



**Covenant
House**
Opening Doors for Homeless Youth



Toronto Family & Natural Supports Project

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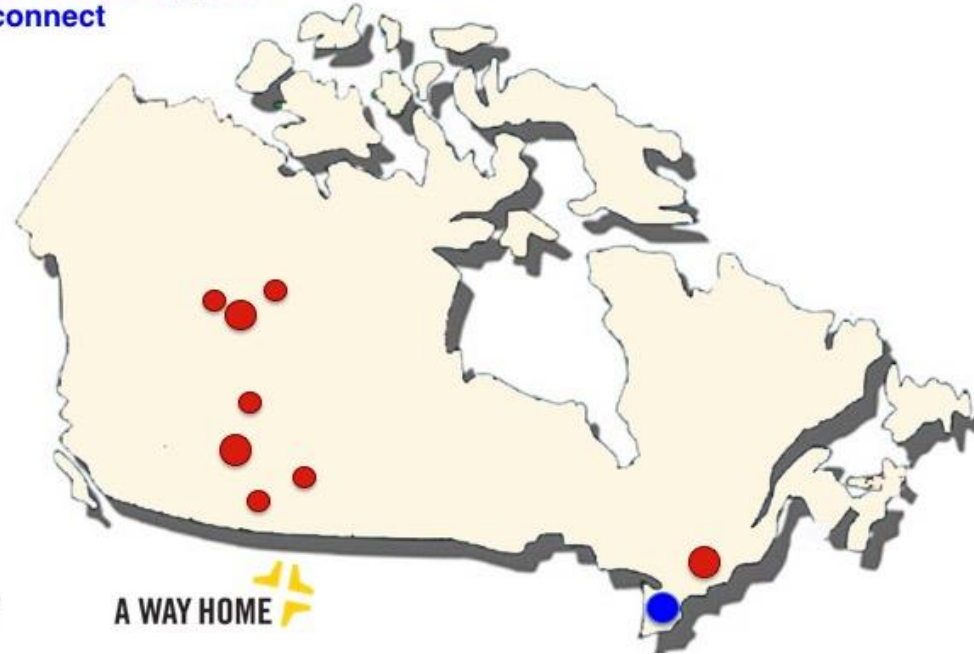


