

Annual Report 2007

Expanding our Horizons

Since the establishment of Horizons for Youth in 1994, we have consistently provided a high standard of service to youth who traditionally have been economically marginalized and socially isolated.



Staff and graduates from Career Horizons first group of participants March 2008

Horizons for Youth has a strong community reputation for the development and delivery of services to youth in need, including:

- emergency shelter services;
- community integration;
- family reunification;
- day programming encompassing a wide range of life and vocational skills; and
- housing support services.

In 2007 Horizons for Youth officially expanded services for homeless and at-risk youth. This growth was the result of a brand new program, which gained the attention and support of the Paloma Foundation, IBM, JVS and the City of Toronto. After an extensive proposal process and fierce competition, Horizons for Youth was awarded a one-year funding grant, enabling **CAREER HORIZONS** to open its doors in the Lawrence Heights community in February 2008.

The goal of the project is to serve youth currently living in a shelter, who may not have access to the tools and resources needed to secure and maintain competitive employment. *Career Horizons* will provide pre-vocational life skills training, job development, and most importantly job coaching for up to 25 homeless and/or street involved youth.

Career Horizons will adapt to individual needs, assist with skill development, assess those skills in real work environments, provide pre-employment workshops that focus on the skills required to secure and maintain paid employment; and, address the needs and demands of the labour market.

The participants in the *Career Horizons* program will finish the program with a wide range of skills. All participants will have the support of a job coach made available to them. This support is also offered to the employer to ensure a long lasting employment relationship.

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Horizons for Youth Annual Report 2007



In 2007, Horizons for Youth provided shelter, food and programs to over 1,100 youth.

Our Mission
**To shelter,
prepare and
guide at-risk
youth to
become
contributing
community
members**



By working together, we can alleviate the growing issue of youth homelessness in the City of Toronto.

Message from the President

It is with great pleasure that I am able to write my first message in the annual report as President of the Board. It is definitely a year that has gone by very quickly!

I would like to start out by thanking Chris, Jeannette and my original Vice-President, Sue Anderson for all of their help in getting me settled in to this role. Also, of course, the whole Team at Horizons and the Board have been fabulous in working to take Horizons to the next level.

In the last twelve months we have been able to launch Career Horizons, establish a training centre, do much needed repair work and upgrades on the building— all while stabilizing our financial situation and re-establishing our reserves. We have continued to evolve Horizons from an emergency youth shelter to an agency providing programs and services that at-risk youth require.

I think we should all take a moment to reflect on the success of the past year and celebrate. We have many more challenges ahead and a lot of opportunities to extend our services but I am confident we can meet those challenges.

In closing, I would like to thank Jeannette again for all of her work and to wish her the best in her new endeavors and I would like to thank everyone for supporting Horizons.

Dave Ross, President

Message from the Executive Director

2007 was a year of growth for Horizons for Youth. Our staff team was expanded to include a full-time case manager on every shift, providing 24 hour access to professional support for the youth in the shelter. The compliment of services was increased to accommodate the growing need for support for youth. Partnerships were created with service providers around the city, from the local Community Centre to the Community Health Centre, and from Foundations to Government Programs.

Horizons for Youth engaged with the three levels of Government to advocate for increased support and recognition in the face of the youth crisis in this city. All this was done in response to the overwhelming need that we see every day in the City of Toronto.

There are over 10,000 homeless youth each year who require service, a safe place to live, a guiding adult to help them make good life choices, and sometimes, just a meal.

With the support of our Board of Directors, the incredible staff team, and the community partners involved with Horizons for Youth, we meet the needs of over 1,100 youth each year.

Special thanks are extended to the companies, foundations, and individuals who help us meet our fundraising goal every year. Without your support we would not be able to affect the change that youth require, to move to becoming whole, participating members of the communities in which they live.

Jeannette Campbell, Executive Director

Horizons for Youth Annual Report 2007

Shelter Services

Every year Horizons for Youth sees an increase in the need for services that are provided at the shelter level for the youth of this city.

It is sometimes an overwhelming need for mental health services, legal services, health and wellness, immigration, education services, employment or, all of those needs combined into one.

Youth often come to us when every other door has been closed, and they don't have the skills and ability to support themselves.

