

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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REDESIGNED FOR YOUTH: BILD EDMONTON METRO'S BUILDERS + RENOVATORS COME TOGETHER TO TRANSFORM LOCAL CHARITY'S SPACE

Edmonton, Alberta – More than **100 local renovators came together over three days to transform the space at Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS)**, contributing their time, materials, expertise and skills to support young people in the Edmonton community.

The transformation is part of BILD Edmonton Metro's annual Renovation Project, an initiative that has brought members together for more than a decade to revitalize homes and community spaces in partnership with charitable and non-profit organizations.

For BILD Edmonton Metro Board Chair **Paul Lanni**, the project reflects an impact that goes beyond the spaces the industry builds.

"These projects are about much more than renovations. They're about coming together as an industry, using our skills and resources to make a meaningful difference and supporting the organizations that serve our communities," said Lanni, President & CEO of Averton.

This year, that effort brought BILD Edmonton Metro members to YESS, where volunteers worked together over three days to help transform a space used by the organization.

"What you see here today is the result of people coming together and asking a very simple question: How can we help? And then rolling up their sleeves and getting to work," Lanni said.

YESS has supported Edmonton youth for more than 40 years and today operates a 24/7 Youth Support Centre for young people ages 15 to 21 experiencing crisis, offering a safe place to stay and access to physical, mental, cultural and emotional health supports. YESS also connects young people to medical care, mental health supports and other community resources, with demand continuing to grow.

"At YESS, we know that a safe and welcoming space can make a meaningful difference for a young person who may already be facing a difficult moment. This renovation is about more than improving a physical space. It's about creating an environment where young people feel respected, supported and comfortable accessing the services they need," said Corey Mowles, YESS President & CEO. "We're incredibly grateful to BILD Edmonton Metro for bringing more than 100 industry professionals together to put their time, skills and generosity behind this project. Their commitment to giving back and investing in our community is a powerful example of what can happen when an industry comes together to make a difference for young people."

This year's YESS project brought together professionals from across the renovation process. **Paul Foster**, Chair of BILD Edmonton Metro's Renovation Committee, was part of the team behind the initiative, while **Patricia Egea Leal, Chris Laxdal, and Ben Guittard** were among the designers and doers helping turn the plans for the space into reality.



“The work YESS is doing for youth is incredible. These are spaces young people use every day, so it’s really meaningful for us to bring our skills and our efforts together to make them better,” said **Patricia Egea Leal**.

The transformation was made possible through the contributions of BILD Edmonton Metro members and project partners who donated funding, materials, services and professional expertise, including Presenting Sponsor Home Depot and our other sponsors, Park Lighting & Furniture, Effect Homes, Kitchen Craft Edmonton, Benjamin Matthew Contracting, Flo Form Countertops, Accurate Network Services, Legacy Heating & Cooling, Brookfield Residential, Cantiro, The Brick, Bridge Flooring, Lux Windows & Doors, YEG Closets, Top Shelf Closets & Glass, Chateau Lighting, Trail Appliances, Parkwood Builders, Expressions at Home, A&B Concrete Pumping, Specialized Stair & Railing, StreetSide Developments, Broadview, Excel Homes, Bartle & Gibson Showrooms, Contact Renovations, Awlridge Renovations, Ackard Contractors, Points West Marketing, Ridgeline Improvements, Barclay Sales, Serenity Contracting & Design, and Evolve Painting.

Throughout October, BILD Edmonton Metro will continue highlighting local renovators and the stories behind their work through its Meet the Renovators series and other Renovation Month initiatives.

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