



JUNE 2018

# OUR YOUTH OUR FUTURE

## We're able to change young lives, because of YOU

Since 1960, the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa (YSB) has remained the largest, most comprehensive youth serving agency in Ottawa. Thanks to the support from caring community members like you, we've spent the past 58 years assisting young people between the ages of 12 and 24 in all corners of the city through services that respond to their diverse needs.

Our mission is to provide a safe, non-judgmental and accessible environment where youth can pursue their life goals and be encouraged in making informed decisions that better their lives. Each month, through more than 20 locations across the city, YSB serves over 3000 youth and their families in the areas of housing and homelessness,

mental health, employment, and youth justice. Through your generosity, we've empowered tens of thousands of young people to make choices today that can help them secure better tomorrows. **We change young lives every day – and, we couldn't do it without you.**

CONTACT US:

 613-729-1000

 FOUNDATION@YSB.CA

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**YOUTH  
SERVICES  
JEUNESSE**

“

At YSB, I got the support that I needed. If they couldn't help me, they could direct me to someone who could... They've been my family.

”



## You gave Karima a second chance

Just over a decade ago, Karima – a child at the time – and her mother arrived in Ottawa, new to Canada entirely. Their new surroundings challenged them to adapt, and it led them to their own challenges within their relationship. By the time Karima had reached adolescence, she found herself in constant conflict with her mother. “Constant fights made me feel like I didn't want to come home.”

As conflict continued to escalate with her mother, Karima was forced to leave home. She spent three long years sleeping on friends' couches, desperately trying to finish high school – her main priority. Finally, a concerned school counsellor suggested she contact YSB.

She was afraid, **but because of the help from people like you, YSB was able to intervene and help at a most crucial time in her life.** Karima came to YSB's Young Women's Emergency Shelter. For the first time in years, she had her own room. As her trust of YSB staff grew, she learned of a range of support services that could help her secure meaningful work, find long-term housing, complete her education, and much more.

“At YSB, I got the support that I needed. If they couldn't help me, they could direct me to someone who could... They've been my family.”

Karima moved to YSB's Long-term Housing, where she could live safely and independently in her own apartment.

“Mentally and physically it has helped me to do a lot. It has helped me to grow. YSB has helped me secure affordable housing. There is an understanding at YSB. People are always given a chance.”

Today, Karima happily lives alone in her own apartment, enjoys her full-time job, and in her free time, advocates for affordable housing options for homeless youth. **She's an example of what is possible, when people like YOU spread help and hope.** Karima's life has been profoundly changed by the pathway she's been able to take in life. YOU made it possible.



**DID YOU KNOW...** There are more than 1000 homeless youth in Ottawa every year. Your generosity moves them from the streets and into homes.

**HOW YOUR GIFTS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE:**

**\$45** provides one counselling and support session to a struggling youth

**\$65** provides a youth in our shelters with meals for one week

**\$100** provides one start-up kit for a once-homeless youth leaving our shelter

**\$500** provides a vulnerable youth with a warm and safe bed to sleep in

# What you're making possible this year

## YSB's new Supportive Housing Hub

Addressing youth homelessness must begin with shelter. It is impossible to address the other factors a young person may be experiencing if they do not have immediate and safe shelter. Unfortunately, there is a stark lack of affordable housing in Ottawa – especially for young people. That means that escaping youth homelessness is even more difficult when there is a shortage of accessible housing. With help from incredible donors like yourself, YSB remains dedicated to ending the cycle of chronic homelessness, and is taking action.

With support from community members like you, alongside the City of Ottawa, **YSB is honoured to announce a new Supportive Housing Hub for some of Ottawa's**



**most vulnerable youth.** In spring 2018, YSB began construction of a new 39 apartment residence that will offer safe and affordable housing to some of Ottawa's most vulnerable youth. Coupled with affordable housing options, the residence will also offer critical services – such as education support, employment support, counselling, and more – that are proven to help youth break the cycle of chronic homelessness for good. **Donors are making this critical program possible – thank you!**



## Donor Spotlight: Martin Sampson

Martin is a monthly donor, a volunteer Board member with the YSB Foundation, and a passionate supporter of youth in our community.

Martin's commitment to supporting at-risk youth began when he toured several YSB locations across the city several years ago. He quickly understood why YSB's work was so critical in our community. "On that day, I learned more about the challenges facing Ottawa's most vulnerable youth than I ever expected." says Martin about the experience. "When I told my family about YSB, we all agreed that we should get involved."

From the get-go, **Martin and his family believed they could make an impact in the lives of Ottawa's most vulnerable youth, and took action.** Martin joined the YSB Foundation Board of Directors in 2015, and became a monthly donor in 2016.

"Our family is very lucky. Life has been good to us and we feel that it is important to give back. We also love our city and have put down deep roots, so it is in our interest to help where we can." Martin explains. He and his family chose to become monthly donors with YSB because for them, it was simply the easiest way to give. "Plus, when I review my monthly credit card statement, I am reminded that there is much more to life than consumer purchases."

Martin and his family are helping to change young lives every single month. We're able to reach so many young people in need because of the incredible generosity from our YSB donor family. **Your gifts truly make a difference.**

# \$ Your dollars at work: Helping more youth through Innovation

In 2017, YSB proudly introduced a new service delivery model to be able to minimize wait times for youth accessing mental health programming, and to better serve them when they come through our doors. The Choice and Partnership Approach (CAPA) means YSB youth workers are directly working in collaboration with youth to determine

their specific goals, so **we can better connect them with the services they require to meet their needs, and do so much faster.** Thanks to your support and the implementation of CAPA, youth are experiencing shorter wait times to access services, and are at the centre of their own care.

## Ways to Support At-Risk Youth

### WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

VISIT: [YSB.CA](http://YSB.CA), CLICK DONATE

CONTACT: Savanna Schiavo, Fundraising Coordinator at 613-729-0577 ext. 1260 or [sschiavo@ysb.ca](mailto:sschiavo@ysb.ca)

MAIL: Send a cheque to the YSB Foundation, 2675 Queensview Drive, Ottawa ON, K2B 8K2

### VOLUNTEER WITH YSB

VISIT: [YSB.CA](http://YSB.CA)

### LEAVE A LEGACY THAT CAN CHANGE YOUNG LIVES FOR YEARS TO COME:

CONTACT: Patti Murphy, Executive Director, YSB Foundation at 613-729-0577 ext. 1262 or [pmurphy@ysb.ca](mailto:pmurphy@ysb.ca)

### BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

VISIT: [YSB.CA](http://YSB.CA), CLICK DONATE

CONTACT: Savanna Schiavo, Fundraising Coordinator at 613-729-0577 ext. 1260 or [sschiavo@ysb.ca](mailto:sschiavo@ysb.ca)



## A word from YSB Executive Director Joanne Lowe, to you

Thank you, for all that you do for Ottawa's young people. The lives of youth in our community are being changed for the better every day because people like you care so profoundly for them. Your support of YSB ensures no young person has to suffer alone; help is available, and hope is abundant. Thank you so much for giving Ottawa youth a second chance at a better life.

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