2025 Annual Report

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About O-YA

The Mission of the Osgoode Youth Association is to enrich the quality of life for youth in Grades 2 - 12 in rural south Ottawa. We are dedicated to harnessing our community to deliver a rich variety of programs aimed at social recreation, skill building, leadership, mental health, LGBTQ2SIA+ and allies, healthy relationships, physical activity and culture; supporting young people in their development as successful, independent and involved citizens. O-YA is the founder of the Rural Ottawa Youth Mental Health Collective (ROYMHC); learn more at www.ruralottawayouth.ca.

O-YA is Proud to Offer:

After School Homework Club (Grades 1 - 6)
Day Camps (Grades 2 - 6)
Teen Drop In & Teen Programs (Grades 7 - 12)
Pre-Teen Programs Grades (Grades 4 - 6 & Grades 5 - 8)
In person Youth Mental Health Counselling (Ages 12 - 17)
Teen Leadership & Youth Advisory Committee (Grades 7 - 12)
Community Events ; Learn to Run, 'Goode Run, & Summer Block Party (All ages)

Partner Agencies & Networks

- The City of Ottawa
- United Way East Ontario
- CHEO's Youth Net
- The Ottawa Child & Youth Initiative (OCYI)
- Rural Issues Committee (RIC)
- NROCRC (Nepean, Rideau and Osgoode Community Resource Centre)
- Orleans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre
- Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre
- South Nepean Satellite Community Health Centre
- YOMA (Youth of Manotick Association)
- ROYMHC (Rural Ottawa Youth Mental Health Collective)
- OVCA (Osgoode Village Community Association)
- MP Bruce Fanjoy
- MPP George Darouze
- Ottawa City Councilor Isabelle Skalski
- Ottawa Public Health
- Ottawa Community Foundation
- Ottawa Police Service
- Kids Up Front Ottawa
- Ottawa Public Library - Osgoode Branch

Who is O-YA?

Board of Directors

O-YA is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. In 2025, O-YA's Board of Directors included: Erin Baker (Board Chair), Pam Turner (Treasurer), Michelle Colford (Secretary), Lyn Rorke (Director) and Laura Bond (Director)

Executive Director

Carley Scharf is the Executive Director at the Osgoode Youth Association (O-YA), she prides herself on being community-focused with a strong foundation in social work and over a decade of experience in youth-centered programs, community development, and mental health initiatives. Skilled in fostering youth engagement, leading impactful programs, and building capacity within rural communities. Carley has a history of developing and facilitating programs aimed at empowering youth and increasing community involvement. Being an Executive Director at a small rural organization like O-YA means she wears many hats! A large part of her role includes financial management, HR responsibilities, team member management, social media management and communication among other tasks.

Youth Workers

The face, heart, soul and personality of O-YA are our fantastic Youth Workers! In 2025, O-YA employed 7 young adults/high school students as Youth Workers: Lindsay Adams, Em Dozois, Liv Rodger, Tyler Doughty, Nathan Heins, Jake Baker and Ryan Yeaton.

Volunteers & Participants

Community Volunteers

In 2025, O-YA was very grateful for the time and talents of 80 volunteers who contributed 620 volunteer hours

Who Comes to O-YA?

In 2025, 1,352 unique individuals visited O-YA. Specifically, O-YA had:

- 36 participants registered in our After School Homework Club
- 112 participants attended our Day Programs; such as March Break Camp, Summer Camp, PJ Party and Winter Break
- 230 participants attended our Teen Programs
- 12 participants attended our 'Goode To Go Run Club
- 414 participants attended our 'Goode Run event
- 550 participants attended our Summer Block Party (estimate), & our Hot Chocolate on the Patio Event (estimate)

O-YA's 2025 Financials

In 2025, The Osgoode Youth Association had a total income of $300,165.79 and total expenses of $291,942.52 O-YA's surplus of $8,223.27 will be put into reserves. O-YA is still undergoing the 2025 Financial Audit and will update this information upon completion of the audit

O-YA's 2025 Income:

- O-YA's Revenue Generating Programs: $92,977
- Government Funding: $146,861
- Donations, Fundraising & Grants: $60,327

O-YA's 2025 Expenses:

- Staff Expenses: $193,197
- Operations: $49,900
- Program Supplies: $36,731
- Fundraising: $5262
- Other: $6,852

Programs for Youth in Grades 1 - 6

After School Homework Club

(Funded in part by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport & United Way EO)

Daily during the school year from 2:45 pm - 5:30 pm.

A welcoming and engaging atmosphere, with a healthy snack every day, lots of opportunity for outdoor play and physical activity, supervised homework time and plenty of play with friends, Youth Workers and volunteer high school students. O-YA's program also includes healthy food choices and nutrition education, wellness and personal health education (group reading, art, crafts, bullying prevention, building self-esteem and more). O-YA's After School Homework Club champions the Ottawa Child & Youth Initiatives 3 Pillars of quality After School programs of: safe spaces, skill building and positive relationships.

