



YSB ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

**Strong Roots: YSB's
collective response**



**YOUTH
SERVICES
JEUNESSE**

Land acknowledgement

We acknowledge with gratitude, humility, and a willingness to do the work of reconciliation that the land on which we live, gather, and carry out our work is the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation, who have cared for this land along the Ottawa River watershed since time immemorial.

We offer this acknowledgement as a starting point for reflection and responsibility. We recognize the ongoing impacts of colonization on Indigenous peoples, including the disruption of language, culture, and community that continues to shape the lives of many we serve today.

At YSB we are committed to the dignity and wellbeing of the people in our community; we understand that reconciliation is an ongoing practice. We are committed to listening, learning, and building genuine relationships with the Indigenous communities and service agencies, and to ensuring our programs and services are welcoming, respectful, and responsive to the needs of Indigenous people.

Message from the CEO of YSB and the Chair of the YSB Board of Directors



Nina Gorka, CEO



Tanya Gracie, Chair

Every annual report tells a story of a year's work. This one tells that story at a turning point.

For more than sixty years, YSB has grounded its work in a simple belief: every young person deserves safety, dignity, and opportunity. This year was also one of listening deeply to the youth, families, staff, and partners who make up our community.

Our response is Strong Roots, YSB's five-year strategic plan, approved by our Board of Directors in November 2025 after a year of participatory planning. Like the

roots of a thriving tree, our foundation of community connection, dedicated people, and belief in youth potential has always kept us steady through change. Strong Roots names five directions for how those roots will carry us forward: centring authentic youth leadership, strengthening our organizational health, leading boldly in advocacy and systems change, strengthening and innovating across our continuum of services, and cultivating a culture of learning and evaluation.

This is a plan built with the people we serve. It carries the fingerprints of the youth who told us what works and what doesn't. It carries the commitment of staff who have held this work together through change and challenge. And it carries the trust of the partners and funders who make it possible.

As a multi-service organization, YSB works alongside youth and their families across housing and homelessness, mental health, education and employment, justice, and community support. These are not separate issues; people's lives don't move in tidy categories, and neither should the services that support them. When gaps emerge in what youth need

to thrive, we work to address the need. We listen, we adapt, and we build.

Central to this work is Ottawa's pledge to end youth homelessness by 2030, an ambitious but achievable goal. YSB is proud to hold a seat at the Mayor's Champions Table, a leadership body bringing together key interest holders committed to addressing this critical issue. This role reflects both the trust placed in YSB as a leader in youth services and our deep commitment to collaborative, systems-level change.

Throughout the year, YSB has remained an active and engaged partner within both the municipal and provincial landscape, working collaboratively with a broad network of organizations to strengthen the continuum of care for youth and families across Ottawa. Our partnerships include the Alliance to End Homelessness, the City of Ottawa, and Ottawa Community Housing, reflecting our commitment to addressing housing stability and homelessness at a systems level.

In addition, YSB collaborates closely with key health and social service partners, including Parents Lifeline Eastern Ontario (PLEO), CHEO, The Royal, the Family Services Ottawa (FSO), the Children's Aid Society (CAS), Salus, among others. These partnerships strengthen our ability to provide wraparound, coordinated support for young people facing complex mental health, housing, and family challenges.

Our Youth Justice team works with a wide variety of partners, including John Howard Society, Centre for Resilience and Social Development, M.F. McHugh Education Centre (Ottawa Catholic School Board - OCSB), Le Transit (Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario - CEPEO), Ottawa Police Service, Ottawa Youth Justice Services Network (OYJSN), BGC, Ottawa Muslim Community Services, and the Wabano Centre.

In the Employment sector, we are working with a wide variety of community partners, such as the Ministry of the Solicitor General (SOLGEN), Matthew House, Ontario



Works, Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), CCI Ottawa, First Work, Canadian Education and Research Institute for Counselling (CERIC), and the Centre des écoles catholiques du centre-est (CECCE).

By working together across sectors, YSB and its partners continue to build a more integrated, responsive system of care.

Advocacy allows YSB to champion policies and investments that support meaningful programming. YSB participated in a lobby day with First Work on Parliament Hill, engaging directly with politicians and representatives from Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to advocate for the employment needs of youth and adults across the province.

