

“SHINE” Supportive Housing for Independence through nurture and Empowerment

For Immediate Release - 360°kids Announces Renaming of Youth Housing Program to SHINE

On Thursday August 17, 2023 - 360°kids, a registered charity in York Region, dedicated to supporting at risk and homeless youth, proudly announced the renaming of its youth housing program. Formerly known as the Residential Youth Homes, the program has provided invaluable services to hundreds of young people over the past 34 years. This decision reflects our unwavering commitment to fostering a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive environment within 360°kids.

While the previous name was never chosen with any intention to cause offense or incite trauma, we recognize the historical context and the harms experienced by the Indigenous community and have made a deliberate choice to review and rebrand our program. This process underscores our dedication to cultural sensitivity and respect, ensuring that our organization remains a safe and inclusive space for individuals from all backgrounds.

Throughout our search for a new name, our focus remained steadfast on the youth we serve and the need for a positive and inspiring identity. We actively engaged youth from across our organization, seeking their input and involvement in the renaming process. Several suggestions were put forward, but one name stood out among the rest: SHINE, which stands for, **S**upportive **H**ousing for **I**ndependence through **N**urture and **E**mpowerment.

The acronym SHINE perfectly encapsulates the core mission of the housing program, which is to empower young people facing challenges and provide them with opportunities for personal growth. It symbolizes the inherent potential and resilience within each individual, emphasizing their ability to overcome adversity and thrive in a nurturing environment. The name SHINE inspires hope, optimism, and a belief in the inherent worth and potential of every young person who enters our doors.

Like all programs within 360°kids, SHINE is built on the foundation of wrap-around supports. Through various programs, services, and mentorship initiatives, we aim to equip the youth in our programs, with the tools they need to break the cycle of homelessness and build a brighter future. By fostering a sense of belonging and community, we strive to create an atmosphere where individuals can heal, grow, and thrive.

We are grateful to Elder Hilton King and Knowledge Keeper Helper Kris Berwick from Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services for providing a beautiful and thought-provoking Smudge Ceremony to mark the transition to the new Program name and help support our commitment to creating a nurturing and supportive environment for

all youth, regardless of their background, ensuring that no young person seeking our help gets left behind.

For media inquiries or further information, please contact:

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About 360°kids

360°kids has been supporting young people in York Region who are at-risk or may be experiencing homelessness for 34 years. We inspire and assist youth to rebuild their lives through four pillars of support; Housing, Education, Employment and Health & Wellbeing.

