



Room to Grow

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TAGGART
-PARKES-
FOUNDATION

Moving Ottawa's homeless youth off the street and into safe, supportive and private shelters

Milo's Journey

Every year when I was little, I'd think "this will be the year that everything will be okay". And every year, I'd be crushed. By the time I was 18 I couldn't take my dad's drinking or my mom's crying anymore, so I packed a knapsack with the warmest clothes I had and I left. It was freezing cold, and I was alone...but I was free.

The next few months were rough and at times very scary. I spent nights in parks, doorways and even under bridges all with just an old sleeping bag a friend had given me. One night it was so cold that I walked until the sun came up, afraid that I would freeze to death if I slept.

It took me awhile to get over the embarrassment to start asking people for money. But, it was swallow my pride or stay cold and hungry. After two weeks of doing this I learned about YSB.

I didn't know it then but, in that moment, my life changed for the better. I got connected to YSB's Young Men's Emergency Shelter and my first night in the shelter I

slept 11 hours. I felt so safe and secure. I remember that moment clearly and I felt so hopeful

I now have my own apartment in one of YSB's long-term housing buildings, am attending college to become a graphic designer, and am working part-time to support myself.

"For the first time I can remember, I'm really excited about my future. Growing up I just thought about getting by one day at a time."

I hope my story conveys just how life changing it was for me to be able to access YSB's shelter during a really difficult time in my life. The team at YSB supported me every step of the way, and I'm grateful they were by my side. I hope you'll consider taking the opportunity to transform the life of another young person like me today.

Milo*

*While Milo's story is real his name has been changed to protect his privacy

The Reality for Homeless Youth

Upwards of 1,400 young people in Ottawa find themselves homeless each year

More than 60% of homeless youth have been physically or sexually assaulted

68% of homeless youth have at least one diagnosable mental health issue

Almost 50% of the homeless youth population have attempted suicide

40% of homeless youth identify as part of the LGBTQ2S+ community

YSB's 2 Youth Shelters

- The only two youth-dedicated shelters in Ottawa, staffed and operating 365 days of the year
- One young men's and one young women's shelter both with 32 private rooms and LGBTQ2S+ inclusive environments
- Both shelters typically operate above 100% capacity
- Youth at shelters have full access to other YSB supports, including mental health and employment counselling
- Weekly visits from youth workers help youth develop a plan to move towards independent living when they're ready
- Opportunity for youth, once independent, to move into one of four YSB long-term housing buildings
- Access to a YSB operated school and education centre.



Will you consider sponsoring a room at one of YSB's Shelters?

A gift of \$4,000 provides you with a one year sponsorship of a room at either one of YSB's Young Men's or Young Women's Emergency Shelters with an option to sponsor for multiple years.

We would be honoured to further explore this opportunity with you. For additional details, payment options or to confirm your sponsorship please contact Oliver Saner, Fundraising Coordinator. Cell: 613-600-6426 Email: osaner@ysb.ca

Gift Impact

Your sponsorship will ensure the young person living in your room has a safe, clean and comfortable place to stay. Some examples of how your funds will be used are:

- Deep cleaning of the living space
- Applying a fresh coat of paint
- Addressing any needed repairs such as flooring, walls, etc.
- Replacing any needed furnishings such as lamps, desks, beds, etc.
- Providing fresh, new bedding, pillows and a full toiletry kit at move in time for the room
- Costs associated with upkeep and replacement of the kitchenettes in transitional housing rooms

These activities are especially important during turnover periods when a young person has moved on to longer term housing and the room is being prepared for a new resident.

Recognition & Benefits

- Signage displaying organization, community group or family name outside shelter room for 1 year
- Yearly impact report
- Recognition on Social Media & YSB website
- Identification as room sponsor on YSB website
- Tour of shelter building where room is located as well as a social media toolkit to promote your support
- Recognition during YSB's Stay up Ottawa event on November 25th
- Invitation to Donor Appreciation Reception hosted at one of YSB's shelters
- First right of refusal for room sponsorship for future years