They are greeted by profes-

sional and well educated staff, ready at any hour of the day to provide counseling and referrals, conduct needs assessments, crisis intervention, family reunification, or just someone to listen.

Over 1,100 youth came to Horizons in 2007 for support and emergency shelter. They were given a clean and safe room, 3 meals and 2 snacks each day, toiletries, tokens for the TTC, packed lunches for school or work, and access to a variety of support services to help them increase their success in the community,

They were also given the safe and supportive environment to be kids, playing music with the staff in the evenings, playing board and video games, having a shoulder to cry on, or an adult to laugh with.

Our youth were given shelter in every sense of the word. This was Horizons for Youth's 13th year in operation, and it was a year of growth and development for the youth who came for help.

Kelly Ferguson, Shelter Services Manager



Horizons for Youth

422 Gilbert Avenue
(Eglinton Avenue West
& Caledonia Road)

Day Program

Our Day Program operates as our "in house school". Monday to Friday our programs allow youth to develop and set goals to become the best person they can be.

We offer a combination of workshops, group counseling sessions, and classroom style lessons teaching youth the skills to live independently.

The Day Program places a great deal of emphasis on improving or enhancing listening, team building, social

integration, emotional, communication and conflict resolution skills.

These skill sets are emphasized in all of our programs to assist youth (both homeless and at-risk) and improve their participation or re-integration in the local community and society.

We hold a group membership in the YMCA and have partnered with Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation at our local Community Recreation

Centre. Many of our youth thrive in this athletic environment and all the youth become more involved in their community in a positive way.

The Day Program continues to put a greater emphasis on individual life skills training. This would once again include laundry care, hygiene, cleaning and overall self – awareness.

Dwight Miller, Day Program Co-ordinator

Housing Help within Shelters

The Housing program has GROWN!

Youth are accessing more community resources and networking systems to provide successful and secure housing that meets each client's specific needs.

The Housing Department is meeting clients in the community, assisting them with applications and case managing with other agencies.

Support is provided to all clients, no matter their barrier to housing. One of the most successful collaborations has been with the HAP Program.

Through HAP, Horizons for Youth has successfully housed 20 youth in long term placements in the community.

The Housing program has also seen an increase in community members seeking information and referral

services for a variety of needs, such as food banks, I.D. clinics, furniture banks and volunteer opportunities.

We strive to continue our assistance to at-risk and homeless youth in Toronto.

Makini Macleod, Housing Worker

Our Values
Integrity
Dignity
Accountability
Diversity
Creativity
Innovation
Collaboration
Entrepreneurship

