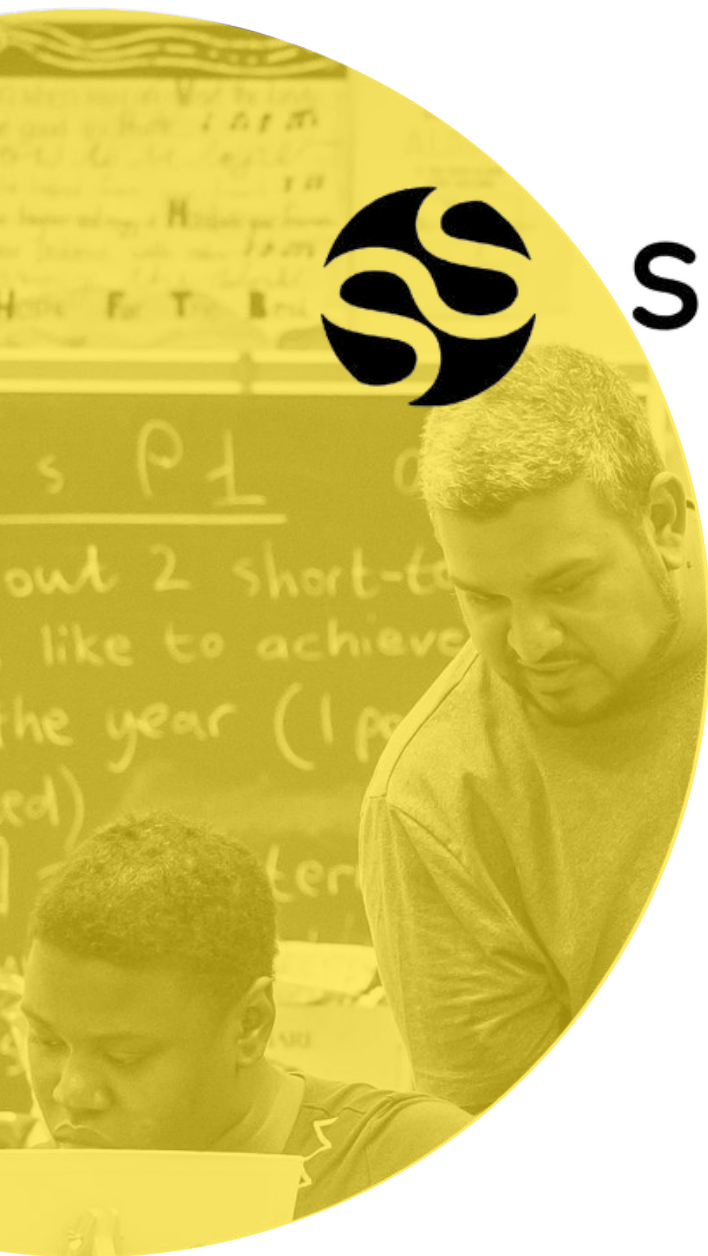




StepStones

2018 IMPACT REPORT



IN 2018,

our community came together and raised over **\$600,000** to provide support to children and youth who are at risk, in foster care, or are transitioning out of the foster care system around the GTA.

☎ (416) 893-5196
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✉ info@stepstonesforyouth.com
📍 700 Markham St, Toronto ON M6G 2M3

Registered Charitable No. 85355 0077 RR0001

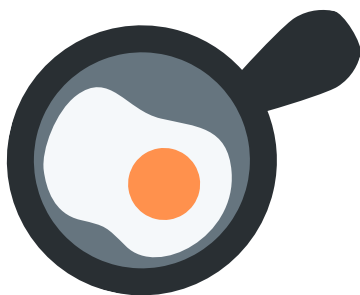


Growth and change do not happen overnight, but with the right support, care, and tools for success, youth can realize their potential



