



ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026

Renew & Reimagine

*Supporting youth through crisis, connection,
and community.*

YESS.ORG

Letter from the President & CEO

Hello friends,

This past year at YESS has really been about reflection, learning, and getting honest with ourselves about how we can better support youth in crisis. We've spent time asking some tough questions, listening closely to our team and to the young people we serve, and taking a hard look at what's working and where we need to evolve.



It's not always the most visible work, but it matters. It's helped us get clearer on who we are, where we're strongest, and where we need to adapt as the needs of youth continue to grow and change. Through it all, we've stayed grounded in what matters most: keeping youth safe, supported, and connected.

This year has also pushed us to think differently and make some thoughtful adjustments along the way. Our team has shown up with a lot of resilience, and I continue to be impressed by the courage, commitment, and connection they bring to this work every day.

Because of what we've learned, we're heading into the year ahead with a clear focus - **Renew and Reimagine**. Renew what's working and build on it. Reimagine what needs to be different. We are continuing to shape a YESS that's responsive, sustainable, and ready for what's ahead.

To our staff team, thank you for everything you bring to this work, day in and day out.

To our Board, thank you for your leadership, your trust, and your willingness to lean into both the opportunities and the challenges with us. Your guidance and steady support have made a real difference this past year.

And to our donors, partners, and community, thank you. Your support gives us the ability not just to respond, but to reflect, adapt, and keep moving forward with intention.

We're proud of the work behind us and excited for what comes next.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'CM' or 'Corey Mowles'.

Corey Mowles
President & CEO
Youth Empowerment & Support Services (YESS)



OUR IMPACT

2025/2026 AT A GLANCE



746

Youth supported

Unique youth accessed our programs and services



18 days

Average Stay

Safe nights of shelter provided



21,900

Meals & Snacks served

Nutritious meals and snacks to support health and well-being



240

Counselling Sessions

One-on-one and group counselling sessions provided



24%

Increase in youth served

This fiscal year



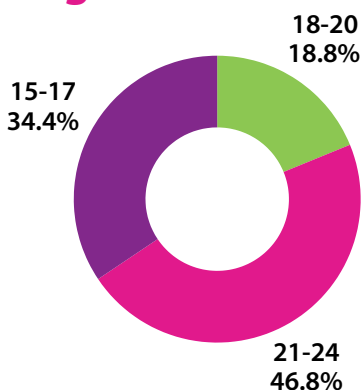
1,472

Volunteer Hours

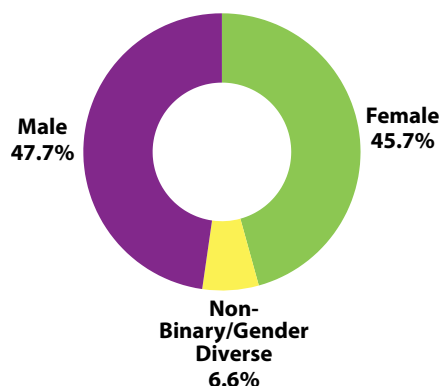
Generous time and talent donated by our volunteers

DEMOGRAPHICS OF YOUTH WE SUPPORT

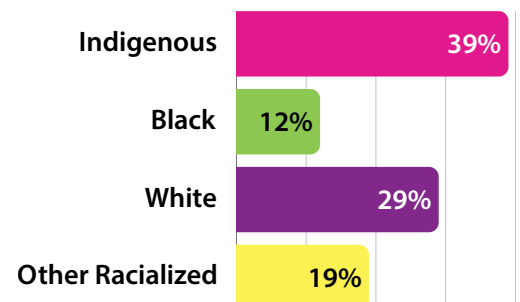
Ages



Genders



Ethnicities



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Youth Support Centre (YSC)

By providing consistent, trauma-informed support, the YSC improved youth engagement and emotional regulation. Youth developed coping skills, experienced reduced crisis escalation, and increased readiness for daily routines.



Graham's Place

Transitional housing and individualized supports helped youth build stability and independence. By removing barriers to education and employment, including support with school fees and training certifications, youth were able to enroll in school, complete certifications, secure employment, and build confidence in their future.



Wellness Integration Team (WIT)

By providing trauma-informed crisis stabilization, mental health education, and culturally rooted programming, WIT supported youth through healing, identity, and connection. Youth reported feeling more supported, capable, and hopeful about their future.



NEW PROGRAMS

2026/2027



Social Media Workshop

Presented by Kaden Ave Communications, the program helps youth build hands-on skills in content creation and storytelling, supporting safe and confident digital communication.



