

Executive Director' Report

Horizons for Youth has completed its 12th year of service to homeless and at-risk youth in the City of Toronto. 2006 saw a multitude of changes at the shelter, in both staffing and in the programs being offered to the youth. Regardless of the internal changes that the Shelter had gone through in 2006, the external need for Horizons for Youth did not alter. Youth in this city are still experiencing homelessness at a high rate, and the availability of affordable housing continues to decrease. The opportunities for self improvement and access to programming remains minimal in a city that is faced with a crisis when dealing with youth violence, youth engagement with the law, and youth addictions and mental health issues.

It has been said that it is not up to the local community or the city government or the corporate world to solve the problem of homelessness – it is up to all of them to work united to change the lives of whole communities, one individual at a time. At Horizons for Youth we embody that belief. Every staff member, every volunteer, every donor, every minute, and every day is spent assisting the youth to change their lives, which in turn will change the whole community. Horizons for Youth served over 1100 youth in 2006. Many of those youth spent two or more nights at the shelter, requiring food, clothing and toiletries. Youth attended our Day Program or returned for assistance with housing and aftercare. Our largest challenge in 2006 was meeting the needs of our youth based on the funding we receive. Fundraising and donations are the only way that Horizons for Youth is able to remain open 24 hours a day, and provide service, safety and shelter to all who come to our door. It is with gratitude that I thank everyone who contributed so much to us to make 2006 a successful year. *Jeannette Campbell*, Executive Director

President's Report

Over the past year Horizons for Youth has continued to successfully meet the challenge of serving homeless youth in our community. More than 1100 residents passed through our doors in 2006, benefiting from the shelter we provide as well as our valuable support services and after-care program. This could not have been achieved without a very dedicated and professional staff, and, of course, without the generosity and enthusiasm of our Board, volunteers and donors.

For over 12 years Horizons for Youth has served the needs of homeless youth in our community. Year after year the number of homeless youth on our streets continue to grow, and although providing basic shelter and sustenance is critical to our mission, more work is needed to “break the cycle” of homelessness.

This is why the Board and management of Horizons have developed a strategic vision that aims to help homeless and at-risk youth achieve personal responsibility, make positive choices and become empowered for their future. Not only have we been busy working to ensure that Horizons can sustain and continuously improve the services it offers, but we have strengthened our outreach and collaboration with other agencies to achieve our goals.

To continue the work we do in providing shelter and services in a safe and positive environment, and meet our long-term vision for Horizons, much needed financial support is required. This past year saw us achieve remarkable progress on our fundraising efforts. This could not have been achieved without the exceptional efforts of our Executive Director, Jeannette Campbell, all of our staff, the Development Committee volunteers, and our very generous supporters. The need is certainly great and unfortunately growing. Your support is therefore greatly appreciated.

As a member of our community your ideas and input are vital in fulfilling our mission. Your dedication to helping up achieve this mandate is vital to our continued work and success in addressing homelessness in our community. *Chris Benedetti*, President, Board of Directors

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

Our Mission

To shelter, prepare, and guide at-risk youth to become contributing Community members



Our Values: Integrity, Dignity, Accountability, Diversity, Creativity, Innovation, Collaboration, Entrepreneurship,

Donor of the Year: Woodbine Entertainment

Since the 1990's Woodbine Entertainment has been a Supporter of Horizons for Youth in many ways. By providing us with the catering services that they are famous for, we have been able to host a multitude of fundraising events, which brought substantial monetary assistance to Horizons.

Woodbine has hosted our Speaker Series Events every year, providing everything from the linens and staff to the delicious menu items. They committed

their support to Horizons for Youth every year at the Pinball Clemons Youth Christmas Party, producing wonderful dinners for the exciting event.

As well, Woodbine Entertainment has historically provided the catering for Horizons for Youth's Annual General Meeting.

These donations came without hesitation, with a sense of giving that inspired all those who attended the events. A special thank you is extended to Executive Chef Joseph Lesch, who has

been the heart and soul behind Woodbine Entertainments involvement over the years.

