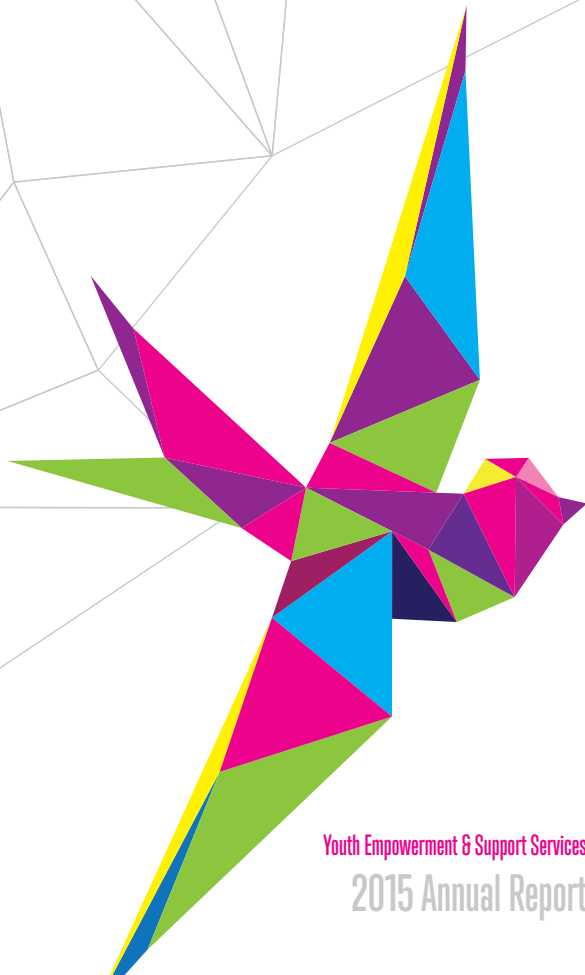


YES Calendar  
2015-2016



Youth Empowerment & Support Services  
2015 Annual Report



## Core Purpose

Empowering youth from difficult realities.

## Core Commitment

YES is a relentlessly dedicated not-for-profit organization that shapes the future of Edmonton by supporting youth facing difficult realities.

YES offers distinctive and invaluable services through a variety of channels that range from immediate emergency shelter to ongoing support programs and individual guidance.

## Message from the Executive Director and Board Chair

This past year has been one of the best yet. We've seen many positive changes in the way our kids self-regulate their emotions and respond to difficult situations, largely through our continued implementation of Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) and the dedication of our program staff to connecting, empowering, and building relationships with each of them. We successfully balanced our budget and have been blessed with many renovation projects completed by wonderful community groups.

But it wasn't all smooth sailing and sunny skies.

Last June, after funding shortfalls, we heartbrokenly announced the closure of our Armoury Resource Centre (ARC) to our kids. We were devastated.

ARC is an essential puzzle piece in keeping our kids off the street and safe during the day. It plays home to some of our most used services. It's where our kids get access to computers and help with their resumes, where they learn how to cook, get hot meals, showers, and a change of fresh clothing. They get access to a doctor and addictions counsellor, and dedicated workers to help them achieve their goals. It's where they have a support system to help them navigate life's challenges. And most importantly, it's where they get to just be kids.

We worked relentlessly to restore the program's function. After six months being closed, a generous contribution from Homeward Trust allowed us to announce that ARC would reopen and we couldn't be happier to have it once more running at full capacity.

As we took a look at our budget and the deficit we were running, we were faced with considering whether we should compromise our commitment to the 70% of our kids who are homeless and at-risk — but don't have a file with Child & Family Services — in order to fit the various "funding boxes". We couldn't do it. Staying true to our core purpose of meeting kids exactly where they are at, we decided that we'd continue to work diligently to keep our doors open to all of the youth who need us.

Over the past year we've also gone through an agency restructure. New positions were created, some positions changed, and others were eliminated. Some of the changes were tough! But we persevered! We are more fully-staffed than we have been in a long time, and can say that the agency reorganization has positioned us to better serve our youth and provide them with the resources they require.

Reflecting back on a time when we feared these new changes, we are now able to smile. We're proud of the fact that, just like our youth do every single day, we rose to each challenge that the last year brought our way — and overcame all of them.

Our growing pains seem to be over and we are running like a well oiled machine, and that's a good thing because we've got a lot of kids to help.



