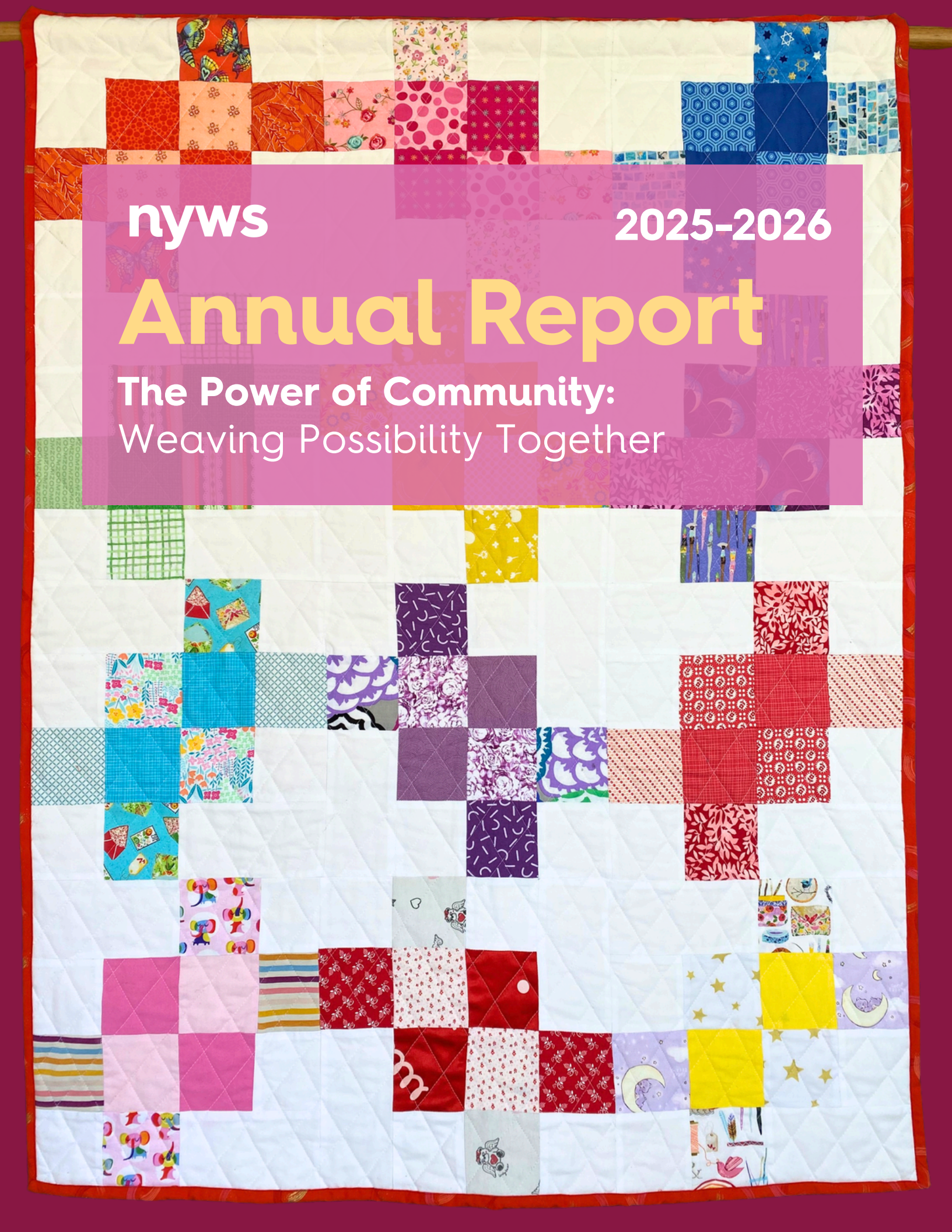




nyws

2025-2026

Annual Report

The Power of Community:
Weaving Possibility Together

Message from Executive Director and Chair

Continued growth, deeper impact, and renewed commitment to the families we serve were the themes that characterized 2025-26 at North York Women’s Shelter. As we continue to build our strong foundation, supported by our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan, we remain focused on enhancing the quality and responsiveness of our programs to meet the evolving needs of survivors of gender-based violence.

