YESS
youth empowerment & support services



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.

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

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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

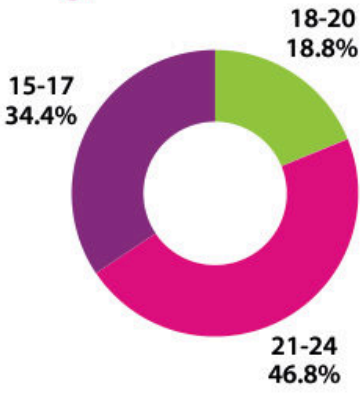
240
Counselling Sessions
One-on-one and group counselling sessions provided

24%
Increase in youth served
This fiscal year

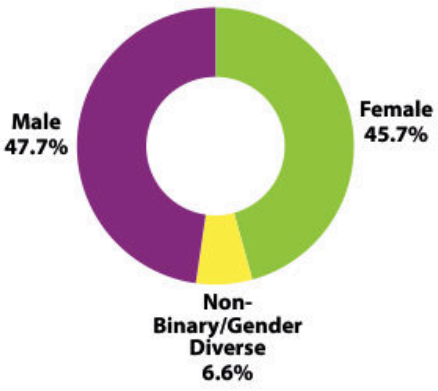
1,472
Volunteer Hours
Generous time and talent donated by our volunteers

DEMOGRAPHICS OF YOUTH WE SUPPORT

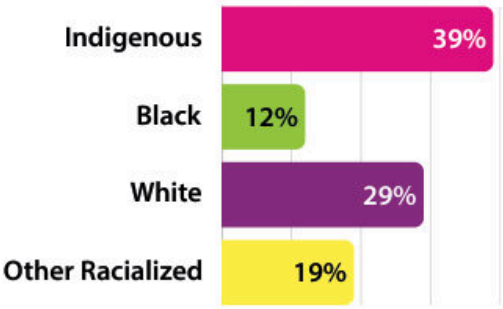
Ages



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.



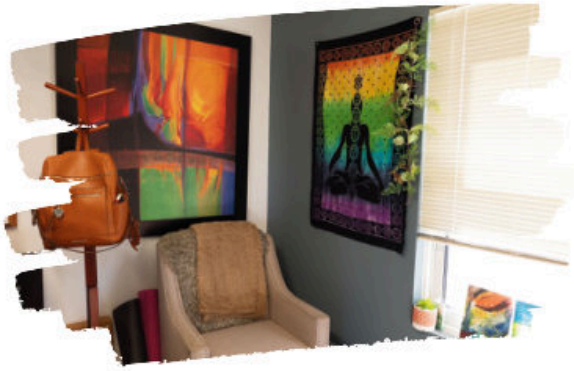
Wellness Integration Team (WIT)

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

Renew & Reimagine YESS
youth empowerment & support services

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thank you for your dedication!

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Michael Fox-Junker	**Associate Director**



YESS
youth empowerment & support services

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



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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

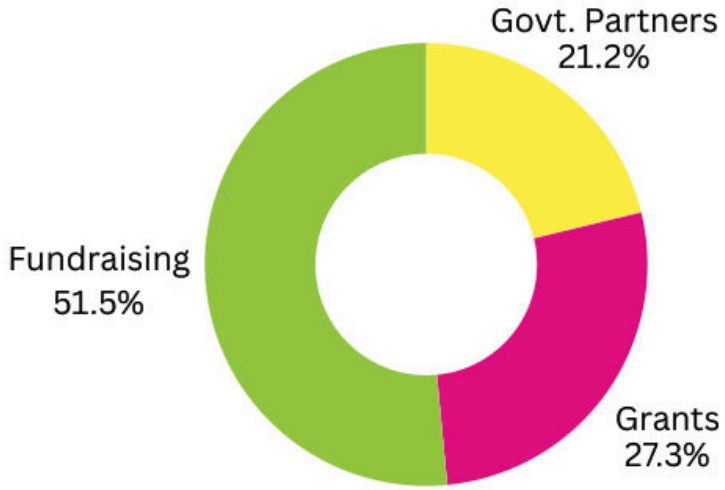
2025/2026

Funding

$2,643,254
Fundraising

$1,407,035
Grants

$1,085,042
Govt. Partners



Operating Budget

Fiscal 2027
$5.1 million

Fiscal 2026
$5.1 million



FINANCIAL REVIEW

Statement of Operations

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

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

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 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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