



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOLS AT YOUTH WITHOUT SHELTER

**My Own Kits:** When a youth arrives at YWS, we provide them with their own personal care kit which contains all of the items they need to look after their personal hygiene. Put together My Own Kits and help us provide the basic necessities to the over 1,000 youth who enter our front door annually. Each kit contains: mini shampoo, mini conditioner, mini body lotion, a comb/brush, soap, toothbrush, mini toothpaste, deodorant, and lip balm.

**Tokens 4 Change:** TTC Tokens are essential so that homeless youth can use public transit to visit the doctor, get to school, and travel to job interviews. Hold a TTC token drive independently or participate in the Toronto-wide Tokens 4 Change drive that occurs each year in February.

**On the Move Packages:** When a youth moves to independence, YWS helps ease some of the costs associated with living on their own. Put together On the Move kits or organize a collection drive of essential items for our young residents moving out on their own. Items typically include: dishes, sheets, towel, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, a pot, a pan, cooking utensils.

**Brown Bag It:** YWS requires over 5,000 brown bag lunches annually. Prepare lunch bags for residents working or in school. Each lunch bag could contain 2 sandwiches, a piece of fruit, a snack bar, a juice box, and a treat (square, cookie, etc.).

**Beat the Thirst:** Nearly 9,000 litres of juice are needed annually to quench the thirst of YWS residents during meals and throughout the day. Help provide essential nutrients to homeless youth by donating juice (cans, bottles, or juice boxes) to YWS. YWS also spends about \$17/day to provide milk to the residents. Consider holding a fundraiser to see how many days worth of milk your school can supply!

**Adopt-a-Bed Craft Project:** YWS has an Adopt-a-Bed program whereby a donor can adopt a bed for a specified period of time. Upon adoption they receive a miniature bed ornament as recognition of their donation. These beds are also used as a unique thank-you gift to volunteers. The miniature beds are crafted from pre-cut pieces of wood and decorated with mini fabric sheets, pillow, and a string for hanging. All materials are provided in kits you can take home to build. Let your creative juices flow!

**School Supply Drive:** YWS provides all the supplies our Stay-in-School residents need to be successful in school. Consider having a drive for school supplies to help these students fit in and be successful in their classes as they work to achieve their goal of graduation.

**Food Care Packages:** The cost of living independently can be an expensive journey, and some youth must make the choice between shelter and food. This is a choice that no individual should have to make. YWS helps ease some of the costs associated with youth living on their own with food care packages. Put together food care packages or organize a collection drive of essential items for our young residents moving out on their own. These items include; a reusable bag of non-perishable food items such as;  Cereal, Kraft Dinner, Mr. Noodles, Canned meats, Snack foods & condiments.



**Tray Bon!:** Two thirds of homeless youth experience problems getting enough food to eat during the day. At YWS, we provide three healthy meals a day to our young residents. Be part of the solution by preparing complete meal dishes for YWS. You can cook dishes to supplement meals, bake treats for snacks, or prepare the entire meal! Bring your trays in to YWS and help to serve the food to our 50 hungry youth!

**Fundraising Event Coordination:** Throughout the year, many fundraising events are held in support of YWS. You can organize a fundraising event with your school to benefit YWS. Be creative – car washes, bake sales, or school dances are just some of the ideas you could use!

### Other ways to help:

**Book a Speaker:** Are you a student or connected with an educational institution? YWS has developed interactive, curriculum-relevant educational workshops entitled: *One Youth at a Time: Connecting youth to homelessness in their community* to teach young people about homelessness. Contact us to book a workshop for your class! Email [education@yws.on.ca](mailto:education@yws.on.ca) for more information.

**Youth in Philanthropy:** Choose YWS for your high school YPI project! Call ahead to book a tour and interview with shelter staff.

**Spread the Word:** Join the conversation on social media! Check out our Facebook (Youth Without Shelter (YWS)), Twitter or Instagram (@YWSToronto), Pinterest, YouTube Channel, or LinkedIn account. Like, share, retweet, and comment to raise awareness about youth homelessness and the work that we do.

***For further information on YWS volunteer opportunities, contact our Engagement Specialist, Soyoung Lee, at 416-748-0110 ext. 39 or [volunteer@yws.on.ca](mailto:volunteer@yws.on.ca).***