**Deb Cautley**  
Executive Director



**René Cloutier**  
Chair, YESS Board of Directors



## Donor List

YESS is blessed with many friends in the community who believe it is imperative to provide shelter, support, and love to at-risk and homeless youth. The support of these families, individuals, and businesses enables YESS to give hope to kids who are alone, scared, and vulnerable. We have far too many generous supporters to ever list them all, but we would like to extend special thanks to the following people and organizations for being some of our greatest contributors in the past year.

- 41 Service Battalion
- Don Adams
- Alta-Fab Structures Ltd.
- ATCO EPIC
- Rick & Shannon Arndt
- Beresh Aloneissi O'Neill Hurley O'Keeffe Millsap
- Blush Lane Organic Market
- Boston Pizza
- Brookfield Residential (Alberta) LP
- Dave and Gwen Burroughs
- Canadian Western Bank
- Chemco Electrical Contractors Ltd.
- City & Dinner Television
- Lisa and René Cloutier
- Collin Bruce Mortgage Team
- Collins Steel
- Cowan Imaging Group
- CPI Carlson
- Crystal Glass
- Dacro Industries Inc.
- DynaLIFE<sub>DX</sub>
- Eddie's Men's Wear Ltd.
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- Enbridge Pipelines Inc.
- EPCOR
- Peter & Cathy Faiazza
- Frank J. Flaman Foundation
- Edmonton International Airport
- Eldon & Anne Foote Fund
- Shirley & Gordon Gifford Family Fund
- Go Auto
- Edward Graham
- Keith & Laura Graham
- Grasschopper Landscaping
- Muriel Hole
- Homeward Trust Edmonton
- The Home Depot Canada Foundation
- Impark
- Inland Audio Visual
- Ja-Co Welding & Consulting Ltd.
- John Brooks Company Limited
- K-97 (Newcap Radio)
- Kingsway Toyota
- La Maison Simons
- McCoy Global Inc.
- Nordic
- OML Construction
- One Step Beyond Photography & Video
- Pattison Outdoor Advertising
- REALTORS® Community Foundation
- River City Events
- Rotary Club Edmonton Strathcona
- The Sherlock Holmes Hospitality Group
- Sonic 102.9
- The Ed Stelmach Community Foundation
- The Stollery Charitable Foundation
- TELUS Corporation
- Trailblazer RV Centre Ltd.
- WAM Development Group
- York Realty Inc.

# 2015 June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3 BOMA Golf Tournament	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 CAT Deployment Police Event June 10-13	11	12 Homeless for a Night	13 River Valley Revenge Marathon
14	15	16	17 Summer Garden Party at Shanoa's Place	18 Ramadan	19	20
21 Father's Day Summer begins National Aboriginal Day	22	23	24 YESS Annual General Meeting	25	26 Sawmill Charity Golf Classic	27
28	29	30				



*"YESS is a wonderful place and everyday I'm learning new things. I am so grateful for their services. After rehab they took me in with open arms, no problem. When I thought I had nobody or nothing, there they were all along. They have given unfortunate youth like myself hope! And I'm greatly appreciative of the community and it is so beautiful to know how many loving hearts are out there that donate. My heart is truly baffled by what we have here."  
— YESS youth*

## Did you know?

An estimated 25–45% of homeless youth are LGBTQ2S youth. Collaboration with groups such as ISMSS and the Pride Centre of Edmonton, as well as mentorship from Dr. Kristopher Wells and Dr. Alex Abramovich has helped YESS create safe spaces and inclusive programming for youth of all genders and sexual orientations.

2015  
July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Canada Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Taste of Edmonton Jul. 16–25	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 International Self-Care Day	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



## The Nicest Shelter

"A new client told me this morning that he stayed at Nexus last night for the first time, and that it was the nicest shelter he has ever been in! He had been hitchhiking from Montréal, and we have the best shelter. What a nice thing to hear! When I told him that ARC also served lunch and dinner his eyes lit up; he was thrilled. I must say, I agree with him, we ARE the BEST!"  
— Claire, Creative Facilitator

Did you know?

Youth make up about 20% of the homeless population. Our Nexus emergency shelter, which has 24 beds, is at capacity more than 80% of the time.

