS this summer

From summer BBQs to yard work, summer has been busy at YWS. Thank you to everyone who has visited YWS and brightened up our home for our youth. Here are a few of our highlights:



Tangerine's #BrightWayForward Partner Tour made a stop at YWS this summer. Youth were thrilled to meet NBA MVP, Bright Way Forward Ambassador Steve Nash and Tangerine President and CEO Peter Aceto. While here the Tangerine Team pitched in and blacktopped our driveway.



Second annual SICK C.A.R.E. Day was in the "house" in June: staining fencing; gardening; interior painting; and planting the gift of a new tree. Highlight for youth was a BBQ lunch the "house" enjoyed together: salmon, steak, chicken, corn, and of course ice cream.



PCL Constructions Canada Inc. beautified the YWS outdoor space including transforming our parking lot into a basketball court (a favourite sport of many of our youth!) and re-designing our front steps. The team also worked in our gardens, painted an office, and provided a pizza lunch for our youth.

# A home FOR THE holidays



## YOU'RE INVITED TO PUT THE GOOD IN "GOOD MORNING"

TICKETS FOR THE 2016 "A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS" BREAKFAST GO ON SALE OCTOBER 3RD

We can't wait to see you again for an energizing morning of breakfast, fun, and inspiration. This year, YWS youth and former residents will be sharing their personal, inspiring stories of how your support is put to work. So bring at least one friend or colleague to share the warmth of the most important meal of the year.

**Order tickets for yourself and a friend at [YWS.on.ca](http://YWS.on.ca)**

**#ShareTheWarmth**



Breakfast generously provided by



**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016, 7:30 AM TO 9:00 AM  
CINEPLEX ODEON THEATRE, 1025 THE QUEENSWAY, ETOBICOKE**



**Yes! I/We would like to provide a safe haven for a youth tonight at Youth Without Shelter.**

- \$25 will provide a youth with a safe place to sleep for one night at YWS.
- \$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 required work 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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** or donate online at: [www.yws.on.ca](http://www.yws.on.ca)

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.**"