



our place peel 1

Our Place Peel 1 is a semi-independent program in Brampton serving youth aged 16 to 21. Our goal is to teach these youth the skills they need to successfully transition to independence.

Our staff is comprised of a diverse team of professionals with background studies in Child Youth Work, Social Work, Psychology, Criminology and Sociology. We encourage professional development and community involvement and most of our staff is involved in committee work for the betterment of our community. In addition, volunteers play an important role at Our Place Peel, offering their time and skills to plan activities for our youth or help with the general upkeep and maintenance of the home.

Youth are generally referred to Our Place Peel by schools, social workers, probation officers, Children's Aid Societies, shelters and, occasionally, parents. This season, we operated at 83% occupancy, with 20% female and 80% male youth. All of our youth are currently enrolled in school and some have also held part-time jobs or volunteer positions successfully.

Carrey's Story

I left home because my mom and I were arguing a lot and we really were not getting along with each other. Where I lived with my mom, I felt isolated and away from everyone and everything. I recently came to OP1, where I was able to meet the other residents and staff members.

I like it here... I have learned to cook, clean and even do my own laundry. I am learning to be more responsible for my actions. I like the fact that I have a curfew and there are rules to help guide us in the right direction.

I am currently in school full-time and I enjoy writing poems, biking, hanging out with friends, and singing. I also enjoy using the computer. I want to finish high school and, one day, become a veterinarian, a nurse or a hair dresser. I would like to eventually go back home or live in residence when I am in University or College. I also hope to obtain my G1.

Staff at OP1 have helped me with personal problems and have helped me get back on track and see things differently. I enjoy a co-ed environment, having male and female residents as well as male and female staff.

My goal is to learn how to do things on my own, like learning how to budget, learning new recipes, to be mature, gain independence, and self-awareness.

Although I don't think I am ready to get a place of my own, I am confident that I will learn the skills that I need to be an independent person.

With the support of our community and friends, Our Place Peel will continue to help youth overcome barriers and achieve their goals, so that more young men and women like Carrey can share their success stories.

Claudett Bailey, **residential manager**

in this issue

p2 a special message | h.y.p.e. testimonials

p3 resource room | support form

p4 shelter stories

p5 volunteer program | our wish list

p6 thank you

a special message

It is hard to believe that an entire year has gone by; it feels like my daughter was just born yesterday. Our year together was great – a bit tiring but fun and full of new adventures. Even though I miss spending time with her, I am certainly excited to be back at Our Place Peel and am looking forward to the future. Over the past year, the Board and staff have done a wonderful job working with the agency and setting us up for expansion.

I would especially like to recognize the outstanding job Tanya Godson did in leading Our Place Peel during my maternity leave. Tanya worked endless hours and took on many new initiatives and projects to enhance our services. Tanya has now moved into a new role as Director, Resource Development for Our Place Peel, leading the Resource Development Department and overseeing our fundraising, communications and marketing.

I would like to congratulate Crystal and Rick on the arrival of their beautiful new daughter in August 2008. Shana Thomas was promoted to Shelter Manager while Crystal is on maternity leave, which left an opening for a Resource Counsellor. One of our relief staff, Jen, has stepped into that role, working out of our Resource Room at the Shelter. I would also like to congratulate Claudett, our new manager at Our Place 1 in Brampton. I look forward to working with all of you in your new roles as we move forward into 2009.

In September, I celebrated my 10th year with Our Place Peel. The time has gone by quickly and I am thrilled to see how far we've come and how much we've enhanced our programs and services to support at-risk youth.

Since 1985, our organization has been a leader in supporting runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth and their families in the Region of Peel. There are a variety of different reasons why young people end up homeless, yet the need for services and programs to assist these young people remain the same. Whether their circumstances are caused by neglect and/or abuse, mental illness, or continued conflict at home, the voices of these young people are unheard and unnoticed.

