



YONGE STREET MISSION

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The Yonge Street Mission launches collaboration with local women's organization

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TORONTO – On July 25, 2017 the Yonge Street Mission's (YSM) [Double Take Thrift Store](#) launched their collaboration with the Creative Women's Collective. The collective is a subset of the [Women's Development Network](#) (WDN), a community based organization that seeks to empower women in Regent Park and surrounding areas by providing them with skills development and social enterprise opportunities.

YSM's Community Development team provided guidance for the group of women and Double Take's Store Manager provided mentorship through insight into the world of retail as well as helping them with the creative process, merchandising and marketing.

Angie Draskovic, YSM's President & CEO, is a firm believer in the power of collaboration and an advocate for poverty reduction. "YSM is proud supporter of the Women's Development Network and their efforts to create business and income opportunities for low-income immigrant women living in Regent Park and surrounding areas. These types of opportunities will help people move out of poverty and become more self-sustaining. We believe that communities thrive when their people do."

Last year, the WDN worked with OCAD University's industrial design class to create a line of marketable products - a potential source of income for participants from the community. What they learned through this partnership inspired many of their creations, which are now for sale within Double Take. They will be partnering with them

Their creations, which consist of hand-made jewelry, knitwear, sewn items and specialty foods will be available for sale within Double Take's "Show[case]" until January 2017. Show[case] – a room where bargain hunters can find great vintage and antique items, unique merchandise and upscale clothing, at discounted prices is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday from 2-6 pm, and 2- 7 pm on Thursday's and Friday's. Double Take general hours can be found [here](#).

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About the Women's Development Network The Women's Development Network (WDN) is a community initiative supported by YSM. The organization provides peer support, skills development and social enterprise opportunities for women from the Regent Park, Moss Park and surrounding areas. Their mission is to promote full participation of women in social and economic life and a sense of well-being in the community. Members share experience and expertise with their peers through cooperative learning and development activities. WDN also provides safe spaces for women to learn and build confidence in their leadership skills and abilities. Currently, there are over 100 participants, with plans to expand further. For more info about the Women's Development Network visit www.facebook.com/wdnregpark/. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

About The Yonge Street Mission The Yonge Street Mission is a non-profit Christian faith organization that believes everyone is made in the image of God and has intrinsic value. Since 1896, their mission has been to break down the different cycles of poverty to create better futures for those they serve, regardless of colour, culture, economic status, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation or social condition. The Yonge Street Mission served more than 12,000 unique individuals in 2016 including street youth, families in crisis, and those who experience chronic poverty, from six locations in Toronto's downtown core. For more information about The Yonge Street Mission, please visit www.ysm.ca or call 416-929-9614. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#)

Our six locations are:

- YSM Evergreen Centre for Street Youth, 381 Yonge Street (*soon to be The Yonge Street Mission Evergreen Centre for Street Youth, 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 Thrift Store & TD Computer Literacy Centre, 310 Gerrard Street East
- St. James Town Neighbourhood Office, 225 Wellesley Street East

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More photos of their creations can be found [here](#).