As we look ahead, YSB remains guided by our strategic directions, which will guide and shape how we move this work forward. We are committed to centring authentic youth leadership in everything we do by building a youth framework to guide our programming and decision-making. We will continue strengthening our organizational health, investing in YSB's staff team, systems, and infrastructure so that YSB remains a stable, resilient organization for years to come. We will also keep leading boldly in advocacy and systems change, to promote policies that address the root causes of youth homelessness, youth conflict with the law, mental health challenges, and employment barriers. Alongside this, we will focus on strengthening and innovating across our continuum of services,

expanding wraparound supports and deepening partnerships, so youth have access to the right support at the right time. Finally, we will continue cultivating a culture of learning and evaluation, using data and feedback from the youth and families we serve to ensure our programs remain responsive, effective, and accountable.

You can help YSB continue this vital work. Consider donating to support our programs and services for youth across Ottawa, or explore volunteer opportunities to lend your time and skills directly to our community. You can also add your voice to our advocacy efforts: staying informed on youth homelessness, youth justice, mental health, and employment issues, and speaking up to your local representatives about the change young people need. Every contribution, big or small, helps YSB move closer to a future where all youth have the support and opportunities they deserve to thrive.

We also want to recognize the members of YSB's Board of Directors for their thoughtful leadership, stewardship, and commitment throughout the year, particularly as we worked together to shape the organization's strategic direction for the years ahead.

We are deeply grateful to our staff, whose dedication carries this work forward; to the participants and families who trust us with their stories; to our partners, who stand with us in the work; and to our donors and funders, whose generosity makes it all possible.

FOUNDED:
1960, more than 60 years
serving youth in Ottawa

STAFF:
420 full- and part-time
professionals

LOCATIONS:
20 across the city

YSB's foundational statements

VISION

A community where youth homelessness is ended, mental health and wellbeing are centred, basic needs are met with dignity, justice is restorative, there is financial independence and every young person and their family has the power to shape their future.

MISSION

As a service provider, advocate, and community partner, YSB works with youth in both English and French to end homelessness, reimagine mental health, expand opportunity through education and employment, advance restorative justice, and amplify youth voices, so every young person and their family can thrive.

If our vision describes the future we're building, and our mission defines what we do to get there, our values and principles are how we move, the way we lead, collaborate, and show up every day. They guide every relationship, every decision, and every act of service.

VALUES & PRINCIPLES:

**Youth at
the centre**

**Belonging
and dignity**

**Collaboration
for impact**

**Equity and
justice**

**Courage
to lead**

**Accountability
with
transparency**



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Over the past year, Community Services has continued to focus on providing young people with safe, accessible housing and supports while strengthening pathways to prevent and reduce youth homelessness.

Our programs span the continuum from low-barrier access through the Downtown Drop-In, emergency and transitional housing, to long-term housing and supports. Across this continuum, we support young people to secure and maintain housing while also helping them transition into healthy adulthood.

A significant shift this year was a stronger focus on prevention, diversion, and family and natural supports (FNS) as key ways in which YSB is contributing to the goal of ending youth homelessness in Ottawa. The expansion of our Shelter Diversion Program allows us to engage youth earlier and explore safe alternatives to shelter, while FNS strengthens young people's connections with family, friends, and other natural supports that can contribute to housing stability.

Our work is also strengthened through partnerships with our education and health providers, helping

connect young people to housing, health, education, and other supports earlier and in the places where they are already accessing services.

This year, YSB also took on a new role in providing emergency housing placements for young women seeking safety as they exit human trafficking situations. This work provides immediate access to safe housing and wraparound supports for young women during a critical transition, while helping create pathways toward longer-term safety, stability, and independence.

“YSB has helped me to grow stronger; in understanding my community, discovering what I need to leave behind in my own life, providing me with food, connection, a positive outlook on authority figures, comfort in public space, social interaction, and mental health clarity.”

“As a newcomer in Canada, being part of the EYAC was extremely beneficial to me. I learned how to get used to Canadian culture and it served as a pathway to the workforce.”

Youth engagement and leadership remained central to this work, with opportunities for young people to influence their communities and participate in decisions that affect their lives. We also placed greater emphasis on learning, evaluation and evidence, continuing our partnership with the University of Ottawa to study diversion and establishing a new partnership to examine the implementation of Family and Natural Supports.

Sharing our diversion experience at the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness conference also allowed us to contribute to broader sector discussions about youth homelessness prevention.

Overall, the year represented an important evolution in our work: continuing to provide responsive, low-barrier services while increasingly focusing on prevention, diversion, natural supports, partnerships, safety, housing stability and helping young people transition into healthy adulthood. Together, these efforts demonstrate YSB's contribution to ending youth homelessness in Ottawa by intervening earlier, responding to diverse needs and supporting young people across the full continuum of housing and wellbeing.



