

# The Haven

haven (hā' vĕn) noun. A place of safety or refuge.



YES Newsletter: Spring 2014

## Youth in Transition Program by Mary Overholt, Shaun Pearce & Lacey Rammler

For Tara Berry, success as YES' new Youth in Transition Worker is defined in "baby steps": Someone remembering to pay their own rent, not missing an important appointment, or even calling her just to check in. The Youth in Transition Program, funded by the Ministry of Child & Family Services, aims to help youth aged 16 – 24 who are or were involved with the Children's Aid Society (CAS). As they transition out of the care of the CAS, they often need support to find their way in the adult world, especially if they require services they have never accessed independently before.

Tara's background is in addictions and in supporting individuals to maintain their housing. Tara is available to clients by cell phone, and the youth are learning they can trust that she will be there when they need her. One youth recently told Tara, "It's so nice to have somebody to call and say, 'Guess what happened at school today?'"

Tara encourages the youth to decide for themselves what is an area of concern, and then she can assist them in navigating the systems they need, including everything from getting a psychiatric evaluation to applying to college. Tara knows they're likely to struggle as they make the transition to independence, but wants the youth to know that she'll be there every step of the way.

**"It's so nice to have somebody to call and say, 'Guess what happened at school today?'"**

## Home Depot: We Can Do So Much More with Their Help by Suzanne Galloway

On June 11, over 30 volunteers from Team Depot, The Home Depot Canada's associate-led

**Between May 29<sup>th</sup> and July 2<sup>nd</sup>, The Home Depot's The Orange Door Project will be selling \$2 paper doors at the cash.**

volunteer program, came to spruce up the shelter. They painted, installed new flooring, landscaped, and built outdoor furniture - all with materials donated from The Home Depot.

Between May 29 and July 2, The Home Depot's The Orange Door Project will be selling \$2 paper doors at the cash. All donations made at the Peterborough store will support YES.

The Home Depot Canada Foundation has also been very generous in supporting YES' annual capital projects including a new roof, flooring, and windows.

## Carriage House School Update by Simon Weigh



This past year reminded me that success at the Carriage House – the Kenner Collegiate Alternative Education program – will always look a little different: Highlights include a 17 year old student receiving her very first secondary school credit, and another student who had not committed to any school program in the past still attending in May.

An experiment that went well this year was our Art class: Jeff Stover, a Kenner Collegiate Art and Geography teacher, designed a grade 10 Art credit specifically for our Carriage House students. The kinds of art work produced by our students with Stover's direction were surprising and enjoyable.



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# “Y.E.S...a home for growth and opportunity in our community.”

## YES Fundraiser at 4<sup>th</sup> Line Theatre July 21<sup>st</sup>

On Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup> join us for the play “Dr. Barnardo’s Children.” A portion of ticket sales and BBQ proceeds will go to YES. BBQ opens at 4:30 pm, and show starts at 6:00 pm. You might want to catch the sequel play “Wounded Soldiers” on August 30<sup>th</sup> – a similar fundraising evening for Peterborough Pride. Call 705-932-4445 or book online at [www.4thlinetheatre.on.ca](http://www.4thlinetheatre.on.ca)

## YES Welcomes New Mentor and New Savings Program to Our Transitional Program

Meagan La Plante joined YES in May as the Abbott House Mentor, and brings with her a wealth of experience supporting youth and their families, including working at the Boys and Girls Club and being a facilitator for the Strengthening Families program. Meagan’s easygoing attitude, consistency, and community connections will support Abbott House participants to move forward in their lives.

Starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, a rent supplement agreement between YES and the City of Peterborough will contribute to a savings program for participants in the transitional housing program at Abbott House so they have a financial springboard to their next life goal.