Our Place Peel will continue to support these youth so they have a better future. We have to recognize that youth are not just leaders of tomorrow, but also of today and at the end of the day, our young people will be the ones who will shape the future.

As I look forward to another busy and successful year, I would like to thank all the volunteers that help with our youth; our Board Members who also dedicate their time to ensure we have adequate resources; and our staff who continue to work in an enthusiastic and professional manner.

I would also like to thank everyone who has supported Our Place Peel over the year; we can't thank you enough for your on-going commitment to the agency. Together we can make a difference in the lives of youth who need our help and support.

I hope you and your families have a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year!

Christy Upshall, **executive director**

h.y.p.e. testimonials

Client: John is a 19-year old male currently living in a semi-independent program. He has achieved stable housing, is working full-time and is looking to complete his high school diploma.

What have I received from the H.Y.P.E. Program? Can guidance be measured? Can hope or faith be restored? Fact is, the answer to both questions is, yes! A few short months ago I was lost, alone, and hurting. I had no direction, and had ceased caring about myself and others. By picking up a telephone and making a call, I started a process ... a journey which I am proud to say is my own. In the span of one day, even a few short hours into participating in the H.Y.P.E. program, I began to rekindle some hope that I could get my life back on track and that my past did not have to dictate my future. The H.Y.P.E program has provided me with consoling in my time of need, and has literally been my means of getting to the places where we both know I need to be. At the end of the day, we are all human but the H.Y.P.E. program teaches us how to be active people – not through wants alone, but by actions as well. Thank you, Mr. Baker, and thanks to H.Y.P.E for allowing me my second chance at life.



Client: Brittany is a 16-year old female living independently in Brampton. She is successfully completing school and hopes to go to college to be a Child Youth Worker.

Hi, my name is Brittany. I would like to say how much I appreciate Our Place Peel. Ever since I moved from Scarborough to Brampton, it's been hard for me to make it on my own with no assistance available. Since my Trustee connected me with Ian from the H.Y.P.E program, life became a lot easier. I accomplished so many things in life that I never knew I could. H.Y.P.E. has taught me the value of life and I have been able to develop and perfect the skill of doing things on my own without having to rely on people all the time.

H.Y.P.E. has motivated me to follow my dreams and never give up, and it supported my ideas, making sure they were put into action. This program has allowed me to achieve my high school hours at CHMA which I can put into my college portfolio, and allowed me to learn new things in the social work field. Ian has helped me prepare and hand out my resume to get a job. He has also informed me about programs and events that are happening in my community. This has opened up my mind and given me a greater understanding of what is going on in my society and community.

H.Y.P.E. has also given me a laugh and consoling when I needed it and I sincerely appreciate someone like Ian taking the time and effort to build me up as a stronger person.

resource room

Jessica came to Our Place Peel from a situation in which she was living with her boyfriend, her son, and her boyfriend's family. The day before arriving at the shelter, Jessica had experience conflict with her boyfriends family that resulted in her having to leave the home. Without anywhere to go, Jessica left her son in the care of his father And came into the shelter until things could be sorted out.

The moment Jessica came into our program she was committed to doing all that needed to be done in order to live successfully with her son. Jessica was determined to follow through with her case plans and met with staff daily for support and guidance. During her stay, Jessica was faced with many hardships that made it very challenging for her to complete her case plans but, with optimism and positive thinking, she was able to overcome those barriers. In the end, Jessica was successful in obtaining suitable housing for herself and her son.

What is so enduring about Jessica's story is that, considering all that she was faced with, she continues to move ahead. She has focused her future on school as she realizes the importance of education and is enrolled to begin at Humber College in January. Jessica's willingness to speak with staff and ask for help made her stay here very positive and successful. Jessica still maintains communication with the Resource Room and the H.Y.P.E Coordinator.

Jessica told me that she feels relieved when the littlest thing is checked off her To Do list, as she sees herself one step closer to getting her son back with her. In my opinion, being able to help her do so is a great success.