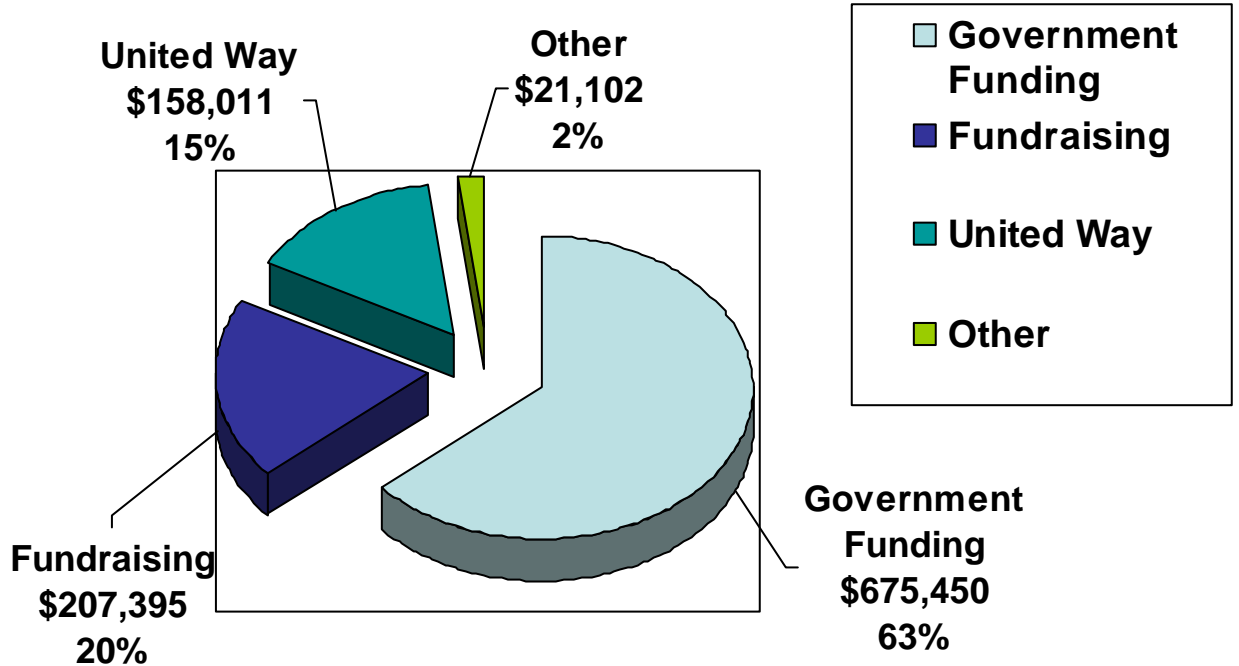


Through the Housing Allowance Program (HAP), Horizons for Youth has successfully housed 20 youth in long-term placements in the community.

Horizons for Youth Annual Report 2007

Financial Summary - Revenue for Year-End 2007

Annual Revenue 2007



Occupancy Statistics Comparison (2006 - 2007)

Month	Occupancy 2007	Occupancy Percentage 2007	Occupancy 2006	Occupancy Percentage 2006
January	1061	97.8%	1010	93.1%
February	810	82.7%	904	92.2%
March	881	81.2%	950	87.6%
April	802	76.4%	881	83.9%
May	897	82.7%	890	82.0%
June	699	66.6%	887	84.5%
July	794	73.2%	360	33.2%
August	970	89.4%	912	84.1%
September	846	80.6%	911	86.8%
October	901	83.0%	803	74.0%
November	776	73.9%	739	70.4%
December	712	65.6%	868	80.0%
TOTALS	10,149	79.4%	10,115	79.2%

Horizons for Youth Annual Report 2007

How Horizons for Youth Makes a Difference

Evan Smith is a Case Manager at Horizons for Youth. She is responsible for the individualized counseling and support for a caseload of up to 10 youth. Hiring quality employees that are skilled, passionate, educated, and motivated to help our most vulnerable youth is a priority for Horizons. Evan is a team member that embodies our Mission, our Vision, and our Goals. This is her story.

The first time I stepped into Horizons for Youth I was broken. At seventeen years old I had just left my home in small town Ontario. Before leaving I had been beaten for being bisexual and someone had broken into my apartment, stolen most of my belongings and graffitied homophobic messages across my walls. My dad helped me pack my belongings, we put them into an old canvas tent in my parents backyard and the next morning I took a bus to Toronto, leaving behind not only my belongings and school, but also my two year old daughter.

Upon arriving in Toronto, I enrolled at an alternative high school and proceeded to sleep in a number of different shelters and on the streets.

Through providing me with a place to rest, many of the shelters I stayed in provided little else in terms of support. I ended up at Horizons because I had been discharged from a Christian based shelter for being too open about my sexuality. My experience at Horizons was different than that at other shelters. I was assigned a case manager who took the time to really listen to my situation and provide support. I was given subway tokens so I could attend school and was encouraged to go home for weekends to keep me involved with my family, as well as united with my daughter. My experience at Horizons was one of growth and development that I was unable to achieve anywhere else.

Nine years later I stepped back through the doorway of Horizons, but this time for a job interview. Just being inside the building flooded me with memories of my time on the streets. I don't know if it was more overwhelming to be reminded of the person I used to be, or to realize how far I had come. Since leaving Horizons I have learned how to parent my first daughter who's now twelve years old,

my husband of seven years and I have a beautiful one year old daughter and after being accepted into the Transitional Year Programme at the University of Toronto, I have just graduated with a Major in Women's Studies and Sexual Diversity Studies. And now to top it all off, I am a Case Manager at Horizons.

