

YESS ANNUAL REPORT

2021/2022

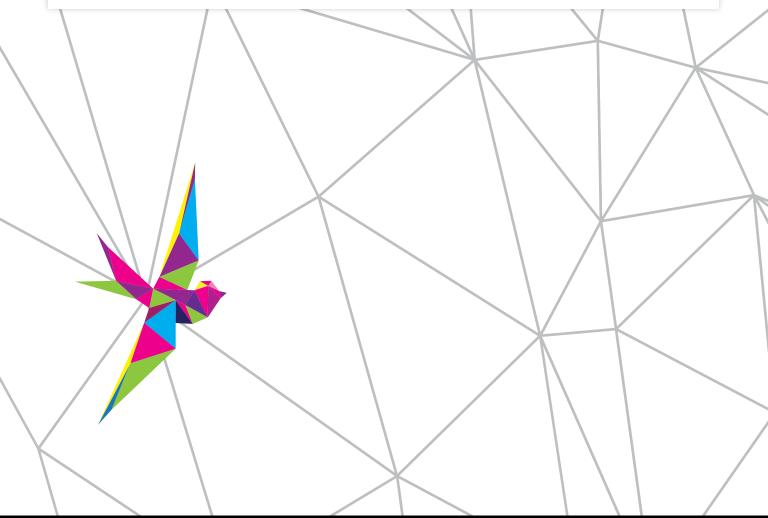
OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

YESS is in the final year of its 5-year strategic plan from 2018 – 2023. While we reached our goal metrics in this plan last year, we have decided to maintain within this plan structure to the end of the planned time period to give ourselves some space to gather data, reflect, and assess what is needed next. This year, we will also begin the process of revisiting our vision and creating a new 5-year strategic plan.

Here are the final milestones for YESS under the 2018 - 2023 Strategic Plan:







5-Year Goal: Financial sustainability

F23 Last Milestone:

Maintain financial sustainability and continue building alternative income

5-Year Goal: Collaboration and Leadership at Every Level

F23 Last Milestone:

Continue to build internal leadership, model leadership in collaboration externally, and recognize collaboration in partners

5-Year Goal: National Leadership in Youth Trauma Programing

F23 Last Milestone:

Define the YESS complex care model and continue supporting youth in crisis



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

This year at YESS, we celebrated our 40th Anniversary of helping young people in crisis. We are extremely proud of the work done this year and the over the last 40 years to ensure a safe place for young people to land and begin to rebuild their lives and futures.

Over the past 40 years, YESS has grown from an overnight emergency shelter program for 16-18 year old youth to an organization with 24/7 diversion shelter, temporary supportive housing, and walk-beside support services for young people in crisis aged 15-25. I have been honoured to walk beside YESS in their evolution in the community, first as a community member and donor, then as their strategic brand advisor, and now as the President and CEO. Throughout all of my experiences with YESS, one thing has remained steadfast— the dedication to make things better for young people. The last couple of years have been some of the most difficult, complex, and heart wrenching for the staff at YESS, as they navigate a global pandemic and drug poisoning crisis, and in true YESS form, they have risen to the need. I am incredibly proud of the humans who make up YESS—they are making life and community safer for our future leaders. They are the change we need in this world. I wish us all another 40 years of success.

Thank you to the agency partners, supporting services, funders, donors, vendors, volunteers, and advocates of YESS. We cannot do this work without you and we are forever grateful.

Much love,

Margo

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

In the fall of 1981, after years of working in the Bonnie Doon community, YESS officially incorporated with a focus on providing overnight emergency shelter for youth in crisis. While a lot has changed over these last 40 years, YESS's commitment in supporting our traumatized youth is resolute.

It is a harsh reality that youth experience trauma and homelessness, often fighting for their very survival in the face of unthinkable abuse, discrimination, neglect, violence, and more. The team at YESS are there for these young people, delivering individualized wrap-around support with courage and kindness. Whether it is the pandemic or ever-changing complexities and challenges, they raise us all with their agility and humility. Their commitment and strength are inspirational, and the Board is honoured to work with them.

