

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## LET IT SNOW

MONIKA FOX - DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY

Through frosty window glass, we are reminded that winter is fully here, even in the GTA. Some days are beautifully white and quiet. Other days are grey and slushy. We are proud Canadians: we bundle up, grab our Tim's, and wait for the sun to come back out. In many ways, that is winter at YWS. There is much to celebrate and much to push through. If you ever have the chance to visit us, and I hope you do, you will see just how deeply committed our team is.

Over the past three months, our shelter was almost always at full capacity (53 beds). Our emergency program welcomed 24 new youth seeking a safe place, and we helped 17 residents move into stable housing. Our team supported 13 youth in finding employment and distributed 84 food packages to former residents. We provided 513 hours of case management support and 204 mental health counselling sessions.

All of this makes the gloomy, slushy days brighter. On those days when youth are reminded that this bed and this home are temporary, when they miss family, friends, and having a place of their own, they also know they are surrounded by people who care. This year, snowflakes were also inside our shelter. We decorated windows with snowflakes bearing our donors' first names, so our youth could see just how many people hold them in their hearts. Because of you, they experienced a peaceful holiday season filled with laughter and gifts. Because of you, there is now a lively Monopoly game around the dining room table each day. Because of you, some of our residents stepped onto the ice and skated for the very first time.

Thank you for turning slush into snow, for turning gloom into light, and for keeping true community warmth alive in our shelter. From our home to yours, we hope our snowflakes touch your hearts too.



Warrendale Location



Snowflake Wall

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONIKA FOX - DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY

While many people book winter vacations during the holiday season, and rightfully so, our philanthropy team is working around the clock. This time of year is our busiest. In November and December alone, we raise approximately half of our annual revenue.

I cannot thank our donors and volunteers enough for making this season our most successful yet. This year, **12 benefactors** stepped forward to support our matching campaign. Together, with your generosity, we raised **\$772,917** through our Home for the Holidays campaign.

What makes this initiative especially meaningful is how it inspires giving beyond the campaign itself. I am thrilled to share that in just the last two months, a total of **\$1,490,874** was raised in support of YWS.

Every donation, whether large or small, truly matters. Every volunteer who prepares a meal or helps sort supplies makes a real and lasting difference. You are the heart of YWS. Thank you for caring so deeply about your community, our shelter, and the youth we serve.

## MONTHLY DONOR TAX RECEIPTS

Thank you again to all our monthly donors: your regular contributions provide crucial, ongoing support for the day-to-day expenses and program costs within YWS, and we are extremely grateful.

Tax receipts for all monthly donations made in 2025 have been emailed (and in a few instances, mailed via Canada Post). If you have not yet received your tax receipt, please check your junk or spam folders. If you still cannot find it, reach out to **Heather McGowan**, [developmentadmin@yws.on.ca](mailto:developmentadmin@yws.on.ca) or **(416) 748-0110 ext. 37**, and Heather will be pleased to send you a duplicate copy.

# THANK YOU TO OUR HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERS

VARAGI NATKUNASEELAN - VOLUNTEER AND GIK SPECIALIST

The holiday season at YWS is one of our busiest and most meaningful times of the year, and it simply wouldn't be possible without our incredible volunteers. From giving your time to supporting our GIK holiday sorting to preparing meals as part of our *Chef for the Day* program, your efforts truly made an impact.

To our community groups, corporate groups, and individual volunteers who lent a helping hand, your compassion and holiday spirit made a real difference for the youth we serve.

Thank you for stepping up during the busiest weeks of the year and for being such an important part of the YWS community. I am deeply grateful for everything you do in support of our community.



Team Depot



Cintas



Mother-Daughter Duo



Stott HVAC Systems Inc.



# 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)





# DONATIONS NEEDED

- LOTION
- SHAVING PRODUCTS



## 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**