Mending Hope

Led by a former YESS participant, this program equips youth with practical hand-sewing skills to repair clothing and footwear, extending the life of essential items and building lifelong independence.

"YESS believed in me
when things felt
impossible. Now I'm
building the life I always
dreamed of."
-YESS Youth



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Thank you for your dedication!

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Michael Fox-Junker	Associate Director



Letter from the Board Chair

This year has been one of reflection, resilience, and transformation at YESS. As the needs of youth continue to evolve and the social sector faces increasing complexity, we have taken important steps to reimagine how we deliver on our mission.

Over the past year, we undertook a strategic shift focused on strengthening our foundation and positioning the organization for long-term sustainability and impact. While these decisions were not always easy, they have allowed us to focus more intentionally on where we can create the greatest value for youth and deepen community partnerships.

What excites me most is the opportunity ahead: a new chapter defined by innovation, adaptability, and a renewed commitment to empowering young people. We are challenging ourselves to think differently, collaborate more deeply, and ensure our work reflects the realities youth face today.

Throughout this period of change, the dedication of our staff, volunteers, Board members, donors, and community supporters has remained unwavering. Thank you for your passion, leadership, and continued belief in the youth we serve. Your support allows us to continue evolving and providing critical services to those who need them most.

While this year brought challenges, it also brought growth, opportunity, and renewed purpose. I am optimistic about the future and confident in the path ahead.

With gratitude,



Steven Ewaskiw
Chair, Board of Directors
Youth Empowerment & Support Services (YESS)

*"What excites me most
is the opportunity
ahead: a new chapter
defined by innovation,
adaptability, and a
renewed commitment
to empowering young
people."*

-Steven Ewaskiw



EXPERIENCE AT YESS

REINTEGRATION INTO COMMUNITY

A youth came to YESS experiencing significant family instability and accessed our emergency shelter program. During her stay, she remained committed to school, sought support from staff, and accessed counselling services to help navigate the challenges she was facing. After transitioning into YESS's transitional housing program, Graham's Place, outstanding school fees became a barrier to her education. Through targeted funding support, YESS covered these costs, allowing her to return to school and continue pursuing her goals. With ongoing support and connections to housing and employment resources, she secured part-time work, developed independent living skills, and successfully transitioned into her own apartment. Her journey reflects the power of connection in helping youth build stability, independence, and hope for the future.



**Her journey reflects the power of connection
in helping youth build stability,
independence, and hope for the future.**

Our values are
reflected in how we
support youth
every day.



COURAGE



COMMITMENT



CONNECTION

FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

This year, we introduced two new campaigns that brought our community together in meaningful support of youth. Due to their strong impact and engagement, both initiatives will return annually.

Walk for YESS

On September 21, 2025, YESS proudly hosted the inaugural Walk for YESS: a community-driven event focused on raising awareness, building relationships, and generating critical support for youth experiencing crisis and homelessness. Guided by the tagline “Step into community. Walk for connection. Create impact.”, the event brought together families, supporters, volunteers, and community members in support of Edmonton’s youth.



215
Walkers



30+
Volunteers



\$68,000
Raised

Adopt-A-Teen

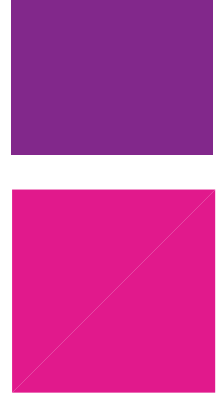
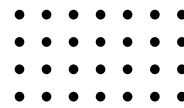
YESS took over the Adopt-A-Teen holiday campaign as part of our growing community involvement initiatives. Through the program, YESS distributed 6,000 youth-focused mailers across the city, each containing a \$50 gift card to support young people during the holiday season. Beyond providing immediate support, the campaign helped raise awareness of YESS programs and services while building connections with youth who may not know where to turn for help.