To our donors, volunteers, partners, and community supporters, YESS's work would not be possible without you. Your collaboration and support are making a genuine and meaningful difference in the lives of youth. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we sincerely thank you for walking with us on this journey.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge our Board of Directors who willingly and freely provide their experience, expertise, and passion in support of YESS. I am deeply thankful to all of you for your commitment and time.

WHO IS YESS? YESS THEN AND TODAY

OUR HISTORY

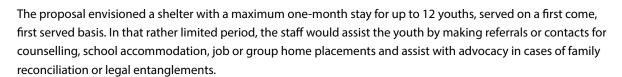
EXCERPTS OF "OUR STORY"

Taken from the 11th Annual Report of the Youth Emergency Shelter Society

...In 1978, a group of concerned individuals, mainly social workers and other professionals who worked with youth people in conflict with their parents, or leg/school authorities, found a problem in the social services systems of our society. Until age sixteen, the children came under the jurisdiction of child welfare authorities and after age eighteen they were eligible for financial assistance, but in between, there were two years where resources and suitable responsibility for troubled an homeless youth were scarce or non-existent.

The Central Edmonton Social Concerns Association (CESCA) began working on projects in 1978 which benefited young people and their families, but by 1981, the need for something more than a program was

required. Early in the year, CESCA put forward a proposal to a variety of funding agencies for a pilot project to provide emergency hosteling in the inner city for youths in crisis, either on the street or in their home situations.



By the summer of 1981, the proposal had undergone several major revisions, mostly related to a facility for the shelter. Property in the inner city was unavailable and the most suitable alternative became the former Salvation Army Evantide home. In order to raise funds and operate the shelter, many members of the CESCA formed a separate society called the Youth Emergency Shelter Society (YESS), which was incorporated on September 1, 1981.

In 1981, the Youth Emergency Shelter Society lobbied the City for use of the unoccupied building as a refuge for homeless children. Since the building had been left derelict for over two years, the Society made plans for an extensive renovation. Luckily, the generous donations of various business people, including contractors and construction material suppliers who donated labor and material, kept the costs down. Others contributed to the many necessary appliances and other bits of equipment needed to run a shelter. The Youth Emergency Shelter opened its doors for homeless young people on April 18, 1982. The society has been providing its core services of emergency shelter, food, clothing and counselling to homeless and troubled youth ever since...



TIMELINE OF MAJOR YESS MILESTONES

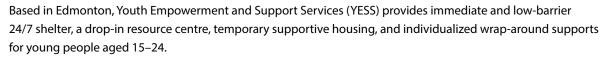
- Proposal put forward by the community to use the Fire Hall as a youth emergency shelter it was accepted and renovations started!
- 1982 Youth Emergency Shelter Society of Edmonton (YESS) opened its doors.
- 1989 YESS purchased the fire hall property from the City of Edmonton for \$1.
- YESS received a property donation from the Stuart Olson Group to expand the residential program (8 room home in Westmount to assist youth in transitioning to further independence). YESS does not own the land but owns the building (Now called Shanoa's Place after a youth in our program).
- YESS identified the need for a safe, productive place for street-entrenched youth to spend the daylight hours.
- The Agency signed a 20-year lease with the Connaught Armoury to house a Youth Resource Centre.
- The Armoury officially opened its doors in partnership with Housing First (Homeward Trust) to find placement for the youth.
- YESS changed our name from Youth Emergency Shelter Society to Youth Empowerment and Support Services and rebranded with a new identity to better reflect and encompass the changes and new services that YESS offers.
- The Armoury was renamed to The Armoury Resource Centre (ARC).
- YESS re-visioned its focus around understanding and preventing the cycle of trauma for young people.
- YESS created an internal Trauma Support Team, and co-founded the Youth Agency Collaboration.
- YESS co-founding the Edmonton Co-ordinated Youth Response.
- YESS changed to a 24/7 Diversion Shelter model at NEXUS and the Trauma Support Team became the Wellness Integration Team with one practitioner focusing on staff wellness.
- YESS piloted a new program for youth ready to bridge to independence: The Cohort Transitional Residency Pilot Project.