Housing: 282 youth supported to obtain or maintain affordable, supportive and appropriate housing this year

Diversion: 255 requests for shelter with 58 youth being diverted from shelter (over eight months).

Shelter: 269 unique individuals relied on emergency housing

Youth Engagement: Over 50 by-youth and for-youth events have been held this year, focused on affirming, celebrating, and amplifying the diverse identities and experiences of the youth in our services and programs. With over 1,100 attendees throughout the year, the Youth Engagement Teams' influence and impact continue to grow.

Drop-in:

Poverty reduction and practical supports:

8281 contacts

Food bank and food insecurity support:

518 contacts

School:

64 students

10 grads

109 credits earned

Health services:

Dental cleaning and hygiene exams (clients): **72**

Health clinic, primary care, unique clients: **312**

Health clinic, primary care, examinations: **1448**

“Without the Drop-In advocating for me, I would not have a home today.”





Employment Services

Over the past year, YSB Employment Services (ES) has focused on strengthening and expanding employment programming to better meet the evolving needs of our community. A key priority has been securing additional funding to expand youth programming, allowing us to increase access to meaningful employment supports, develop new opportunities, and respond more effectively to the diverse needs of young people.

ES has also advanced the development of a new client service delivery model designed to provide a more consistent, accessible, and client-centred experience. The model incorporates clear pathways to employment and training outcomes, standardized assessments, and individualized supports, ensuring that each client receives the right service at the right time.

Recognizing that quality service depends on having the right people in place, we have prioritized growing our team and increasing leadership capacity. Professional development has remained another important priority.

Together, these priorities represent an important step forward for ES. By pursuing new funding, modernizing our service delivery model, strengthening our workforce, and investing in staff development, we are

building a supportive, client-centred, and outcomes-focused employment service that is better positioned to help clients achieve their employment, education, and career goals.

Our Francophone Navigator Program is focused on expanding partnerships and resources to support Francophone clients in connecting to the labour market. Through our partnership with the Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (CECCE), we offer conversational English classes that provide practical language support without delay.

We launched a new Client Service Road Map, designed to create a more consistent, intentional, and individualized employment journey. Since its introduction, the model has continued to evolve through staff training, pilot activities, and an Employment Journey Decision Guide, which helps counsellors answer one central question: What conversation or intervention will have the greatest impact for this participant right now?

The ES team successfully hosted the Eastern Region Job Development Day, convening more than 60 sector professionals. The event served as a collaborative forum for practitioners to share industry best practices and identify strategic opportunities for catchment-wide alignment. YSB's CEO and the Director of ES participated in two advocacy days at the federal and provincial levels, bringing our requests for action to decision makers at Queen's Park and Parliament Hill.



Looking ahead, the Employment Services team is working on two key provincial initiatives designed to expand youth opportunities in the upcoming year.

The Skills Development Fund (SDF) Future Ready Youth Program focuses on equipping young people with the necessary tools to transition smoothly from education into employment. This initiative prioritizes early intervention, practical training, and foundational workforce preparation to build long-term career readiness.

Additionally, the Federal government is extending and expanding the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS) Family and Natural Supports (FNS) program. This initiative uses a wraparound approach to supporting the youth and their family to mitigate life stabilization challenges and systemic employment barriers, while delivering integrated interventions that support vulnerable youth toward successful employment and training outcomes to mitigate housing instability and systemic employment barriers, while delivering integrated interventions that support vulnerable youth toward self-sufficiency. Through our ongoing partnership in the FNS employment program, with A Way Home Canada, the team contributed to pivotal research that culminated in a formal report release this past year. An ES team member was selected to sit on a national conference panel to share the study's key findings. Building on this momentum, the division successfully secured extended funding

through March 2028, ensuring the continuity and growth of this unique, integrated service.

3949 new clients registered for services

2296 clients served

858 clients found employment

195 clients were supported by a placement

“I was afraid I couldn’t ever find my way back to those skills but the way you explained everything helped build a bridge back to solid ground and I was able to carry myself with dignity in the interview and that has felt encouraging and amazing.”