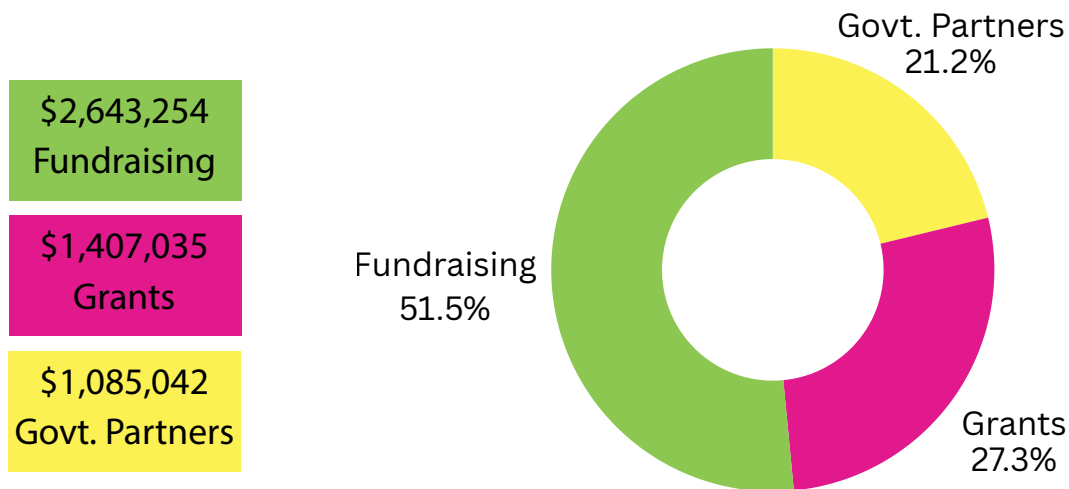
6,000
Youth Reached

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

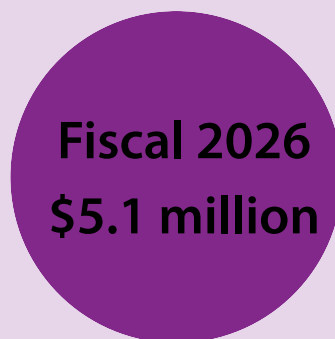
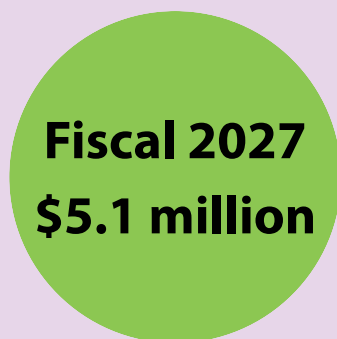
2025/2026



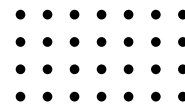
Funding



Operating Budget



FINANCIAL REVIEW



Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2026, with comparative figures for the year ended March 31, 2025.

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
REVENUE:		
Unrestricted revenue:		
Donations and fundraising	\$2,402,849	\$2,036,848
Investment income	<u>597,679</u>	<u>311,348</u>
Total unrestricted revenue.....	<u>3,000,528</u>	<u>2,348,196</u>
Restricted revenue:		
Casino and raffle	77,053	10,806
Donations and fundraising.....	240,405	17,648
Government grants - provincial	787,225	1,283,718
- municipal	297,817	292,225
Non-government grants.....	1,407,035	1,645,566
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	<u>37,604</u>	<u>43,553</u>
Total restricted revenue.....	<u>2,847,139</u>	<u>3,293,516</u>
Total revenue	<u>5,847,667</u>	<u>5,641,712</u>
EXPENSES:		
Direct client	2,268,664	2,371,133
Facility	252,748	294,030
Administrative	1,845,842	2,152,222
Fundraising	338,316	18,000
Amortization	81,683	97,433
Employee benefits.....	<u>467,994</u>	<u>520,414</u>
Total expenses	<u>5,255,247</u>	<u>5,453,232</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE BEFORE THE UNDERNOTED	<u>592,420</u>	<u>188,480</u>
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE):		
Loss on disposal of leasehold improvements	-	(462,466)
Amortization of deferred capital contributions for leasehold improvements	<u>-</u>	<u>401,373</u>
Net other expense	<u>-</u>	<u>(61,093)</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE FOR THE YEAR.....	<u>\$ 592,420</u>	<u>\$ 127,387</u>

Please visit yess.org/our-impact for our audited financial statements.

DONOR & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Thank You



1,472
Volunteer
Hours



280+
Dedicated
Volunteers



Thousands
of Donors &
Supporters



FUNDER SHOUTOUT:

THE HOME DEPOT CANADA FOUNDATION



The Orange Door Project

YESS is grateful for the continued support of The Home Depot Canada Foundation. Through annual foundation funding, along with contributions raised by individual stores in Edmonton through The Orange Door Project, their partnership helps provide safety, stability, and support for youth experiencing crisis and homelessness.

Together, we are helping youth build brighter futures.



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Thank you for your support this year!

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