YESS TODAY

Our Mission

To walk beside traumatized youth on their journey towards healing and appropriate community integration.

What We Do



We work collaboratively within a network of care focused on the prevention of youth homelessness by providing youth with the necessary supports to stabilize their housing, improve their wellbeing, build life skills, connect with community, and avoid re-entry into homelessness.

Youth Homelessness in Edmonton

From April 2020 to April 2021, YESS served approximately 759 young people between the ages of 15 and 25 who had experienced housing instability and trauma. These young people did not choose to experience homelessness; instead, they are fighting to survive their experiences with trauma: abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation, violence, discrimination, and more. Living in survival mode comes from trauma in the home, trauma within families, and trauma within their communities. Most often, youth in survival mode need access to resources for basic needs first and have to build up trust that services and agencies are able to help them build their own future in the community. We know from brain development research that healthy connections and relationships are needed to move past trauma and grow into healthier adults.







The Cycle of Unaddressed Trauma

It is our belief that if these traumatic experiences are left unaddressed in young people, they will most likely create cyclic barriers to healing and moving forward with their lives in a positive way in community. Some of these barriers and results include addiction, mental illness, abuse, and criminal involvement. YESS has reorganized its structure and processes to be trauma-informed, created an internal trauma and mental health psychology team called the Wellness Integration Team, and has created an evaluation framework to help youth identify what life skills they still need to develop and where they are in their healing journey.

It is our belief that if we give youth safe space, consistent and non-judgemental support and teaching, and the time to choose their own path to success, we can prevent further entrenchment into the cycles of trauma and homelessness.

OUR FOCUS

YESS therefore focuses on the following priority areas to ensure that we are intentionally addressing the cycle of trauma and supporting youth in their journey to stop the cycle.

We focus on prevention and diversion out of homelessness. Prevention means providing proactive resources for youth and their caregivers before youth become homeless. Diversion means finding appropriate housing for youth before they become entrenched or as an exit out of homelessness.

We focus on healing trauma through relationship. Trauma has a negative impact on the physical, emotional, and developmental well-being of an individual. Among many other serious effects, trauma can have a lasting impact on the ability to develop healthy relationships.

We focus on walking beside youth to minimize falling through gaps. Barriers are policies or expectations that put resources out of reach of those who need them. These restrictions often prevent people from seeking help.

We focus on collaboration (with everyone). Collaboration means we work together with other organization and in line with local, provincial, and national plans to create a holistic approach to addressing homelessness.



OUR PROGRAMS

759 Total clients served in 2021/2022

Supportive Housing

Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS) provides two supportive housing facilities: Graham's Place and Shanoa's Place. For youth who need the stability and support of a longer-term placement than our shelter, our two residences provide a homelike environment while youth work on their goals. Youth in our supportive houses are taught to identify realistic and individualized goals that help them move forward in their journeys towards healing and independence. Our purpose is to walk beside the youth in a more stable environment to help facilitate safe and appropriate community integration.

<mark>167</mark> Ages 15–17 (22%)

384 Ages 18–21 (51%)

1<mark>86 Ages 22–24 (24%)</mark>

Armoury Resource Centre (ARC)

The Armoury Resource Centre (ARC) is home to a variety of daytime programs, including medical care, addictions and mental health counselling, help with continuing education and employment, art therapy and programming, recreational activities, life skills and employment readiness, and help with housing resources. ARC provides youth with basic needs and shelter from the elements with the support of non-judgemental staff in a safe place to hang out without the fear of loitering or trespassing charges. At ARC, youth have a safe place to come where they can build, on their own terms, relationships with our staff. Our staff focus is on establishing trust with youth so that they will see themselves as worthy of care and compassion, building positive relationships with staff that encourage growth and self-confidence.