November 5, 2018
National Conference on Ending
Homelessness
#CAEH18

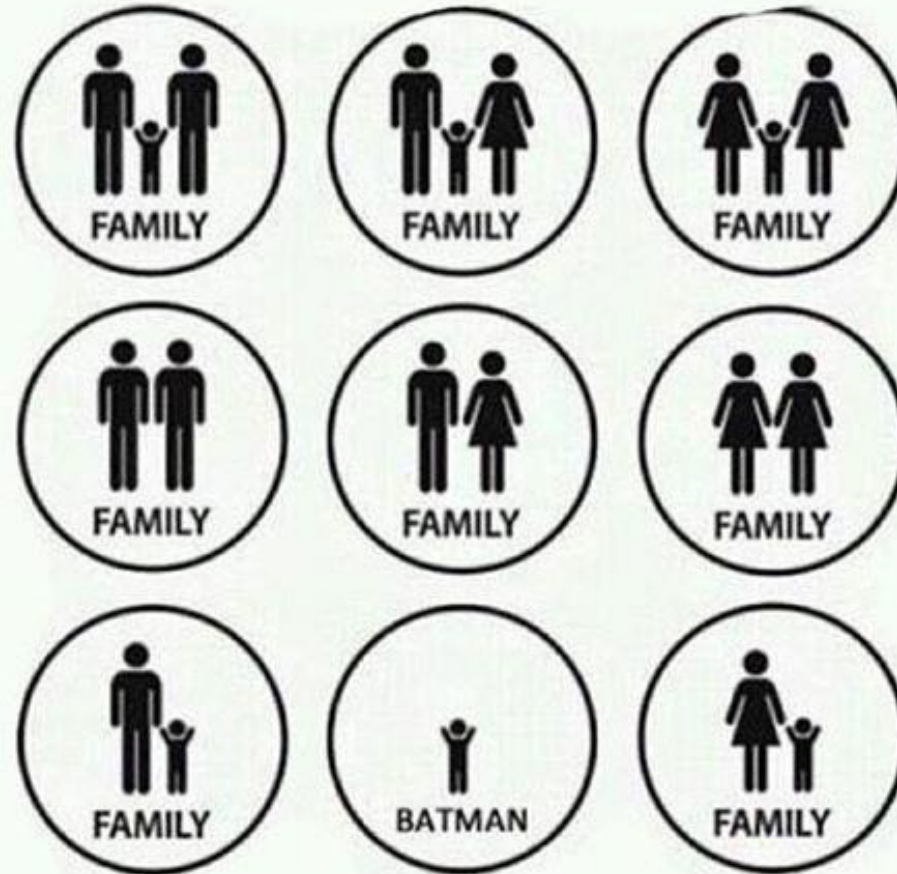
Making the Shift

PREVENTION **Demonstration Projects**

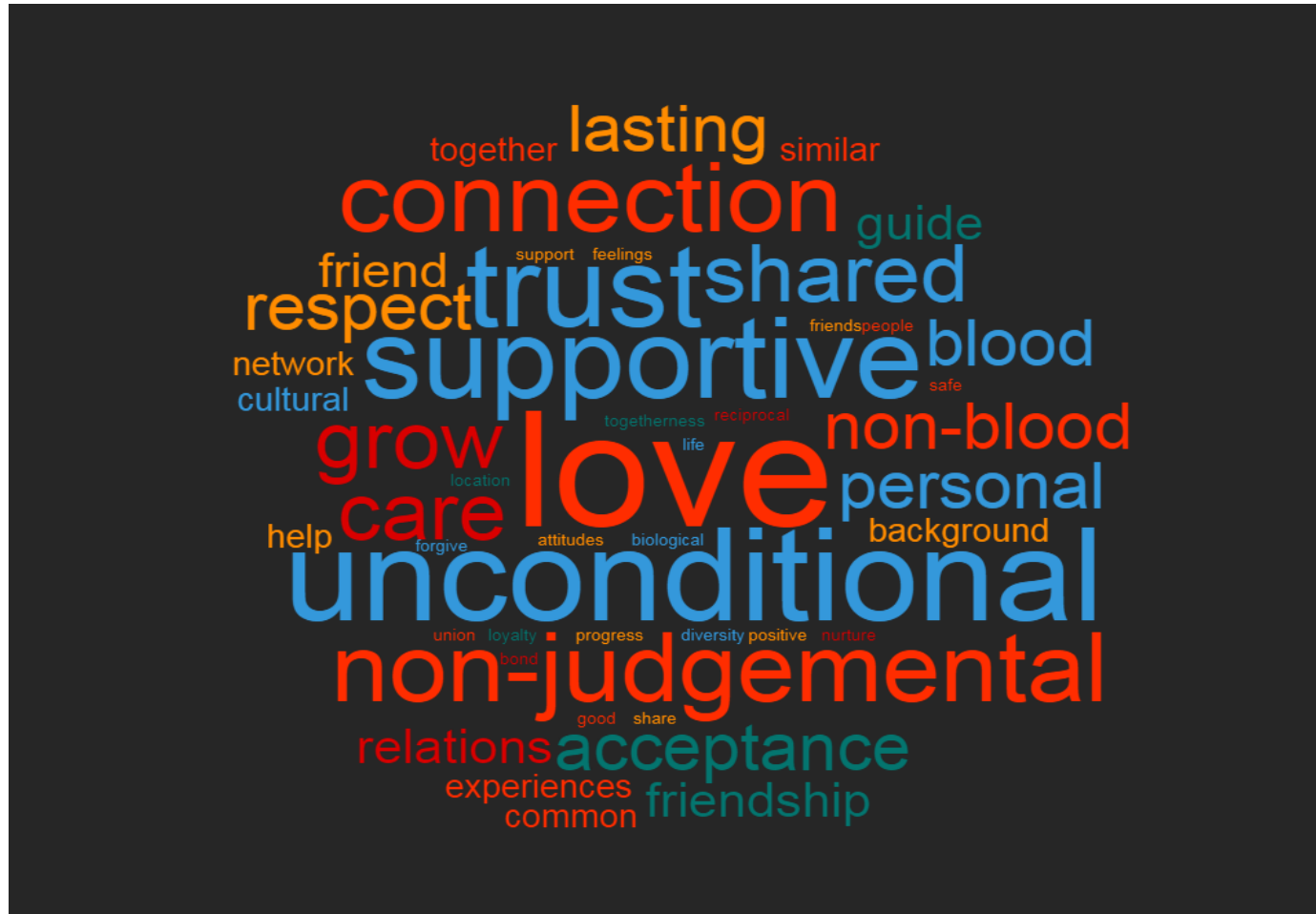
- Family and Natural Supports
- Youth Reconnect



