

TREK FOR TEENS FOUNDATION

2019-2020 Impact Report

www.trekforteens.com



TREK FOR TEENS
FOUNDATION



FOREWORD



Michael Bazzocchi, Ph.D.
President, Trek for Teens Foundation

To Whom It May Concern,

After over a decade volunteering with the Trek for Teens Foundation, it is my sincere pleasure to introduce this work summarizing our efforts to reduce youth homelessness over the last year. Trek for Teens is entirely volunteer-run and has been so since 2007 when we started planning the first Trek for Teens event. It is through the work of all of our highly motivated and extremely dedicated teams of youth that we have grown now from a single event to a wide variety of activities, projects, and events in support of homeless youth across several regions in Ontario and Québec.

Every year Trek for Teens grows and expands, with more and more youth dedicated to the task of helping at-risk and homeless youth in their own local communities and breaking down the stigma surrounding this issue. The Trek for Teens movement has already been successful in engaging thousands of young people across Canada, and is spreading due to our two-part mission.

The Trek for Teens core mission is to increase awareness and raise funds for homeless youth in our communities, and it is our intent to provide a means for everyone to enjoy making a vital difference through their own talents and skills. This very inclusive approach motivates youth to take what they love to do, their passions and gifts - whether it is fashion, music, athletics or something entirely unique - and turn them into a way to support homeless youth in their own community. It gives them an opportunity to enjoy making a real difference, while raising awareness and funds for a cause that is both relevant and pertinent to youth.

With up to 40,000 young individuals experiencing homelessness each year in Canada, there is no better time than now to learn more about the Trek for Teens Foundation and to join us in our work. Thank you for taking the time to review this report and I look forward to your partnership and support as we move forward together.

ABOUT TREK FOR TEENS

WHAT IS THE TREK FOR TEENS FOUNDATION?

Our mission is to increase awareness and raise funds for homeless youth in our local communities. It is our intent to provide a means for everyone to enjoy making a difference through their own talents and skills.

Since its inception, the Trek for Teens Foundation has raised over \$250,000 in monetary and in-kind donations for local youth shelters through the efforts of volunteers and participants. Operating currently within 6 Regions within Canada: Toronto, Hamilton, London, Kingston, Montreal, and Sudbury.

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS

Homelessness isn't just what you see on the streets, it takes many different forms and affects many different people. It is recorded that 30,000 to 40,000 youth between the ages of 13 to 24, experience homelessness every year in Canada. For many, the climbing expenses of rent, food and other bills force difficult decisions that often lead to homelessness. When youth homelessness is not being addressed, governments end up spending more money on health care, emergency services and law enforcement.

ABOUT OUR REGIONS

In **Toronto**, 3500-10,000 youth are on the streets each year.

In **Sudbury**, Youth unemployment is 15.2%, higher than provincial and national averages.

In **London**, the youngest age accessing emergency shelters decreased from 18 to 16.

In **Hamilton**, 52% of homeless youth have histories of child welfare involvement.

In **Kingston**, 1 in 3 shelter users are youth, compared to 1 in 5 nationally.

In **Montreal**, The mortality rate of homeless youth was 11 times higher than that of the housed youth population.

<https://www.trekforteens.com/en/research>

OUR EVENTS



Kingston Donation Drive



Sudbury Dodgeball Tournament



UofT Awareness Event



Ryerson Trivia Night

The Trek for Teens Foundation organizes and participates in a variety of events aimed at engaging Canadian youth. All events feature constructive discussion on the issue of youth homelessness that is led by Trek for Teens members or by staff at one of our beneficiary youth shelters. Some of our large-scale events include concerts, curling tournaments, Christmas caroling, video game tournaments, conferences, school presentations, and fashion shows.

Steps Taken to Improve the Organization

BRANDING

RE-CREATED PROMOTIONAL CONTENT SUCH AS POSTERS, BROCHURES AND SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES TO BETTER REFLECT TREK FOR TEEN'S CURRENT IMPACT.

ENGAGED IN CRITICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO REFLECT ON OUR MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS AND RESTRUCTURED OUR GOALS TO CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN CANADA.

GOAL ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNICATIONS

STRENGTHENED OUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH PARTNER CHARITIES BY HIRING A DIRECTOR OF CHARITY ENGAGEMENT TO PROVIDE CONSISTENT UPDATES TO OUR PARTNERS AND TO PROVIDE A POINT OF CONTACT FOR PARTNER CHARITIES TO HAVE TO ORGANIZE EVENTS AND DISCUSS IDEAS.

CREATED A NEW REGION IN SUDBURY, ON IN ORDER TO EXPAND THE WORK THAT TREK FOR TEENS DOES AND HELP ADDRESS THE YOUTH HOMELESSNESS CRISIS IN NORTHERN ONTARIO.

GROWTH

INTERNAL PROCESSES

CREATED A HUMAN RESOURCES HANDBOOK TO CREATE CONSISTENT PROCEDURES FOR HIRING AND OFF-BOARDING PROCEDURES.

OUR PERFORMANCE

**WE HAD NEARLY
2000 ACTIVE
PARTICIPANTS**



**HOSTED OUR FIRST ONLINE
CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT
YOUTH HOMELESS SHELTERS**

**STOCK UP!
YOUTH SHELTERS**



**270
VOLUNTEERS
HELPED US WITH
HOSTING OUR
48 DIFFERENT
EVENTS**

**REACHED OVER 50,000
PEOPLE THROUGH
SOCIAL MEDIA**



EXPANDED TO SUDBURY

**TREK FOR TEENS STARTED ITS 6TH
REGION IN SUDBURY**

**RAISED
OVER \$26,000**

IN IN-KIND AND MONETARY DONATIONS

OUR PARTNER CHARITIES



CONTACT US

For more information about Trek for Teens, our mission and events, please visit our website or contact us at hello@trekforteens.com.

If you are interested in donating or partnering with Trek for Teens, please contact our Director of Corporate Relations, Wen Bo at corporate.relations@trekforteens.com.

We look forward to further discussing your involvement with Trek for Teens and how you can make a difference in the lives of Canada's homeless youth.

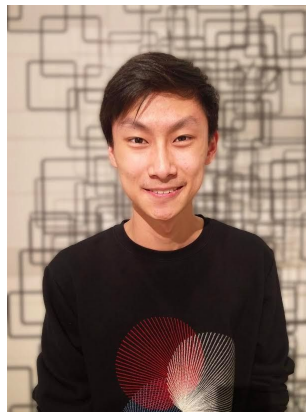
Thank you again for your interest in the Trek for Teens Foundation!



President

Michael Bazzocchi

michael@trekforteens.com



Director of Corporate Relations

Wen Bo

corporate.relations@trekforteens.com