NEXUS 24/7 Shelter

Our 24/7 sleep shelter, Nexus, gives youth a safe, secure, and immediate place to sleep and seek shelter, any time of the day. The shelter is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and provides beds for sleeping, basic needs like food, clothing, showers, laundry, school supplies, and packed lunches for youth attending school. This is a safe place for all youth with support and access to staff who are trained to deal with diverse client needs. We are LGBTQ2S+ friendly, we have harm-reduction-minded staff, with suicidal ideation intervention and safety planning. We also provide on-site trauma support to help with sleep anxiety, problem solving, and emotional regulation. Youth who stay in shelter will also receive justice support from staff, as our organization works closely with EPS beat officers to understand charges and pathways through the system. Staff work to build community support connections before youth leave program to ensure supports exist beyond their time at YESS.

100% Clients who have experienced trauma

Clients w/Childrens Services involvement (31%)

549 Clients w/o Childrens Services involvement (72%)

292 Female (38%)

425 Male (56%)

42 Non-Binary (6%)

244 First Nations (32%)

97 Métis (13%)

8 Inuit (1%)

OUR NUMBERS

NEXUS 24/7 SHELTER

15-21 yrs old











Food

Rec

Room







Safe Sleep Support

- Trauma informed supports for anxiety, mental health issues, addiction issues, and sleep issues
- · Resource support to continue momentum on daytime goal planning
- Relationship building to help build trust







SAFETY & STABILITY

Providing a safe space for youth experiencing addiction or mental health trauma



Showers



Room





Bus Tickets

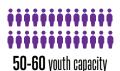
Harm Reduction Safety and stability

ARMOURY RESOURCE CENTRE

15-24 yrs old



Staff at once







HEALING & INTEGRATION

Goal setting, resource work, relationship building







Referrals

















Daytime Resource Support

- Working to help build relationships with on-site services for smoother community integration
- Access to in-house resources and external community referrals for life skill development
- Low-barrier access to services to build capacity for employment, education, trauma support, spiritual needs, and medical support

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

15-21 yrs old





14 Youth capacity -7 at each location





EXIT TO COMMUNITY

Transition, resiliency, belonging

Amenities:























Regular Activities

Transition Work



Building up relationships and trust with community resources and supports



Family and natural support work



Focused goal setting to help develop life skills

YESS COHORT TRANSITIONAL RESIDENCE PILOT PROJECT

Timeline: April 2021–April 2022

Funding Source: Temporary pandemic funding through Reaching Home Canada, administered by Homeward Trust Edmonton.

Program Cost (excluding building lease): 1.7M

By the Summer of 2020 in the middle of the global COVID-19 pandemic, staff at YESS were becoming concerned with the effects of lockdown on youth in shelter. Youth were required to be masked and socially distanced 24/7 and were often stuck in shelter for long periods of time without the typical programming. (The typical youth hangout areas, such as transit, recreations centres, libraries, and parks were also unavailable.) We were also seeing an increase of youth in shelter and in the adult shelters and noticed that many youth in shelter were ready for transition into more independence but there were few outlets for this. Through the support of national pandemic funding under Reaching Home Canada, administered by Homeward Trust Edmonton, we were able to secure a building and create a program to directly address the needs we were seeing.

In April, 2021, YESS leased the Hostel International Hostel building in Queen Alexandra and hired 25 staff to run the one year Cohort Transitional Residence Pilot. We were able to use this as a chance to pilot an innovative new approach to programming that used "family like" cohorts of 3-5 youth to bolster safe and meaningful peer interaction. Aside from the hard rules for procedures given by AHS and general fire/safety/municipal regulations, the youth themselves created the rules, consequences, and general structure of the program, making it authentically youth-led programming. As a result, staff were no longer viewed as authority figures but as supportive allies in the youths' own journeys. This highly autonomous program saw changes in the trajectory of many youth who had previously been termed "difficult to house" or who had been trapped in homelessness by a myriad of barriers. This "Bridge Housing" style program had the same core purpose of giving individuals experiencing homelessness a safer space to exist in given the health risks associated with crowded shelters during a global pandemic. The primary objective of Bridge Housing programs is to provide a safe place to live while waiting for a permanent housing to come through, with a target goal of 6-month maximum stay. We used this base and broadened our approach to include the social, emotional, and psychological development impacts that the pandemic was having on youth in particular, as the work that all youth do in their adolescence in these areas was being stunted by isolation and missed opportunities.