# August 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3 Heritage Day	4	5	6	7	8 Art Estate Show
9	10	11	12 International Youth Day	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Edmonton Air Show Aug. 21–23	22 Edmonton Marathon Aug. 22–23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 International Overdose Awareness Day					

Feels Like Home

*"It is the room I always dreamed about since I was a little girl."  
— YESS youth*



## Did you know?

It takes 120 gallons of paint to cover the interiors of YESS' buildings. Last year a team of volunteers from Lowe's spent two days painting and redecorating all the kids' bedrooms at Shanoa's Place and furnished the rooms with new desks, chairs, and laundry hampers!

# 2015 September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3 YESS Charity Golf Classic	4	5
6	7 Labour Day	8	9	10 World Suicide Prevention Day	11	12
13 Rosh Hashanah	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Annual EIA Charity Golf Tournament	22	23 Yom Kippur Autumn begins	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

"While staying at YESS I went through a tough period of my life, where my brother committed suicide. I was depressed, and angry at everyone, and I came very close to following in his footsteps on several occasions. The staff saw that I was having problems, and made every effort to get me all the help I needed, and are the only reason that I am still here today."  
— Former YESS youth



Did you know?

Suicide attempts among street-involved youth are 10.3 times the national average for Canadian youth.



# 2015 October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3 A Night with Bobby Curtola, Redco Fundraiser
4 Mental Illness Awareness Week	5	6	7	8	9	10 World Mental Health Day
11 International Day of the Girl	12 Thanksgiving	13	14 First of Muharram	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween



## Princess Moment

*"Our dear girl got up just after 8 a.m. and really wanted to share some girl time with me, as she had an amazing shopping experience last night discovering some really beautiful dresses upstairs in the donation room. One particular dress was a fuchsia pink, princess prom dress that she was really touched by, so she raced into her room, dressed up like a princess, and twirled around in celebration of how it made her feel — so radiant and worthy and beautiful as a woman. She has always wanted to be a "princess" as a young girl, and this dress certainly gave her that chance. She was glowing."  
— Olivia, Navigator*

**Did you know?**

More than 68% of our youth reported being physically, sexually or emotionally abused by an adult at some point in their lives.

# 2015 November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 Daylight Saving Time ends	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Remembrance Day	12	13 National Philanthropy Day	14
15 National Addictions Awareness Week	16	17	18 Christmas Tea at ARC	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	Family Violence Prevention Month				



"Today and once a week I will be going to a young mom's house to help her clean and cook, which will hopefully help her get to where she needs to be to live on her own. In TBRI®, scaffolding is an important part of the empowering principles. Often children and youth from difficult realities have missed out on early experiences, such as cooking and cleaning, so we can help bring these youth back to their appropriate developmental paths. First we do it for them, then we do it with them, then they do it on their own!"  
— Joelene, Relationship Worker

## Did you know?

YESS uses an intervention model called TBRI® (Trust-Based Relational Intervention®), designed for young people who have experienced relationship-based traumas such as institutionalization, multiple foster placements, maltreatment, abuse, or neglect.

# 2015 December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 YESS Champions Day	2	3	4	5
6 Hanukkah	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Winter begins	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26 Boxing Day
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

## It's the Little Things

"One of the youth received a small polished stone with the name of his daughter on it for Christmas — he was so moved that he immediately left ARC to go on a bus to show it to her".

— *Melanie, Youth Engagement Coordinator*



## Did you know?

Last year, YESS provided guidance, support, resources and love to nearly 500 homeless and at-risk youth. Homeless youth need youth-specific intervention in a setting safe from the hazards of street life. Age-appropriate shelter and supportive services are critical to protecting their vulnerability.

# 2016 January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Ice on Whyte Festival Jan. 22-31	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

"I love working at YESS! Hearing about the successes of our kids always warms my heart and confirms that we're playing a vital part in making a difference in this world. I feel privileged to be part of such a phenomenal team."

— *Rutendo, Human Resources Generalist*



## Did you know?

Team YESS is made up of people of many different backgrounds, with staff from all over the world including Egypt, the Philippines, Guyana, Zimbabwe, the Caribbean, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Eritrea, China, and Columbia!