When Jessica first entered the shelter, she was very confused and overwhelmed by everything that was happening to her. During her three week stay at Our Place Peel, Jessica was able to apply for Ontario Works, find accommodation and get a clearer understanding of what the future looked like for her. The one on one support supplied by myself and other staff at Our Place Peel enabled Jessica to leave here with a little more confidence and a clearer view on the future.

Jennifer Pasquale, **resource counsellor**

“

On most nights our emergency shelter is full. As the only shelter in the Region specifically for young people, we are committed to expanding our services to better meet the needs of this vulnerable population.

Tanya Godson, **director, resource development**

”

✂ Detach and mail or fax fully completed form back to Our Place Peel. Thank you for your support! ✂

yes, i want to support our place peel

Please accept my **single donation** to Our Place Peel in the amount of:

\$250 \$100 \$75 \$50 Other \$ _____

Please charge my credit card for this amount accordingly or enclosed is my cheque/money order payable to **Our Place Peel**.

contact details

Mr / Mrs / Ms First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

credit card details

Type of Card VISA MasterCard AMEX

Card Number _____ Expiry date ____ / ____

Signature _____

OR Please accept my **monthly donation** to Our Place Peel in the amount of:

\$40 \$25 \$15 \$10 Other \$ _____

Please charge my credit card or withdraw from my bank account (enclosed is a voided cheque) the above indicated amount on the **15th** day of each month.

help us help you!

- Please send me more information on planned giving or a gift of life insurance.
- I would like to remain anonymous when Our Place Peel publicly acknowledges its donors.

guarantee: You can change or cancel your contribution at any time simply by contacting us by mail, telephone or fax.

charitable registration number: 119074136RR0001

shelter stories

Jonathan's second stay at Our Place Peel lasted from August until October. This was a longer term than typical due to special circumstances. Prior to entering the program, Jonathan was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome, leaving him socially awkward and slower in his thought processes than other youths his age.

At the time of his intake, staff were made aware of the multiple services that were providing Jonathan with support in dealing with Asperger syndrome, completing high school, and leading a normal teenage life. In order to ensure Jonathan's stay at Our Place Peel was beneficial and successful, we maintained open lines of communication with the shelter workers Jonathan had previously associated with.

After a few days in the program, staff became aware of Jonathan's drug use. He was given verbal warnings by staff members who were confident he would get past this habit and excel in the program. As weeks went by, it was discovered that Jonathan had been using drugs and acting out-of-character in order to fit in with his peers. He revealed that he had been teased by a few of his peers as a result of his diagnosis, for being "different." This teasing also caused Jonathan to become involved in self-harming behaviours.

From the start, it was evident that Jonathan would need close guidance and support while completing his case plan. Staff members did this by encouraging him to contact services that provide the necessary tools for independence. These services include Ontario Works and Peel Youth Village. While completing his Peel Youth Village application, Jonathan recorded "striving for independence" as one of his goals, indicating that he was determined to pass the first interview and work hard at maintaining his residency. After a week of patiently waiting, Jonathan was told he was accepted into the Peel Youth Village program and could reside there for a year. Our staff has no doubt he will succeed in the program and benefit from the services Peel Youth Village has to offer.

Despite all that happened while Jonathan was residing at Our Place Peel, our staff members never gave up hope on Jonathan. He exhibited a need for independence and we feel that, with the constant support of his existing services, he will do well with independent living.

Shana Thomas, shelter manager



Veronica is a 17-year old girl who came to our emergency shelter as her home was an unsafe place for her. For most of her life, Veronica endured both physical and emotional abuse from her mother and step-father.

At the beginning of last year's school year, Veronica's normally high grades started to fall to failing marks due to the increasing stress in her home life. She disclosed that she would sometimes cry in class as she couldn't contain her emotions. This caught the attention of Veronica's teachers and she was referred to the school counselor, who she started meeting with on a regular basis.

