

In Transition

November 2017



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"Giving your time to others makes them happy, and you do that for us"



Hello everyone, my name is Alyaa. Thank you for the kind support you give to us. Giving your time to others makes them happy.

I am not going to talk about how the food is great or how the place is shining, it is but I believe I should reflect upon something more important: the people within Youth Without Shelter.

I never imagined I would be in a shelter. The day I walked into Youth Without Shelter I was terrified but I always knew how to put a smile on my face, because worrying or crying will never solve a problem or an obstacle in our life.

I was surprised at what a shelter is...people working day and night taking care of us as if they are your own family, having lunch together, asking how our day was and helping us with assignments.

I appreciate every single person in the shelter, youth and staff, how they respect my background and give me the space I need.

To my Primary Case Manager thank you so much for supporting me on every step along the road. I am not saying it's great to live in a shelter but I don't know what I would have done if I wasn't here. Thank you for supporting me in my difficult times.

To the Front Life Staff sorry for making your days a hustle, and thank you for your patience I love tea. I can drink tea every five minutes, the number of times I ask for spoons is crazy.

I have made friends here, they were always there for me. Every person did their jobs with love and dedication. We all have our moments but there is respect.

As shared by Alyaa at YWS's Annual General Meeting, September 2017. Alyaa is now transitioning to living independently.

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6 Warrendale Court
Etobicoke, ON M9V 1P9
Tel: 416.748.0110

To receive this newsletter via email subscribe at:

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



Holiday Wish List



- Male / female PJ's (Small -XXL)
- Male / female Slippers (Sizes 7 -13)
- Sweatshirts (with Hoodie)
(male/female; all sizes)
- Sweatpants (male/female; all sizes)
- T-shirts (male/female; all sizes)
- Gift Cards (Shoppers Drug Mart,
Rexall, Walmart)
- Male boxers
- Female underwear
- Scarves
- Cologne/Bath Sets/Body Spray
(male)
- Hair accessories/ make-up / jewelry
- Body wash (large bottle)
- Movie passes
- Journals
- Lip balm
- Earbuds
- Shampoo (large bottle)
- Conditioner (large bottle)

On-going needs for our youth

- Towels (bath size)
- Twin Sheets
- Male/female winter coats (all sizes)
- Winter boots (Male size; 8-13 /
Female; all sizes)
- Warm blankets (Twin size)
- Male running shoes (all sizes)
- Female running shoes (all sizes)
- Female leggings
- Long distance phone cards (\$5)
- Reusable water bottles
- Razors (singles or packages)
- Facial tissue (individual size and
boxes)

*New items only please.

Unlocking Opportunity Together: how a group of committed citizens from Bedford Park United Church are changing young lives every day

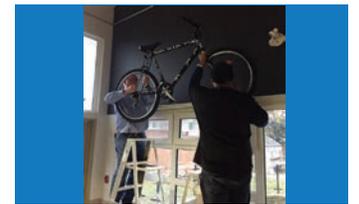


MEMBERS OF BEDFORD PARK UNITED CHURCH

It was the holiday season, 10 years ago, when members of Bedford Park United Church reached out to learn more about YWS. This connection grew into annual involvement in YWS's meal program. Five times per year a group of energetic Bedford Park volunteers would provide a nourishing meal (barbeque was a youth favorite with home-baked sweets); and friendly conversation at YWS. Further investment was made by Bedford Park United Church in a Special Education Fund that supported youth in the Stay in School Program with course required equipment needs.

This year, as Bedford Park United Church closed its doors and merged with Northlea United Church a legacy gift was made by the Bedford Park congregation to Youth Without Shelter. The "Unlocking Opportunities Together" gift empowers YWS to: a) expand the Housing Program to provide a broader range of After Care supports to youth transitioning from YWS; b) assists in making "Our House a Home" through new replacement flooring in residential areas; and c) lays a nutritional foundation for youth in the kitchen, the heart of our home. Thank you. Your gift is changing young lives every day at YWS: "Regardless, through my internal struggles I wouldn't have made it this far without the undying support from YWS. Thanks to you I was able to fly above and beyond my own expectations. Thank you for making me feel right at home and for helping me meet all my requirements to graduate high school." (recent Stay in School Program high school graduate).

Meet the YWS Cafe



If you have dropped by YWS over the past year you may have noticed changes in the dining space. Propelled by suggestions from our youth and with expertise of over 60 volunteers. Thank you to Century Architecture Inc., Amy Esplen, Speedpro Imaging, Synchronicity Designs (Heather Esplen), and volunteers from BMO, Deloitte, and UPS Canada the YWS dining room has a new hip cafe vibe.

