



YES Appreciation BBQ and Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, July 20, 2016
5-6pm BBQ; 6-7pm Meeting



Enjoy food with YES staff and volunteers and hear successes and stories of the past year from clients and staff. Let us know any dietary restrictions and we'll do our best to accommodate.

Lion's Club, Burnham St, Peterborough

Please RSVP by July 13 to events@yesshelter.ca or call 705-748-3851

Through His Eyes

"My name is Alex. I'm 11. I'm at the shelter with my mom... we moved into my mom's friend's house. A week later we found out that they were behind on paying bills and there were mice everywhere. So we moved into the shelter.



Some of the things I like about the shelter are the staff. They are really nice people. Also I like the art program. I also got to do karaoke and that was a lot of fun. I like that there are lots of really nice people that live at the shelter with us. I like all the dinners and snacks that the staff make for us. My mom and I have a big room at the shelter. It has a TV and I have my own PS3 that I get to watch movies on. My mom and I are hoping to get our own place. I really hope we can find a place on 'X' Ave so I can be close to my friends."

\$40,000 Needed for New Metal Roof

YES is investing in a metal roof for our emergency shelter so we can provide safety and warmth to youth and families for decades to come.

Already, we've received \$10,000 towards this project from Havelock Metal. We need your help to raise an additional \$40,000 to install this fall.

Please visit www.yesshelter.ca to help with this project.



Celebrating Being Different Through Circus Arts

Local circus performers and instructors, "the Pyroflys" are offering circus arts training to youth and families involved with YES. Techniques offered include Cyr wheel, poi, hoops, juggling, aerial silks, balance, and acrobatics.

Instructors Thomas and Jennifer have already seen great enthusiasm from youth participating in their classes. "It's fun to watch them develop confidence as they try new things in a safe, supportive environment. Our aim is to give them a skill set they can master and channel their creativity into as a healthy recreational activity or even a public performance." Jennifer shared.

The circus is a rare space where people are celebrated for being different, so this training creates an inclusive space for the diversity of youth YES serves. Circus arts offer youth a forum to celebrate being unusual, to take safe risks, and to get attention in positive ways. We hope some youth will perform with the Pyroflys in June. The trainings are funded by an Ontario Arts Council grant.



Reconnecting Families

Not infrequently, YES gets contacted by police, asking if we have a bed available as they are en route to a domestic unrest call involving a youth. We always say we can make room. Often the youth does not come. We can only imagine that the youth and their family - who were so desperate that they called 911 - remain struggling.

Sometimes a relative drops off a youth, with obvious regret that things have come to such an end. At the shelter, some youth say they would like to be back at home, but feel that they just can't handle the way it has been.

With the aim of preventing youth homelessness, YES has convened over a dozen agencies and citizens to find collaborative ways to support youth within their family context. The Family Reconnect group is exploring many strategies including respite stays, transitional supports for youth, parenting classes for parents and their teens, job connections for youth, mentorship, etc.

Success of the Family Reconnect programming could look three ways:

- 1) A youth receives support to return home or does not leave their home, when this is a safe and positive choice
- 2) A youth gets support to leave home in a planned way, rather than with no belongings and burnt bridges with relatives.
- 3) A youth realizes that their home/family is an unhealthy influence for them and gets support to move forward independently.

Navigating what is best for both the youth and the family in these situations is complex and time consuming. YES is excited to have a new Youth Outreach Worker (starting in July) to help intervene proactively in some of these situations. And we know we can't do it alone.

We welcome your support of this project, as well as volunteers who have skills as facilitators, cooks, drivers, or who can provide insight from their own experience to inform this work going forward. YES is grateful to the United Way's Innovation Fund and for coaching support from Innoweave that has supported our progress so far. We applaud the Ministry of Children and Youth Services for providing funding for two Outreach Workers to support high risk youth in our community.

*YES is grateful to the donors who help to make a difference every day for the youth and families who need our support. **Can you help us do more?***

Whether you give \$20, \$40, \$100 or more, you will be supporting people who need your help. We accept donations by cash, cheque, credit card, and Interac email transfer. Visit www.yesshelter.ca for more donation options.

Thank you for helping your neighbours in need!



“Telling my story without being ashamed...”

Seven young women explored their personal stories of housing insecurity and/or substance use through training provided by a partnership between YES and the Peterborough Drug Strategy. The aim of the speakers' development training is to cultivate young people's comfort and pride in sharing their stories of resilience, in part to combat the stigma that often surrounds youth homelessness and drug use. Youth participants also reported that the group made them feel they “weren't alone” and gain a healthy perspective:

“I really liked the program - it's really helping me own my story and learn to forgive and accept my past.”

“I learned that I have the ability and experiences to help others with my story.”

“I'm glad I'm now more comfortable with telling my story without being ashamed.”

“This program puts everything into perspective and was good for me accepting my life.”

Join us at YES' AGM on July 20th to hear their stories!

