



OUR YOUTH OUR FUTURE

FALL 2019

Thanks to you, vulnerable youth are returning to school... and creating stronger futures for themselves

At-risk youth are graduating high school with your support

YSB's Youth Drop-In Centre is a street-front program located in Ottawa's downtown core which serves homeless, street-involved and high-risk youth. It offers a range of services and programs, including an Education Program that helps at-risk youth continue to pursue and complete their education. For many homeless and street-involved youth, completing their high school education can be an overwhelming obstacle when managing many other factors (e.g. securing safe housing and stable employment, mental health issues) in their lives. YSB's Education Program at the Drop-In Centre provides access to online curriculum as well as one-on-one, individualized education support to youth who wish to complete their outstanding credits.

This past year, 11 young people graduated from high school thanks to their hard work and the supports available to them within the Education Program.

This is what you've helped make possible. Eleven youth who were at risk of not completing their education had the chance to return and complete their high school diploma, opening up countless doors for them in the future – and there are countless more young people in the program who are studying and on their way to graduation still.

We're looking forward to this school year, and are expecting even more students to graduate and move forward on a path to independence – and adulthood.

You're Invited: One night to change a youth's life forever

Spend the night under the stars and change a life at YSB SleepOUT for Youth

On November 28, hundreds of community leaders, corporate teams and youth groups will gather together to spend the night sleeping on the field at The Stadium at TD Place for one important cause: to end and prevent youth homelessness in our community. Teams of friends, families and colleagues are fundraising to support YSB's programs and services that offer solutions to youth homelessness, such as our two emergency youth shelters – the only shelters for young people in the city.

Participants bring their own tents and warm clothing, and get ready for an evening unlike any other. The night is full



of fun activities, warm meals, and powerful presentations that celebrate all of the people in attendance who are so dedicated to helping homeless youth in Ottawa. Will you be one of them?

You can register for the event and join us on November 28. Visit sleepout.ysb.ca to register and create a team. For details, contact Desiree Rapoch, Events Coordinator at 613-729-0577 ext. 1245 or drapoch@ysb.ca

Young people are community builders

At-risk youth in Ottawa's Bay Ward area bring together their community to celebrate recreation, resiliency and community

YSB's West End Youth Motivators (WEYM) Youth Group is a youth-lead committee focused on the goal of empowering high-risk youth in Ottawa's Bay Ward area to make decisions that contribute to their community's well-being and their own personal development and futures. Through resources, mentorship, and guidance, youth leaders from diverse cultural backgrounds (supported by YSB youth workers) are making steady strides in improving the safety and wellbeing of youth in the community. Youth leaders—many of whom have been affected by violence in their community—develop leadership skills to then inspire other young people to build a strong, safe community.

That's why the annual Balling for Our Brothers Basketball Tournament is such a special event in the area. At this year's event, more than 250 community members

gathered together for basketball games, face painting, a hearty barbeque and an African dance showcase for kids. Community service providers also were present offering information about their services, as were our generous sponsors that helped bring this event to life through their support. **Opportunities like this remind at-risk young people that they are valued, recognized, and part of the community in which they live.**

Our community partners also remind them that this is true. Last year, the Ottawa Community Foundation funded the creation of the WEYM Young Women's Group – a youth group specifically created to empower and engage young women in the Bay Ward area. Thanks to their generosity, young women are receiving weekly, female-only programming that offers recreation, skill building, and peer support opportunities. Young women are building their confidence, accessing community resources, and empowering themselves and each other.



Hope is a place and our community partners are helping us build it

YSB was grateful to be selected as one of five charity partners at this year's Big Rig Brewery presents HOPE Volleyball Summerfest, held July 13th at Mooney's Bay. The tournament and concerts brought together thousands of community members who spent the day playing beach volleyball and enjoying live music – all in support of five local causes.

For YSB, support from the event will be directed to our new Youth Housing Hub currently under construction on Riverside Drive, directly across from Mooney's Bay. When it opens later this year, this new housing residence will welcome previously homeless youth and provide them with affordable housing as well as onsite services to help meet their physical and psychological needs. Support from HOPE will fund one of the 39 units in the building, with the room bearing the name HOPE Lives Here.

YSB was honoured to be part of this year's HOPE event, which celebrated its 37th year in operation. We appreciate all our partners and supporters who are helping to provide safe and supportive housing to vulnerable youth in Ottawa.

Thank you Big Rig presents HOPE Volleyball Summerfest, and to the volunteers, players, sponsors and supporters of this year's event!



These spaces matter, because homeless young people matter

Thanks to families like yours, new, accessible and affordable housing is becoming available to homeless youth. YSB is opening up the doors of our new Youth Housing Hub later this year, which will welcome some of Ottawa's most vulnerable youth. **The building will not only provide 39 newly constructed units, it will also offer youth a range of critical services on the main floor via the Youth Hub, generously sponsored by the Ottawa Senators Foundation, Bell Let's Talk, and the Danbe Foundation. Services will include mental health counselling, education support, employment support, and more.**

"Having a centralized place in the building where people live provides easy access, breaks down the anxiety of having to navigate the system and really refocuses the entire system on the youth." said Tyler, a YSB Peer

Supporter and former client, of the new building. He's learned first hand how impactful centralized services can be when young people are fighting to overcome and end homelessness. It's thanks to our many partners and caring donors that these services will be available.

As part of our Founding Families Program for the building, families, workplaces, and groups of friends have chosen to fund a room – a space that will offer youth a place to call home and room to grow. You can join them in making a lasting difference in the lives of homeless youth, and in our community. Learn more by visiting foundingfamilies.com or by contacting Patti Murphy, YSB Foundation Executive Director at 613-729-0577 ext. 1262 or pmurphy@ysb.ca



“I didn’t know how to ask for support. I’m so thankful help was available.”

Helima came to Canada when she was just a little girl. She grew up learning English and celebrating Canadian traditions, but she never knew how to ask for help.

Helima had suffered abuse at the hands of a family member, but shame and stigma within her culture kept her from speaking out.

For her own safety, she was forced to leave home, but quickly found a safe to sleep at YSB’s Young Women’s Emergency Shelter.

Just as importantly, she also received help to address the trauma she had experienced in an abusive home through YSB’s mental health programming. With your support and her hard work, Helima is finally safe, secure in herself, and happy.

Three ways to support at-risk youth this Fall

TIME:

Volunteer with us at **SleepOUT for Youth 2019 on November 28** and help us create change in our community by supporting programs and services that work to end youth homelessness in **Ottawa**. To volunteer, contact Jillian Deslippe, Volunteer Coordinator, at 613-729-0577 ext. 1228 or jdeslippe@ysb.ca

RESOURCES:

Feed homeless young people who need your help. **Fund a day, a week or a month of our Pantry Program, an on site food program located at our Drop-In Centre.** To support YSB’s Pantry Program, visit ysb.ca for more information or contact Savanna Schiavo, Fundraising Coordinator at 613-729-0577 ext. 1260 or sschiavo@ysb.ca

GOODS:

Youth in our programs are currently in need of brand new towels, storage bins and cleaning supplies. Have items you’d like to donate? Contact Savanna Schiavo, Fundraising Coordinator at 613-729-0577 ext. 1260 or sschiavo@ysb.ca

CONTACT US:

 613-729-1000

 FOUNDATION@YSB.CA

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