



Building Opportunity

Show support for youth by investing in their future.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED
JOAN'S PLACE
NEW ADDITION CAMPAIGN



Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) is proud to introduce **Joan's Place**. Supported by The New Addition Campaign, **Joan's Place** will create hope and opportunity for all youth at risk by providing them with the tools and skills they need to overcome their challenges with addiction, primary and mental health, housing, education, and unemployment, and become part of the community around them.

We know that everyone needs a place to call home. With the support of our community we have set to raise \$15.8 million through community and government funding to construct **Joan's Place**.

"Joan's Place is more than just housing – it's about creating a home. It's about wrapping people with the supports they need. It's about helping people build the skills so they can become the contributors to the community that they want to be."

– Dr. Arlene MacDougall, Psychiatrist,
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

You can change a life

Our request is simple: learn about **Joan's Place** and the incredible services it will provide to youth. Help us reach our goal by giving generously and asking others to do the same.

Many drop-in youth clients are homeless, early school leavers or precariously housed. **One person without a home is too many.** These youth are living with layers of trauma and challenges that require immediate and long term supports like primary and mental healthcare, addiction services, education, housing, and employment and training. There is an immediate need to upgrade the support system to serve the 300-350 youth who visit YOU each month. Our community goal to raise \$8.2 million will help us provide the independence and opportunity for at risk youth, young moms and moms to be.

Joan's Place includes:

3 buildings **39** units

55,000 square feet

Located at the corner of Richmond and York Street, across from YOU's Cornerstone Building



A stable home for youth, young moms, and moms to be, **Joan's Place** will be a place that provides safety and support at the most vulnerable time in their lives. **Joan's Place** will provide safe and affordable homes for those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, and will act as an integrated program hub.

Focused on putting youth first, as part of **Joan's Place**, the Youth Wellness Hub will provide comprehensive support services. Within a safe and welcoming space, youth will receive the support they need to build their skills, confidence and independence. Services include:

- Primary and mental healthcare
- Employment and training
- Addiction services
- Education
- Housing

Mackenzie's Story

Mackenzie has always been driven to succeed. But, as a teen, she realized reaching success wasn't simply a matter of "setting her mind to it".

"I struggled with my mental health and relationship issues in my teenage years, and graduated high school pregnant with my daughter," says Mackenzie. Having her daughter months after graduation, she transitioned abruptly into adulthood and felt unprepared.

Worried about her ability to support her newborn daughter given the high cost of rent, Mackenzie faced a conflict. Without a job, she could not afford childcare, but without childcare she could not get a job. "I always knew that I wanted to do something with my life, but I could not get ahead," says Mackenzie.

Solution-focused and eager to break the cycle, Mackenzie became involved with YOU's program, Training for Employment Success. Through the program, she completed field training at the YOU Café. "I had the opportunity to invest in myself, which gives my daughter a better future as well," she shares.

Working at the Café gave Mackenzie more than just

on-the-job training. When her relationship with the father of her daughter became toxic, YOU recognized signs of distress, and acted quickly.

"YOU supported me, advocated for me and connected me with resources. I was given the courage to remove myself and my daughter from a harmful situation."

As a single mom balancing college, work, volunteering, friendships, relationships, and self-care, there are many things to get done in a day. YOU gave Mackenzie job skills, an income, and mental health counselling. They advocated about her abilities as a mother and helped her find affordable housing. "YOU gave me strength," she explains.

Mackenzie and her daughter are healthy, stable, and growing. "YOU helped me find myself, learn to navigate a system that I felt trapped in, and become a strong and confident role model for my daughter."

"YOU helped me achieve my goals and because of that, my daughter is growing up strong. I am so proud of both of us."



"I had the opportunity to invest in myself, which gives my daughter a better future as well."

Mackenzie, YOU Alumni

Your Gift Matters

Youth, young moms, and moms to be experiencing homelessness need more than a bed. They need wrap-around support, from housing and career guidance, to primary health and mental health care and employment. Your gift provides youth, young moms, and moms to be with the opportunity to create their own futures and give back to the next generation of our city.

You can make an immediate and lasting impact on our community's youth by contributing to **Joan's Place**. You can change a life.

Learn how you can support **Joan's Place** and The New Addition Campaign by contacting Stephanie Williams, at 519-204-4538 or stephanie@connectdot.ca.

For more information, visit www.you.ca.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED

JOAN'S PLACE

NEW ADDITION CAMPAIGN



Total
Project Cost

\$15.8 Million

Community
Donations

\$8.2 Million

Phase
One

Construction

Phase
Two

**Completion of
Joan's Place**

What is Youth Opportunities Unlimited?

Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) supports youth by providing them with the tools and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. From housing and healthcare to education and career services, YOU is a comprehensive support system for youth in our community.

Youth Opportunities Unlimited is a registered charitable organization.
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