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Monty's Farewell

In late 1994 Horizons for Youth opened its doors for the first time and started serving homeless and at risk youth. At that time there was a lot of uncertainty. Questions like: Will the new staff team be able to make a difference to homelessness? What will our policies be on the complex issues? How will the neighbors react? Will youth even come to Horizons?

As many of you may know – I was there at the beginning. Through the excellent leadership of the Executive Director at the time, Heather Hillier, we knew what we wanted to be a safe place youth could come without fear of prejudice or addictions or abuse or poverty. It was important that we always remain client-focused.

In twelve years this has always remained the cornerstone of what Horizons is all about: helping youth is our primary concern. Kids like Soraya, who came to us fleeing an abusive arranged marriage. She came in a shy girl who had difficulty looking anyone in the face. Now she is a college graduate and works as executive assistant at a car dealership. Kids like Richard, who came to us after his only family, his grandmother, passed away. Richard had some untreated health issues as well and at first was very reluctant to see a doctor. Today

Richard is healthy and works at a security alarm company. Kids like Claudia who lived on the streets and in shelters for the better part of 5 years while struggling with her mental health issues. It took a lot of time to develop the trust needed for Claudia to get the right kind of treatment. Today she is the poster child for a youth apprenticeship program.

As a Frontline worker all those years ago, I gladly sacrificed a better paying career to dedicate myself to helping youth at Horizons for Youth. When I became the Shelter Coordinator I was committed to doing my best to support the staff team so they could do their jobs. Finally, as the Executive Director I devoted my time taking care of the managers, committees, board members, donors, community members and volunteers that make Horizons so successful at what it does. They, in turn, generously took care of me.

At the end of May of this year I stepped down as Executive Director knowing that Horizons for Youth is in great shape. The energy, enthusiasm and dedication is there to keep everything moving. The Board and staff who remain have great skill to navigate new Executive Director, Maria Farno, in settling in and supporting her as she leads Horizons for Youth into the positive, progressive, innovative, future.

It is with such warm gratitude that I thank everyone involved at Horizons for Youth. The depths of kindness, perseverance and generosity they have shown to me in helping and giving hope to youth who are homeless and at risk is humbling. And finally, I want to thank the youth we serve. It is a great thing to trust someone to help you. Thank you for the privilege of letting us help you. None of you are victims, only survivors.

Sincerely,
Jason (Monty) Montgomery

Horizons for Youth is a 35 bed emergency shelter and resource centre for homeless and at risk young people aged 16 to 24. At Horizons, we offer shelter and valuable services in a safe and supportive environment. In addition to beds, meals, snacks and personal hygiene items, we also provide supportive counseling, life skills training, referrals, advocacy and after shelter support. These services assist youth as they strive to establish themselves at school, at work and in the community.

‘They always told me that I could do anything I wanted to as long as I worked hard and believed in myself.’

Brea
Former Horizons Client

When I left home at age 16, my relationship with my mother and stepfather was very bad. I made my way to the city from Vaughan. I did not have any where to stay and I did not have enough money to stay in a hotel. I ended up at a shelter. By then I was a very angry young lady. I found it very hard to live in the shelter and control my temper. I called my mom and asked her if I could come home. She told me I could not come back unless I agreed to go and live with my grandmother. This sounded like a good idea until I found out that the plan was to marry me off. I was so angry at my mother and grandmother that I swore and yelled and threatened them both.

I went back to the shelter and got into a physical altercation with another girl. I had to go to the hospital because she beat me up pretty badly. For my own safety, the shelter staff sent me to Horizons for Youth to separate me from the girl I fought with. I spent my first evening at Horizons for Youth watching everyone.

After a while, I became more friendly with the staff and they would spend time talking to me and encouraging me to go back to school. They made me feel important. They always told me that I could do anything I wanted to as long as I worked hard and believed in myself. I started to attend the READY SET HOME! and the Budgeting Programs offered at Horizons for Youth. I went camping for the first time and felt safe enough to ask questions about safe sex, something I could never do with my family.

I would like to say that my stay at Horizons for Youth was without incident, but that would be a lie. My temper got the better of me and I had to be discharged for the safety of other residents. I was very upset, but the staff calmed me down and encouraged me to continue working on my goals. They found me a safe place to live, and I was still supported by the Community Support and the Housing Workers.