While we are still compiling and reviewing our data for a final report, this project has left a lasting effect on staff and the future of programming at YESS for years to come.

COHORT Discharge Stats for **73** Enrolled Youth:

7 Self Discharges

Returned Home

13 Independent Living

Referred to Bridge/Supportive Housing

12 Alternative Placement

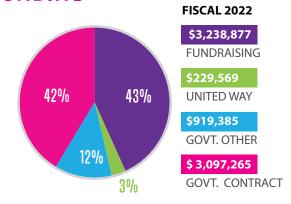
23 Staff Imposed Discharge (youth not ready for program)

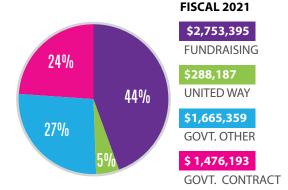
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended March 31, 2022 with comparative figures for 2021

	Fiscal 2022	Fiscal 2021
REVENUE		
Unrestricted Revenue:		
Donations	\$ 1,449,446	\$ 1,660,685
Special Fundraising Events (net)	135,883	188,510
(Loss) gain on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	(3,194)
Investment Income (loss)	208,908	205,136
United Way	58,835	55,252
Other revenues	25,739	4,406
Total Unrestricted Revenue:	1,878,811	2,110,795
Restricted Revenue:		
Children's Services - Edmonton Region	\$ 987,472	\$ 987,472
Casino and raffle	95,185	80,270
Donations	42,998	51,388
Government Grants	2,096,959	610,527
City of Edmonton	130,000	252,591
Grants - Foundation & Other	1,924,639	1,704,540
United Way - Grant	170,734	232,935
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	158,298	152,616
Total Restricted Revenue:	\$ 5,606,285	\$ 4,072,339
Total Revenue:	\$ 7,485,096	\$ 6,183,134
EXPENSES		
Wages and benefits	\$ 5,136,109	\$ 3,952,757
Direct client	1,007,443	221,444
Facility	364,438	371,481
Administrative	550,567	665,939
Fundraising	78,620	10,945
Amortization	239,452	249,407
Total Expenses:	\$ 7,376,629	\$ 5,471,973
Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy	802,219	1,290,962
Excess of (expenses) revenue for the year	\$ \$910,686	 \$2,002,123

FUNDING





^{*}Fundraising includes donations, internal/external events, and grants.

YESS is generously supported by:



















EXPENSES

It currently costs just over \$9,719/year to serve one youth at YESS for one year, compared to the over \$100,000/ year (EndPovertyEdmonton 2015) it costs to serve one entrenched and addicted homeless adult. Preventing youth homelessness is both a prudent investment and the right approach to ending the cycle of homelessness.

	FISCAL 2022	FISCAL 2021
AVERAGE COST PER YOUTH*	\$9,719/year	\$8,523/year
FUNDRAISING COSTS	\$ 78,620	\$10,945
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$ 550,567	\$665,939
STAFFING**	\$ 5,136,109	\$3,952,757

^{*}Fiscal 2022 - 759 youth / Fiscal 2021 - 642 youth

OPERATING BUDGET

2021/2022 \$8.1 million*** 2022/2023

\$6.8 million



^{**}Fiscal 2022 - 95 Staff / Fiscal 2021 - 79 Staff

YESS SUPPORTERS

Thanks to our amazing donors, we're able to provide programs and resources for youth and walk beside them on their journeys towards healing and appropriate community integration. We would like to give a special thanks to the following donors for being some of our greatest supporters this past year.



\$10,000 and up

41 Service Battalion

5 Days for the Homeless

Alberta Browncoats

Alberta Milk

Allard Foundation Ltd.