Day Camps

Winter (last 3 days in December), March Break, & Summer (1 week in each of July and August)

Outdoor play, physical activity, field trip days, group games, crafts, cooking, free time, group reading, themed activities and more.

Friendship Club (Grades 4 - 6)

October & November 2025

In response to O-YA's Community Needs Assessment O-YA piloted a new program called Friendship Club for youth in Grades 4 - 6. Friendship club was a space for youth to build skills and learn to be good friends. Each week O-YA fed participants dinner, chatted about a topic/skill, did an activity that reinforced the importance of that skill and then finished the evening by doing something fun together to build friendships! Topics explored were: what makes a good friend, how to create friendships, healthy boundaries, solving conflicts, don't be a bystander and how to help a friend.

Holiday Pyjama Party

December 6, 2025

As part of Christmas in the Village O-YA hosted a Holiday Pyjama party so parents could attend an adult only party, get some holiday shopping/wrapping done or take advantage and have a date night! This program sold out in only a few days and had a waitlist! O-YA staff kept youth entertained with fun games, crafts, snacks & a holiday themed movie night.

Programs for Youth in Grades 5 - 8

Cooking 101

February & March 2025

Cooking 101 was a fun and interactive program designed for students in grades 5 to 8! Over five weeks, participants learned essential food skills through hands-on activities in the kitchen. From basic techniques to creating delicious dishes, this program helped build confidence in the kitchen.

Period Preparedness (Grades 4 - 8)

April 29, 2025

O-YA hosted an evening for girls in grade 4 - 8 to help them navigate a time of change in their lives. The evening began with a pizza dinner and followed with a presentation sharing what to expect, the menstrual cycle and different types of menstrual products. Girls got to create their very own period kit with items that would help them with their first time and manage stress. The evening ended with watching the movie "Turning Red". This program sold out within a few days and had raving reviews from both parents and youth who attended.

Book Club

March - June 2025 & October - November 2025

In response to O-YA's 2024/25 Community Needs Assessment parents/caregivers shared the suggestion of hosting a book club. Youth Worker Em is a book lover and jumped on the opportunity to design a unique experience for Jr.Teens. Every week Youth Worker Em would meet participants across the road at our local coffee shop, No Go Coffee, grab a treat/drink, have group discussions about the book and participate in activities that relate to the book. In 2025 O-YA's book club read The Wild Robot, The Wild Robot Escapes and Fish in a Tree.

Osgoode Public School Grade 6 Visit

June 2025

O-YA invited the Grade 6 class at Osgoode Public School to walk down to O-YA and enjoy an afternoon of O-YA program activities. Participants had the opportunity to try out examples of our Teen Leadership camp and Teen Drop In program.

Programs for Youth in Grades 5 - 8 Continued

Summer Programs

July & August

In the summer of 2025, O-YA hosted Jr. Teen Drop In on Wednesdays from 3 pm - 8 pm. Each of those Drop In events had a theme such as cookie baking, make your own pizza, craft corner and campfire.

Monthly Board Game Night

September - December 2025

Once a month O-YA replaces Teen Drop In with a board game night for youth in grades 5 - 8. This is exactly as it sounds, a night of playing board games.

Programs for Youth in Grades 7 - 12

Youth Mental Health Counsellor

(In partnership with Nepean, Rideau, Osgoode Community Resource Centre; NROCRC & United Way Eastern Ontario)

NROCRC (Nepean, Rideau, Osgoode Community Resource Centre) received a grant from United Way of Eastern Ontario to continue youth mental health counselling work in their catchment area of Osgoode Ward, Kars and North Gower. Quinn Rivier-Gatt is the youth mental health Counsellor, and we all love her! Quinn works for NROCRC, but takes appointments both virtually and in person at the Osgoode Youth Association (O-YA). Appointments are available for rural youth ages 12 - 17.

Youth Advisory Committee

In 2025 O-YA's YAC were the Hype Squad at the 'Goode Run and assisted with our Summer Block Party and served hot chocolate during Osgoode's Parade of Lights on O-YA's patio.

Social Skills Group In Partnership with NROCRC

July 2025

O-YA and NROCRC partnered on hosting a free Social Skills Group for youth ages 12–17 in July. This program featured six engaging sessions designed to help break down barriers in making friends and socializing. Youth learned how to communicate needs and wants, how to recognize emotions and social cues, conflict resolution, how to navigate social dynamics, self-soothing, self-care and how to build self-esteem.

Teen Drop In

Tuesdays and Thursdays (5:30 pm - 9 pm) and Fridays (5:30 pm - 10 pm)

A safe and welcoming space for local teens to relax, meet friends, socialize and benefit from the mentorship of O-YA Youth Workers. At Teen Drop In, youth enjoy free snacks and drinks, play computer games, board games, karaoke, have outdoor time, watch movies or just hang out. On the last Friday of the month teens can enjoy dinner cooked for them Executive Director Carley. Additionally once a month youth had the opportunity to hang out with our mental health counselor Quinn when she hosted Chat's With Quinn!