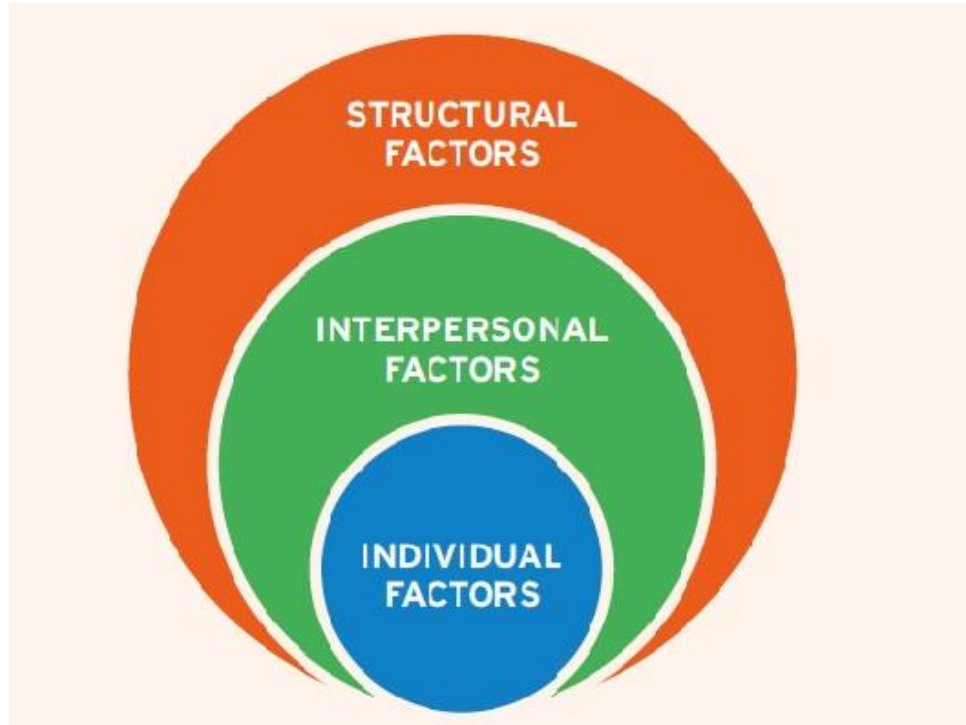
What does 'Family and Natural Supports' mean?



How do youth define 'family'?



Causes of Family Breakdown



“There’s intergenerational trauma...the effects of colonisation...this impacts current family functioning”
Indigenous Service Provider

“My mom trained as a nurse back home. Now she’s here (in Canada) she has to do more training. No one is helping her with that”
Youth

Gill, A. (2016). “Families under pressure: Preventing family breakdown and youth homelessness”.Centrepoint UK

The Traditional Response

“Family is part of the past but not part of the future”



“All youth should be and can be self-sufficient”



What's the value?



