

The Haven

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



Youth Volunteers Repair Heritage Wall at YES' Transition House

Youth volunteers from the John Howard Society (JHS) and YES have been learning about masonry and team work. For the past two summers, they have devoted themselves to slowly reconstructing 25 feet of damage caused by a massive fallen oak tree. The wall surrounds YES' transition house, a place where youth can live for up to a year with the support of a mentor to move forward on their life goals.

"It's been hard work and a great accomplishment for the youth volunteers to see it through" said Graham Petty, a coordinator with JHS' Quantum Project. He shared that one young worker on the project has been inspired to look into stonemasonry courses at colleges.

Stone mason Carol Jackson who generously provided initial instruction to

the youth was really impressed with how the wall turned out. She eloquently summed up their contribution: "It will be there as proof of the connection of hearts, minds and hands for centuries. Bravo!"

YES is also grateful to Rehill Building Supplies for donating materials. Wood from the oak tree that fell on the wall is being milled by Norwood high school. Half the wood will stay with students there and half will come to YES' woodworking shop.

Cover Photo Above: From left to right: Meredith McEvoy, Campbell Thomson, Graham Petty, Shaelyn O'Connor, Brance Ferris, Robert Mitchell, and Tom Regehr. Thanks also to Nate Baldwin, Mike Berardi, Jeff Cadence, Ryan Deroy, Steve Masters, Scott Harman, Mallory Stone, and Skye Supernant who also put their energy into this project but couldn't join us for the celebration.



WINTER
2014

Yes
SHELTER FOR
YOUTH AND FAMILIES

15th Annual In From The Cold Concert

This wonderful concert benefit for YES takes place December 12th and 13th. Get your tickets quick as this event sells out most years. Tickets are available at Market Hall and Moondance.

YES Needs Your Support

YES relies on support from the community to provide much needed assistance to youth and families. 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 tax receipts.

Another Diploma Earned in YES' Alternative Classroom

By Karen Scott, Classroom Support Worker

The Carriage House alternative classroom continues to offer a variety of individualized programming for students to assist them in reaching their goals. This semester one of our ongoing students will join the ranks of past students in earning her Ontario Secondary School Diploma, and will be walking across the stage with her peers. It will be a particularly proud moment for her as she will become the first member of her family to receive this distinction. "If not for the Carriage House School, I would not have been able to finish high school, as regular school never worked for me" the student says. The Carriage House and the one on one help I received changed my future for the better and my family is so proud of me."

Thanks to continued collaboration with the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, YES offers youth a more positive future with this uniquely tailored educational program that continues to be valued and supported by our various community partners.

YES Explores Social Enterprise

A business intern from Trent University is exploring a possible business with the aim of offering training and employment opportunities to youth. We're also wanting to make more use of our wood working shop and cube van while ideally raising some revenue to support programs. YES is discussing possible contracts with Peterborough Housing Corporation and other social housing providers to provide cleaning, painting, wood working and small repair skills to the youth we serve. Thanks to the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough for providing funds for this business plan development.

Life Skills Programming at YES

YES provides life skills training for our residents and opportunities for recreation every week. Staff from YES and from the Housing Resource Centre provide assistance in finding housing and teaching residents about their rental rights and responsibilities. A legendary hygiene workshop by one of our staff has teenagers rushing to bathe, do their laundry, and clean their rooms. Wednesdays we're at the YMCA, Thursdays is game/arts night, and every weekend there's meal preparation and baking opportunities. Considering these are young adults, the learnings are quite remarkable. We've had an 18 year old declare with satisfaction "I've never done dishes before", and a 17 year old thrilled at his first opportunity to carve a pumpkin. We need more volunteers to ensure these activities run even when the shelter gets very busy. If you'd like to cook, play music, do art, or otherwise engage positively with our youth and family residents, please contact wlamoureux@yesshelter.ca.

Reflections from a YES Resident

By Jenny, Family Resident at YES

We were going to move into a house and a week before we had to move out of our other place we found out it was a scam. Winter was coming and living with my family was no longer an option. We were definitely homeless. I called to find out if there was room at YES. Wyatt was the first person I talked to and after a few minutes, I knew there was something different about this shelter. After 15 minutes and a few laughs I hung up the phone and a big weight lifted off my shoulders.

David had never been in a shelter and didn't know what to expect. With tears in his eyes, I tried to comfort him. Brenda and Sarah were the first faces we saw at YES and they welcomed us with open arms. David went first to see our room and as soon as I saw him return to the office, I knew it was going to be okay.

Our room was beautiful. I sure didn't expect to have our own fridge or TV or dresser since I had to live out of a garbage bag at the shelter I recently stayed at for two days. And what a change - I laid on the bed and saw it wasn't a gym mat and I was on cloud 9. I'm used to sleeping with a lot of pillows so it was nice to find out I could bring my own bedding.

The staff go above and beyond their jobs to help everyone. If I ever have any issues or concerns, I know I can go to them no matter how big or small. We are always given up-to-date apartment listings and any time we need something as simple as toilet paper or a light bulb changed, they are right on top of it. If I had anything negative to say it would be that I have gained a few pounds from the amazing food the chefs make. It is also helpful that they let the families at the front of the line. I am very honoured to be a part of the newsletter. I know I have a long road ahead of me but coming here was the best decision I ever made.

Your support makes all the difference! YES is grateful to:

- Our local Home Depot store associates for selecting YES to be their charitable partner during the Orange Door Project fundraising campaign which raised \$7,292.
- The Brooklin Optimist Club youth who did a 'scavenger hunt' to purchase items from YES' wish lists, with funds raised by senior youth - way to put the FUN in FUNdraising!
- 4th Line Theatre Company for devoting \$791 from an evening's tickets proceeds.
- Beta Sigma Phi sorority for their interest in YES' work and thoughtful gifts.
- Matt Dunkin (Green by Design) & Steve Masters (Masters Renovations) who volunteered to install new windows and a new door at the shelter. We're saving energy and are more comfortable.
- Our supporters who donate cash, leftovers, blankets and many other valuable gifts to YES.

YES Shelter for Youth and Families - 196 Brock St., Peterborough, ON K9H 2P4 - www.yesshelter.ca
Phone: 705-748-3851 Fax: 705-748-6697

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 never closes. We are across from FreshCo in downtown Peterborough.



Someone on your list hard to buy for?

YES has produced beautiful cards with the painting of YES by Lakefield artist Marilyn Goslin (above). A package of 6 with envelopes is just \$10 with all proceeds going to YES. Or, consider making a donation on a loved one's behalf to YES. For every \$10 donated, we will provide you with a decorative bookmark you can give to let them know of your gift in their honour.

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