870

LIVES
CHANGED



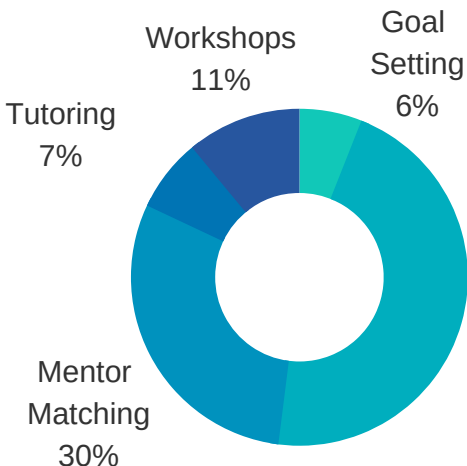
2,930

MEALS
SERVED



390

YOUTH
RECEIVED
BASIC NEEDS
SUPPORT



7,950

HOURS SPENT
SUPPORTING
YOUTH

Almost twice as many
hours as last year

Counselling*
46%

*Includes exploring options, finding solutions, locating information, and providing resources for housing, mental health, education, employment, and legal matters. Youth are also supported in addressing childhood abuse, relationship issues and traumatic events in their lives.



"I definitely want
to come back
next year, and the
year after that."

Malaya, 10

Girls Summer Overnight Camp

Young girls in the child welfare system who experience trauma, abuse, or neglect can develop insecurities. They often need guidance in fostering trust and caring relationships. In addition, children from foster care often lack opportunities for personal development, recreation, and community-building.

StepStones' annual overnight summer camp provides girls aged 5-14 with opportunities for exciting adventures, skill development, the nurturing of friendships, and self-discovery in the great outdoors.

80 girls

from the foster care
system enjoyed a week
of fun, food, and
friends at StepStones
summer camp



Education is the **key** to success for youth at StepStones

98% are attending school or working versus 26% who were isolated from career and academic opportunities prior to coming to StepStones

94% are attending high school or have graduated compared to a 46% graduation rate for youth from care



Academic and Life Skills Support

204 ONE-TO-ONE TUTORING SESSIONS

We employ non-traditional support, designed around the specific needs of youth, to help young people persevere and stay in school. We create a positive, accommodating, and encouraging space to motivate youth to reach their educational goals.