For 2007 Woodbine has committed to an exclusive evening of dinner and races at their Entertainment Complex. This fundraiser will be the 11th Annual Speaker Series Event.

On behalf of the Board, the Youth and the Staff Team of Horizons for Youth, we officially recognize Woodbine Entertainment Group as Donor of the Year for 2006.

Volunteer of the Year: Isabel Mazzota

Isabel is a dedicated, hard working, youth focused volunteer who always wants to help. She strives constantly to provide more for the youth, including outside activities, to broaden their horizons and expand their creativity.

Isabel came to Horizons in March 2006 as an Art Program volunteer. She brought with her a diploma in Graphic Design and a passion for assisting at-risk youth. Isabel is a volun-

teer at several organizations, but despite her busy schedule, she never misses a Thursday morning with our youth.

Horizons for Youth recognized immediately that Isabel was a volunteer of special caliber. She brought such energy and enthusiasm to the Art Program that the youth were becoming more engaged. The staff from the Day Program realized that it was quickly turning into a program with structure, and

because of the life skills and educational component built in, the youth now qualify for a certificate as part of their Passport to Success Program.

On behalf of the Board, the Youth and the Staff Team of Horizons for Youth, we officially recognize Isabel Mazzotta as Volunteer of the Year for 2006.

Employee of the Year: Dwight Miller

2006 was a year of intense transition at Horizons for Youth. When change happens, there are those people who embrace the change and work with it, and there are those who view the change as an opportunity to help, to grow, and to build. Dwight was an employee who did both. He provided support not only to the youth, especially the harder to serve young men, but to the staff team as well.

Dwight is a natural leader and a natural teacher, which was why his role as Day Program Coordinator was a perfect fit for both the youth and the agency. He encourages all those who speak with him to strive for more, expect more, and be accountable for more.

Despite the fact that Dwight was a new staff member, he quickly became a person who was viewed as a guide. He was

active on the Diversity Committee, the Safety Committee, and focused on Family Reconnection and Anger Management programs for the Passport to Success Day Program at Horizons.

On behalf of the Board, the Youth and the Staff Team of Horizons for Youth, we officially recognize Dwight Miller as Employee of the Year for 2006.

Passport to Success: Day Program Update

The Horizons for Youth Day Program celebrates diversity and is committed to creating an environment where the residents feel safe, supported and, empowered, while gaining the valuable life skills and vocational skills needed to be a success in the community.

The Day Program offers many exciting and educational programs which guide and teach the residents, and the professionally trained staff assist

them with setting and obtaining their goals.

The programs are designed to give the tools needed for today's youth to succeed, and are offered in a variety of styles, including classroom, workshop and community settings.

The growth of the programs in 2006 is directly linked to the staff team and the community partnerships created. A sam-

ple of these partners are: Certified Accountants, Dental Hygienists, Addictions workers, Mental Health Case Workers, an Art Instructor, Peer Supporters, and local agencies such as COSTI and Youth Inc.

In 2006 the Day Program served over 500 youth. Services also included providing a hot lunch, cooking lessons, access to laundry and shower facilities, and individual counseling as needed.



After Care support provides Food Packages and Household items to an average of 8 youth every month, often being the only supplemental support that they receive that month.

Facts on Homelessness

In a recent study published by Raising the Roof the following information was released:

It has been estimated that one-third of Canada's homeless population are youth. On any given night, that means close to 65,000 young people are without a place to call home.

Abuse and neglect are two of

the major reasons why young people leave home. Several studies show that nearly 70% of homeless youth have experienced some form of sexual, physical or emotional abuse.

Homeless youth are exposed to significantly more physical

abuse, sickness, injury and mental health problems than their non-homeless peers, with often long-term implications for their self-esteem, relationships, and ability to become self-supporting. The death rate among homeless youth was 11 times higher than in the general population.

“One –third of Canada’s Homeless population are youth...that means there are close to 65,000 youth without a place to call home.”