## YES is Grateful for the Many Creative Ways People Find to Support Our Work!



Volunteers Holly & Morgan & happy shoppers at YES’ yard sale

- St. Peter’s and Holy Cross Secondary schools raised \$8400. Their “Youth for Youth” efforts included the fabulous annual concert in May as well as a read-a-thon, dress-down days, and lunches;
- Trent Timber made a donation to YES on behalf of the Peterborough Fire Department for training provided;
- The “In From The Cold” Concert in December raised over \$7000;
- James Strath Public School students raised funds for YES;
- Many volunteers and community members supported YES’ Yard Sale, raising \$1100. Thanks to Larry and Diane for hosting us;
- Glenda & Ted Hunter donated a lovely painting by Marilyn Goslin;
- Social Service Worker students at Fleming held an ice cream day;
- Northern Lights selected YES as a recipient of \$2000;
- Currie Tire, Murray St. Baptist Church, Northminster United Church and many others also made donations. Thank you!



Marilyn Goslin and Ted Hunter

## YES Helps Resident Transition to Independence by Suzanne Galloway

“Max” grew up in Peterborough. When his parents divorced, he moved to Toronto with his mom and got involved in a bad crowd. At age 17, he wanted to start a new life and returned to Peterborough to live with his father. Unfortunately, his new home became unsafe for him as his father's verbal abuse and physical violence escalated.

After just a week at the shelter, Max moved into YES’ transitional residence, Abbott House, where he receives weekly support from a mentor. With this stability, Max has managed to keep his part-time job and intends to complete high school this year. He hopes to get his own place soon and is working with the house mentor on a budget and seeking housing he can afford.

# “Y.E.S...a home for growth and opportunity in our community.”

## YES Seeks Senior Resident for Our Transitional House

YES is seeking a responsible individual to act as a Senior Resident (similar to a college residence ‘Don’) at YES’ 8-room transitional house where youth aged 16-24 live for up to a year with the support of an off-site mentor. The on-site Senior Resident would

- pay minimal rent and be paid a monthly honorarium for weekly tasks including garbage and lawn maintenance, and snow removal as needed;
- report any maintenance and safety concerns in the house;
- be a positive presence in the house, but not provide support for/mentor fellow residents;
- be expected to participate in a weekly house meeting/meal.

Please send an email with resume and letter outlining your interest to [sgalloway@yesshelter.ca](mailto:sgalloway@yesshelter.ca)

## Compelling Youth Stories – Available Online

YES hosted a research project to explore what influences rurally-raised youth in their decisions to stay (or return to) where they were raised, or to move to urban centres. Youth (16 to 30) self-described as “insecurely housed” participated in the research. Their stories of struggle and success are similar to many YES clients. The report and narratives can be found at [www.to-go-or-to-stay.ca](http://www.to-go-or-to-stay.ca)

## Tank House Fundraiser by Brian Landry



Robin Hawkins

On Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, YES held a fundraising concert at The Tank House (Sin City). Arctic Safari, Doug Dynasty, The Cadillacs, Robin Hawkins and Double Shots all donated their time and talents for the evening. A good time was had by all, and there was plenty of dancing and making of new friends and re-acquainting with old. Over \$1100 was raised for YES. The staff and board would like to thank the management and staff of The Tank House/Sin City, the bands, and all who attended for their help and support.

## YES Needs Volunteers

- to help our summer student with repairs. If you can lend a few hours to help with projects that go better with more hands, we’ll plan around your availability;
- with a clean driving record (age 25+) to drive our cube van for a monthly food pick-up and occasional moves;
- with Life Guard certification to take beach trips with residents and their children.

If you’re interested, please contact Wyatt at [wlamoureux@yesshelter.ca](mailto:wlamoureux@yesshelter.ca) or call 705-748-3851.

## YES Needs Your Support

YES relies on support from the community to augment our operating budget and provide special programs for youth and families. Please consider helping us out. Donations by cash or cheque can be mailed or dropped off to the shelter, or made [online](#) – click on the CanadaHelps link. Donations over \$20.00 are issued a tax receipt.



## Homeless? We Can Help

If you or a youth or family you know is at risk of being homeless, YES can help. We provide emergency and transitional housing for youth aged 16-24 and for families, as well as a variety of related programs and services. The shelter is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, across from FreshCo in downtown Peterborough.



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