Things became worse for Veronica when her mother hit her so badly that her head was bruised along with the side of her face. She fled the situation by running to her neighbour's house where she used the phone to make plans to stay with a friend. Veronica lived at her friend's house for a few months but was not able to stay any longer. Veronica tried to move back home, hoping for change but again, it resulted in an abusive and unsafe situation for her.

Veronica did not have any relatives that she could live with. Her biological father was surviving pay cheque to pay cheque while supporting his new wife, two children and Veronica's grandmother.

Veronica's guidance counselor told her about Our Place Peel. While residing with us, she focused on finding her own accommodations as well as continuing with her dedication towards school. Although her high school was four buses away from the Shelter, she continued to diligently attend every day during her stay.

Our Place Peel staff connected Veronica with Ontario Works financial assistance and helped her find a safe place to rent that was closer to her home neighborhood. Moving out of the shelter was bittersweet for Veronica, as she had made strong, trusting relationships with the staff and it was hard for her to say good-bye. Veronica left Our Place Peel with newfound confidence, a sense of safety and hope for her future.

Shillann Clarkson, our place peel youth worker

volunteer program

Our Place Peel's Volunteer Program sees each volunteer as an integral part of our agency. The program provides support, training, and other resources that are valuable to volunteer participation and motivation. Volunteers assist residential, non-residential and administrative staff in maintaining the agency's mission and mandate. Over the years, we've had the good fortune of having many volunteers donate their time and expertise to help us provide better services and/or raise funds for our organization.

It's with great sadness and gratitude that we say goodbye this year to Darren Godson, a volunteer with Our Place Peel for over four years. His commitment in volunteering for special events and Bingo and his many contributions over the years has made an enormous difference. On behalf of Our Place Peel's management, staff, youth and other volunteers, I express my deepest gratitude to Darren and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

This brings us to a request for volunteers. We have a need for creative, enthusiastic individuals to join our Fundraising Special Event Committee. They should have some previous experience in event planning or marketing. Individuals willing to seek corporate sponsors or obtain and coordinate prizes would be a great asset to our fundraising efforts. We are also seeking volunteers to assist us in running Bingo events.

If you are interested in volunteering with Our Place Peel, please contact Grace at 905.238.1383. Your commitment will make a genuine difference to youth in Peel.

our place peel board of directors

	board position	profession
Hanif Ladha	President	Vice President, Finance
Joseph Mbuyi	Vice President	Corporate Executive
Sophia Reid	Secretary and Vice President	Fundraiser/Administrator
Andrew Swanson	Treasurer	National Financial Controller
Brandon Fang	Board Member	Chartered Accountant
Sanjay Gomes	Board Member	Director of Marketing
Pamela Yudcovitch	Board Member	Lawyer
Rene Liebs-Benke	Board Member	Lawyer

For more information about becoming a member of our Board of Directors, please contact Christy Upshall at 905.238.1383 Ext. 32.



our wish list

Gifts in lieu of monetary donations are always welcome!

Gift certificates from local grocery stores are needed for extra supplies or unexpected visits for dinner from former youth living in the community. Gift certificates from Walmart, Shoppers Drug Mart, Tim Hortons, and Aurora Meat and Cheese at Dixie and Burnhamthorpe are also appreciated.

We are currently in need of:

- Toiletries (soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, razors, brushes and combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and lotion)
- School supplies
- Date books/ planners
- Arts and craft supplies
- Dishes
- Pots and pans
- Hats, scarves and gloves
- Robes and pajamas
- House slippers
- Socks and underwear (men/women)
- Belts (medium, large, x-large)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Wallets for men and women
- Watches
- Batteries
- Gift cards
- Phone cards

We also appreciate the donation of "treat" items such as movie passes, CDs, MP3/CD players, and DVD movies to help us celebrate reward and milestones in our youths' lives.

