

# OUR YOUTH OUR FUTURE

SUMMER 2024

## Finding Stability and Hope Through YSB: A Journey of Resilience

Before finding the Youth Services Bureau (YSB), life was uncertain and challenging for 18-year-old Olivier, who had recently arrived in Ottawa. Initially staying with a friend, it soon became clear that finding a stable place to live on his own would be difficult without a steady income. Struggling with limited finances, bills, and the pressure to move out of his friend's place, he wasn't sure where to turn.

A mutual friend mentioned YSB services, where Olivier was not only able to access a shelter room but also take a step towards a fresh start. Despite the challenges of navigating life in a new country, as well as language barriers, Olivier credits YSB staff whom he says were instrumental in helping him improve his English. Within months, Olivier was able to finish high school and secure a full-time job, allowing him to start saving for college. His dream is to study IT and also pursue opportunities in acting, passions he has already started exploring through various classes.

"I'm grateful to YSB staff who not only supported me at the shelter, they also helped me improve my English speaking skills and learn how to cook. All of these things together have made me feel confident as I gain more independence," says Olivier. Through his hard work and the support of YSB staff, Olivier has not only found stability but also a renewed sense of excitement and purpose for his future. Housing a young person is critical, not only for safety and shelter but for the opportunities that occur once housed.

Everything changes when you house homeless youth. It is THE opportunity to stop the cycle of homelessness into adulthood!

If you are interested in learning more about our shelter and housing programs, please reach out to Patti Murphy @ [pmurphy@ysb.ca](mailto:pmurphy@ysb.ca) for more information.

# Staff Spotlight: Bill Fenn



**Can you tell me a bit about yourself and your role at YSB?**

Family is important to me. I consider myself a family guy. To me nothing is more important than family and great friends. I enjoy playing golf and started to take up pickle ball. I love my two dogs – Hazel and Olive – two Miniature Weiner dogs. I enjoy TV and movies and summer is my favourite season. I am Assistant Director of Operations at Youth Justice in YSB. I am responsible for the Operations of both our open and closed custody facilities, managing the movement of youth in and out of our facility, the daily operations as well as the safety and security within the facility.

**What's your favourite part about working on the Youth Justice team?**

My favourite part is the team. Our staff team works tirelessly every day, and their dedication and commitment to supporting youth in whatever capacity they can is incredible.

**Is there a specific story about a young person you've worked with that stands out that you would like to share?**

I have worked with a lot of young people over my 35 years. I can't really highlight one particular youth or youth story as I reflect over the years. For me, it has been witnessing the success of youth within our program – whether it's someone getting their first high school credit, graduating from high school, or uncovering an interest in a trade through our Tamarack Trades Training Centre. For each young person, success means something different and just knowing that we have contributed to their success in some way is rewarding.

## Thanking you, our supporters!

Recently, we had an opportunity to thank our donors at a small reception at our one of our long-term housing buildings. Gathered in the onsite Community Kitchen at our Riverside housing hub, donors had the opportunity to hear from YSB staff and clients about how their support has impacted them. Donors also had the opportunity to

tour several units in the building and see for themselves the incredible value that purpose-built supportive housing provides to the 39 young residents – 6 of whom have young children. YSB's work – and our clients well-being – is deeply impacted by your support. Thank you and stay tuned for future donor appreciation events.



**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





## Join us for our 2nd annual RISE & THRIVE Fundraising Breakfast on October 17<sup>th</sup>!

Last fall we held our inaugural Rise & Thrive Breakfast event which raised funds for YSB's programs. This year, we're looking to grow the event as we bring together business and community leaders, supporters, partners and youth to support vulnerable young people aged 12 and older who access YSB for shelters, housing, life skills and compassionate support. While housed with us, youth can also access our mental health and employment services. Let's come together to help young people in our community grow stronger and healthier, and move confidently towards adulthood.

[ysb.ca/rise-and-thrive](http://ysb.ca/rise-and-thrive)

## Upcoming Events:

**September 25<sup>th</sup> Joint Estate Planning Session**  
**The Benefits of Including a Charitable Gift**  
**in Your Will.** Hosted by the Perley Health Foundation in partnership with Hospice Care Ottawa, the National Arts Centre Foundation, the Ottawa Food Bank, The Ottawa Mission, the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation, and the Youth Services Bureau Foundation.

**October 17<sup>th</sup> 7:30 – 9 am the Rise & Thrive Breakfast.** Join YSB's community of supporters for an inspiring morning of speakers, networking and impact

**November 28 – December 3 Stay Up Ottawa**  
Be a part of a movement – 5 Days 5 Ways. Help end youth homelessness.

**February 22, 2025 YSB participates in the National Coldest Night of the Year walk.**

Mark your calendar and join us in supporting youth accessing YSB's two shelters and four housing buildings.

Reach out to Rachel Lessard for details at [rlessard@ysb.ca](mailto:rlessard@ysb.ca)

## CRISIS CHAT AND PHONE SERVICE YSB IS HERE FOR YOU

24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by phone or online chat, YSB services are here to support young people in crisis as well as their families. Please share the following contact info far and wide. It just might save the life of a young person in our community.

**chat.ysb.ca**  
**613-260-2360** (Ottawa)  
**1 877-377-7775** (toll-free)

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

**\$500** provides a  
vulnerable youth with **one**  
**week of shelter, counselling**  
and **healthy meals**



# Corporate Partner Spotlight



A long-time partner of the YSB Foundation for more than 14 years, the RBC Foundation has invested more than \$700,000 in YSB's employment, mental health and youth justice programs. In addition to this transformational financial support RBC has also provided endless

volunteerism, in-kind support donations, profile in the community, employee gift matching and more.

As one of YSB's longest standing and most generous corporate partners RBC has stood alongside YSB in its mission to support Ottawa's most vulnerable young people and our work would truly not be possible without their support. RBC and YSB's decade+ long partnership has spanned many programs including employment programming, the mental health walk-in clinic and youth justice programming and seen the transformation of thousands of lives along the way.

YSB and the YSB Foundation extend their deepest appreciation to RBC and their Ottawa team members for their unwavering commitment and investment in the lives of Ottawa's most vulnerable young people.

## High School Students Supporting the Ottawa Community!

Do you know a young person looking for a creative and meaningful way to earn their volunteer hours? The YSB Foundation's Youth Cabinet is an excellent leadership development opportunity that allows youth to support other youth in their community. It's creative, fun, and rewarding!

By joining the Youth Cabinet, high school students will:

- Develop leadership skills
- Make a positive impact on their community
- Collaborate on exciting projects
- Build lasting friendships

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity! Learn more about the YSB Foundation's Youth Cabinet and how to get involved: [www.ysb.ca/ysb-foundation-youth-cabinet/](http://www.ysb.ca/ysb-foundation-youth-cabinet/)



CONTACT US:

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