

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark skin and short hair, seen from the side, holding a young child. The child, also with dark skin, is smiling broadly and looking towards the camera. The child is wearing a pink shirt and is secured in a blue mesh baby carrier. The woman is wearing a dark grey long-sleeved shirt. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a kitchen or a similar indoor setting with various items on a counter.

2023

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

At YSM we deliver service and care to three core population groups: street-involved youth, families in crisis and adults experiencing generational poverty. You are likely aware of YSM's RISE model of care, through which staff work closely with community members to support them on the journey taking them from merely surviving to thriving.

In 2023 we were truly grateful for the committed support of our **Possibility Partners** donors, who made the following developments possible:

At our Evergreen Centre for **Street-Involved Youth**

- This year saw the renovation of Evergreen's third floor, to house our new and expanded Health and Dental Centre, to open imminently after a year of construction. The **4,760 square foot** space offers doubled dental capacity and significantly increased capacity to serve the health needs of vulnerable youth.
- We were able to build the amazing new clinic, which was fully funded by private donations, with dedicated spaces for optometry, mental health management, in addition to other needed spaces, and a very special nursery where YSM clients can drop off their children while they access our Evergreen Centre services.
- During construction our Health Services, working with approximately **40 health professional volunteers**, served **450 youth**, to meet their complex healthcare needs including **482 mental health appointments** and offering **133 families** with young children parenting workshops and needed baby supplies.
- Like the approximately **37,000 meals** we shared with youth in 2023, comprehensive healthcare is a fundamental building block in developing the trust necessary to make a true and lasting impact in the life of street-involved youth.



Within our Cornerstone **Family Support Services**

- In 2023 we added a new program element: an anti-bullying and character-building program called **Thinking Forward** being delivered in local TDSB schools.
- We were also thrilled to announce a new partnership with **Junior Achievement**, a well-established non-profit organization providing financial literacy training to youth.
- These two new programs are being delivered as part of our line-up of after-school, PA day, March break and summer camp programs.



- We also added **1-to-1 tutoring** to continue to ensure we are consistently providing the kind of programs which achieve real outcomes that will end the cycle of poverty with this generation.

Adults Bridges Community Services

- 2023 saw the introduction of monthly nutritional classes delivered in partnership with Toronto's *Vegetarian Food Bank*. Among an aging community member population, a focus on nutrition is key to building the strength and resilience necessary for older adults to make forward steps in their lives.



The Growing Demand for YSM's Food Bank



- With the rising cost of living, numbers of visitors to our Food Bank continued to grow this year with more new faces seen than in years past. Since 2020, before the pandemic, we've seen a **247% increase in visits to our Food Bank**.

At YSM, food is essentially an on-ramp for many, and the first step which welcomes community members into relationship with us. It's from this point that we can introduce them to the many other programs and support services offered at YSM.

YSM is truly grateful to our valued recurring donors, those like you with a heart for neighbours in need.

We offer you our sincere thanks as your gifts of time, treasure and talent are what fuel our work and motivate our staff and those we serve to keep advancing, even amid challenges.

For all you do, THANK YOU!

