



MAY 2026

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## OPENING DOORS SINCE 1986

For 40 years, Youth Without Shelter has been opening doors for youth across the GTA and beyond. It's because of you, our donors, volunteers, and supporters, that we can continue our mission to empower youth facing homelessness.

Together, we've helped young people finish school, find employment, secure safe, stable housing, and build meaningful connections within their communities. Every step forward is a testament to what's possible when compassion meets action.

We are so grateful to every donor, volunteer, partner, and supporter who has been part of this journey. Because of you, we've been able to walk alongside incredible young people as they navigate challenges, discover their strengths, and create brighter futures.

Our youth are resilient. They are driven. We are honoured to support them as they rise to greatness.

Thank you for helping us open doors for 40 years and counting!



# YWS REIMAGINED

MONIKA FOX - DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY

As of April 1, YWS is changing how we deliver programs and services to our youth. Our new model is grounded in respecting each youth's individual journey, strengthening collaboration, and increasing accountability. Each youth will now be supported by one Primary Case Manager who guides them throughout their entire journey with us.

Our wrap-around supports will no longer sit under four separate pillars, but instead operate as one integrated approach. This is an exciting shift that allows us to better support our youth and promote shorter, more productive stays with our organization.



## 2026 - 2031 STRATEGIC PLAN

The past fiscal year has been an incredibly exciting period of growth and transformation. We developed new Standard Operating Procedures, finalized our 2026–2031 Strategic Plan, and reimagined and restructured how we deliver services to the youth we support. Our objective is clear and purposeful: to lead the way in delivering wrap-around supports for youth facing homelessness, to shorten their time in the shelter system, and to help them transition into stable, independent living equipped with the skills they need to thrive. In doing so, we also create greater capacity within our shelter so that more youth can benefit from our services.

The coming fiscal year will be one of our busiest yet as we continue to implement and refine these changes and move forward with exciting initiatives, including a capital campaign outlined in our new Strategic Plan. As we reflect on this progress, we are deeply humbled by the unwavering support of our community, donors, and volunteers. None of this would have been possible without you. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

# LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

As Youth Without Shelter marks 40 years of opening doors, we are proud to share an exciting new chapter in our organizational growth. Our recent restructuring reflects our continued commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the youth we serve and strengthening the support we provide every day.

We are pleased to celebrate three team members stepping into new leadership roles.

## **Zung, Primary Case Manager Team Lead**

Zung will support and guide our case management team, helping ensure consistent, individualized care for youth as they move through their journey.

*"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." This perfectly captures the spirit of YWS as we embrace these new changes."*

## **Moe, Director of Programming**

Moe will oversee day-to-day operations, ensuring our programs continue to grow alongside the needs of the youth we support.

*"I am really excited about the changes. Our youth and their needs continue to grow, so we must be willing to grow with them. I see it as our responsibility to meet evolving needs with evolving care."*

## **Ben, Director of Operations**

Ben will provide strategic leadership, guiding YWS into its next phase while building on our 40-year foundation.

*"Celebrating 40 years of dedicated service is both an honour and a call to action. It invites us to build upon a legacy of compassion with bold, strategic intent, ensuring our programs continue to evolve in ways that empower, uplift, and transform the lives of the youth we serve."*

Please join us in congratulating Zung, Moe, and Ben on their new roles as we continue opening doors for youth together.



# YOUTH UPDATE

Over the past few months, youth at YWS have been exploring new experiences, building skills, and creating meaningful memories together.

From getting hands-on with clay in a pottery workshop led by Saena of Simurgh Ceramics to learning new recipes and confidence in the kitchen through cooking classes, there has been no shortage of creativity and growth! Youth also enjoyed a visit to the Kortright Centre for Conservation for the Maple Syrup Festival, experienced the magic of Pinocchio thanks to the National Ballet of Canada, and connected with horses through the Equine Experiential Connection program at LongRun Thoroughbred Retirement Society in Hillsburgh, Ontario.

These moments go beyond activities – they help youth build confidence, discover new passions, and feel a sense of belonging. We're so grateful to our community partners who help make these opportunities possible. We're so excited to explore our community this Spring!



Equine Experiential Connection program



Maple Syrup Festival



Lessons in the YWS kitchen



Pottery class

# CORPORATE WORKSHOPS

## LOOKING FOR A MEANINGFUL WAY TO ENGAGE YOUR TEAM WHILE MAKING A REAL IMPACT?

Get your company involved in our fight to end youth homelessness!

Our Educational Outreach Program offers interactive, eye-opening workshops that help corporate teams understand the realities of youth homelessness in the GTA.

We'll dive into:

- The size and scope of the issue
- Common myths and harmful stereotypes
- The lived experiences of youth navigating homelessness
- How your organization can drive change in your community



Together, we can end youth homelessness in Canada - one conversation at a time. Support our mission. Be part of the change!

**Contact our Educational Outreach Manager, Anastasia:**

416.748.0110 ext. 39 | [education@yws.on.ca](mailto:education@yws.on.ca)



**YOUR TEAM.  
THEIR FUTURE.**



# DONATIONS NEEDED

- LOTION



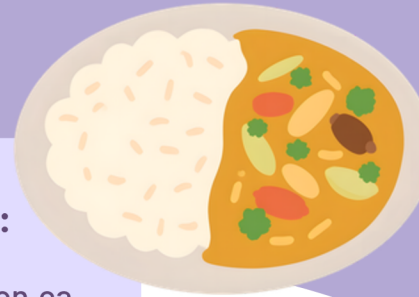
## CALL US FOR MORE INFORMATION

Gifts in Kind Donations & Volunteering:  
416-748-0110 EXT. 62 or  
varagi@yws.on.ca

Financial Donations:  
416-748-0110 EXT. 26 or  
communications@yws.on.ca

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- CHEF FOR A DAY
- MEAL DROP-OFFS



# YOUR IMPACT

**\$50**

SHELTER AND FOOD FOR ONE YOUTH FOR ONE NIGHT

**\$100**

NEW BEDDING AND PILLOWS FOR ONE YOUTH

**\$245**

ONE WEEK OF SAFE SHELTER

**\$1,000**

HELP SUPPORT YWS YOUTH ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL JOURNEYS TO GREATNESS

ADOPT-A-BED  
MONTHLY GIVING

