

WINTER 2024

YSM is on a mission to end long-term poverty in Toronto by working in partnership with others, to support life change, develop healthy communities and remove systemic barriers. Our ultimate vision is to create a city where people, not poverty, thrive.

We steadily work toward our vision using our wrap-around model of care which creates pathways for community members to overcome the barriers which keep them trapped in hardship and, ultimately, moves them from merely surviving, to thriving.

Throughout 2024 we were truly grateful for the generous support of our **TO.gether Team** donors, and the vast impact your generosity made possible. In this **TO.gether Team Telegram** we are pleased to share about the breadth of [impact our relief services](#) had on the struggling community members YSM serves.

## Bridging Toronto's food insecurity gap through our **Food Bank**

The current high prices of food and other essentials has been a factor contributing to record user levels at our Food Bank, one of YSM's key services which provides critical relief to community members regularly facing hunger and food insecurity.

Our Food Bank model prioritizes dignity, respect and education, especially in regard to nutrition and, through supportive volunteer aides, fosters connection by providing not just food but also a sense of community.



**With the help of your generous support in 2024, we were able to fight food insecurity for many of the community members we serve through a record total of:**

**14,735**  
visits to our Food Bank

## Sustaining our community with **meals and connection**

2024 saw many youth, adults and families turning to YSM for drop-in, take-away or community meals, offered at both our Evergreen Centre for Vulnerable Youth and our Bridges Community Services where we serve adults.

**Through these program areas we connected with wide swaths of those we serve, to provide:**

**56,151**  
total meals

**31,267**  
drop-in meals  
for youth

**24,475**  
take-away/community  
meals for adults

## The **impact** of your support

Raoul\* arrived in Canada in 1991. He was a refugee who didn't have much, yet had boundless hope his life would soon get better in a new country – one filled with new opportunities.

His wife soon joined him and they started a family, which was a source of real joy. They felt deep gratitude for the improvement they'd seen in their lives, and the fact they both were able to step into good jobs, enabling them to afford an apartment.

Theirs were good lives, until Raoul suddenly lost his job.

Of course life became much more difficult as a result. And that caused things to unravel for him. Eventually the stress and impact caused Raoul to lose his wife, home and access to his children.

He found himself homeless, and felt helpless and forgotten.

He didn't know how to begin rebuilding his life, but did know he needed to eat to survive.

**And that's how generous committed donors like you made such a difference for him . . .**

It was in December when Raoul found his way to Yonge Street Mission, where he was welcomed in. He was offered hearty, healthy meals he desperately needed. Delicious dinners filled his stomach, while his spirits were lifted by the chance to be part of a community.

Raoul's first Yonge Street Mission meal was many years ago now, but – thanks to your generosity – he has continued to receive a variety of supports which have helped him get off the street and come to live more stably in Regent Park. Counselling has helped him break addictions, so he could start rebuilding his life, to take on new roles including advocating for other community members in his neighbourhood.

The meals and Food Bank groceries you enabled YSM to offer him, were the start to his journey out of poverty, and for him to become a Regent Park community advocate, supporting so many neighbours who are struggling just as he once did.

**Today Raoul remains grateful to generous donors like you who helped him in his time of greatest need.**

*\* Community member's name and image changed to protect their privacy.*



Raoul is grateful for the support you made possible, and what it's meant in his life.

**YSM is truly grateful to you, our valued **TO.gether Team** donors, who continue to support struggling Toronto neighbours through your generosity.**

**To you, we offer heartfelt thanks as your continued investment enables our work in the community, sustains our staff and inspires others to partner in creating a city where people, not poverty, thrive.**

**THANK YOU for all you make possible!**

As a **TO.gether Team** donor, please reach out to Akudo at [aanyanwu@ysm.ca](mailto:aanyanwu@ysm.ca) with any questions or needs you have as one of our valued donors.



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