# 2016 February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Sexual Abuse Awareness Week	1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6
7	8 Chinese New Year	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Family Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Pink Shirt Day	25	26	27
28	29					

## Aimless Conversations

"Since one of our youth had his valuables stolen, he has been very reclusive. He sleeps all day and plays video games all night. He has stopped playing guitar and has been difficult to communicate with. Last night he arrived home shortly before midnight and we sat in the kitchen eating fruit, crackers, and hummus and we talked, while alternately choosing YouTube videos to watch. Over the course of two hours we talked about many things: Broadway musicals, religion, his relationship with his girlfriend, his lack of motivation to get a job, Pokémon, Tim Minchin, and Steve Martin. It was a remarkable experience to see him climb out of his shell again, if only for a few moments."

— Gary, House Parent



## Did you know?

YESS raises 60% of our \$4.7 million annual budget through fundraising activities.

# 2016 March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 Self-Injury Awareness Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 World Suicide Prevention Day	11	12
13 Daylight Saving Time begins Running Room St. Patrick's Day Run	14	15 World Social Work Day	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20 Spring begins Palm Sunday	21	22	23	24	25 Good Friday	26
27 Easter	28 Easter Monday	29	30	31	National Social Work Month	



"YESS helped me stay warm and fed when I was homeless, and with time they helped me find a placement and I got off the streets."  
— YESS youth

Did you know?

YESS serves over 50,000 meals a year. Our kitchen relies completely on donated food to provide youth with three nutritious meals daily.

# 2016 April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 World Health Day	8	9
10 National Volunteer Week	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23 Passover
24	25	26	27	28	29 YESS Gala for Youth	30

"I volunteer with YESS because I relate to growing up facing a degree of challenges and difficult realities that were outside my control...When I think about what factors helped me overcome my challenges, I realize that they were primarily people who made me feel like I had something to offer the world and who cared about me, even if I didn't care about myself."  
— Salim, YESS volunteer



## Did you know?

Each year, over 400 YESS volunteers contribute almost 9,600 hours of time in various roles such as youth support, administration, reception, facilities, and event support. There are over 75 volunteer shifts that need to be filled every week!

# 2016 May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 Mental Health Week	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 International Day Against Homophobia	18	19	20	21
22	23 Victoria Day	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Sexual Assault Prevention Month				

## The Kindness of a Police Officer



"One of our Graham's Place youth had lost his wallet on the train, and a police officer came by to drop it off. The youth had already called home to say he might be late for curfew, since his bus pass was in his wallet. The officer was shocked when I said that the youth would probably have to walk home from work in the west end, and that he's done it before. Later that night, the youth got home shortly after his shift and told me that a police officer had dropped off a bus transfer with his name and badge number so he could get home. This was really remarkable, especially since our youth don't always have such positive interactions with EPS."

— Brittany, Graham's Place House Parent

## Did you know?

YESS provides over 15,000 bus tickets to youth each year with the help of supporters like the Collin Bruce Mortgage Team and the City of Edmonton's Donate A Ride program.



# 2016 June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3 BOMA Golf Tournament	4
5	6 Ramadan	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Father's Day	20	21 YESS Annual General Meeting (TBC)	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

*When All You Need is a Hug*

"I had a youth at ARC today, who is normally not very affectionate or touchy, ask for a hug. This shows that the connections we are making with our youth are working. The fact that our youth feel comfortable asking for hugs from staff is a huge step in the right direction!"  
— Terence, Youth Support Worker

**Did you know?**

70% of the kids that YESS serves do not have a file with Child and Family Services, which means they don't receive any government support.

# 2016 July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 Canada Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Taste of Edmonton Jul. 14–23	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 International Self-Care Day	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

*"20 years ago I walked through the doors of YESS and I can honestly say that with the help I received from them I was able to turn my life around and get back on track. Currently, I am a small business owner and I do owe some gratitude to YESS for my success."  
— Doug, former YESS client*



## Did you know?

Youth who stay on the street for more than two years are less likely to leave — making an intervention within the first two years key to solving the problem.

# August 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 Heritage Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 International Youth Day	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 National Aboriginal Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 International Overdose Awareness Day			

"Without YESS, I wouldn't be where I am today. I wouldn't have had the opportunities to grow and develop myself positively. Now I'm an assistant store manager, I'm renting my own place, and I'm part of a wonderful relationship that has lasted for close to a year now, while I have plans to go to university next summer. I am truly thankful to YESS and everything that they have enabled me to do with my life."  
— Jordan, former YESS youth



## Did you know?

YESS' Whyte Avenue building was built as a fire hall in 1914. Before YESS took over in 1982, the building had been condemned and boarded up for five years. Many organizations, such as The Home Depot, have completed building, renovation and landscaping projects to make YESS a welcoming place.

