

Voices of Change: LOFT's Approach to Empowering Youth in Their Journey



EY, a first-generation Canadian from Turkey, came to LOFT in October 2022 after facing significant challenges.

Homeless at 16, she aged out of support programs and struggled with personal and mental health issues. Her story turned positive when a high school counsellor referred her to LOFT.

At 18, EY began working with Camilla, a LOFT support worker. Despite living with complex post-traumatic stress disorder, EY has made remarkable strides.

With Camilla's support, she completed high school and is now in her final year of college at George Brown, studying Assaulted Women's and Children's Advocacy and Counselling.

"I get to have a say in how my care works."

— EY, 21, LOFT client

LOFT's flexible and personalized approach has been pivotal. "It's very easy to talk to my support worker," EY notes. Camilla's weekly meetings provided essential guidance and helped EY build a routine.

EY's resilience and LOFT's support have empowered her to give back, including raising funds for earthquake relief in Turkey. Her story exemplifies LOFT's transformative impact and the enduring difference your contributions make.

"The most rewarding part of the job for me is connecting authentically with another person; the best part is feeling able to support them in becoming the best version of themselves."

— Camilla, Case Manager at LOFT



Coming Together for Youth: A Shared Commitment to Change

At LOFT, every youth's journey is a testament to resilience and hope.

Our Transitional Age Youth (TAY) program is a beacon of hope for individuals aged 16-25, offering crucial support across mental health, addiction, and housing.

By embracing a holistic approach, we ensure that every young person receives personalized care, acknowledging their unique strengths and stories.

Regene Mallare, a dedicated Community Support Worker with the TAY program, witnesses her client's incredible courage daily. "It's amazing to see how many times they keep going, even with all the challenges they face," she says.

Regene's work involves building meaningful connections with youth and supporting them as they navigate complex challenges such as mental health issues, school struggles, and homelessness.

Your generosity helps open doors to hope, allowing every youth to be seen and supported. Together, we can create lasting change.



“This work isn’t just about Community Support Workers helping clients. It involves donors, support staff, clients, and community members working as a team. We must come together because we’re all human, and every human deserves a life worth living”

— Regene Mallare,
Community Support Worker
at LOFT's TAY Program



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**The New
Bradford House
Groundbreaking
Ceremony**

Sept. 19, 2024, 2pm
Reception to follow.

TO RSVP
Please contact
Nicholas Tassie at
ntassie@loftcs.org or
call 416-986-7371.

An Update from Heather McDonald, CEO

As fall arrives, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the remarkable progress we've achieved together. Our recent successes are a reflection of your generous support and the hard work of our dedicated team.

This summer, we celebrated LOFT at the Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO) Designation Award Ceremony, a significant event that highlighted our commitment to exceptional care and underscored the impact of your contributions.



Thanks to your support, we have enhanced our services, and I am immensely proud of what we've accomplished.

We also celebrated a major milestone with Debra Walko receiving the 2024 National CAGP-CCSMH Outstanding Care and Integrative Practice Award.



This accolade recognizes Debra's outstanding leadership in senior mental healthcare and reflects the high-quality work made possible by your generosity. Congratulations, Debra—your achievements inspire us all!



Another highlight was our participation in the Toronto Pride Parade, a heartfelt expression of our commitment to inclusivity and support for the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

As we move into fall, we're excited to build on these successes. Your ongoing commitment is essential for maintaining safe and nurturing environments for our clients.

The LOFT community will gather for our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024



Please join us and celebrate our achievements from the past year.

Date: September 24, 2024

Time: 6pm

Location:

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre

To RSVP: Please contact Nicholas Tassie at ntassie@loftcs.org or call 416-986-7371.

A Special Thank You to Our Donors

Gordon & Ruth Gooder Charitable Foundation



We deeply thank the Gordon & Ruth Gooder Charitable Foundation for their generous support in developing our Nutrition Education Program. Their funding is crucial in launching this

initiative, designed to teach youth in housing (ages 16-25) the importance of good nutrition and how to prepare healthy, budget-friendly meals.

This program will break down food security barriers and foster overall well-being, equipping youth clients with the skills and knowledge they need for healthier lives. We thank the Gordon & Ruth Gooder Charitable Foundation for their commitment to improving the lives of youth at risk and LOFT clients experiencing mental and physical health challenges.

Brian and Carolyn Neysmith

Brian and Carolyn Neysmith have been involved with the LOFT community for nearly 25 years. Recently, they donated \$100,000 to LOFT's youth programs.

These programs have enabled LOFT to connect with more than 7,000 at-risk youth in the Toronto, York, and Simcoe Regions. Our programs help provide youth with supportive housing, a sense of community, and mental health and addiction resources.

We are grateful to those who partner with us. On behalf of the clients we serve, we thank Brian and Carolyn Neysmith for their commitment to empowering our community's youth.



Doug McGregor

We extend our deepest gratitude to Doug McGregor for his long-standing support, contributing to LOFT's Ingles Housing and Support Services.

He has also introduced LOFT to his network and, over the past 13 years, has raised over 2.3 million dollars. Doug's commitment has significantly impacted our youth programs. Ingles Housing and Support Services focuses on providing housing options and specialized support for women recovering from substance abuse. Doug's compassionate contributions allow us to take a trauma-informed and holistic approach, responding to the unique needs of our clients and empowering them to lead healthier, more independent lives.

Thank you, Doug McGregor, for inspiring positive change and promising dignified lives for our community's young women.



DONATE TODAY and help vulnerable people in the community.

PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

CALL: 416-979-1994 EXT. 2033#
OR VISIT: LOFTCS.ORG

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