12 LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

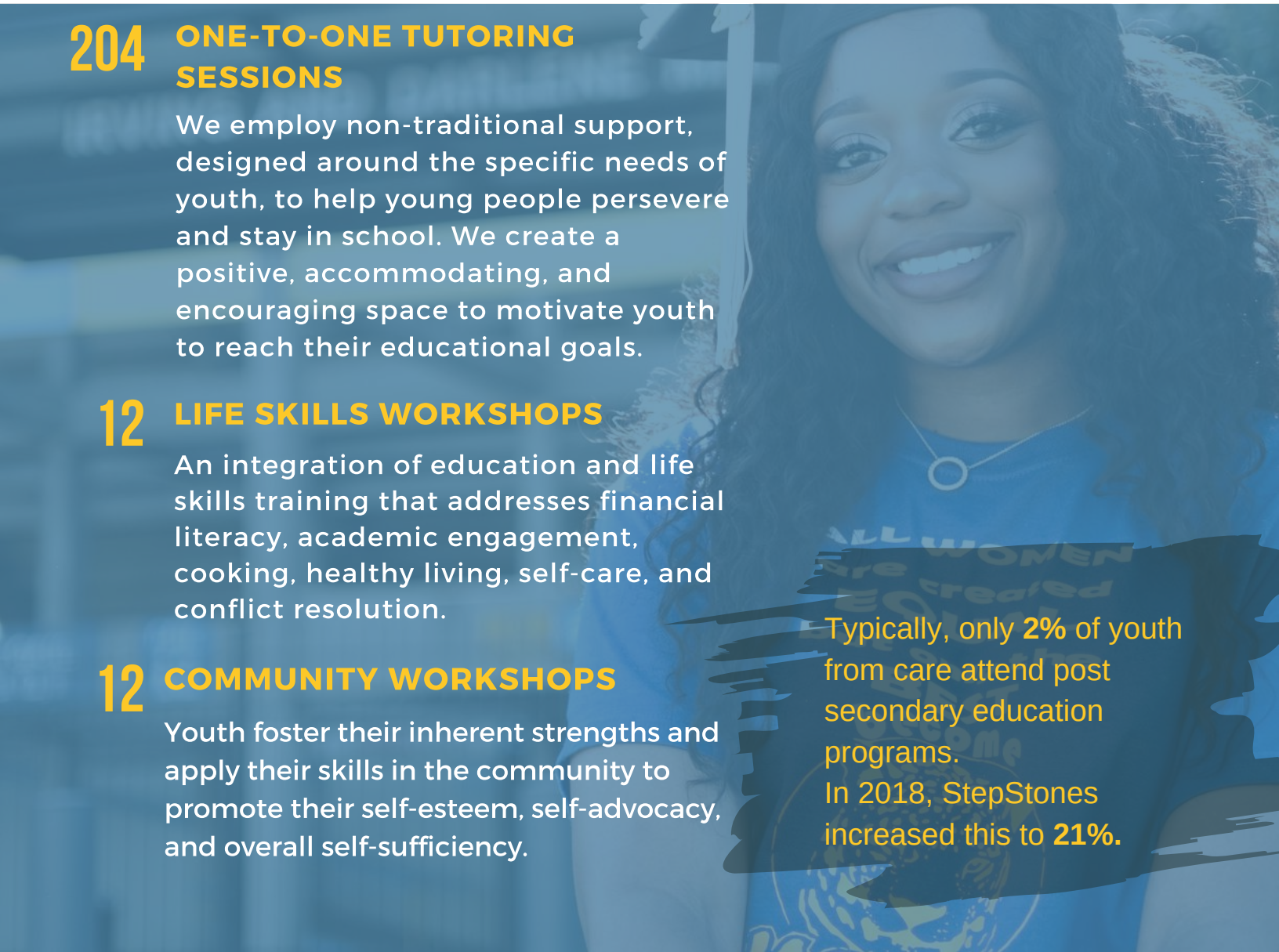
An integration of education and life skills training that addresses financial literacy, academic engagement, cooking, healthy living, self-care, and conflict resolution.

12 COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Youth foster their inherent strengths and apply their skills in the community to promote their self-esteem, self-advocacy, and overall self-sufficiency.

Typically, only **2%** of youth from care attend post secondary education programs.

In 2018, StepStones increased this to **21%**.



THE NEED:

When youth in the child welfare system turn 18, they face an abrupt withdrawal of their support network. Within the first 6 months of aging out of care, two-thirds of foster youth experience homelessness. (Dworksy et al., 2013)

32

Relationships created with landlords who are open to housing youth in our program and offer safe and affordable housing options for our youth.

9

Long-term beds at Arrabon House offered to StepStones' youth; providing transitional, independence-based housing for young women.

73

Housing subsidies provided to assist with monthly rent payments.

OUR IMPACT

At intake, only **55%** of youth had stable housing. After 6 months, **0%** of youth were homeless and **85%** had stable housing.

"I got out of an awful place and into a new one. It's well maintained and even has a fireplace. It gives me peace of mind."

Roshan, 22

Employment Impact

StepStones employment programs reduce long-term reliance on social assistance programs and ensure that youth are supported in reaching their career goals. At intake, **29%** of youth were unemployed and had dropped out of school. After 12 months in our program, **98%** are employed, attending school, or both.

Criminal Involvement

Involvement in criminal activity drops when youth are engaged in meaningful pursuits. **25%** of youth at intake were involved with the criminal justice system. Only **4%** were still involved after 1 year with StepStones.

