



For immediate release

WESTFEST and Youth Services Bureau are taking it to the streets!

Youth agency to become official charity of WESTFEST

Ottawa, June 1, 2010—WESTFEST and the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa (YSB) are taking it to the streets together as they announce an exciting new partnership that will make a positive impact for at-risk youth in Ottawa.

Starting this year, the YSB Charitable Foundation will be the official charity of WESTFEST and both organizations will work together to raise money for programs geared to youth in Ottawa and raise awareness about the work of YSB. WESTFEST is a grassroots festival that takes place on the street in Westboro Village. YSB is the most comprehensive, non-profit social service agency in Ottawa working with at-risk youth – many of whom are street-involved.

“Westfest is about art, community, inclusiveness and accessibility, so I can’t think of a better, more suited charity to partner with than the Youth Services Bureau’s Charitable Foundation. I invite the thousands of people who enjoy this 100% free festival to give generously to our Official Charity during Westfest, and all year long—directly benefiting the youth in our community. Perfectly awesome!” said WESTFEST founder/producer Elaina Martin.

“Celebrating our 50th year in the community, I am delighted that YSB has found such a perfect partner in WESTFEST, and I believe that our partnership will have an enormous impact in the lives of youth,” said YSB Executive Director Alex Munter.

Every month between 2,500 and 3,000 youth and families come to YSB to take that next step in their lives. YSB offers shelter and long-term housing, mental health programs, health services for street-involved youth, crisis intervention, programs for youth in conflict with the law, youth employment programs, school based programs, programs for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered youth, and programs that foster youth leadership.

WESTFEST is Ottawa’s most diverse outdoor free multidisciplinary arts festival. The festival is about inclusiveness, diversity and community. Every year the festival showcases Canada’s and Ottawa’s talent to the hundreds of thousands of people who participate. It encourages expression, and anyone in Ottawa who wants to attend is able



without restriction. WESTFEST has become a signature summer event that all Ottawans look forward to every year.

Like WESTFEST, YSB is also about inclusiveness, diversity and community. YSB works with young people in Ottawa who are trying to overcome obstacles in their lives and make tough choices. YSB's wide reaching programs are designed to empower youth with the tools they need to make positive choices.

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