

UPWARDS AND ONWARDS

A note from Connor, a previous shelter resident

I remember the first time I stepped foot in the YES shelter, scared, worried that I had lost everything, but that all changed in less than two months.

My name is Connor, I am twenty-three years old, born and raised here in Peterborough. I was very outgoing and a people person, until two years ago.

I was living in Timmins when I got a phone call saying my mother had passed away. This call changed my life. I went into a deep depression and turned to drugs to try and escape reality. I lost my job and my car caught on fire. I felt like I lost everything. My family helped me by referring me to the YES Shelter, not to abandon me, but to help me get my priorities straight and get back on track.

The first day I stepped into the shelter, I felt lost and wanted to do nothing but sleep everything away. But the staff were extremely helpful by asking me what I want to do and finding resources for me, like housing and job sites. I went out and applied for a job at McDonald's and within two weeks I was hired on full-time. I was also on Social Assistance (OW) until I earned a steady income with McDonald's.

Getting the job was the first step, but I had to find a place to live once my six weeks was up at the shelter. I spent many of my days off looking for apartments, but I could not find any places to afford with the income I was bringing in, until I found a bachelor apartment all inclusive with Wifi and cable. Through OW, I was able to secure this apartment with first and last months rent, and four days left at the shelter.

Now I have moved into my place and am getting my life back on track. I am earning a steady income, and I no longer require the assistance from OW. All of this wouldn't have been possible without the help from staff at YES.

Whenever I felt like I wasn't moving forward, the staff were more than happy to lend a listening ear and steer me back in the right direction.

People may think living at a shelter is rock bottom, but if you push yourself to do better and accept the resources the staff offers you, you will succeed. Have your priorities and don't give up!

"Whenever I felt like I wasn't moving forward, the staff were more than happy to lend a listening ear and steer me back in the right direction."



Connor and Meagan at McHappy Day, which raised \$30,000 thanks to your support!

Your support ensures youth like Connor are able to get what they need. Youth can get help without using YES' emergency shelter, and are more successful if they avoid the fear and disruption of becoming homeless. If you know of a youth struggling to keep their place (in a caregiver's home or elsewhere), call YES. Our workers will do their best to build on the young person's strengths to help them move forward towards independence.

Your generosity supported youth and families when they needed it most over the last year:



375 households used our **food cupboard**, feeding **475** individuals.



13 youth resided in our **transition house** with support of a mentor.

29 different families and **145** different youth stayed in our **emergency shelter**.

33 youth attended our on-site **High School Classroom**

69 Children's Aid Society Involved Youth were supported by our **Youth in Transition Worker Program**.

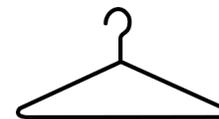
48 Youth were **diverted** from shelter by our outreach workers.



224 different individuals stayed a total of **8,485** **bednights** in our emergency shelter.

45 were supported in their housing by our **Youth Housing Support Worker**

68 youth and **18** family members were supported by our **Youth Outreach Worker**.



395 individuals used our **clothing cupboard**.

96% AVERAGE & GRADUATING

A client's success at YES' High School Program

By: Aimee Le Lagadec, Youth in Transition Worker (YITW)



Jenn* has been involved with the Youth in Transition Worker Program for a number of years now, and has had many tough transitions and personal struggles that she has had to face throughout. In 2018 Jenn received supports from YES' high school classroom, after struggling with severe anxiety in other school settings. Since her return to school, and with the support of the YITW program, Jenn has secured a summer job, is actively saving for her independence, and most importantly, is on track to graduate secondary school with a 96% average! Jenn is one of 3 students who have finished their high school diploma with the support of YES' high school program this year. YES is very excited to share this time with Jenn and looks forward to seeing everything that lies ahead for her. Congratulations Jenn for all that you have achieved!

* Name changed for confidentiality



YOUR GIFTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

YES thanks the volunteers and donors who make a difference every day for the youth and families YES supports, including:

Wild Rock Outfitters, McDonald's in Peterborough and Lakefield, The Home Depot Canada Foundation, Peterborough Cares, James Strath Public School, Kawartha Youth Unlimited, Holy Cross Secondary School, and The Greater Peterborough Health Services Foundation.

YES NEWS & EVENTS

15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Thank you to everyone who joined us to commemorate 15 years of changing lives.

25TH ANNUAL MCHAPPY DAY

Thank you to each of the volunteers and supporters for making McHappy Day such a success. Your overwhelming generosity raised \$30,000 for YES!

YES HAS EVEN MORE PREVENTION SERVICES FOR YOUTH!

We have recently added a Youth Trustee program and a Youth in Transition Housing Worker to support youth who have been involved in the child welfare system.

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS IS OUR AIM

The emergency shelter at YES is a lifesaving, critical support to youth and families. However, YES is working to prevent homelessness as often as possible. We are supporting youth to remain with their families or other natural supports whenever appropriate, diverting them from the emergency shelter. If you know a youth who could become homeless, call YES right away.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ORANGE DOOR PROJECT

May 31 - June 24

The Home Depot Canada Foundation is dedicated to ending youth homelessness in Canada. Purchase a \$2 paper door at the checkout of the Lansdowne Street Home Depot store or make a secure, online donation at orangedoorproject.ca. You can give homeless young people in Peterborough the housing, support, and hope they need to live positive lives.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

July 18 6 - 8pm

Peterborough Lions Community Centre

Please join YES staff, volunteers, and supporters at our annual meeting and BBQ to hear about all of the amazing work you have been part of this year! Please R.S.V.P to Kait Richards at: events@yesshelter.ca or 705-748-3581 ext. 204.