Throughout 2025-26, we are proud to have supported 43 women, 77 children, 4 dogs and 4 cats to change the trajectory of their futures by providing emergency shelter and support to move forward to a new chapter, free from the risk of harm. We welcomed 4 babies born in shelter, and we supported 241 crisis callers in their moment of need. 43 families received support through the Transitional Program. Of the 34 who were eligible for Special Priority status, 21 successfully obtained permanent affordable housing, demonstrating the positive impact of coordinated advocacy, strong community partnerships, and effective system navigation in helping clients secure safe and stable housing.

A key area of focus this year was further developing our ability to holistically risk assess and understand the nuanced and complex personal situations of all clients and crisis callers. As such, we have introduced the RISA risk assessment tool as our standardized method of identifying and addressing violence and abuse. This tool was launched as part of the Barbara Schleiffer Clinic’s National Risk Assessment Project, and the Clinic provided training and consultation to enhance staff knowledge and case management practices.

Our work would not be possible without our ongoing partnership with Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, whose funding is pivotal to the shelter beds we operate on a daily basis. We also want to recognize the ongoing support of United Way of Greater Toronto, whose support enables our Programs and Services team to manage caseloads, respond to client needs, and advocate for the highest quality of care to equip survivors for a safer future.

We wish to further acknowledge the generosity and commitment of our local community. We extend our sincere thanks to the Toronto Pearson Airline Operators Committee for supporting us at their summer golf tournament, to our local Shoppers Drug Mart stores who think of us during their annual initiatives, and to our loyal supporters at the Anne Marie D’Amico Foundation, whose advocacy for folks affected by gender-based violence remains heartfelt and unwavering.

We thank our wonderful staff, Board, partners, volunteers, supporters and allies for their help in creating safe and accessible spaces for survivors. We look forward to another year with confidence, purpose, and resilience, driven by the Vision of a community characterized by gender equality where women, trans and non-binary individuals and their children are empowered and safe.

In solidarity,

Carol Latchford
Executive Director

Michele Robitaille
Chair of the Board of Directors



Impact Summary



Group programs provided	
1 Legal Support	8 Food and Nutrition
3 Recreational	9 Movement and Exercise
5 Indigenous and Cultural Safety	10 Physical Health
	14 Mental Health



Appendix of key terms

- Crisis call** = A telephone call received from a member of the community seeking support about their situation of violence.
- GBV** = Gender-Based Violence
- Individual Advocacy** = The process of supporting and empowering individuals to navigate systems.
- Meal** = NYWS provides breakfasts, lunches and dinners to our residents. The statistic on the number of meals provided includes all breakfasts, lunches and dinners served during the fiscal year.
- Safety plan** = A formalized plan developed in consultation with a survivor including the steps they can take to keep themselves safe from serious harm. Each safety plan is unique to each person, depending on their personal situation and the pattern of violence they have experienced.
- Shelter** = Our secure facility with a confidential location, where survivors of gender-based violence can stay safely as temporary accommodation.
- Shelter bed** = One space for one person at NYWS - whether for a child or an adult. Our operating capacity in 2025-26 was 40 beds, meaning 40 people can live at NYWS at a time.
- VAW/VAWG** = Violence Against Women / and Girls

Where do our referrals come from?