I am always very open with my clients at Horizons about my past on the streets. My hope is that through my honesty I can inspire them to make life choices that will help them get off the streets, and through my story I can prove to them that they have a future full of potential and hope. Sometimes it can be frustrating working with such vulnerable youth who often feel they have no potential and that the world is working against them, but I just need to remind myself daily that not too long ago it was I who walked through the doors of Horizons only to leave a changed person.

Evan Smith, Case Manager



No matter the situation, there is always hope at Horizons for Youth.

“My experience at Horizons was one of growth and development that I was unable to achieve anywhere else.”

-Evan Smith, Case Manager



Horizons for Youth Annual Report 2007



Eglinton West Village

OUR COMMUNITY!

***Our Goal
Helping home-
less & at-risk
youth achieve
personal re-
sponsibility,
make positive
choices and be-
come empow-
ered for their
future.***



Community Support and Outreach

The goal of the Community Support and Outreach program at Horizons for Youth is to prepare our youth to leave Horizons and move into their own independent or supportive housing. Due to the success of our “Ready, Set, Home” workshops they are confident and well informed of their housing choices and “Rights and Responsibilities” as tenants. Our “Ready, Set, Home” workshops, held weekly at HFY, address the challenges of budgeting, reading and understanding leases, healthy cooking and choosing housing that meets your particular needs. Upon completion of the series of workshops, clients are provided with a \$50.00 grocery bursary.

Here are just a few of our interesting facts:

In 2007 the Community Support and Outreach department provided food/personal care packages for 97 singles/families and over 500 TTC tokens to assist with transportation to and from appointments.

The month of December can be very challenging for some of our outreach clients who have no extended family. During Christmas 2007, 11 Outreach clients returned to Horizons for Youth on December 25th and received a personal present and Christmas dinner, with an additional 23 clients receiving Christmas hampers.

This fall we are looking forward to facilitating “Girls Night In”. Our goal is to provide a supportive venue for young women to express their concerns, discuss relevant issues, gain appropriate referrals and develop positive and lasting friendships.

Allison Ferguson, Community Support and Outreach Worker

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Volunteer of the Year 2007: Brenda Kritsch, ICAO

Brenda has been an active volunteer and Development Committee member that has been involved with Horizons for a number of years. Brenda is instrumental in the creation of our newsletter and our website and her support is very much appreciated. Thank You Brenda for always attending our events and being a huge supporter and promoter of our organization.

Employee of the Year: Allison Ferguson

Allison is our Community Support and Outreach Manager. Allison started as a Relief Staff and worked her way up to the management level. Investing in the shelter since 1999, Allison has a desire to see Horizons for Youth succeed as the best Youth Shelter in Toronto. We wish all the best to Allison and thank her for being such a dedicated and inspiring staff member at Horizons.

Donor of the Year: Paloma Foundation

The Paloma Foundation has been vital to our in-house program called Job Horizons being turned into Career Horizons at an off-site location in the Lawrence Heights Community. Without their financial support, we could never have achieved our goal of having an off-site intensive employment program for homeless and at-risk youth.

Honorable Mention: Joanne Kourakos and Susan Anderson, Board Members that left in early 2008 to pursue other goals outside of the province. We would like to recognize Joanne and Susan’s efforts as active Board Members and for their dedication and guidance while volunteering their time and efforts at Horizons for Youth. Thank you both for your tireless efforts.

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1st Annual Racing for a Reason

Integrated Asset Management's 1st Annual Speaker's Series benefiting Horizons for Youth was a spectacular success! In one evening we raised over \$38,000! Special thanks to our presenting Sponsor, Integrated Asset Management Corp. For the first time, our Annual Speaker's Series was held in the Northern Dancer Room of Woodbine Racetrack. Woodbine Entertainment has been a strong supporter of Horizons for Youth for many years, and we wish to thank Executive Chef Joseph Lesch for his

passion and dedication to Horizons for Youth. We also wish to thank our Reception Sponsor, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario. This event packed an emotional punch with our keynote speaker Spider Jones sharing a courageous story of success over adversity. This was very touching for the many supporters in the room who believe homeless youth can move forward and succeed as doctors, carpenters or as your next-door neighbour who is your child's favourite soccer coach. Our wonderful speak-

ers were brought to you by Deloitte, our Speaker's Table Sponsor. Thanks to Scotiabank Group, our Race Sponsors. Guests had the opportunity to take part in the excitement of watching the thoroughbred horses thunder by. We also cannot forget the event supporters, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP, Price-waterhouse Coopers, and Kodak Canada. All of these corporations helped make sure our 1st Annual Racing for a Reason Dinner was a huge success.



