

YES NEWSLETTER SPRING 2017



YES works to reduce and prevent homelessness by providing shelter, education and transitional supports for youth and families in Peterborough and the Kawarthas.

A WAY HOME PETERBOROUGH LAUNCHES!

Imagine a 17 year old trying to make it on their own. How did they get there? Who can help? With your support, YES is here. And sadly, there are now so many homeless youth seeking help, we are often full.

YES' emergency shelter is life-saving and connecting– but not the solution. Everyone needs a home and social supports to truly thrive.

The homeless youth YES serves have been abandoned by adult caregivers –most often by an over-stretched family, but often group homes and other institutions. Working at a systems level and supporting families, we can prevent a youth from becoming homeless.

Most youth need supports to find housing, keep it, and move forward in their lives. Reality is, over 42% of young adults (age 20-29) live with their parents. We need to work as a community to take care of the youth who don't have this parental support and stability. They need our help to access not only housing but employment, education, health care and other supports.

YES has been fostering a collaboration of citizens and organizations working together to prevent and reduce youth homelessness. Recently, our collective impact initiative has come under the umbrella of A Way Home Canada. With their expertise and the commitment of over a dozen agencies and many citizens, we are strategizing on how we can best intervene in our Peterborough context to end youth homelessness.

It will take all of us working together to ensure that youth have the housing and supports to enable them to succeed. With your help, YES has always provided more than just shelter. We welcome your involvement in this community-wide effort. Please promote and attend the A Way Home Peterborough launch event on May 24th. Together we can end youth homelessness in Peterborough.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SHOT! YOUTH LENS OF HOMELESSNESS

Exhibit as part of Spark Photo Festival.
Running April 1-30, Reception: Saturday,
April 29th, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Pappas Billiards, 407 George Street. North,
Peterborough. Youth were given cameras
and a mission to show Peterborough what
homelessness means to them.

YES DONOR APPRECIATION EVENT

Wednesday, May 24th 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at
Brio Gusto Restaurant; Snacks provided.
Join us to meet fellow donors, YES Board
Members, volunteers and hear about the
good work you support. *Anyone interested can
head over with us to the event (below) after.*

A WAY HOME PETERBOROUGH LAUNCH

Wednesday, May 24th 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at
Market Hall, Peterborough.
Reception to follow.

Join us for a touching and informative evening
with local youth and Canada's leading experts
on youth homelessness:

Dr. Stephen Gaetz, *Director of the Canadian
Observatory on Homelessness and Order of
Canada recipient.*

Melanie Redman, *Executive Director of A Way
Home Canada*

Free. All Welcome

YES APPRECIATION BBQ AND ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, July 13th, Lion's Club, Peterborough
BBQ: 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Meeting.

◀ *Images from the SHOT! Youth Lens of
Homelessness Exhibit as part of Spark
Photo Festival*



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES TO PREVENT YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

As the new Youth Outreach Worker to YES this year, I get a unique 'homecoming' perspective, having been employed with YES 8 years ago before leaving for Toronto. Inevitably, much has changed since my time in that outreach role and yet, much has stayed the same.

What has changed is that the barriers Peterborough youth face to a healthy transition to independence have only increased. Fewer housing units and employment opportunities combined with more complex youth seem to intensify the plight that our clients have always known. What hasn't changed thankfully, is the 'go-the-distance' grass roots spirit of commitment and compassion YES staff operate with, ever hopeful and willing to see a client towards their potential. It seems that YES staff have followed in step with the increased challenges our clients face by increasing the strengths-based, non-judgemental and perseverant service they provide.

I see my fellow workers coming in early to bake cakes for residents' birthdays, hosting celebratory dinners at our transition house, driving a mom and daughter to an appointment, baking treats on an overnight shift, and sharing laughter and encouragement.

I was touched to receive an email from a youth I was working with at YES back in the mid-2000's. This youth is now delivering presentations to service providers as a young adult about engaging youth in services. The email said "You were 100% one of those role models and were a centre point to my presentation about the importance of being able to hire compassionate caring staff who actually give a damn." It's for this reason it was so easy to return to YES. I am one of those people because of the team I was a part of then and now, a team that plays that role for Peterborough youth where few ever have or will. While much has changed to make things harder for marginalized individuals in Peterborough, the presence and commitment of YES staff during a youth or family's most vulnerable times has remained the same. This spirit - and your support - keeps us all hopeful.

MONTHLY DONOR CAMPAIGN: HELP US PIECE IT TOGETHER

At YES, we help piece lives together every day. Providing shelter, food, education and transitional supports reside at the heart of what we do.

YES is launching the "Piece it, Together" Campaign, asking you to become a Monthly Donor by the end of May. Help us reach our goal of 30 new monthly donors and Kawartha Credit Union will generously donate \$5000 to YES.

Smaller, more manageable monthly donations from you give us the confidence that we can stretch to meet emerging needs.

One tax receipt is convenient for you and more cost effective for us to process. Please make a commitment to help homeless youth and families year-round. Signing up is easy - visit:

www.yesshelter.ca/monthly-giving



PIECE IT, TOGETHER
MONTHLY GIVING



THANK YOU! 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:

- The 17th In From the Cold Concert which raised \$11, 442
- Parkview Homes for \$1,500 donation and for proceeds from their auction
- Lakefield College School for their dress down days (raising \$968) and to students who volunteered 2 mornings at YES
- Queen Mary and Prince of Wales Public School for their fundraising for YES
- The Trent Fashion Show raised over \$600 and put on a great show!
- Kettle Drums for cooking a meal for YES residents and hosting a fundraising meal
- Pita Pit staff for donating their tips

Visit www.yesshelter.ca to donate and learn more.

FAREWELL NOTE FROM A CLIENT

"Thank you all for making my time at the shelter not feel so bad. It's not easy to get the courage to finally say "I need help" and reach out to a shelter. Especially for someone as prideful as I am, you guys made me feel like it wasn't only the right choice but the best one I've made in a while. I've learned so much from each and every one of you and can't even begin to explain how grateful I am. In return I promise everything that you've all done for me won't be for nothing. I'll be as successful as you all made me feel like I can be. Hoping the best for everyone".

A FAMILY SAYS THANK YOU

"We are a family of 4 and never thought we would be in a shelter. It amazed me that the staff tried their best to accommodate the needs of everyone. ...To all of the people who volunteer as well as those who make donations, I say a BIG THANK YOU. You have made a life-long lesson of treating people with dignity and happy memories. To ALL the staff, YOU'RE THE BEST. May all your future endeavours come true".