- Referrals come to NYWS from all across Ontario from many different service providers, however, this list includes some of our more frequent referral sources.
- Assaulted Women’s Helpline
 - Children’s Aid Societies
 - Community legal clinics
 - Faith-based and cultural organizations
 - Healthcare professionals
 - Indigenous support organizations
 - Police services and victim services
 - School or college support centres
 - Self referrals
 - Sexual assault centres

Programming at NYWS

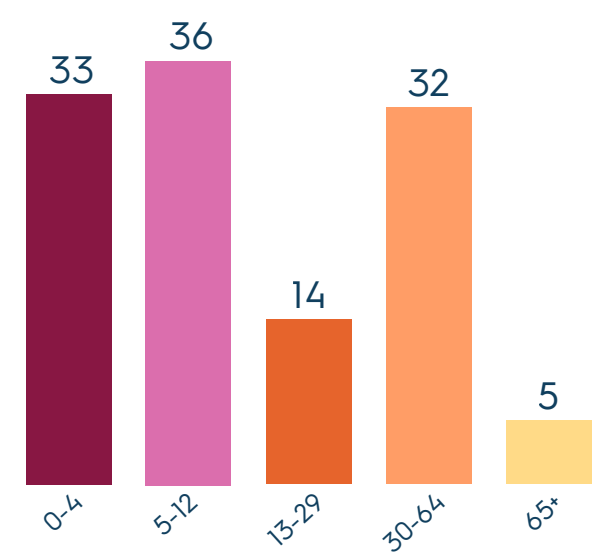
Shelter Program

The NYWS shelter provides a safe place for women, trans and non-binary adults, children and pets escaping violence to live for 3-6 months while working toward a more permanent housing solution. The shelter program begins with safety planning, and a risk and needs assessment, followed by free safe temporary accommodation and support as residents prepare for their next steps beyond shelter.

Every family has a private bedroom with an ensuite bathroom, an in-room HVAC unit, mini fridge, safe and TV. Residents can access communal lounges, an open dining hall, on-site laundry facilities, a playroom, dedicated food storage space, and an outdoor garden.

Clients living in the shelter have access to adults' and children's programming, including workshops that support personal growth, healing, and wellbeing. These programs also facilitate social interaction and foster positive relationships among individuals with common lived experiences.

Age of shelter residents 2025-26



Food Justice & Food Security Program

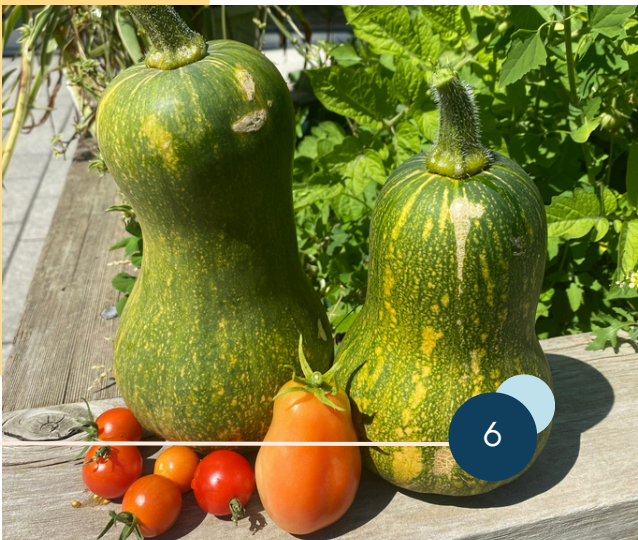
Our food program's main objective is to provide access to healthy and nutritious meals for survivors of gender-based violence, and strengthening their long-term food security.

NYWS shelter residents have access to daily breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks for school. Our Food Security Coordinator ensures a thorough assessment of every family's unique cultural, religious and health-related dietary requirements. Through doing so, the weekly menu remains relevant and inclusive for all residents.

Families receive a departure package when leaving North York Women's Shelter, which includes an array of non-perishable foods to support them in their new home. Transitional clients are also provided with food packages throughout the year to support with the high cost of groceries in the community.



131,400
meals provided in
shelter throughout
2025-26



Transitional Program

Our transitional program assists survivors of gender-based violence to seek and apply for safe, stable housing which is appropriate for their next steps after shelter. Many families qualify for subsidized housing, and are supported in navigating this application process while living in shelter.