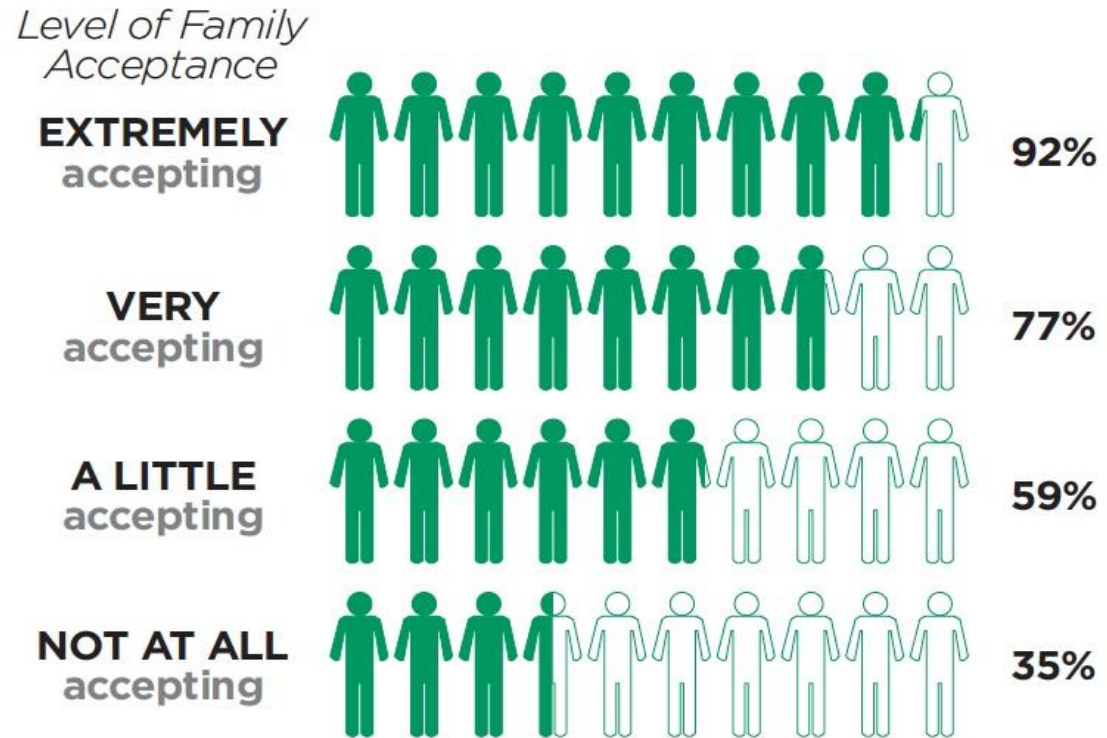
“Everyone would reconnect if they could” Youth

What's the value?

“As a parent of a trans youth it's more than accepting him, I need to be active in helping him.”