Community Impact

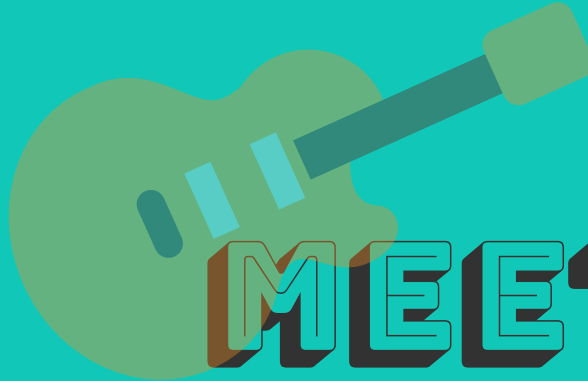
Positive engagement with mentors, the creation of strong networks of support, and intensive case support are critical for the successful transition of youth into the community.

120 mentor matches made and maintained
350 recreational activities offered
190 youth received intensive 1:1 case management support

"My mentor and I are like two peas in a pod."

Brittany, 14





MEET ROBBIE

Robbie still remembers being told he was being taken to see his mother to go out for dinner, only to realize that he was being taken to a foster home instead. Robbie's home life was tumultuous and there was often conflict between him and his mother. Around the age of 11, Robbie started running away from home. In his young mind, it was only a matter of time before his mother kicked him out, so he decided that he needed to learn how to take care of himself—he needed to know how to survive. Robbie dealt with both physical and emotional abuse by male figures in his life. His self-esteem suffered and there was no refuge for him at school. Dealing with a learning disability, Robbie felt ostracized and was a victim of bullying.

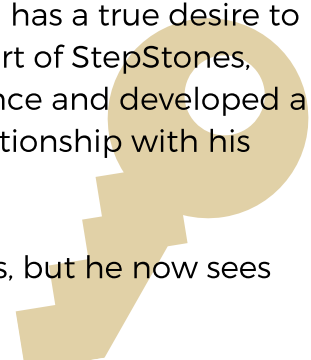
During his teenage years, Robbie was homeless, couch surfed and was placed in several group homes. Robbie's life was plagued with instability and this had a significant impact on his mental health. Feeling alone in the world and angry, Robbie became involved in street life and then with the criminal justice system; he was depressed and suicidal.

When Robbie came into the StepStones office one June afternoon, he was starting to feel hopeless. He had been homeless for almost a year and a half, hadn't been attending school, and his mental health was unstable.

Robbie was introduced to a Youth in Transition Worker at StepStones and within weeks he had a stable place to live. Robbie started attending school more regularly, but still struggled with his mental health. With the support Robbie received at StepStones, he was connected to a psychiatrist to stabilize his mental health. Robbie is a very talented guitar player and was matched with a mentor who also shares a love for playing the guitar. With the support of his mentor, he has gained more independence and confidence. Robbie completed a woodworking course and is building a guitar with his mentor now!

Robbie is currently completing his final two high school credits and will be graduating in June. In October, Robbie delivered a memorable speech at StepStones' Crafting Change fundraiser. After the speech, many individuals came up to him, shook his hand, and told him they were proud of him. Robbie told us that it was the first time men had ever been nice to him. Despite all that he has dealt with in his short life, Robbie is kind, thoughtful, charismatic and has a true desire to help others. With the support of StepStones, Robbie has gained confidence and developed a trusting and supportive relationship with his mentor.

Robbie still has his struggles, but he now sees hope for the future.



Thank you

...to our generous partners
and individual donors who
make StepStones possible

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RBC Foundation
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Scotiabank
Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund
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...and to our 465 volunteers, mentors,
and board members who gave their time
last year!

Thank you for joining us in making **Toronto** a
supportive environment for all of the children and
youth who are part of our programs.



StepStones

A registered charitable organization dedicated
to providing support and removing barriers for
economically disadvantaged youth who have
experienced trauma, abuse, and unstable
guardian care

SUPPORT US TODAY!

INFO@STEPSTONESFORYOUTH.COM

(416)-893-5196

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