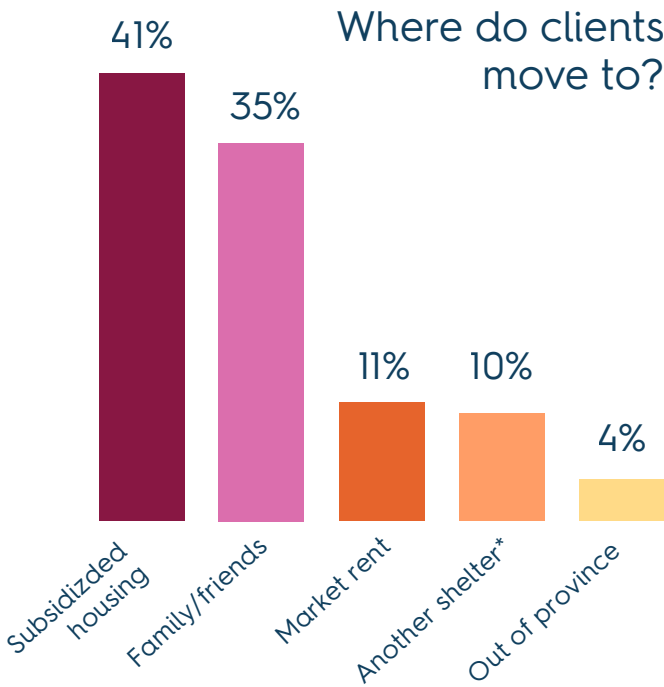
Once a family secures their next step, the transitional program continues to provide ongoing support for at least 6 months after their departure from shelter. Through doing so, we can ensure families are fully connected with all the community resources they will need to maintain stability, security and safety in their new chapter of life.

42 families



supported to find a new home in 2025-26





*Families move to another shelter when we have safety concerns.

(This data is collected at the time clients move out of the shelter and corroborated for an average of 6 months through the ongoing support of our Transitional Program).



Client Case Studies

A mother and her three children, including one child on the autism spectrum, moved to NYWS for safety from an extremely unsafe situation. From the day they arrived, our team provided comprehensive, survivor-centered support tailored to the family's unique needs.

To minimize instability and disruption, the children were promptly enrolled in school in their new area. The mother was connected to specialized services to support her children's developmental needs and accessed targeted community resources. She participated in shelter programming including life skills workshops and parenting support, while also working to have her Bachelor of Laws degree recognized in Canada.



With coordinated guidance from our Women's Advocates, Housing Support Worker, Resource Worker, and Program staff, she prepared for independent living through housing applications and financial planning. Through this collaborative approach, the family successfully secured permanent subsidized housing and moved to their new home in late 2025.

The children now have a place to play, grow, and thrive. For their mother, it represents stability, dignity, and renewed hope; a fresh start for the entire family!



Late one night, a young woman contacted our shelter in crisis, after she and her mother had experienced physical and sexual abuse. Our team responded immediately, providing emergency support that same night to bring the women to a safe, confidential space where they could begin to rebuild their sense of security.



The young woman engaged fully in life skills development, wellness support and educational guidance while living at shelter. She worked closely with our housing and case management teams to develop a clear, personalized plan for her future. A kind donor to NYWS provided her with a laptop, with which she has been able to continue her university degree and secure a part-time job.

Through coordinated, trauma-informed care and institutional advocacy, we fast-tracked her application for a Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) unit. The young woman successfully transitioned into a secure, permanent home, gaining the safety, stability, and independence necessary to continue building her life.

The compassion and collaboration of our team provided this young woman with the safety, empowerment and hope that she deserves.





Client Testimonials

"I am very happy because I have achieved one of the most important things in our lives: our safety and a home where we can finally rest.

All of this was made possible with the support of everyone at North York Women's Shelter, who stood by me and helped me until I reached my goal. I am truly very grateful and thankful to all of you."



"I wanted to take a moment to sincerely express my gratitude for your kindness, leadership, and the care you consistently show. Your support and the thoughtful way you ensure everything is handled truly mean a great deal to me, and it does not go unnoticed."