Family member

Youth Believe They Can Be A Happy LGBT Adult

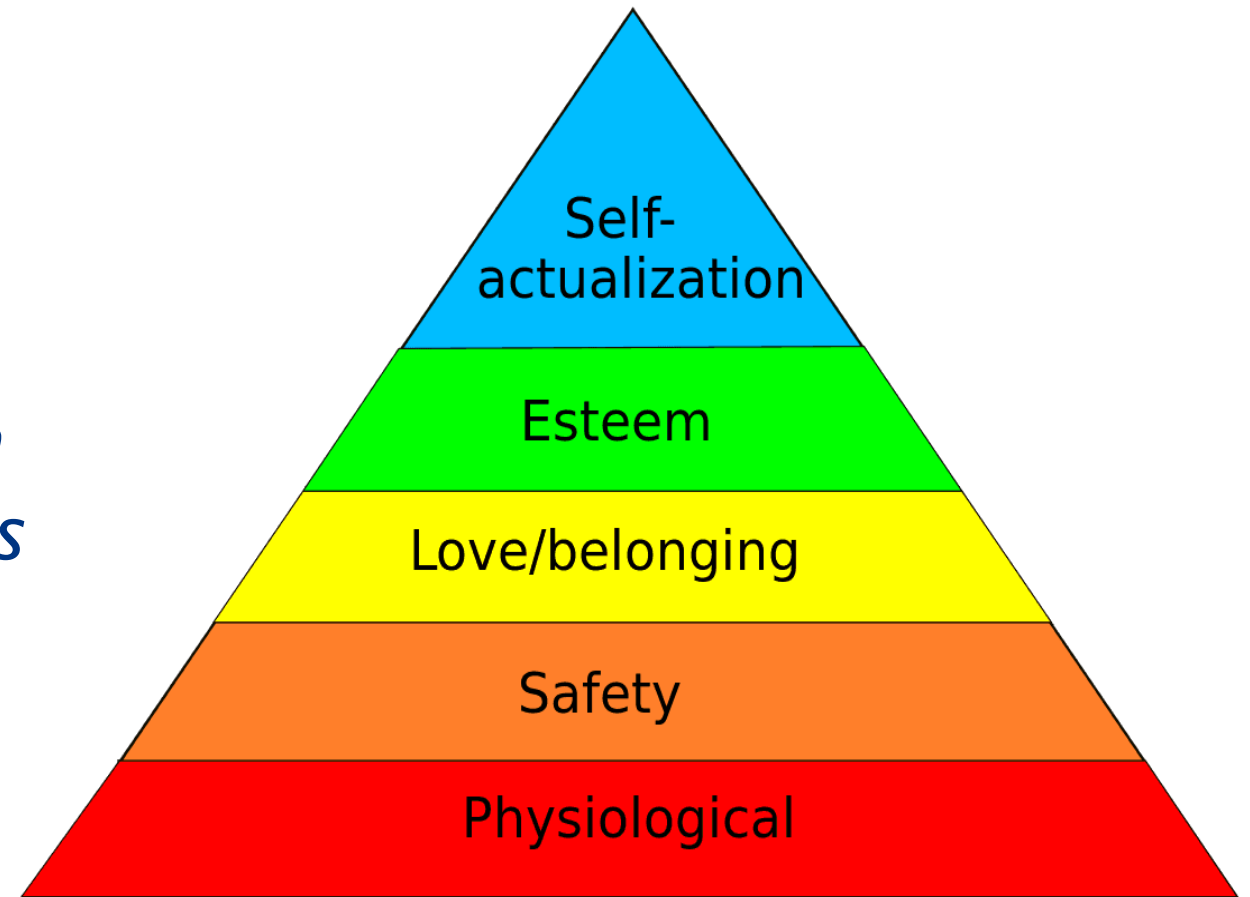


Ryan, Family Acceptance Project, 2009

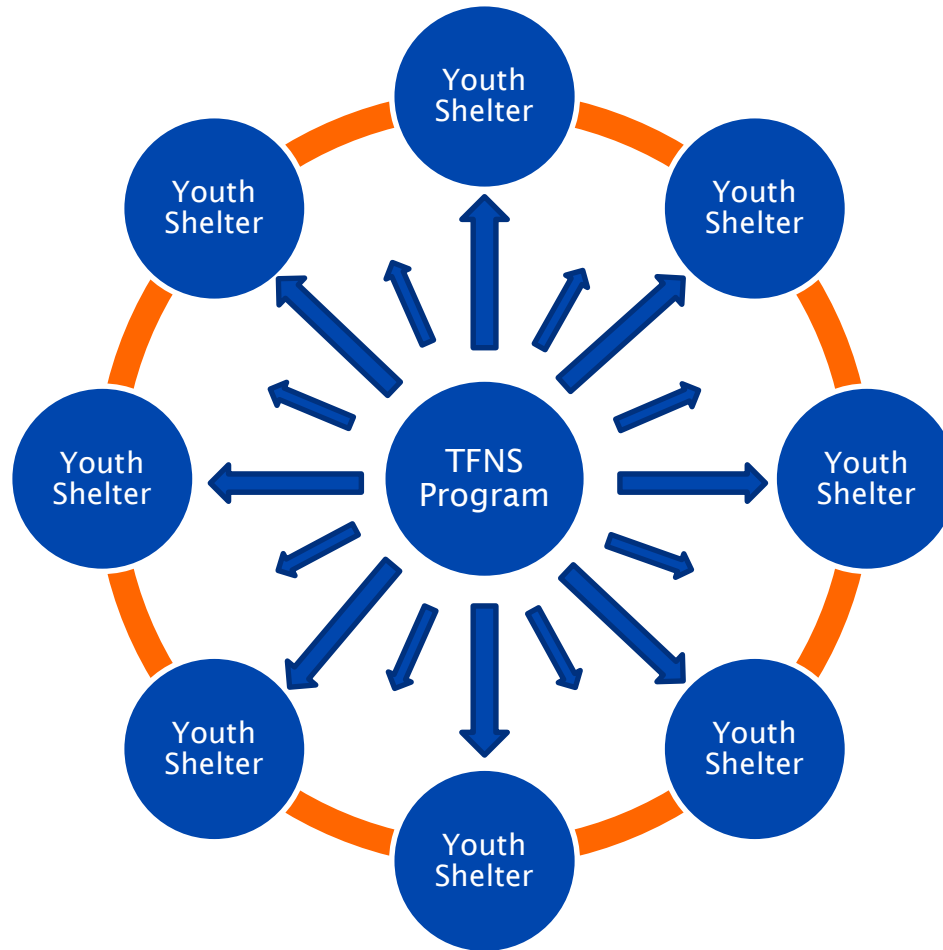
What's the value?

“This could help deal with a lot of emotional stuff...I can't do school if my mental health is not good. My mental health is not good if my relationships aren't good”

Youth



Program Model



- Community Partner (YSIN) Advisory Group
- Champions Group
- Youth & Family Advisory Group

Service Provision