Mental Health

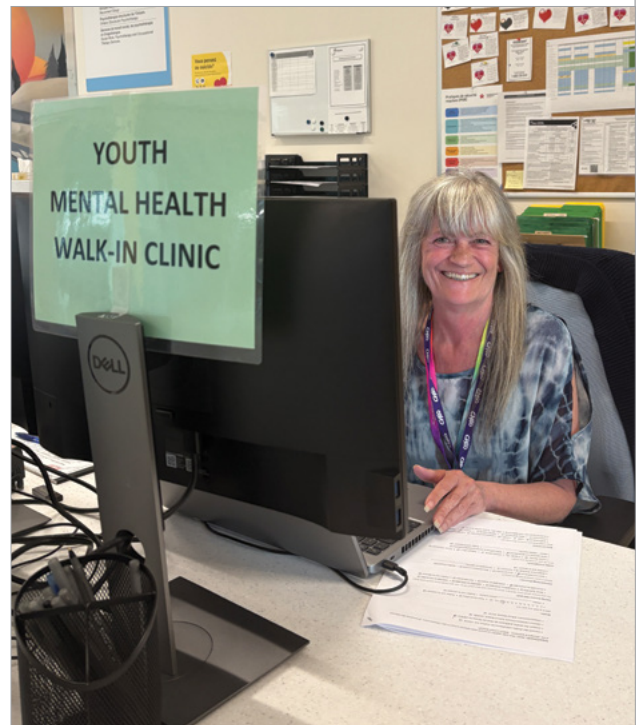
Over the past year, YSB's Mental Health department focused on strengthening access, expanding capacity, improving youth experience, building partnerships with community agencies and building a more trauma-informed continuum of care.

A key milestone was the \$62,500 one-time investment from the Ministry of Health and Ontario Intensive Treatment Pathway, which supported renovations in our residential treatment program, Step Up Step Down. Youth were actively involved in shaping the new design through selecting paint colours, artwork, and the dining room mural. This youth-centred approach reflects YSB's commitment to creating environments that are welcoming, therapeutic, and responsive for young people.

Most importantly, feedback indicates that youth are experiencing meaningful impact from our services. Youth described increased independence, stronger skills to manage life challenges, greater preparedness for next steps such as housing, education and employment, increased hope, and greater confidence in managing future challenges.

Youth reported overwhelmingly positive experiences with the program: in our participants survey, more

than 90% felt included in decisions about their care, and 74% reported positive outcomes or a positive, meaningful impact. Beyond these figures, youth also described a range of benefits, including increased independence, an improved ability to manage life challenges, and greater preparedness for next steps such as housing, school, and employment. Many also noted increased hope following participation, the development of new skills and knowledge, and greater confidence in managing future challenges.



Mental Health support: there when our participants need it

To fully accommodate the programming offered by our main Mental Health Hub on Bank Street, we expanded our office space. This warm and welcoming space is where we offer most of our Mental Health programs, both crisis and ongoing counselling programs. Members of the mental health team regularly attend public information events, to help spread awareness of YSB's services.

We were pleased to be able to put in place a full staffing complement of our Intensive Family Support (IFS) and Youth and Family Counselling Services (YFCS) teams.

Continual education is key to our work; our staff consistently work to improve their scope of practice, such as clinical staff being trained in Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP) modality. This is an evidence-based, attachment-focused treatment modality for youth who have experienced developmental trauma, abuse, neglect, or disrupted caregiving.

In March 2026, the mental health director presented the department's adoptions and responses to the Lead Agency's Coordinated Access review. The presentation outlined the work completed to date on the Lead Agency's recommendations, and it was met with very

positive feedback from both partners and funders. The Coordinated Access team now works on site with YSB's Mental Health team.

For the year ahead, programming of note includes YSB's recent partnership with the Ottawa Police Service, CHEO, and the Kids Come First Health Team to launch the Youth-focused Mobile Crisis Response Team (YCRT), a coordinated, community-based response to youth mental health crises. The YCRT pairs a specialized Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officer from the OPS Mental Health Crisis Unit with a member of YSB's Mobile Crisis Response team. Together, they respond to youth experiencing mental health crises across Ottawa, combining public safety expertise with youth mental health and social service supports in a single coordinated response.

“Bridges and the DBT Parent Workshop have both been instrumental in our lives. They were truly a game changer for our family and for our child. We are forever grateful.”





Youth Justice

This year, we invested in significant construction upgrades to our main facility, the William E. Hay Centre, to create a safer, more functional environment for both youth and staff. Improvements have modernized essential spaces, supporting better hygiene, comfort, and daily functioning. We also upgraded doors and locks throughout the facility, strengthening security while supporting a more controlled and predictable environment for residents.

To improve safety and security, we've introduced a body scanner to enhance how youth are screened. This technology allows staff to scan youth, reducing the physical and psychological intrusiveness of the

process. This change represents a further step toward more trauma-informed care.