"It's so hard out there being a single mom and opportunities like this really make a difference"

Our Programming Partners

With the help of community partners, North York Women’s Shelter supported survivors with various programs on personal development, finances, employability, health and hygiene, and many other topics. Such programs provide survivors with the skills and knowledge they need to rebuild their lives once they leave the shelter. These services were made possible via our multipurpose programming space, the Anne Marie D’Amico Community Collective.



SickKids
Garry Hurvitz
Centre for Community
Mental Health



CENTRE DE SANTÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE
BLACK CREEK
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE



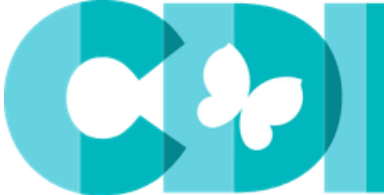
Barbra Schlifer
Commemorative Clinic
Freedom From Violence.



Humber River Health
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Alumier MD



NCJWC
Toronto



LUME NUS



Charlie's
FREEWHEELS





paint new memories
PAINT PARTIES & ART KITS

Teknicor

Teknicor generously donated 240 hygiene supplies kits via our Kits for a Cause program. The team engaged in a volunteer morning to sort and pack the items into individual kits, making them easy to be given out as welcome packages for clients arriving to shelter.



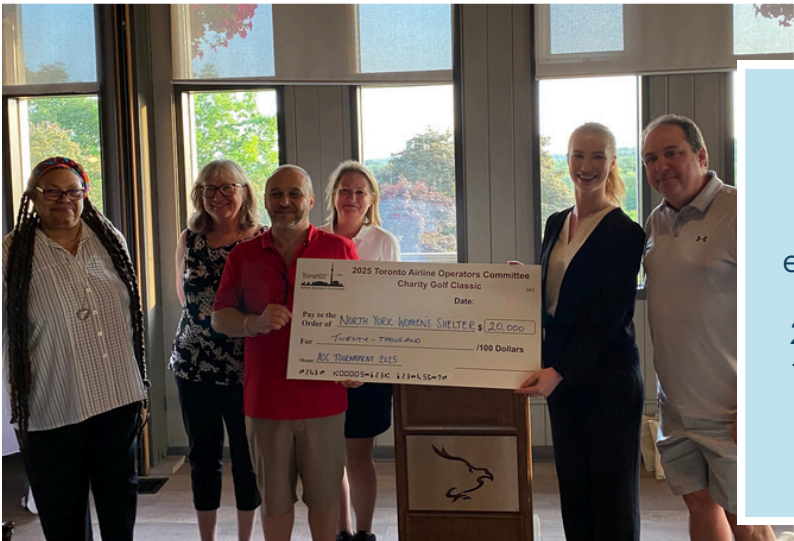
BMO Corporate Real Estate Team

A group of six staff from the BMO Corporate Real Estate team spent an afternoon rearranging our donations room to improve the accessibility of the space. They also kindly coordinated a very generous donation of cleaning materials, kitchen equipment and two fridges, which have supported the food security of our shelter residents.



Community Collaborators

Strong communities help build the backbone of North York Women’s Shelter. This past year, we have ben actively engaging with allies and supporters in our community who have kindly volunteered their time and services to fundraise for us.



Toronto Pearson Airline Operators Committee

Members from 65 airline operators enjoyed a patio barbecue and a round on Glen Eagle’s golf course for their 2025 Golf Tournament. The AOC chose to support NYWS with the proceeds of this event, with an incredible fundraising total of \$20,000.



York University Women’s Hockey Team

York Lions Women’s Hockey dedicated their Carleton Ravens matchup to the Elimination of Violence Against Women & Girls initiative, to raise awareness about gender-based violence and support survivors in the community. The Lions were proud to use this platform to spark conversation about violence against women in sport, and to stand in solidarity with survivors.



