



YWS Spring Newsletter

"Spring is upon us once again. Looking back, it has been one year since the world changed and YWS and those we support adapted right along with it. The residents we support have once again proven how resilient they are, adapting to ever changing rules and guidelines all while moving forward in their lives. The staff team at YWS joined these remarkable youth in this journey as we grew together.

Spring is always a reminder of the resurgence of life after a dark and cold season. It brings with it renewed hope for growth and beauty. I've always found it interesting how our minds do the same as if in rhythm with nature. Optimism and hope abound and we are re-energized. With that being said, I'm optimistic for our future, and for the futures of our resident youth. Throughout a year of trials and tribulations, the individuals we support here at Youth Without Shelter have continued with school, with work, and with their personal goals as they continue to strive for greatness. Spring brings a breath of fresh air, something that that we all need, and for our youth, I hope it brings them peace in knowing that they have accomplished so much over the past 12 months.

Despite the challenges of the last year I want to thank the amazing people who have supported our work here. The generosity of our donors, both corporate and private, as well the incredible foundations we have partnered with, remind me of the importance of the support of those who are the champions of the cause we are working toward. There are people behind every one of those donated dollars, each of them finding a way to show their support and their comradery with YWS and the youth who are given the opportunity to reach their full potential."

- Steve Doherty, Executive Director



YWS News

Together we have made change happen!

Time4Change Virtual



Throughout this year of challenges, we have proven that our community could still “come together” to make change happen. Although we were unable to join together physically for T4C Day, we were able to inspire our community to help us make a difference through art activism and online fundraising. We are so grateful to everyone who donated to the cause this year as we strived to reach our goal of \$60,000 for our wrap around supports and programming here at Youth Without Shelter.

After the completion of our Peer to Peer fundraising campaign on Canada Helps, our Text-to-Give campaign, and other online fundraising and donations to the shelter in support of T4C throughout the month of February, we were able to raise **\$105,833** this year – the most we have ever raised within the Time4Change event to date!

We would like to thank all of the local schools and artists who joined us throughout the month of February for our T4C virtual art activism performances. You really helped to create something special this year as we raised awareness about the realities of youth homelessness across the GTA. Not only did you raise awareness, educating people about the difference they can make, but you also provided hope for those who may be struggling with homelessness themselves. If we all just take a second to listen, to learn, and to take action, change can happen! We can all make a difference in some way to help end homelessness within our communities. From all of us here at YWS, we are forever grateful for your support, and hope to see you again next year as we continue to work together to end youth homelessness.

Together, we have made change happen!
Thank you



“Time4Change could not have been made possible without our corporate sponsors who supported this virtual event by raising awareness, engaging their employees, and donating funds. We would like to thank all of our sponsors for sharing our vision to end homelessness one youth at a time, one step at a time.”

-Director of Philanthropy, Monika Fox

Youth Spotlight

Time4Change youth helping youth

Our top youth fundraiser helps spread awareness and make change happen!



“Time4Change began as Tokens4Change (T4C) as a third-party fundraising event in 2010. Scott Parish, a student volunteer with YWS and later a YWS Board member, alongside co-founders Salar Javid and Meggie Lyness-Javid, saw a need with the youth we support and decided to join together to spark change. Scott, Salar, and Meggie were struck by how something so small like providing transit fare could have such a positive impact on the lives of homeless youth. With family, friends, and a YWS community partner, Project: Humanity, Scott envisioned an experience to engage youth supporting youth.

Time4Change has evolved over the years, but the core values of this movement have never changed. Time4Change creates an opportunity for youth and students within our communities to learn about the realities of youth homelessness, and take a stand to raise funds and support their peers who may be in need of a safe place to call home.

This year, we were thrilled to have so many young art activism artists join the cause to spread the word about T4C and inspire others to act. Alongside these artists, we also saw some local youth join our Peer 2 Peer Fundraising platform on Canada Helps to raise funds to support the cause. Among these P2P fundraisers was a very special youth who got a lot of media attention this year as she raised funds to end youth homelessness!

Leah, one of our top T4C fundraisers, was featured in Toronto.com, CP24, and Global News and spoke about how she decided to raise funds for a cause this year in honour of her Bat Mitzvah. Leah was able to raise nearly \$12,000 for T4C!

Leah, you have been an inspiration to so many youth this year with all your efforts in making change happen. Thank you for helping us spread the work about the realities of youth homelessness, and inspiring others to learn more and give to those in need. The funds you’ve raised will go directly to our wrap around programs and supports here at YWS, helping our youth on their journey’s to find safe and affordable housing. From all of us here at YWS – THANK YOU!”

- Brittany Bateman, Communications and Marketing Manager YWS



YWS Supporter Spotlight

Throughout this past year, YWS has been extremely grateful for all the support we have received from our community. If not for our donors and supporters, it would have been near impossible for us to provide the care needed for the youth we serve. Thank you to everyone who has reached out over the past 365 days around the sun to see how they could help our youth - from meal drop-offs to donating goods, we are so grateful for your support.

Below are just a few of our YWS supporters who have made an impact over the past year...

It Takes A Grandmother

It Takes A Grandmother (ITAG) is a group of women dedicated to improving our communities. The co-sponsor Musical Stage Company's annual



concert UNCOVERED: NOTES FROM THE HEART.

Each year they select a charity that benefits from the concert's proceeds and this year, YWS was fortunate enough to be their charity of choice. They raised \$21,200 in support of our programs and services.