Housing and Aftercare

When residents arrive at Horizons for Youth, one of the first things their case manager asks them is if they are on the Toronto Community Housing list. Our goal is to have every youth signed up, to provide them an opportunity to access affordable housing, and to provide accurate statistics to the City of Toronto and other levels of Government related to the number of people in need of

housing. Housing costs in Toronto are high, and what youth receive in support is what keeps them accessing our services longer.

In 2006 the Housing Department at Horizons for Youth housed 48 youth, which is 4 youth per month. Of those youth 43 remained housed for three months or longer.

With the assistance of the Aftercare program, providing emergency food supplies and a link to the community, we are able to continue to house youth in the community, and look forward to increased success in 2007.

We are always looking for supportive landlords who are willing to rent and for donations for those who move out.



**United Way
of Greater Toronto**

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

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Please visit our Website
for updates and informa-
tion on how you can be-
come a part of the
Horizons Network.

www.horizonsforyouth.org



To Donate:
Visit our Website
Or
Contact us directly at 416-
781-9898 ex 27 to speak to a
Development Staff
Or
Mail a cheque to Horizons for
Youth

In 2006 Horizons for Youth benefited from the following Fundraising and Public Awareness events:

Third Party Events: Damon Allen Quarterback Challenge~ Telus Mobility: Fall into Fashion
~Advertising Club of Toronto: Golf Tournament~ Lululemon Athletica: Charitable Giving Program

Horizons Events: 10th Annual Speakers Series: Corporate Breakfast ~Umbrella Day 2006: Public Awareness and Fundraising Campaign

A Special Thank You to our 2006 Donors of Distinction:

**Scotia Capital ~ Greater Toronto Apartment Association in Trust ~ Harold Hillier
Woodbine Entertainment ~ David Stratus ~ Eastmen Kodak Charitable Trust~
John Schumacher**

Hustler Young Men's Bible Class Foundation~ Michael Salamon ~ CIBC World Markets

APEX Public Relations ~ Harold E. Ballard Foundation ~ The Toskan Foundation ~ Honda Canada Inc

Marsulex Inc ~ The Caring Foundation ~ Solutions with Impact ~ Telus

Philip A. Taller ~ Mitchell Gerstien ~ Desjardins Securities ~ Griffiths McBurney ~ Kodak Canada

Yardi Systems Inc ~ Blueco-Toronto Argonauts ~ Robert & Andrea Chisholm

What's New for 2007

In 2007 Horizons for Youth is looking forward to expanding our programs and services.

The Passport to Success Program will be launching Career Horizons, with a goal of placing 30 youth in employment or training by the end of the year.

The Housing and Aftercare services are joining new Networks and increasing outreach to landlords and local community centres to assist those who need housing, or support once they have graduated from the Horizons Shelter.

The Shelter received a grant from SCPI (a Federal Fund) for Capital repairs to upgrade the shelter, including an overhaul of

the HVAC system, new windows on the bedroom level, new air filtration for the washrooms and laundry facilities and, repairs to our roof and chimney. This work is scheduled for completion by February 2007.

Fundraising Forecast:

In 2007 Horizons will benefit from a Cirque du Soleil performance, where proceeds from the ticket sales will be donated to the shelter. This event is scheduled for September 7, 2007.

The 11th Annual Speakers Series will be held July 18, 2007 at Woodbine Entertainment Centre. It will be a fun and exciting evening of dinner and races in the exclusive Northern Dancer

Room.

The 4th Annual Umbrella Day is scheduled for April 13th 2007, at various locations throughout the downtown core and TTC Stations. It promises to be a very lucky Friday the 13th!

The Advertising Club of Toronto has pledged their support to Horizons for Youth once again this year, at a Golf Tournament to be held on August 15th, 2007.

Horizons for Youth has hosted a Breakfast event for many years, and in 2007 the Development Committee is planning something new and family oriented. Stay in touch to find out more as information becomes available.