Maybelle's Women's Domestic Violence Advocacy Fundraiser

Raising funds for North York Women's Shelter

\$1,405.00 raised of \$2,000.00

\$0 \$1,000 \$2,000

A local grade 12 student came across NYWS when working on a school project about domestic abuse. She chose to hold her own online fundraiser for our charity, superseding her original target by over 40%!

Maybelle said, “In school we don't learn much about gender-based violence. A lot of people my age don't know the signs or what to do if you are in a situation like this. That's why it is important to talk about it, and to help women and children who are in this situation.”



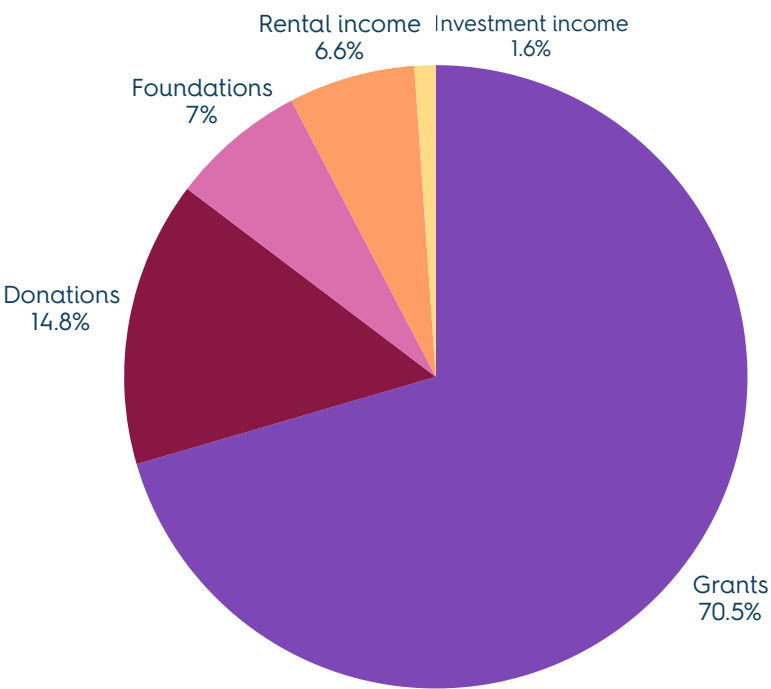
Nicole Beinert

One of our long-time supporters, Nicole Beinert, hosted her 13th Annual Pumpkin Patch, an event that started as a neighbourhood gathering and has grown into a local tradition packed with warmth and generosity. Throughout the year, she ran three other incredible initiatives; a back-to-school donation drive, Mother’s Day gifting, and a sponsored holiday dinner.

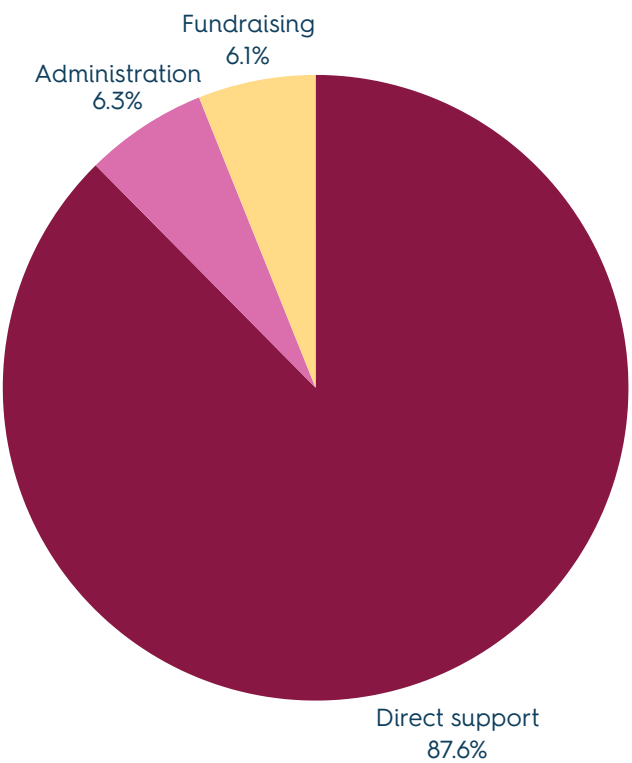


Financials

Income
\$2,620,812



Expenses
\$3,391,645



A portion of expenses include the depreciation of our building and other assets.