We have enhanced our programming to deeply support the mental health needs of the youth in our care. To ensure that we are meeting the highest standards of specialized care, we are working with a Psychology Consultant to provide dedicated support for youth with complex needs. Alongside this clinical oversight, we have implemented strategic changes to our program, schedule, and privilege system, creating a predictable and therapeutic environment that fosters positive behavioural growth and emotional stability.

By combining specialized clinical consultation, structural program updates, and advanced staff training, we are building a robust framework that addresses the diverse and intricate mental health challenges of the youth we serve.

Education at YJ

We are incredibly proud of the educational achievements youth reached this year. Despite the challenges they face, several students demonstrated remarkable determination, successfully earning their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Altogether, our youth earned an impressive 265 credits.

Among these accomplishments, eight students from McHugh Education and two students from École le Transit completed their diplomas, with two more students from École le Transit on track to graduate soon. These milestones represent more than academic success, they reflect the perseverance, growth, and hope of young people working toward brighter futures.

We also undertook the Walls to Bridges Program, a unique partnership with the University of Ottawa that allows youth in our facility to earn university credits. Throughout the program, students collaborate to explore representations of justice and equality in popular culture, bridging gaps, and creating powerful shared learning experiences.

Tamarack Trades Training Centre

Our Trades Training Centre continues to grow as a hub of hands-on learning and skills development. The automotive program has been a particular highlight, giving youth the opportunity to build practical, real-world skills. Under the guidance of our passionate trades staff team, students have been learning automotive fundamentals, including tire changing, tire balancing, and brake changing.

We are also excited about the growth of our welding training. Our trades staff are working toward becoming fully certified trainers in welding processes through the Canadian Welding Bureau (CWB), and the Trades Training Centre itself is on track to become a credited CWB site. This achievement will allow us to offer youth recognized, industry-standard certification, opening doors to further education and employment in the trades.

Rounding out our programming, we launched a new plumbing program this year, giving youth another avenue to develop transferable skills.

Through engaging and interactive lessons, students are learning the fundamentals of plumbing in a hands-on environment.

We are looking forward to a new partnership with CAHDCO (Centretown Affordable Housing Development Corporation), through which our youth will build accessible benches and picnic tables for social housing and seniors' buildings.

Community Connection

YJ continues to build meaningful connections between youth and the community through a robust roster of programming with partners. The Ottawa Blues Soccer Program brought together Ottawa Police Service members and youth on the field, helping to break down barriers and build trust between young people and emergency services. Through a partnership with the Blue Jays Care Foundation, youth received equipment and coaching in baseball fundamentals, introducing some of the youth to the sport for the first time. Jaku Konbit delivered a Know Your Rights workshop, equipping youth with essential knowledge about their rights and responsibilities, while our revised Anger Management program gave participants practical tools for emotional regulation and conflict resolution.

Our ongoing programming ensures youth have consistent access to spiritual, cultural, and life-skills supports throughout the year. Bible Studies and Muslim Services provided space for spiritual reflection and community, while Wabano Indigenous Services offered culturally grounded programming rooted in Indigenous traditions and healing practices. The RAJO program, delivered by the Centre for Resilience and Social Development, continued its work supporting youth resilience. Our partnership with EBO delivered financial literacy education to help youth build a foundation for long-term stability.

This year, youth also had the opportunity to participate in a 10-week basketball mentorship program offered by Inspire the Great (ITG). The program integrated basketball skills development with mentorship-focused life skills training, blending athletic instruction with guided reflection and team challenges.

Growing and learning

Our Kickboxing Program offered youth another avenue for growth, rooted in the principles of sports-based crime prevention. The program gave young people a healthy outlet to channel their energy, manage intense emotions, and build positive relationships with peers and staff alike.

At both our Sherwood and William E. Hay facilities, youth can get hands-on experience through our gardening courses. As part of their school curriculum, students can earn a Green Industries school credit while learning practical gardening skills and growing their own fresh vegetables in a community garden. Youth were also able to learn about fishing at an early-

morning program at Sherwood, building confidence and enjoying the outdoors. Recreational opportunities remain a cornerstone of engagement as well, with staff versus youth games and evening basketball.

