



JOHN FENTON, 85 BRAVES THE COLD TO HELP TORONTO'S HUNGRY AND HOMELESS

MEDIA CONTACT

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TORONTO –John Fenton is proving that when there is a will, there is a way. At 85 years old, he will be braving the cold with Yonge Street Mission (YSM) during their annual Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) walk on February 28, 2018 to raise awareness for the estimated 150,000 hungry and homeless in Toronto. John has been involved with the organization since he first accompanied his father to YSM 74 years ago. This was the first time John was exposed to poverty and he vowed to do what he could do help his neighbours living with poverty.

This will be John's fourth and last year walking due to his spinal stenosis, which has caused progressive nerve damage and affected his mobility, making it impossible to walk without the assistance of walking sticks. He has also lost most of the use of his right hand. As a result, he is hoping to go out with a bang and has set his goal at \$50,000, his highest goal to date. He admits that it won't be easy, but he wants to help provide programming and support for Toronto's homeless youth – including the opening of the new YSM Evergreen Centre for Street Youth.

"I want to give as much as I can while I am still alive. In a community, we are meant to love and care for each other when things gets bad. The new YSM Evergreen Centre is going to be a great help to street youth and I am very proud to be a part of it. My father would be very proud to see the Fenton family continuing to support a charity that our family has loved for many years." John is almost halfway to his goal – having raised \$19,795 as of this morning and is encouraging others to get involved by helping raise awareness – either by registering to walk or helping him reach his goal.

The walkathon, which takes place on the statistically coldest day of the year in Canada gives participants first-hand experience of what the homeless in our community feel on a daily basis. "This is a fun, family friendly way to get the community involved in making a difference," says Angie Draskovic, president & CEO, Yonge Street Mission. "It is important that we support our neighbours in need, especially some of the most vulnerable in our city – homeless youth."

Money raised from this event will support YSM programming, such as YSM's Evergreen Centre for Street Youth. There's still time for Torontonians to help John reach his goal or to walk alongside him and YSM – visit www.cnoy.org/toronto to learn more, register for the walk or make a donation.

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For more information about [Yonge Street Mission](http://www.ysm.ca), please visit www.ysm.ca or call 416-929-9614. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#)

About The Yonge Street Mission

To people who believe that every person is of value and has promise, YSM is the vibrant, local Christian development agency that is leading an infectious movement - going beyond meeting immediate needs by offering holistic programs and a pathway that can transform the lives of people living with poverty in Toronto from merely surviving to thriving.

Our five locations are:

- YSM's Evergreen Centre for Street Youth, 381 Yonge Street (*soon to be 365/367 Spadina Avenue*)
- Christian Community Centre, 270 Gerrard Street East
- Genesis Place, 280 Gerrard Street East
- H.B. Martin Family Centre for Urban Education, 306 Gerrard Street East
- Double Take & TD Securities Computer Literacy Centre, 310 Gerrard Street East