With thanks to our 2025-26 Supporters

\$25,000+

Holdbest Foundation
Shoppers Foundation for Women's Health
United Way Greater Toronto

\$10,000+

Anne Marie D'Amico Foundation
Burgetz Family Foundation
Burnbrae Farms Foundation
Cindy Mashal
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
Gardiner Roberts LLP
Meighen Family Foundation
Rotary Club of North York
ScotiaMcLeod Foundation
Toronto Pearson Airline Operators Committee

\$5,000+

Armour Heights Presbyterian Church
LiUNA Local 183
Osgoode Women's Network
Royal LePage Shelter Foundation
TD Bank Financial Group
Toronto EarlsCourt Rotary Club
Trisura Guarantee Insurance Company
Youth & Philanthropy Initiative

\$1,000+

AJ & Ashley's No Frills
Atrium II
Ben Kaak
Berenice Smirle Charitable Fund
Brian Ward
C and C Family Foundation
Charities Aid Foundation Canada
Colette Taylor
Crystal Jenkins
Dean Levitt
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Mathews, Dinsdale & Clark LLP
Mevotech LP
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Nu-Life Medical & Surgical Supplies Inc
Pina Povolo
Rand Kildare Charitable Foundation
Randy Josephs

Robert and Ellen Eisenberg
Royal Bank of Canada
Sara Blake
Solic Medical Equipment
Stamatis Fountoulakis
Ted Leeb
The Sisterhood of Saint John the Divine
Toronto Foundation
Tufts' Your Independent Grocer
Unifor Local 1701
Warren Brown
York Lions Club

\$500+

Alexandra Easson Medicine Corporation
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Barbara Saipe
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Dian Laycock
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Jason Carli
Jim Tom
Judy Clarke
Kristi Turnbull
Kyra Dorfman
Lisa Applegath
Mardi Saunders
Marilyn Jean Burstyn
Megan Stephens
Melanie Fishbane
Miri Hadas Koller
Myra Omary
Nathan Kumaru
Pallavi Pilaka

Parkway Forest Community Church
People Strategy
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Rena Godfrey
Rosemary Fillmore
Sarah Charow
Stephanie Fusco
Teresa Bloemendaal
The Lowidt Foundation
Tom Forestell
Tony Navaneelan
Victor & Rhoda Shields Charitable Foundation
Wayne Pau

Special thanks

A heartfelt thank you to the following donors for their generous in-kind contributions. Their donations of essential items and special extras have helped bridge the gap and allowed residents to experience dignity, support and joy when they need them most.



2025-26 Board of Directors

Michele Robitaille Chair	Joulaika Buchan Vice Chair
Megan Stephens Secretary	Vidula Shetye Treasurer
Andrene Vitelli Director	Ruhi Kiflen Director
Savera Hashmi Director	Sarah Tariq Director



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Charitable Registration 129819512RR0001

"Agape"

Noun: The highest form of love, often used in relation to community

"This quilt is a collective story, stitched together from fragments of lives that have endured, resisted, and survived domestic abuse. Each piece of fabric carries its own history.

A shirt once worn in a moment of strength,

a dress tied to memory,

a tactile that has witnessed pain and perseverance.

Individually, these materials hold deeply personal narratives; together they form a powerful testament to survival, resilience and reclamation.

With love."

The artwork on this cover was created by a survivor during her time living in shelter. She engaged other residents to contribute, and so this project became a true community piece of art.

Now settled in permanent housing, the survivor is using her creativity and talent to build her next chapter in life.