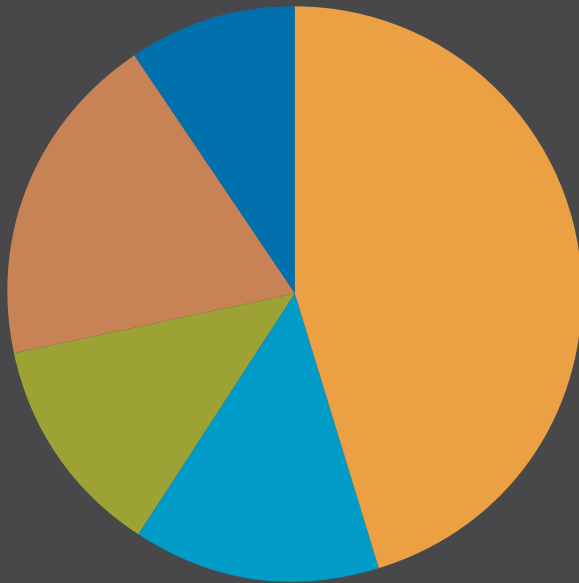
International collaboration

Finally, YJ successfully spearheaded the Canada-Mexico Collaboration 2018-2026 YSB Transition Program, a landmark international initiative designed to transform rehabilitative care for youth in conflict with the law. Spanning nearly a decade, this cross-border partnership has focused on exchanging best practices, developing evidence-informed reintegration models, and building safer communities through shared expertise.



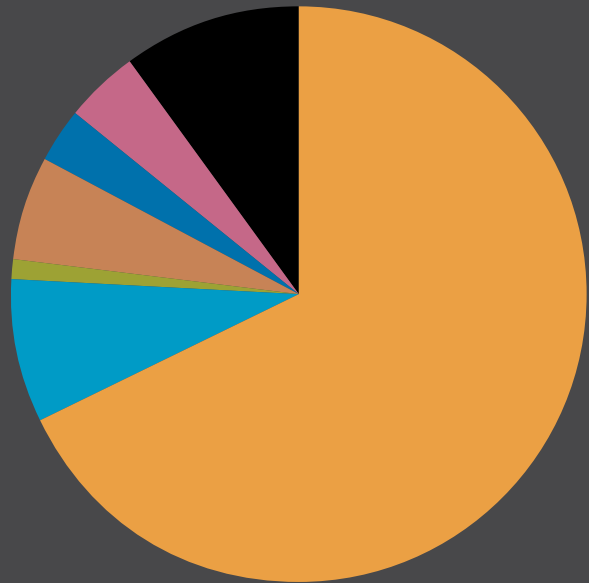
Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa

Fiscal 2025-26



REVENUE

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	18,050,011	41.79%
WCG Services	6,176,382	14.30%
City of Ottawa	5,662,461	13.11%
Ministry of Health	8,497,321	19.67%
Other	4,810,539	11.14%
Total	43,196,714	100%



EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	29,553,040	68.60%
Building Occupancy	3,308,616	7.68%
Travel and Communications	357,702	0.83%
Client Services	2,688,649	6.24%
Supplies	1,265,478	2.94%
Professional Services	1,719,017	3.99%
Administration	4,189,157	9.72%
Total	43,081,659	100%



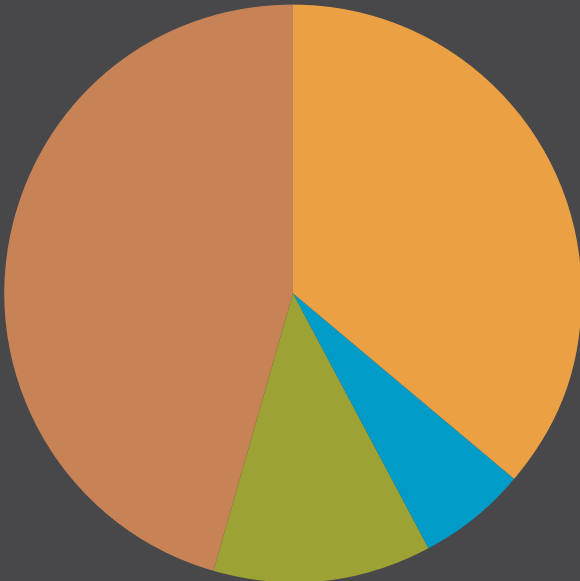
Charitable Foundation

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures 2025-26



REVENUE

Individuals	166,783	10.08%
Corporations	471,449	28.51%
Foundations	403,003	24.37%
Special Events	516,680	31.24%
Investments	95,889	5.80%
Total	1,653,804	100%



EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	606,550	36.42%
Special Events	97,254	5.84%
Other	203,412	12.21%
Designations to YSB	758,146	45.53%
Total	1,665,362	100%



Lead Agency

Strengthening Ottawa's Child and Youth Mental Health System

The Ottawa Lead Agency continues to strengthen our city's child and youth mental health system through investment in people, innovation in service delivery, and strong local and provincial system leadership.

