

Yonge Street Mission seeks corporate help

Charity hopes donations from companies will feed 2,000 people a week

JOANNA LAVOIE
TORONTO.COM

In the past nine weeks, the demand for food at Toronto's Yonge Street Mission has spiked.

Before the COVID-19 crisis, the food bank of the Downtown East-based charity served about 600 people a week. These days, upward of 2,000 people experiencing food insecurity are reaching out for help.

This amounts to an increase in visits of more than 200 per cent since mid-March and a weekly shortfall of roughly \$30,000.

"The number of visits (to our food bank) has gone up every week consistently ... The jump has been extraordinary," Angie Peters, YSM's president and



ANDREW WILLIAMSON

Todd Cowan, co-founder of Capital Developments, is the lead donor in the #YSMRelay fundraising challenge.

CEO, said last week. "We were able to squeak by in the first few weeks, but this is not in our budget."

Determined to not scale back its services, YSM reached out to the city in late March to ask for a \$330,000 grant to sustain its operations for 11 weeks. The city was unable to provide that funding, however.

Unwilling to give up, Toronto Centre Coun. Kristyn Wong-Tam, whose ward is home to YSM's headquarters at 306 Gerrard St. E., just west of Parliament Street, decided to approach some of her contacts to see if they can round up some corporate donors.

"Yonge Street Mission does some really difficult work. They

have an incredible storm they're trying to navigate," the Ward 13 representative said earlier this week. "We challenged the corporate community to support this very worthy organization in downtown east."

Basically, the idea is to get corporations to donate at least \$30,000 to the Yonge Street Mission. These donors are then asked to speak with their peers and convince them to pick up the virtual baton and do the same. Capital Developments, a Toronto-based, mid-sized real estate developer, was the first to take on this challenge, contributing \$30,000 to help kick off the #YSMRelay campaign last week.

"It took off like wildfire. Within 48 hours, we raised more than half of the \$330,000," said Capital Developments co-founder and managing partner

Todd Cowan during a recent interview.

Peters, of the YSM, said they're very grateful for the help from corporate donors, but admitted the need is so great and is expected to continue and increase for "several months to come."

"People aren't going back to work as soon as restrictions start to loosen up," she said. "We'll probably need to extend our campaign or do some version of an ongoing fundraiser. ... We will need sustaining partners, there's no doubt."

The Yonge Street Mission is Toronto's oldest and longest running non-profit organization helping people living in poverty. The 124-year-old charity is focused on ending chronic poverty in Toronto in one generation. Visit give.ysm.ca/COVID for more information or to make a donation.



HIT AND RUN

Investigators survey the scene near a downed crosswalk pole. A young boy was taken to hospital in critical condition Thursday morning after being struck in a hit-and-run on Eglinton Avenue east of Markham Road at Cedar. Another person was taken to hospital with a broken arm.

RICHARD LAUTENS TORONTO STAR

Man seeks right to appeal court's order for retrial

Binbrook resident was acquitted of killing an Indigenous man breaking into his truck in 2016

SUSAN CLAIRMONT
THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

HAMILTON—What Peter Khill did in the moments before he raised his shotgun and fatally blasted the unarmed man breaking into his truck shouldn't change the fact it was self-defence — or so goes the appeal to Canada's court of last resort.

Khill's legal team has filed arguments seeking leave to the Supreme Court of Canada.

In June 2018, a jury found Khill not guilty of second-degree murder even though he admitted to killing Jonathan Styres in the driveway of his Binbrook-area home in the middle of the night.

Jurors acquitted the former military reservist because they accepted he had acted in self-defence.

He testified he believed Jonathan, who was Indigenous, had a gun. Jonathan did not have a gun.

In February, Ontario's Court of Appeal ordered Khill to stand trial again.

It said the jury ought to have been instructed by trial judge, Superior Court Justice Stephen Glithero, to consider if Khill's own behaviour provoked the confrontation that led to Jonathan's death.

On Feb. 4, 2016, Khill, 26 at the time, and his spouse were woken by a sound outside, then saw a light on inside their truck.

Khill grabbed his legally owned shotgun from his bedroom closet, loaded it with shells from his nightstand and went outside in his bare feet, coming up on Jonathan from behind.

"Hey, hands up!" Khill ordered. Jonathan did so as he turned and was shot twice, dying almost immediately. He was 29, with two children.

Khill testified he believed Jonathan had a gun and was raising it to shoot and kill him.

The jury was instructed to decide if Khill acted reasonably for a person in those circumstances.

The Court of Appeal said the jury should have also considered whether Khill brought on those circumstances by leaving the safety of his home with a



Peter Khill said he shot and killed Jonathan Styres in self-defence, believing he carried a gun.

gun rather than first calling police.

Last month, lawyers Michael Lacy and Jeffrey Manishen filed their written arguments to the Supreme Court on behalf of Khill.

"Can a homeowner's decision to confront a trespasser, rather than cowering and calling for help negate self-defence when the homeowner proactively defends himself in the face of a mortal threat?" they ask, before providing reasons why their answer is no.

Khill did nothing unlawful or immoral leading up to the incident, they wrote.

"In the face of the Court of Appeal's interpretation of self-defence, the only reasonable thing to do is call the police, cower in the darkness under our beds, and hope help arrives before the criminal invades our home and kills us and our loved ones."

Asking a jury to consider Khill's own actions prior to the event changes the understanding of Canada's self-defence laws, they argue, and therefore the Supreme Court should rule on the case.

The Supreme Court grants leave to about seven per cent of applicants, of which there are 800 to 1,000 each year.

More criminal cases are heard than civil cases, the court generally taking the position that matters of liberty are more important than money.

Cases that make it to the Supreme Court tend to be of national or public importance or matters that provincial appeal courts cannot agree on.

Khill still faces a civil lawsuit launched by Jonathan's relatives, which seeks more than \$2 million in damages.

When Khill walked out of his trial a free man — after just six hours of jury deliberations — Indigenous communities and allies across Canada were outraged.

For them, it raised concerns about the bias of an apparently all-white jury and was another case of a white person getting away with murdering an Indigenous victim.

GUARDIAN CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

(27,891)

ACROSS

- Thoughtful writers I have to follow (7)
- Leave the ground: why I have to use the stairs? (4,3)
- Also about to seize island (6)
- This has one in mansion tossing and turning (8)
- Delay girl's return (3)
- Religious leader you once made into cartoon character (6)
- Stockpiling a large display board (8)
- From fancy niche one takes a jaundiced view (5)
- Incompatible ingredients in strong spirit (9)
- Prepare to forge currency (4,5)
- Daughter finished the port (5)
- Sharp replies to stories circulating about parking (8)
- An upper-class girl? A girl (6)
- The high point of a Devon holiday (3)
- Just this big? Not any more (2,6)
- Supports holding large implement (6)
- Insult a political organisation in speech (7)
- One inactive as supporter of the railway (7)

DOWN

- Prudent management shows class of airline (7)
- Period one could see as emptier (5,4)
- Flower — love it to bits (6)
- Emphatically how contract may be reached (2,6)
- Swollen stomach: girl's knocked up (5)
- Pottery smashed by fiancée (7)
- Unsignificantly spread by producers of consumer goods (5,8)
- Hypotenuse is close (9)
- A regular figure in defence of America (8)
- Small reduction is unfair (1,3,3)
- General change is swell (7)
- In fish, a length of bone (6)
- Old and sullen by repute (5)

Solution No. 27,889