# 2016 September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5 Labour Day	6	7	8 YESS Charity Golf Classic	9	10 World Suicide Prevention Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

“YESS has helped me to keep my mind positive so I can keep my head straight to get things done — like getting glasses, dental care, and going to treatment. I really hope to get through treatment and get my job back that I have had for three years. Then I can get my driver’s license and get my own place. I hope.”

— YESS youth



Moving Forward

## Did you know?

Youth employment is a vital component to addressing youth homelessness. Homeless and at-risk youth face many barriers to attaining and maintaining employment, including poverty, discrimination, stigma around homelessness, limited skills and interpersonal connections, mental health issues, and housing and food insecurity.

# 2016 October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 First of Muharram
2 Mental Illness Awareness Week	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Thanksgiving World Mental Health Day	11 International Day of the Girl	12 Yom Kippur	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween					

"I showed one of our youth a piece of his art that I had just framed. His jaw literally dropped when he saw his work. He was so excited he started snapping pictures of it with his phone, grinning from ear-to-ear. To feel proud of something that you created is a wonderful feeling and it goes a long way to improving someone's sense of self-worth."

— Claire, Creative Facilitator


Art acts as a bridge, empowering people of all ages to constructively express themselves on their path to healing. YES is privileged to partner with La Maison Simons, an enthusiastic supporter, to provide our kids with an interactive art program.

Did you know?



# 2016 November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 Self-Injury Awareness Day	2	3	4	5
6 Daylight Saving Time ends	7	8	9	10	11 Remembrance Day	12
13 National Addictions Awareness Week	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	Family Violence Prevention Month		



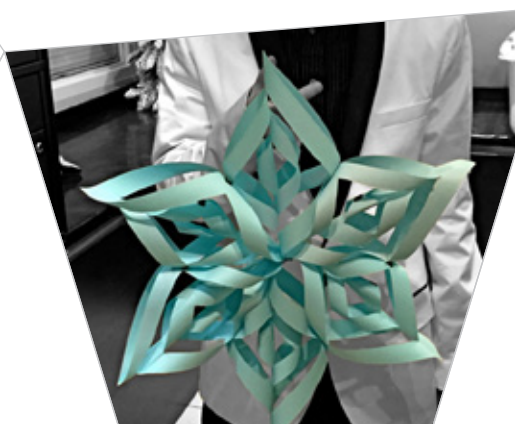
*“Kids on the street don’t really know a lot about things like sex and drugs and safety and keeping healthy. That’s why we end up with so many problems. It really helps to have the staff at YESS — any one of them can answer questions on any topic we need to know about.”  
— YESS youth*

## Did you know?

YESS gets thousands of donations every year. Some strange things donated to YESS: artificial leg, moose head, and a pig with an apple in its mouth.

# 2016 December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6 YESS Champions Day (TBC)	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Winter begins	22	23	24 Hanukkah Christmas Eve
25 Christmas	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve



*We Are All Different*

“Not all of us are drug dealers  
or drug addicts, we’re just like  
normal teens who are struggling.”  
— YESS youth

**Did you know?**

Our youth come from every neighbourhood in Edmonton, surrounding communities, other parts of Canada and even from other countries. They represent all economic backgrounds, races, and religions.

# YESS

youth empowerment & support services



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[www.YESS.org](http://www.YESS.org)

## How You Can Help

Donate

Volunteer

Attend a YESS Event

Host or attend a Community Event supporting YESS

Whatever your preference, we have a way for you to get involved.

For more information visit [www.YESS.org/get-involved](http://www.YESS.org/get-involved)

In 2015 the Government of Alberta released a strategic plan to end youth homelessness. For more information about this plan visit, [www.YEGYouthStrategy.com](http://www.YEGYouthStrategy.com) or [www.YESS.org/ab-youth-plan](http://www.YESS.org/ab-youth-plan)

Audited financial statements available online at [www.YESS.org](http://www.YESS.org)



**United Way**  
Alberta Capital Region



**Edmonton & Area**  
Child & Family Services Authority



**homeward trust**  
edmonton  
opening doors. building hope.