Due to storage space limitations, we regret that we can only accept new or nearly new items at this time.

We like to thank all of our donors so be sure to leave your information with the staff when dropping off donations.

our place peel's privacy protection policy

Our Place Peel is committed to ensuring your privacy. We will periodically contact you or send you information about Our Place Peel, funding opportunities, and related events.

If you prefer a specific method of contact or do not wish to receive information, please call us at **905.238.1383 Ext. 32** or email us at cupshall@ourplacepeel.org

Thank you for your **support!**

thank you

Our Place Peel is committed to protecting the privacy of our donors. If you do not wish to have your name published, please let us know. Our Place Peel would like to thank the following Community Groups, Businesses and Individuals for their financial and in-kind support from April 2008 – November 2008.

A&P Trinity & Common	Harold M. Brathwaite S.S.
Helen Agard	HBC Office
Francisco Alves	Home Depot Canada
Steve Anderson	Danielle Horvath
Anglican Church Women – St. Peter's Anglican Church	Donna Marie Howell
Claudett Bailey	Morris I. Ingram
Ian Baker	David James
Bell Canada Employee Giving Program	Chanel Jardine
Crystal Benoit	Java Joe's – Tony Ciufu
Brampton and Area Community Foundation	Kasseler Food Products
Joseph & Dorothy Brown	Brenda Keeping
Canadian Tire Foundation for Families	Aroma Khokha
Catalina Canola	Knights of Columbus JFK Council
Cawthra Park United Church	Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Peace Council
Christ Church Anglican, Brampton	Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Council
Christ Church United, Clarkson	Grace Kopacz
William Chung	KPMG
Ann Clancy	Hanif Ladha
James Colgan	Frances Laming-Vancer
The Community Foundation of Mississauga	Laureate Alpha Chi, Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi
Randy Cowan	Barbara Lewis
Jacqueline Crawford	Lincoln Alexander S.S.
Marilyn Dalzell	Lions Club of Mississauga
Thelma D'Cunha	Susan Lloyd
EcoSource	Sandra MacDonald
Ann Edge	Linda Marfleet
Atef H. Elgindi	Charlotte Marino
Tina Garnett	Carol McCurdy
Nicole Ghanie-Opondo	Mississauga Waterfront Festival
Ryan Giles	Chris Moore
Tanya M. Godson	Adriane Nice and Peter Hoyle
Mona Gudjurgis	North Peel Secondary S.S.
	May Nwokedi



Yinka Obisesan	Erin Sowdon
Ontario English Catholic Teacher's Association	St. Marguerite d'Youville S.S.
Ontario Trillium Foundation	St. Aloysius Gonzaga S. S.
OPG Employees' and Pensioners' Charity Trust	St. Francis Xavier Church
Jennifer Pasquale	St. Hilary's Anglican Church
Paula Paterson	St. John the Baptist Church
Helen Pavan	St. Patrick's Church
Maria Pereira	Donald Stacy
Pricewaterhouse Coopers Foundation	Starbucks Coffee Canada
R.C.E.C. St. John of the Cross Parish	Stephen Lewis S.S.
Elisa Reid	Streetsville United Church Women
Craig Rideout	Andrew Swanson
Risen Christ Lutheran Church	Telus Communications Co.
William Roach	Timothy Tham
Michelle Robinson	United Way of Greater Toronto
Rona Home & Garden	United Way of Peel Region
Robert Saunders	Christy M. Upshall
Sikhcess	Laura-Lea K. Upshall
Sandy Smale & Maxwell Letham	Wilma Upshall
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	Victim Services of Peel
Julie Solomon	Wal-Mart, Store 3130
Rami Sooch	Winners # 233
	YMCA Peel Youth Village



ourplacepeel

shelter. support. hope.

3579 Dixie Road, Mississauga, ON L4Y 2B3
T: 905.238.1383 F: 905.238.6916