When I graduated from High School, my first call was to Horizons for Youth. They helped me find safe and affordable housing and now I have been living on my own and working full time for the past two years. I even have a car. The staff at Horizons says they are proud of me—not as proud as I am of myself. They are the people I share my victories with. Thank you for your donations. Because of you, I had a safe place to go and caring staff who helped me to save my life.

I am going to be a pilot, and I have all the support I need to reach my goals.



THE ADVERTISING CLUB OF TORONTO

On August 16th the Advertising Club of Toronto held their annual golf tournament for members in support of Horizons for Youth. It was a beautiful day on the green with Horizons for Youth staff and volunteers helping make the day a success.

We would like to thank The Advertising Club of Toronto’s organizers and members for supporting our Youth!! With this support we will be painting our resident’s bedrooms and purchasing new bedding for all beds.

Horizons for Youth teen volunteers spent the day running the putting contest with the Participants.



Horizons for Youth Staff and Volunteers Maria Tsirikis, Dave Cooper, Andrea Itzkovitch, Carol Murray, Cora Addison, and Stephanie Hoffman stop for a group shot outside the club house.

Other Third Party Events

Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO):

Sold our Umbrellas at their Pride Booth, raising \$1,500 for Horizons for Youth.

Vaughan Road Academy:

Students organized a ‘Recycle Fashion Show’ raising \$523 for Horizons for Youth.

Organizing an event in support of Horizons for Youth is a great way to make huge impact in the lives of over 1,000 youth this year. We can help you plan your event and make it a success. Call Carol Murray at 416-781-9898 for more information.



Damon Allen continues to support Horizons for Youth through the Damon Allen Quarterback Challenge. Damon Allen, 2005 CFL MVP and MVP of the 2004 Grey Cup Champion Toronto Argonauts, together with 11 other CFL Quarterback greats were in top form at the 2nd Annual Damon Allen Quarterback Challenge held on May 13, 2006. The Quarterbacks wowed spectators with their athletic prowess competing against each other to raise funds for children's charities. This event, presented by Scotiabank Group, brought together corporate sponsors who got the chance to participate in a football clinic led by some of the greatest Quarterbacks in Canadian football history. Volunteers and Staff from Horizons for Youth were part of the fun, raising awareness for Horizons for Youth and other children’s charities.



On average, **89 cents** from each dollar Horizons for Youth receives directly benefits the clients!

Donor Appreciation May 31, 2006



The 2006 Horizons for Youth donor appreciation event was a major success with record numbers in attendance this year. Special thanks to Woodbine Entertainment and their Executive Chef Joseph Lesch for generously donating their catering services for the evening. Supporters, former clients and volunteers came out to be a part of this wonderful evening where Horizons for Youth recognizes individual and corporate sponsors, volunteers and staff for their contributions to the shelter throughout the year.

In response to their outstanding contributions to Horizons for Youth, the following was awarded:

2005 Donor of the Year

Kodak Canada Inc.

2005 Volunteer of the Year

George Oliver

2005 Employee of the Year

Sean Murphy



Seen left: Monty Montgomery, Horizons for Youth former Executive Director presents Kodak's Joanne Ellerson, Community Relations Coordinator for Kodak's exceptional contributions.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive

Chris Benedetti, President

Joanna Kourakos, Vice-President

David Ross, Treasurer

Susan Anderson, Secretary

Members

Megan Harris Erin Robertson

Lisa Stanley Jeanette Campbell

*Congratulations to our donors acknowledged on
May 31, 2005 — Welcome to our Family of Giving*

Horizons for Youth Family of Giving — Recognizing Accumulative Gifts

Key Holder

John and Susan Schmacher and Family

Mentor

Anderson DDB

Advocates

Cirque du Soliel, Corporate Finance International

Coaches

The Harold E. Ballard Foundation, The Caring Foundation, Rhonda M. Hillier and Harold W. Hillier, The Hustler Young Men's Bible Class Foundation, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario, Marsulex Inc., Raptors Foundation, David Stratas, Phil and Laurie Taller, The Toskan Foundation

Providers

Dr. Mohsen Assaad, J.P. Bickell Foundation, Credit Suisse First Boston, Harry E. Foster Foundation, Griffiths McBurney and Partners, George Lunan Foundation, George and Eileen Oliver, RBC Foundation