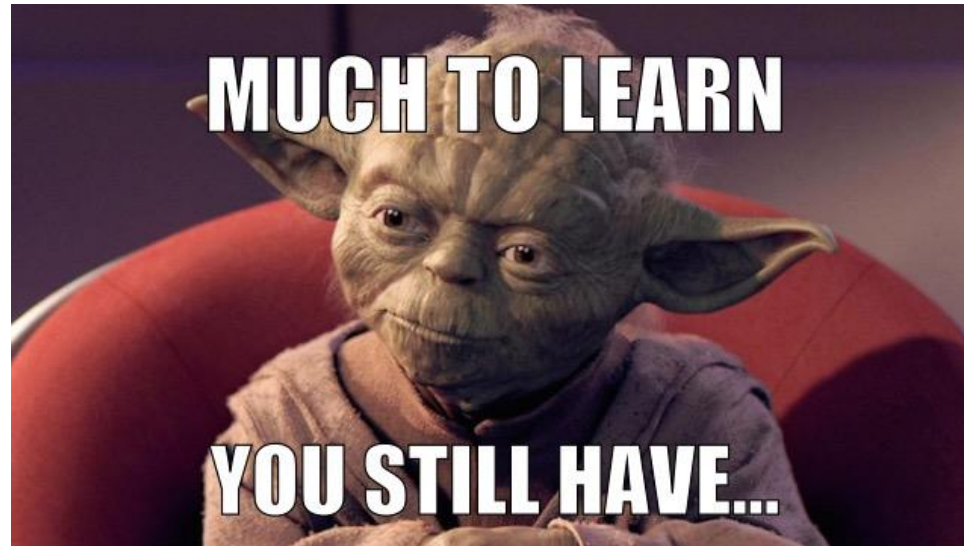
- Client led, Collaborative and Consistent
- Integrated and Individualized
 - Coaching & skill building
 - Individual and family therapy
 - Systems navigation support



*“I don’t want to know that you’re paid. I want to know that you actually give a sh*t” Youth*

Early learning

- Individual support → Family involvement
- Separation from shelter
- Consistency when moving



Thank you



Thoughts?

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