Programs for Youth in Grades 7 - 12 Cont.

Teen Leadership Camp

August 2025

O-YA's Leadership Camp focuses on teaching the fundamentals of team building and leadership by developing problem solving skills, communication skills and gaining self confidence in a challenging and positive environment. Activities for the 2025 Leadership Camp included: Process / Content & Feeling Circles, leadership discussions, Business Stand challenge, group challenges, event planning, learning workshops, and a field trip.

Happy Minds

Funded by Tune-In-Give-Back Fundraiser

Happy Minds was a 6 week mental wellness program for youth who identify as female in Grades 7 - 12. Each evening included cooking dinner together, a workshop and a fun activity. Workshops included: Stress & Anxiety, Healthy Relationships, Positive Lifestyles and more. Activities included: Yoga & Meditation, Zumba, Positive T-Shirt making and more!

Teen Drop In in Greely

(Funded in part by the Rural Community Building Grant)

Mondays 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

In 2025 O-YA received funding to pilot a Teen Drop In out of the Greely Community Centre on Monday evenings. As the name suggests, youth were welcome to drop in when they like, and come and go as they wish. Occasional activities were programmed during Drop In hours such as dodge ball, mario kart night, ice cream sundae bar etc. and sometimes youth just hang out, chat, play cards or board games, do homework, group games, etc.

Red Blacks Game Fieldtrip

September 20, 2025

O-YA's partners at Kids Up Front Ottawa provided 27 tickets to an Ottawa Redblacks Game. O-YA provided bus transportation and supervision for 22 youth on a sunny fall day at the football game!

Pens & Paints in Greely

October - December 2025

O-YA partnered with CHEO's Youthnet to offer their Pens & Paint program on Monday evenings at the Greely Community Centre. Pens and Paints was an 8-week art-based program where youth had the opportunity to experiment with different levels and types of art, make connections, discuss mental health topics and learn new coping skills.

Community Programs & Events

Rural Ottawa Youth Mental Health Collective (ROYMHC)

O-YA is the founding organization of ROYMHC, and our ED is the Board Chair. The mission of the ROYMHC is to ensure rural Ottawa youth (ages 12 – 24) feel they are getting the mental health support they need or know where to go for help if and when they need to access support. This mission is achieved via a Collective Impact approach (14 local youth serving agencies serve as our Collective) with activities focused on youth education, support network education, communication, community engagement and counselling.

‘Goode To Go Run Club

March - May 2025

‘Goode to Go Run Club was part of O-YA’s ‘Goode Run fundraiser, and is for those who have always wanted to learn to run, but have no idea how to start training and those who are getting back into running or looking to join a weekly group of dedicated runners to help keep you motivated. The club was hosted by community volunteers (and seasoned runners) Dan Churchill, Jesse Cullen and Mary Blaney. Each week, hosts shared running tips from their own experience, and focused on warm up, stretches, strides - and of course running!

The 'Goode Run

May 10, 2025

The 'Goode Run is O-YA’s biggest fundraiser of the year - and a fun community event! The 'Goode Run is a volunteer organized 2K & 5K through Osgoode Village streets and pathways. The Run is supported by O-YA’s YAC Hype Squad at Race Central. In 2025, we hosted 414 participants on Race Day, the sun was shining and everyone we saw had a big smile on their face! This years addition of a costume contest was enjoyed by many participants! The 2K had 255 participants and the 5K had 159 participants. Thank you to the 'Goode Run volunteer committee of Linda Panich Langlois (Race Director), Meaghan Baker (Co-Race Director), Matt Nesrallah (Course Logistics), Megan Brooks (Volunteer Manager), Dan Churchill (2026 Race Director!) and Jess Cullen.

Community Programs & Events Cont.

Summer Block Party

June 10, 2025

Planned and managed by O-YA's YAC, the Summer Block Party was an all ages community event held outdoors at O-YA. Attractions included Outdoor Games, Airbrush Tattoos, Hair Braiding, Craft Tent Baking Contest, Puppy Cuddles with Sit With Me, Entertainment Stage, Zoo Crew Petting Zoo Kevin Smith Magic, and Ice Cream Truck. In 2025 The Summer Block Party was hosted in conjunction with the OVCA (Osgoode Village Community Association) PorchFest.

Pre-Teen Glow Dance

January, March & November 2025

O-YA partnered with the Osgoode Village Community Association, St.Pauls Anglican Church & The Osgoode Girl Guides to host a pre-teen glow dance for youth in grades 1 - 6. O-YA staff provided a safe & quiet space (separate of the dance) for youth who felt overwhelmed, ensured youth got in and out of the dance safely and monitored behaviour on the dance floor.

Collective Connection

October, November, December 2025

In response to O-YA's 2024/25 Community Needs Assessment parents identified the need to have opportunities to strengthen connections between youth and their parents/caregivers. In response, O-YA launched Collective Connection; a pilot series designed to bring youth and their caregivers together through fun, shared experiences. O-YA hosted a painting workshop, Indigenous Tea & Bannock and Gingerbread People decorating.