

# The Haven

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



## YES Newsletter: Summer 2012

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK – *Walter Johnstone, YES Executive Director*

Life at the Youth Emergency Shelter is always an extremely varied experience. I never know what will be the content of my day. Sometimes it is helping with the case management of a young person who is in distress and needing housing, medication, medical attention, or counseling. Sometimes it is arranging for a building repair or the repair of an appliance. Sometimes it is writing a report or an application for funding. Sometimes it is making sure that there is enough money in the bank to pay staff and our bills.

Many days have nice surprises in them. For example, about once a month the folks who run A Taste of Russia (the pierogi lady at the local farmer's markets) come and do a hot lunch for the residents and staff. Another pleasant surprise that is becoming more frequent is when a former resident drops by to say hello and let us know that they are doing well. I am always appreciative of the walk-in donations. Sometimes it is in kind like food from the Navy Club or one of the churches. Sometimes it is household goods or clothing. Sometimes it is a cash donation. Recently we posted our need for a clothes dryer. A dryer arrived the next day.

As I often say, "Not every day at the shelter is a picnic but it is always rewarding."

### CARRIAGE HOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE – *Simon Weigh, Carriage House Teacher*

The Carriage House School would like to extend the following thank you's to some of our community partners: **The Peterborough City-County Public Health Unit** who through their Youth Granting stream provided funding for our students to rock climb, hike, and ski this winter. **The United Way Youth Directed Grants** which provided money to purchase a bread-maker and a mid-sized fridge for our students for day-to-day nutrition needs. As well, the **PCVS Dance department**, who through ticket sales in June 2011 provided funding to help The Carriage House program purchase food and snacks in the 2011-2012 school year.

### OH, WHAT A NIGHT!

Students from St. Peter's and Holy Cross Secondary Schools wowed a sold-out crowd at the tenth annual Youth For Youth concert, held at Market Hall on April 20. The show featured bands of all descriptions, solo singers, a drum solo, a dance performance, a skit and even a juggling and unicycle act. The night was a big one for YES, as founding executive director David Haw paid tribute to founding board member and Y4Y initiator Patricia Young on the occasion of her retirement from St. Peter's. Current ED Walter Johnstone accepted a whopping \$12,000 in donations, raised through ticket sales and a variety of student-led fundraising events. A fantastic show of support for the shelter and a great night out -- thanks to the students and staff of SPSS and HCSS.

### THE COMMUNITY COMES THROUGH FOR YES – *By Kim Randell*

YES extends a most appreciative and heartfelt 'Thank You' to the community groups for monies donated. In the past 6 months, YES has been the beneficiary of the following events and/or donations:

**In From The Cold concert - \$8612; Realtors Care Foundation - \$1266; The Lloyd Carr – Harris Foundation - \$5000; Trent Central Student Association - \$1500; Knights of Columbus Family Fun Day - \$1000; St. Peter's High School read-a-thon - \$3530, and Youth For Youth variety show - \$6111 (Ticket Sales)**

These monies augment our operating budget and allow us to provide special programs. Thanks to all our community supporters for your commitment to youth and families in Peterborough!

### YES AGM SET FOR JULY 17<sup>th</sup>

The public is invited to join the Board and staff of YES for our Annual General Meeting beginning at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Millennium Park Boat House (behind the Silver Bean Café).



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

### **FAMILY RESILIENCE – By Wyatt Lamoureux** (*\*Names are changed to protect client confidentiality*)

Early in January YES received a referral from Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society – a family of 5 had to leave their rental home immediately when the Health Unit condemned it. Even though e.coli had forced them from their home, Bob and Diana\* came to YES with the attitude this was simply a hiccup, a bump on the road. With 3 small children (5, 3, and 1 year old) they had a busy time managing in the 2 rooms assigned to them, with space at a minimum, and the varying and stressful demands of the little ones. Despite the challenges, Diana and Bob got a lot done!

At first, finding housing was a challenge and their stay at YES extended longer than they thought it would, but they were determined to keep at it. Housing searches with phone calls to landlords, checking the newspapers, visits to the Housing Resource Centre, and apartment viewing, became a part of their daily routine, eventually leading to a lovely townhouse unit with a housing co-op. In addition to this, Diana was working on starting her own cleaning business with help from the Self Employment Benefit program; a multitude of new challenges for them. And vehicle problems. And did we mention the busy, active children?

Through all of this Diana and Bob maintained their focus and a balancing sense of humour. One hiccup had turned into many and the family had overcome it all. Now in their new home, they watch the children ride tricycles and play hopscotch on the sidewalk. Bob and Diana's resilience in the face of adversity became their strongest asset.

### **WELCOME OMAR! – By Wyatt Lamoureux**

YES is proud to welcome Omar Gele. Omar is the new mentor at our 9-bed, second-stage housing facility, Abbott House. He will be delivering life skills training, enjoying weekly supper meetings with the residents there, and keeping the place spic-and-span.

Omar is no stranger to YES. Early in the history of YES, Omar was a resident – like many youth who come to us he couldn't be at home and living on the streets was soul-crushing. He knew he wanted to do more with his life because where he was just wasn't good enough. Following the example set by shelter staff he returned to school, continued on with post-secondary studies in social work, and eventually found work with a local social service agency dealing with youth and families.

We are very happy to have Omar as the newest member of the YES team!

### **JOIN OUR MAILING LIST**

We're building an electronic database of all our friends and supporters, and we'd love to keep in touch with you. Being on our mailing list means you'll receive our twice-yearly e-newsletter, The Haven, as well as occasional news alerts about coming events or special needs at the shelter. To join, simply send an email to [board@yesshelter.ca](mailto:board@yesshelter.ca) and put "join mailing list" in the subject line. Make sure to 'like' us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/YESShelterPtbo](http://www.facebook.com/YESShelterPtbo) and follow us on Twitter @YESShelterPtbo!

### **YES NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!**

Y.E.S. 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 at 196 Brock St., Peterborough, ON, K9H 2P4. Donations can also be made online - visit our website at [www.yesshelter.ca](http://www.yesshelter.ca) and click on the Canada Helps link. Donations over \$20 are issued a tax receipt.

### **HOMELESS? WE CAN HELP**

If you or a youth or family you know has ended up homeless, Y.E.S. 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 located at 196 Brock St., across from Fresh CO, in downtown Peterborough. We're open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call 705-748-3851 or visit our website at [www.yesshelter.ca](http://www.yesshelter.ca).

