



What's new under the sun - Fall 2007 Newsletter

How Horizons for Youth Makes a Difference

Louisa Tabone, our Housing Worker, has worked at Horizons for Youth since January 1999. She has worked with our clients in many roles throughout the years, and continued to learn and grow with the Shelter.

Louisa is leaving the shelter to set off on her own new horizon. She shares how Horizons for Youth has made a difference in her life.

My name is Luisa Tabone. I am currently the Housing Worker at Horizons for Youth. My job is to help clients seek safe and supportive housing, so that they don't need to use the shelter system in the future.

I have worked at Horizons for Youth for almost eight years. My journey with Horizons for Youth began when I was fresh out of college. It took me a while to really understand how the shelter system works to make a difference in these young people's lives. At first, it did not make sense to me why such intelligent and talented youth were in need of our services. I quickly discovered that these youth were often in need of some extra support to build their confidence and get them back on the right track.

I have a many great memories of working with some amazing youth, who's successes have found them coming back to visit Horizons for Youth to tell us about how well they are doing. They are so appreciative of having a place like this that they could rely on for support. These former clients, many of them now responsible adults, visit us with their families and share their stories of growth and success.

One young man in particular reminds me of how satisfying and rewarding my career here at Horizons for Youth has been. I take great pride in being a part of his success. It is humbling to think that providing an ear to listen to him,

a shoulder to lean on and encouraging support, he was able to work diligently to get himself back on his feet. This young man has now become a phenomenal volunteer, and a close a friend of mine.

At Horizons, youth are given the opportunity to realize and revisit their dreams. Horizons provides a safe place for youth to start their new journeys, in addition to fostering their skills and talents to become successful community members.

For me, Horizons for Youth has been a great place to work and grow both personally and professionally. I am honoured to have had the opportunity to work with our youth through case management, day program, community support, and for the last year within the housing department. This work has allowed me to invest a lot of myself, and this is because I believe and truly care about the youth that we serve.

When I tell friends and colleagues that I work with homeless and at-risk youth, most people remark that it must be "really sad and difficult." Others suggest that my job must be *very challenging*. Challenging? Yes, but the work we do at Horizons for Youth is more importantly fulfilling and rewarding.

I am so glad to have had the chance to work with the Horizons for Youth team, and I am proud to say I do what I do, because I know I have had a positive impact in the lives of the youth that we serve.

Luisa Tabone, Housing Worker

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.

Around the Shelter



*Woodbine Entertainment Receiving
2006 Donor of the Year*

Donor Appreciation Night

Horizons for Youth has been overwhelmed with the support it has received over the years, and has a promising future because of great people like you. On June 12th, 2007, Horizons took this opportunity to thank a few of the many great people that make Horizons for Youth what it is today.

The 2006 Donor of the Year is Woodbine Entertainment. Since the 1990's Woodbine Entertainment has hosted and catered our many events. It is because of their continued commitment and support that our events are the success they are.

The 2006 Volunteer of the Year is Isabel Mazzotta. Despite Isabel's busy schedule, she visits once a week to assist in the Art Program. Her dedication to and passion for working with at-risk youth has touched many lives.

The 2006 Employee of the Year is Dwight Miller. Dwight is the Day Program Coordinator, a natural leader and teacher for our youth. Dwight not only provides support to youth, but also to the rest of the Horizons Team. It is the great employees like Dwight that continue to shape the future of Horizons.

Horizons would like to thank every one who has been a part of Horizons for Youth. It is through your support, donations and commitment to our youth that we are able to do what we do.

If you have an idea for Horizons, or would like to get more involved please contact us at 416-781-9898.

Ricardo P. Morris is a resident at the Horizons for Youth participating in the Youth Art Therapy Program. Here is a recent piece of his writing...

Happiness

Life is full of ups and down
it can make you smile, or
it can make you frown
But no matter what life may bring
we should always look at the bright side of things
for life is too short for problems
'cause we all have them
so smile and wave, and say hello
and you will see what life's joys can bring.



Coming Back to Horizons for Youth

Allison Ferguson has returned to Horizons for Youth after a short leave. She shares her thoughts on what it's like to be back.

I returned to Horizons for Youth re-energized and eager to contribute to the shelter in my new role as Community Support Worker.

I am now entering my third month, and wondering where the time went. I have been trusted with the tremendous responsibility to encourage, support, guide and influence some of the most resilient and remarkable young people I have met.

Many of our clients are living independently for the first time. They are confident and ready to be positive, contributing members of society due to the commitment and support the entire Horizons for Youth staff team devotes to them from intake to planned discharge.

From researching and registering for college and university programs, grocery store excursions, delivering food/care packages, facilitating budgeting and life skills workshops and advocating for our clients, my days have been full and eventful.

I love it.

Thank you to our faithful supporters who donate household supplies, personal hygiene supplies and those wonderful little trinkets that bring comfort to your first home. Without your generosity I would not be able to create care packages for each of our clients. Your donations also encourage our clients to contribute as well. Many of the outreach clients return to Horizons to volunteer and share their stories of success and challenges with current clients. These amazing youth have also shared their stories at our AGM and our Annual Speakers Events.

This has been a very successful beginning to what I am sure will be a challenging yet incredibly rewarding new role within the agency.

Allison Ferguson, Community Support Worker

Development News

Horizons for Youth races towards the finish line with the 11th Annual Speaker's Series!



Integrated Asset Management's 11th 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 speakers were brought to you by Deloitte, our Speaker's Table Sponsor.

Thanks to Scotiabank Group, our Race Sponsors, guest had the opportunity to take part in the excitement of watching the thoroughbred horses thunder by. Attendees were able to learn from the experts on bidding and understanding the invigorating world of horse races.

We also cannot forget the event supporters, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, and Kodak Canada. They helped make sure the night was a huge success.



Spider Jones and Scotiabank Vice-Chairman John Madden share a laugh while awaiting the next race

Don't forget to mark next year's calendar to attend our 12th Annual Speaker's Series on June 25th, 2008 at Woodbine Racetrack. See you there!

Another Successful Umbrella Day!

The Horizons for Youth Signature Event is Umbrella Day. This year we held a very 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, the Guardian Group of Funds.

Horizons for Youth gathered together staff, supporters, 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 many people who opened their hearts and their wallets in support of Umbrella Day.

In total Horizons for Youth Umbrella Day raised \$17,153.19.

We can't 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. If you would be able to give a couple of hours of your time in advance or on Umbrella Day, please contact Horizons for Youth at 416-781-9898.

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.

See you on April 17th, 2008 in the subway or in the PATH.

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CIRQUE DU SOLEIL®



KOOZA!

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 to raise over \$25,000 to support the shelter's 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 making this a night to remember

Thanks to our Corporate and Foundation Donors

March 15, 2007 – August 15, 2007

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Horizons for Youth
is proud to be a
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*For more information
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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 Mary Stranges 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!

Our Mission

Horizons for Youth is dedicated to our mission to shelter, prepare, and guide at-risk youth to be contributing community members. We help them to take responsibility for their lives, make positive choices about their future and establish themselves in the community. In conjunction with community partners, Horizons seeks to identify ways to address the causes and effects of homelessness. We help over 1000 youth each year.