Neighbours

Chris Benedetti and Abby Gainforth, Brumara Foundation, Robert and Andrea Chisholm, Lori Coverdale, First Professional Management, Halpern's, Stephen Ibbott, Proctor and Gamble, Brendyn Zachary

2005 Donors of Distinction — Recognizing Yearly Contributions

Scotia Capital, John and Susan Schumacher and Family, Cirque du Soleil, Anderson DDB, Kodak Canada Inc., Woodbine Entertainment, F.K. Morrow Foundation, Rona Inc., Guardian Group of Funds Limited, Institute Of Chartered Accountants of Ontario, CIBC World Markets Children's Miracle Foundation, The Caring Foundation, The Toskan Foundation, Corpfinance International Limited, The Harry E Foster Charitable Foundation, The Hustler Young Men's Bible Class Foundation, Tradebank, First Professional Mgmt Inc., Phil and Laurie Taller, J.P. Bickell Foundation, Brendyn Zachary, The Harold E Ballard Foundation, Halpern's, Mr. Sheldon Resnick, Micalense Home Bakery Ltd, George and Eileen Oliver, Kodak Employees Chest, Desjardins Securities, The George Lunan Foundation, Stephen Ibbott, Chris Benedetti and Abby Gainforth

Umbrella Day

Presenting Sponsors:



Location Sponsor:



Now in it's third year, our public awareness campaign "Umbrella Day" was another success. This campaign strives to gain public support and raise awareness for Horizons for Youth and its mission: to offer shelter and services for homeless and troubled youth in a safe, supportive environment. Donor and information booths were set-up throughout the "PATH" and TTC systems. Those who donate \$20 dollars or more will receive the gift of an umbrella. Thank you to our sponsors and volunteers for helping us raise over \$12,000 in support of Horizons for Youth and our programs targeted at homeless and at risk youth.

Thanks to our Corporate and
Foundation Donors - April 11, 2006 to
August 23, 2006:

Advertising Club of Toronto

Canadian Tech Air Systems Inc.

Cirque Du Soleil Inc.

Damon Allen Quarterback Challenge

Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario

Fairbank United Church

Ficanex Services Ltd.

Honda Canada Inc.

Kodak Canada Inc.

The Caring Foundation

The Harold E. Ballard Foundation

The Toskan Foundation

Vaughn Road Academy High School



Horizons for Youth
is proud to be a
United Way
Member Agency

For more information about Horizons for
Youth contact:

Maria Farno - Executive Director
Carol Murray - Director of Development
Allison Ferguson - Program Director

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Phone (416)781-9898 Fax (416)781-1933
www.horizonsforyouth.org

Ways to Donate

- **On-line donations** can be made directly from your bank account or credit card. Go to: <http://www.horizonsforyouth.org/help/index.html> and click on "Donate Now". Using this method monthly donations can also be made. Horizons makes it simple by issuing one tax receipt at the end of the year, reflecting all your donations.
- **Mail us** your donation using the reply card and envelope provided with this newsletter.
- **Call us** at the number above and ask for Carol Murray to give a credit card payment over the phone.
- **Donation Drive:** We are always in need of personal hygiene items and TTC Tokens. You can directly support our youth by holding a donation drive for these items at your work place, in your community, or at your event.
- **Estate Planning:** Bequests can be made in your will. Other planned giving options include: Endowments and Trusts, Securities, Charitable Gift Annuities and Life Insurance Policies.
- **Tribute** a gift in memory of someone or in celebration of a birthday or anniversary.
- **Employer gift match:** Find out from your human resources department if your employer matches employee contributions – challenge them to match your generosity!

For information on our giving plans, contact Carol Murray

Staff, Volunteers and clients of Horizons for Youth would all like to thank Jason 'Monty' Montgomery for his dedicated service since 1994. We appreciate all the extra time, energy and effort he put in to make the shelter great and give our youth a fresh start. We look forward to the transition as Maria Farno joins us as our new Executive Director on August 21. Maria comes to us with over 10 years experience as an Executive Director at residential social service agencies in Toronto and Ottawa helping hard to serve populations. We welcome Maria and her enthusiasm and look forward to her leadership.