Introducing you to the YWS Café: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyQqTt3iOyE>

Change one life, one gesture at a time

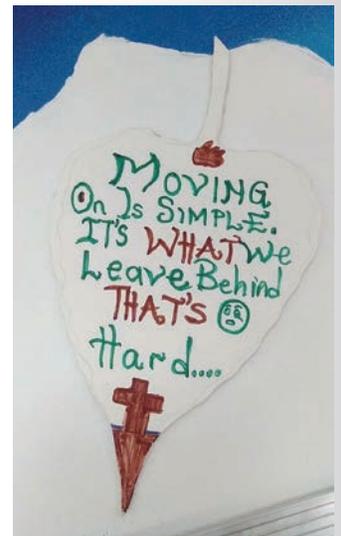
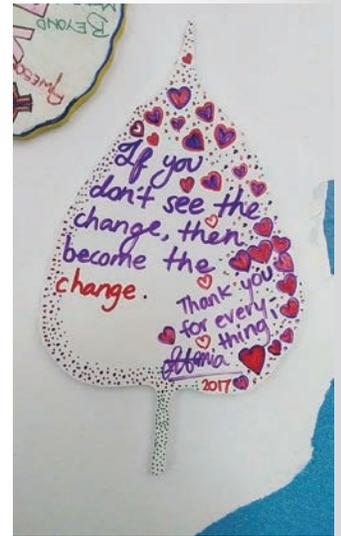


Tokens4Change, presented by Tangerine, returns on February 2, 2018. An annual YWS fundraising event that brings together over 600 volunteers to create change, one life at a time, one gesture at a time. Volunteers will take over TTC subway stations, PATH, and office locations to canvass for donations while spreading awareness about youth homelessness. In addition, school groups will perform at designated locations in the morning and come together at the Tangerine Downtown Café for the T4C showcase at 1:30 pm. Special thanks to presenting sponsor Tangerine and Arts and

Activism sponsor Mantella Corporation; and Pattison Outdoor and Faren Agency for making this coming year a possibility.

Change one life today by getting involved with your school, company, or community. Visit tokens4change.com for more information.

Notes from the kids you've helped



"I'm a social worker, a survivor, a volunteer, a Master's graduate"

My name is Polina. From September 2013 to July 2015 I lived at YWS in the Stay in School Program. Thank you so deeply for the immense contributions you make to help YWS continue supporting homeless youth. Today when I introduce myself I say that I'm a social worker, a survivor, a volunteer, a Master's graduate, someone who somehow always finds themselves back in a classroom.

When I came to YWS four years ago, at what I call the lowest, scariest, and most lonely point in my life, I had no idea that in the next two years I would accomplish something that seemed impossible for me until that point.

One of the first memories I have of YWS was from before I was even admitted into the program. I was touring around the shelter during my intake and one of the residents probably seeing how nervous I was and wanting to cheer me up said: "Don't worry, it's awesome here. We're just like a big family." I couldn't imagine that being the case just then, but the longer I stayed, the more I started to feel that way.

When I came into the program, I was starting my third year of university. I had barely passed my previous two years. I had almost not returned to school so that I could look for a job and support myself so that I didn't have to continue living in an unsafe home.

Thanks to the Stay in School Program, their encouragement and support from staff, as well as one truly amazing volunteer tutor, everything began to turn around. Eventually my grades rose, I was able to graduate with honors, and was accepted into a Masters program. Now this is what I meant when I said the impossible. If it wasn't for YWS, I can confidently say that I wouldn't be where I am today.

As scary as people imagine shelter life to be like, I can say that I was extremely lucky to end up where I did. I don't know how to thank YWS enough and all of you for helping people like me find a better, brighter future.

As shared by Polina, a former YWS resident, at YWS's Annual General Meeting, September 2017.



POLINA AT AGM 2017

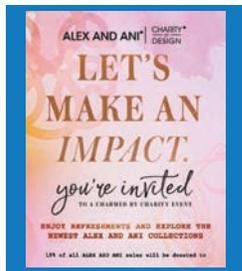
Gifts that keep on giving

Visit one of our community held events this holiday season in support of Youth Without Shelter. From DIY's projects to jewelry for loved ones, proceeds from your purchases at these events will contribute to the wrap around empowerment programs at YWS, helping youth successfully transition to independent living and our commitment to building sustainable young futures.



THE HOME DEPOT CANADA FOUNDATION THE ORANGE DOOR PROJECT

The Home Depot Canada Foundation is dedicated to taking action to put an end to youth homelessness in Canada through The Orange Door Project fundraising campaign. Between November 30 and December 17, purchase a \$2 paper door at the checkout of the The Home Depot Rexdale store. You can also make a secure, online donation at orangedoorproject.ca and give homeless young people in your community the housing, support, and hope they need to live safe, healthy and productive lives.



ALEX & ANI

CHARITY BY DESIGN FUNDRAISER

Visit Alex & Ani on December 5 at Square One and December 6 at Yorkdale Mall between 6 pm to 9 pm for a unique shopping experience, hosted by the YWS Young Professionals Committee. 15% of all sales during that time will be donated to Youth Without Shelter. Join them for an evening of inspiration and conversation to help empower youth so they can strive for greatness and successfully transition to independent living.



WHEN NO ONE IS EXPECTING THEM HOME...WE ARE.

#WELCOMEHOME

DONATE NOW AT YWS.ON.CA

Want to learn how your generous donations are spent? Visit www.welcomehomeYWS.ca (around the end of November) to tour the Youth Without Shelter home and see what it takes to keep our place running smoothly – particularly over the holidays



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.
- \$125 will provide a warm winter jacket and boots for one youth this holiday season.
- \$160 will provide an "Equipped for Employment" Package including safety shoes, transit fare and required work clothing.
- \$350 will provide fresh fruit for one month 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

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.**"