July 2007 at Woodbine Racetrack. A fun evening of dinner and racing in support of Horizons programs.

Umbrella Day

The Horizons for Youth Signature Event is Umbrella Day. This year we held our most successful event on Friday April 13th, 2007. Yes, that's right, we held our event on Friday the 13th and it was a smashing success, with special thanks to our event sponsors, Guardian Group of Funds.

In total Horizons for Youth Umbrella Day raised over \$17,000.00

Horizons for Youth gathered together staff, supporters and board members, as well as current and former residents, all volunteering in locations throughout the PATH and subway system.

Our goal of increasing awareness of Horizons for Youth and the issue of homeless youth was conveyed throughout the day to the many people who opened their hearts and their wallets in

support of Umbrella Day. We cannot thank our volunteers enough. Many took vacation time, or worked extra hours to come out and donate their time to raising money and awareness to help Horizons for Youth.

All of our many supporters had a fun and eventful day.

To those of you who have a Horizons for Youth Umbrella at home – THANK YOU.

Our Vision
A sharing and growing community where everyone has a home

Cirque du Soleil

Horizons for Youth SOLD OUT our block of tickets for the September 7th, 2007 show of KOOZA!

This generous donation of 220 tickets from Cirque du Soleil helped the shelter raise over \$25,000 to support our operations and programs.

In an additional gesture of

kindness, Cirque du Soleil also provided Horizons for Youth tickets for our residents and staff to attend the final rehearsal before opening night.

This was a very special night for many of our youth, most of whom would be unable to attend such an event without

the support of Cirque du Soleil. Some were able to attend with their families, reconnecting and making this a night to remember.

THANK YOU Cirque du Soleil!



Umbrella Day Event Sponsor GGOF pictured above at their volunteer booth helping Horizons for Youth on April 13, 2007



Horizons for Youth

Providing Shelter to Homeless Youth Since 1994

Annual Report 2007

Horizons for Youth
422 Gilbert Avenue
Toronto, ON M6E 4X3
Phone: 416-781-9898
Fax: 416-781-1933
info@horizonsforyouth.org



**United Way
of Greater Toronto**

Horizons is a proud member of the United Way of Greater Toronto. We benefit from the support of their donors every year.

A Special Thank You to our 2007 Donors of Distinction

Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP ~ Greater Toronto Apartment Association in Trust ~ Harold Hillier ~ The Paloma Foundation ~ ~ Ad Club of Toronto ~
David Stratas
Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario ~ Eastman Kodak Charitable Trust ~
Scotia Capital ~ Anderson DDB ~ Dr. Mohsen Assaad ~ The Caring Foundation ~
Deloitte & Touche Foundation Canada ~ Guardian Group of Funds ~
Integrated Asset Management Corp. ~ Toskan Casale Foundation ~
Kodak Canada ~ The Hustler Young Men's Bible Class Foundation ~ Phil & Laurie
Taller ~ Harold E. Ballard Foundation ~ Cassels Brock and Blackwell LLP ~
Integrated Private Debt Corp. ~ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

You can help! Volunteer or Donate to Horizons for Youth

Volunteers are people from all walks of life, all ages and stages. What they have in common is the desire to make a difference in their community –and in their own life –by giving their time, their expertise and themselves.

Current Volunteer opportunities for Horizons for Youth include:

- Organizing contributions of financial and/or material goods.
- Join our Development Committee and help plan the next Umbrella Day or Racing for a Reason Dinner.
- Participation as a member of Horizons for Youth's Board. We are accepting resumes and letters of inquiry.

We anticipate new, exciting volunteer opportunities that will emerge in the future. If you are looking at volunteering in any capacity, please contact us at 416-781-9898 ext. 27 or volunteer@horizonsforyouth.org.

You can donate through our website
www.horizonsforyouth.org
or call us at
416-781-9898 ext. 27