# Youth Opportunities Unlimited Overview

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#### **YOU Overview**

- Created in 1982 to assist youth facing challenges entering the labour market
- Providing Healthcare, Housing, Employment and Education programs for up to 3,500 London-Middlesex youth annually
- Known for its innovation, integrated program offerings and social enterprises which first launched in 1993 to offer hands-on training, employment and portfolio development for youth
- Recognized through local, provincial and national awards for innovations and commitment to youth. The only Canadian entry in a 1998 ILO report of best practices in youth employment services. Winner 2012 Eva's Initiatives Award to End Youth Homelessness, 2013 Pillar Community Collaboration Award (with Meals on Wheels), 2014 Finalist London Chamber of Commerce CSR Award





## It's About Great Culture; Not Great Programs

"If you ask me why we've done as well as we have over the decade, I think it's the culture we have created... We have to make a place for experimentation and innovation – and in order to do that, it has to be okay to fail."

Janice Stein, Director of Munk School of Global Affairs U of T Magazine Autumn 2010.







## **YOU Overview: Enterprise Services**

- Recycling Services
- Food Production
- Wood Furniture
- Retail Sales Kiosk
- Café and Catering Services
- Corporate Gifts





Each business unit provides hands-on training for youth, supplemented with formal training suited to the industry in which the business unit operates.



## YOU's Social Enterprise KPI's (2014/15)

#### Youth impacts

- ❖ 71 youth participated in social enterprise training and achieved the following outcomes:
- ❖ 91% completed their training
- ❖ 81% successful outcomes. Of those 72% obtained employment and 9% returned to school

#### Earnings

- revenues of \$1,187,641 which is comprised of federal funding through Youth Skills Link of \$395,480 and earned revenues of \$792,161.
- ❖ 67% of income from sales in the community and earned by youth trainees and the team supporting them



# YOU's Social Enterprise KPI's (2014/15)

#### Community impacts

- ❖ 13,509 fresh meals were served to youth experiencing homelessness / precariously housed
- 54,711 meals were provided to seniors / vulnerable adults through Meals on Wheels and London Health Sciences Centre Eating Disorders Clinic
- ❖ 198,739 pounds of cardboard were recycled
- 94,573 pounds of paper were recycled



Developing a "Pull Strategy" for Youth

Success









## **Success Through Youth Engagement**