This year, 571 Ottawa child and youth mental health professionals were trained through workforce capacity-building opportunities organized and funded by the Ottawa Lead Agency. This investment builds clinical capacity and supports the quality and sustainability of services for children, youth, and families across our city.

Building a new response for children and families involved with Children's Aid

YSB and partners also continued to refine and deliver the Children's Aid Society (CAS) Mental Health Pilot, in coordination with Prescott-Russell and Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry. What began as a new idea has grown into a collaborative model involving 16 partners in Ottawa, helping children and youth involved with CAS access the right mental health services sooner. Emerging evaluation findings are showing very positive impacts on child, youth, and family well-being, reducing reliance on crisis responses and helping families remain together and find stability.

“The pilot and services really showed up for me and my family. We have more gas in the tank to manage through difficult times and also feels better equipped, with more tools, to manage extreme behaviours.”

Leading a stronger local system

Beyond these initiatives, YSB continued its role providing local system leadership for Ottawa's child and youth mental health sector and at its intersections with health, education, child welfare, and other systems. This includes identifying emerging needs and system pressures, strengthening connections across sectors, and ensuring the needs of children, youth and families remain at the centre of system planning.

In practice, this leadership often looks like partners around a table tackling a shared challenge, bringing together different perspectives, expertise and resources, including the lived and living expertise of youth and families, partners sharing responsibility, and designing a better way forward together. It is through this collective work that we continue to build a stronger and more responsive child and youth mental health system for Ottawa.

Bringing Ottawa's voice to provincial system change

Our leadership also extends provincially. Through active participation in the Lead Agency Consortium, Lead Agency Community of Practice, and provincial planning tables, YSB brings Ottawa's experience, priorities, and system expertise into conversations shaping the future of child and youth mental health in Ontario. This year, that included contributing to the development of the Ontario Intensive Treatment Pathway, alongside broader provincial system planning, while also leading the local implementation of provincial priorities such as Infant and Early Mental Health pathway development. This role works in both directions: bringing the realities, needs and innovations of our local community to provincial conversations, while translating provincial priorities into meaningful local implementation. Through this work, YSB is not only responding to system change, we are helping to shape it.





YSB FOUNDATION

Message from Rebecca Murray, Chair, and Patti Murphy, Executive Director

At the Youth Services Bureau (YSB) Foundation, our Board and team members remain committed to championing the life-changing support YSB provides to local youth and their families. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our corporate allies, foundation partners, and community donors whose extraordinary generosity over the past year has helped fuel YSB's work. With thanks to our donor community, the YSB Foundation exceeded its fundraising goal, raising \$1.65M for YSB programs. This year, we crafted our new three-year YSB Foundation Strategic Plan to support YSB's new Strong Roots plan.

Our team continued its integrated fundraising program focused on corporate donations and grants, signature and third-party events, direct mail and email campaigns, and digital marketing and fundraising. At the centre of our work are the members of our donor community and their commitment to investing in YSB's work and in the young people who benefit from our programs and services.



A few key highlights from the year:

- Access to our inclusive youth shelters and housing buildings was made possible by our longtime partnership with The Home Depot Canada Foundation, CLV Group & InterRent, as well as support from Engel & Völkers Ottawa Central, TD Bank Group, several families and donor communities
- We rallied our corporate partners, families, Board members, colleagues and student teams to participate in the Coldest Night of the Year, YSB's 6th year participating. We exceeded our fundraising goal by 144% and engaged a record number of walkers, teams and volunteers. Heartfelt thanks to faculty and students of Sir Guy Carleton's culinary class who once again fed us well and volunteered with food service at the event.
- Vital mental health support for youth was made possible by generous contributions from valued partners the Senators Community Foundation, Bell Let's Talk, as well as several private family foundations and through third-party events.
- Our corporate and community partners also provided additional support to YSB and our clients through their volunteer commitments, including painting, gardening and baking projects, cleaning and baking days, and Holiday Season gift bag assembly to ensure youth residing in our housing buildings each enjoy a special holiday gift.
- Our generous community also showed youth how much they care by way of a range of in-kind donations, from new clothing, pajamas and flip flops to cleaning supplies, bedding, towels, toiletries, craft supplies, housing start-up kits as well as event tickets for youth and families to enjoy a special night out together. Special thanks to Home Depot, Langar for Hunger and SoxBox, Ashbury College, Fashion United, Pajama Patrol, Boom Savings, KPMG, Bank of Canada and so many others.
- YSB was a recipient of the Mayor's Gala as a key partner in the working group to end youth homelessness by 2030.
- Our 3rd annual RISE & THRIVE fundraising breakfast, welcomed 350 guests and raised close to \$350K for YSB's mental health services and other programs.
- YSB also benefitted from several initiatives celebrating International Women's Day, including being one of the recipient charities of She Shops Local KINDNESS International Women's Day luncheon.