Chef Keith

Chief Keith is a long time supporter of YWS. He will frequently reach out to provide our kitchen with meals, ingredients, and anything else we may be in need of. One of our kitchen's favorite donations is almond butter which is added to most baked goods "to add that extra oomph" as our kitchen staff will tell you!



Eleonora Cardinale

Eleonora is a school teacher who teaches lessons on cooking healthy and affordable meals. She has been making meals for the YWS youth multiple times a month since November. If there was any time that YWS needed help to feed our residents, she has been the first to offer her expertise and provide healthy nutritious options.

Pragya Gupta & Naveen Aggarwal

Pragya & her husband Naveen have been donating to YWS for the past 10 years. This donor team is very popular around YWS as they are known for their monthly donations of 100 delicious samosas! A YWS favorite among residents (and staff!) these samosas are a wonderful treat and tend to fly out of our kitchen fast! Thank you Pragya and Naveen for a decade of deliciousness! We are so grateful for your support.

Merle Pereira & The Outreach Group

Merle and "The Outreach Group" have been donating to YWS for 3 years. At the end of each month YWS receives snacks from The Outreach Group and we host a games night at YWS for the youth. Since COVID began, this group has donated twice a month. Providing more than just snacks, they provide a special night for our residents to look forward to.

"Thank you very much to all of our YWS donors and volunteers. Although we eagerly await the return of volunteers into YWS we are happy to continue to work together offsite to help support the youth here. Without the endless dedication of our meal donors we could not continue to do the work that we do for the youth living here. Springtime not only brings change of the seasons but an excitement for warmer weather and fun outdoor activities. I cannot wait for more BBQ's and friendly pickup sport games to return once more."

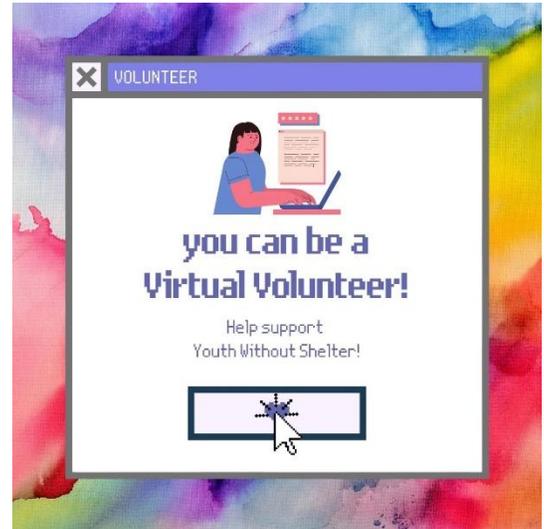
-Anastasia Kemp, Volunteer and Engagement Specialist

Virtual Volunteering

Due to various protocols throughout the pandemic, YWS has continued to keep our doors closed to on-site volunteer opportunities to keep our staff and residents safe. Our YWS community of supporters and volunteers have been reaching out with creative ways to give back, organizing meal drop offs and creating kits for youth off site, and we very excited to launch our new list of virtual volunteer opportunities!

Some of our new virtual opportunities include:

- *Meal drop offs -breakfast, lunch dinner (don't forget dessert!)*
- *Create craft kits for youth*
- *Recipe writer for our past residents*
- *Inspirational artwork for youth and front-line staff*
- *Creative writing for the cause*



For more information, please contact Anastasia at: akemp@yws.on.ca or 416-748-0110 ext. 39

Get Involved

BECOME A DONOR

Financial Donations	DONATE ITEMS:
YWS Gifts	Food
Monthly giving	New Clothing
Legacy giving	Hygiene Supplies
Roommates Program	Meals

FINANCIAL DONATIONS, MEDIA & SPONSORSHIP:
416-748-0110 ext. 26
communications@yws.on.ca

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Youth4Youth (Y4Y)	OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS:
Corporate partnerships	Onsite and Offsite

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & DONATED ITEMS:
416-748-0110 ext. 39
volunteer@yws.on.ca

JOIN/PLAN AN EVENT

Community Events	YWS EVENTS:
Plan your own event (third party fundraisers)	Cover Me Urban & Time4Change

FINANCIAL DONATIONS, MEDIA & SPONSORSHIP:
416-748-0110 ext. 26
communications@yws.on.ca

BOOK AN EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM AND YOUTH & PHILANTHROPY PROJECTS:
416-748-0110 ext. 62
education@yws.on.ca

Spring Greatest Needs

PLEASE NOTE

All donations **MUST** be scheduled ahead of time to coordinate a safe drop off at the shelter to align with our COVID-19 protocols.

For all donation inquiries and donation drop off scheduling, please contact **Anastasia** at **akemp@yws.on.ca** or **416.748.0110 x 39**.

Thank you for your cooperation!

CALL FOR DONATIONS!

YWS needs your help to support our youth this spring season!

We are currently accepting financial support and **NEW** spring items for our youth:

- Flip flops
- Sweatpants and Hoodies
- Underwear
- T-Shirts
- Shorts
- Athletic wear
- Paper towel
- Toilet paper
- Duffle bags



View full list at YWS.ON.CA

For more information, please contact

Food Donations: Anastasia at 416-748-0110 EXT.39 or akemp@yws.on.ca

Financial Donations: Lisa at 416-748-0110 EXT. 36 or lhayman@yws.on.ca



We're all in this together

Due to limited storage space and cleaning facilities, we are **not** able to accept used or gently used clothing