Al-Terra Engineering

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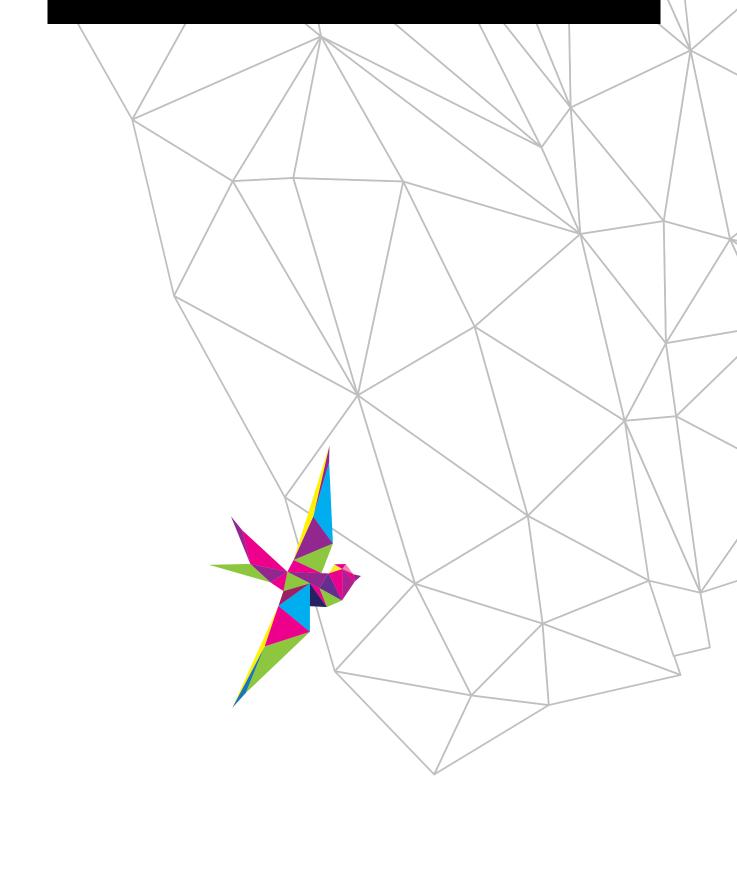
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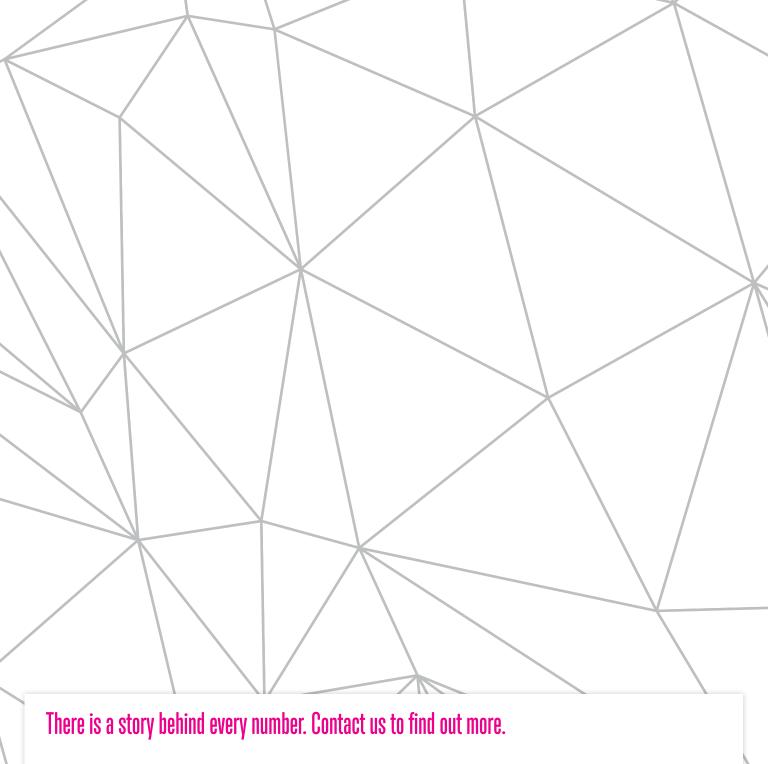
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