- The Foundation continued to welcome generous support from a growing range of third-party events in support of YSB, including CLV's Mike McCann Charity Golf Tournament, 3rd annual Sip and Sound Adam Marc Bignell Fundraising event, the 4th annual On the Road to Mental Health walk, and She Shops Local's KINDNESS International Women's Day luncheon.
- The RBC Foundation, Ottawa Community Foundation and their donors, a private family foundation and other anonymous donors joined in to support YSB's Shelter Diversion Pilot Program.
- The Foundation's Youth Cabinet – renamed the Youth Ambassador Network – continues to bring together dynamic young leaders from local high schools to raise awareness and support for YSB's work. Members were engaged in creating, launching and executing a student run event called LUMOS focused on youth mental health awareness, and also joined in on the Coldest Night of the Year event along with sorting donated clothing and organizing a Success Boutique evening to distribute clothing to YSB clients and families.
- Our Young Professionals Network – a group of emerging leaders passionate about supporting and amplifying YSB's work with youth – reimagined its leadership and membership structure to focus on engagement, purpose-driven events and youth mentorship through our integration with our Youth Ambassador Network. Members participated in YSB events and volunteer initiatives, helped develop networking and fundraising opportunities, and rallied their personal and professional networks around YSB's work.

Inspired by YSB's impact, our Foundation Team and Board members believe our impact is best summed up by the young people we serve. Clara, a former client, recently told us: "I didn't realize how much I needed support, or how easy the process would be once I made that initial contact with YSB." She adds, "I want other young people to know that their stories matter. You are worthy of a compassionate ear, and a little support can be exactly what you need to move forward."





YSB'S ROOTS OF TOMORROW LEGACY PROGRAM

Plant something for generations to come.

A gift in your will can help Ottawa's youth thrive for generations to come.

If you have included YSB in your estate plans, or are considering it, we would be honoured to hear from you, thank you, and welcome you to the Roots of Tomorrow Legacy Program.

All conversations are confidential, with no obligation. To find out more or to chat with us, please email foundation@ysb.ca.

YSB Board of Directors

Tanya Gracie (Chair)
Gracie Governance Inc.

Michel Guilbeault (Vice-Chair)
University of Ottawa (retired)

Duane McNair (Treasurer)
Carleton University

Ellen Corkery-Dooher (Secretary)
PriceWaterhouseCoopers(Pw) Canada (retired)

Anne Lawson
Elections Canada (retired)

Robert Rheaume
CCSR Advisory Services Inc., BDO Canada (retired)

Yen Do
Algonquin College

Peter Lambertucci
Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Danielle White
Crown Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs
Canada

David Keneford
TTC Pension Plan

Maggie Rodrigues
Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness

Shawana Shaw
Pinecrest Queensway Community Health Centre

Adam Khimji
Innovation, Science and Economic Development
Canada

YSB Foundation Board of Directors

Rebecca Murray - Chair
Carleton University

Scott Lawrence
HealthCraft Products Inc.

Geoff Publow (Treasurer)
Myers Automotive Group

Martin Sampson
Canadian Parks and Recreation Association

Erika Falconer
Vinegroup

Maria McRae
Community Advocate, Lawyer, Former City Councillor

Balwinderjit Singh Kapoor
MDS Aero Support Corporation

Bobbi Faulkner - Co-Vice-Chair
ValueWerx

Stacey McMillan
QuantumShift and FamilyShift, KPMG

Robert Rheaume - Co-Vice-Chair
CCSR Advisory Services Inc., BDO Canada (retired)

Tanya Gracie, YSB Board Chair
Gracie Governance Inc.

Nina Gorka
CEO, YSB



CONTACT US:

 **613-729-1000**

 **INFO@YSB.CA**

**2675 QUEENSVIEW DRIVE
OTTAWA, ONTARIO
K2B 8K2**

YSB'S 24/7 CRISIS LINE:

 **613-260-2360**

 **TOLL-FREE FOR
EASTERN ONTARIO:
1-877-377-7775
CHAT.YSB.CA**

YSB CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

YOU CAN HELP US

MAKE AN IMPACT

 **613-729-0577 X 50262**

 **FOUNDATION@YSB.CA**

FOLLOW US:

  **YSB.BSJ**

YSB.CA