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## Durham Youth Housing and Support Services

82 Kings Crescent, Ajax, Ontario L1S 2M6

Phone: 905-239-9477

Charitable Registration # 82648 4479 RR0001

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Newsletter

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### Our Mission

To address the needs of at-risk and homeless youth in Durham Region by working with youth and other community partners to provide opportunities that will support their success.

### Our Vision

All youth have a place to call home where they feel welcomed, accepted and valued; and where youth are equal as partners in creating a better community.

### A Community Challenge

Youth homelessness is a community challenge that requires a community response. Be part of the solution. Please make a donation.

### Shelter Occupancy Rates



### Durham Youth House Opens Only Youth Shelter In Durham Region

Durham Youth Housing & Support Services opened its doors at 82 Kings Crescent in Ajax on April 7, 2008.

This day marked a milestone in a three year journey to:

- establish a solid Board of Directors
- develop a vision and a business plan to achieve it
- create a governance structure, policies and procedures
- purchase, renovate and open a 10-bed emergency shelter for youth aged 16-24.

Staff arrived at 7:00am opening day to find five youth waiting patiently outside for the doors to open. By April 15 our shelter was at capacity, housing 5 males and 5 females, and confirming the very real need for a youth shelter in Durham Region.

### Toonies For Teens Volunteers Needed

Financial assistance from the Region and Province covers half of our shelter's operating costs - we rely on fundraising to cover our remaining costs.



Shortly, we will be conducting a door-to-door campaign to:

- ask for a "toonie" in support of Durham Youth House; and
- share information about youth homelessness in Durham Region.

We need "Toonies for Teens" volunteers - please [send us an email](#) if you can help.

### Did you know?

Our administrative expenses consume only 7.3% of our total budget.



### It Hurts To Be Homeless

No one chooses to be homeless. The reasons why people become homeless are complex and are often caused by circumstances beyond their control.

The basic cause is poverty, resulting from a family crisis, a loss of employment or income, and possibly a lack of access to basic medical and/or mental health services.

Some of the stark realities of being homeless are:



### Capacity: 10 Beds

- 86.6% - April
- 80.3% - May
- 90.7% - June
- 90.6% - July
- 96.5% - August
- 98.3% - September



### Quick Links

[Board of Directors](#)  
[Our Supporters](#)  
[Community Presentation](#)  
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)  
[Youth Site](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

- The continuous search for shelter
- Inadequate food, nutrition and clothing
- Victimization, sexual harassment and physical assault
- Mental health and/or substance abuse problems
- Inadequate medical and social services
- Negative or low self-esteem
- Social isolation
- Poor to no prospects for employment

### What Our Youth Are Saying . . .

Since opening on April 7, 2008, we have helped over 50 youth. Read what some of them have to say:



*"The amount of help and resources I have been receiving during my stay at Durham Youth House has aided me greatly".*

*"The immense welcoming feeling I received upon entering the front door lifted a huge burden off my shoulders. I felt I could actually start living my life with a fresh start".*

*"It is a place where I can sleep without worry".*



### Class Act Dinner Theatre

#### \$2,771 Raised In Fundraising Event

Our sincere appreciation to everyone who helped with our fundraising event on September 24, 2008, including [Class Act Dinner Theatre](#), all those who bought tickets and the [local businesses](#) that provided donations for the silent auction.

### A Word Of Thanks

The opening of Durham Youth House, the only youth shelter in Durham Region, has become a reality through the collaboration and support of [places of worship, businesses, foundations and individuals](#) throughout the community. Special recognition is extended to our major financial supporters: [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation](#), [Ontario Trillium Foundation](#), [Port Perry & Prince Albert United Churches](#), [Regional Municipality of Durham](#) and [Human Resources & Social Development Canada](#).

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