

The Youth Empowerment Society (YES) is an umbrella organization that provides programs for youth ages 13 to 19.

The mission of the society is twofold:

- 1) to assist youth to remove themselves from the high risk environment of the street and make the transition to healthier and more constructive life situations.
- 2) to help youth make positive choices which will prevent involvement in at risk behaviour or connection with the street scene.

Community Development

YES works to develop programs in areas of identified need. YES staff conduct detailed surveys of youth and youth service providers, participate on numerous committees, partner with the private sector, consult with medical professionals, and research available literature in an attempt to implement programs in the community that address primary service gaps for youth.

YES needs your help in the form of financial support as well as other donations. Volunteer involvement is essential, and through a program funded by the United Way, YES screens and trains their volunteers to become role models for youth accessing our services. Volunteers may be involved directly with the youth, and many others donate services for the day to day operations.

**For more information please call the YES Office
(250) 383-3514**



There is NO COST to youth and/or their families/caregivers

LOCATIONS

Main Office
533 Yates Street
Victoria BC V8W 1K7
Tel: 250-383-3514
Fax: 250-383-3812

Email: programs_manager@vyes.ca

Kiwanis Youth Emergency Shelter

2117 Vancouver Street
Victoria BC V8T 2Z9
Tel: 250-386-8282
Fax: 250-386-1401
Email: keys@vyes.ca

Youth Hospitality Training Centre

679 Herald Street
Victoria BC
Tel: 250-220-6040
Fax: 250-220-6045
Email: yhtc@vyes.ca

YES Services welcome all members of our diverse youth community



*Facilitating
Healthy
Choices
for a Better
Life*

**Victoria
Youth
Empowerment
Society**

YES receives funding from: Ministry of Children and Family Development, Vancouver Island Health Authority, United Way, City of Victoria, BC Gaming Commission, Victoria Business Community, Corporations, Private Donations, Various Grants, Individual Donors, Fundraising Events

Alliance Club

The Alliance Club is an evening drop-in center for youth 13 to 19 years old. It provides a safe, healthy alternative for youth to 'hanging out' in the downtown core and a connecting point for street entrenched youth who may wish to explore a more positive lifestyle. Services include an evening meal program, shower and laundry facilities, hygiene products and some recreational activities. Emphasis is on assessing the youth's needs and providing short term counselling and referrals to connect youth with appropriate resources.

Kiwanis Emergency Youth Shelter

Kiwanis Emergency Youth Shelter (KEYS), a 10 bed facility, provides services to both male and female youth between the ages of 13 and 18 who have no safe place to stay. KEYS counsellors are able to respond to a wide range of crisis, including parent/teen conflict, issues of abuse and youth homelessness. Referrals can be made to the Shelter on a 24 hour basis by parents, the youth, professionals or other concerned individuals. Admission is voluntary and consent of the legal guardian is needed in order for a youth to access services. Youth are able to stay at the shelter for up to five nights and during this time KEYS Counsellors assist youth with their plan.

Youth & Family Support Worker

The Youth and Family Support Worker (YFS) provides support and short-term counselling to youth between the ages of 13 and 18 and their parents/caregivers while the family is in crisis. Presenting issues are identified and family counselling and intervention is provided on site at KEYS. Objectives include reuniting the youth with the family, assisting in the stabilization of the family; and helping to increase the family's capacity to deal with the issues that have caused family challenges.

YES Office—Daytime Youth Drop In

The YES Office also acts as a daytime drop in centre that connects youth to healthier opportunities by providing support and referrals. Youth receive assistance in obtaining legal, medical, and employment information, as well as snacks and clothing. The YES Office offers youth a phone and message system as well as internet access.

Specialized Youth Detox

Specialized Youth Detox (SYD) is a voluntary non-medical withdrawal management program for all youth who want support with detoxification from alcohol and other drugs. The program is a residential service for up to five youth who are 13-18 years old. Referrals are accepted from anyone in the community, including youth themselves. The program offers youth the ability to stay up to 10 days to detox and stabilize both physically and emotionally. SYD recognizes that someone who wishes to stop using substances needs more than strong will power— they often need on-going professional support. SYD therefore collaborates with youth and their supports to develop a service plan so each youth has every opportunity to meet their personal goals.

Youth Outreach Team

The Youth Outreach Team (YOOTS) pairs a Victoria City police officer with an outreach counsellor to help facilitate early identification, and crisis intervention for at risk youth. Individual youth assisted by the Team range from street entrenched youth, transient youth from out of Victoria, to youth from family homes, foster settings, or other care facilities. The Team works with all stakeholders in the downtown core to identify problem areas and resolve issues.

Liaison Worker

The Liaison Worker provides support, education, and counselling for youth between the ages of 13 to 19 who are at-risk of sexual exploitation. The Liaison's role is to coordinate services that help youth resist involvement in the sex trade, help youth leave the trade and support youth so they are able to remain exited from the sex trade. The Liaison Worker assists youth and their families to access support services such as: medical, legal, safe housing, employment, and education.

Mental Health Liaison

The Mental Health Liaison provides support by working to improve access and coordination of mental health and addiction services for predominately marginalized youth. The Mental Health Liaison helps in promoting early identification and intervention with the aim of averting the development of serious emotional disorders.

Youth Hospitality Training Centre

The Youth Hospitality Training Centre (YHTC) includes courses on employment expectations and responsibilities as well as hands-on hospitality skills training for entry-level positions in hotels and restaurants. The program has a variety of training opportunities in local restaurants, hotels and retail sites. The YHTC has a functional commercial kitchen and a mock hotel room on-site so the training experiences (e.g. Food Safe, First Aid, Serving it Right, Super Host) will be presented in an actual working environment. Youth Counsellors provide both support for youth while they are receiving training and ongoing support once they graduate from the program.

Life Skills Program

The Life Skills Program is for youth interested in learning new skills in the areas of school and work preparation and personal management. Interactive workshops are provided on topics such as: self esteem, hygiene, time management, anger management, budgeting, healthy relationships, career development, resume writing, interviewing and job seeking.

Transitional Housing Program

The Transitional Housing Program provides 16-19 years olds an opportunity to practice living independently for up to six months; develop a 'life plan' which is designed to help them focus on the changes they need to make to improve their lives; and give them the skills they need to successfully live independently.

Summer Opportunity Program

The Summer Opportunity Program (SOP) is a summer daytime drop-in activity program for youth aged 13 to 19 years. SOP is a safe alternative for youth who gravitate to the downtown core in the summer. Daily program components include a healthy lunch, laundry services, hygiene program, referrals, arts and crafts, informal discussion groups, and recreational outings.

Youth Clinic

The Youth Clinic is a partnership between YES and the James Bay Community Project. The Youth Clinic is a safe, non-judgmental place to access the health care system. The resource is youth-oriented, easy to access, comfortable, holistic, informal and free. There are two Clinic locations. The downtown site at 533 Yates Street is open Mondays and Wednesdays and the other site in James Bay at 547 Michigan Street is open Tuesdays and Thursdays.