

Tows 4 Tots Holiday Toy Drive by Norton Tow Squad Delivers Holiday Cheer to Youth Service, Inc. Children

About tow 30 truck drivers gathered in a procession to 34th and Hamilton Streets in West Philadelphia in December to deliver Christmas gifts to the children served by Youth Service Inc. (YSI), a nonprofit organization that has provided shelter and support services to Philadelphia's children, youth and families for 70 years. This is the 15th year that "Tows 4 Tots" has collected and delivered holiday gifts for the children served by YSI. Gifts were distributed by YSI to the families and youth that they serve, who have experienced homelessness, housing insecurity, or economic setbacks.

"Tows 4 Tots" is organized by Dave and Charles Norton of North Philadelphia-based Norton Tow Squad and their network of towers and friends. The Nortons originally began the holiday drive to thank YSI on behalf of their nephew, who resided at YSI's Baring House Group Home in the late 1980s. The Nortons and YSI Executive Director Gwen Bailey were on hand to greet and thank the contributing tow truck drivers dozens of tow trucks drove down 34th Street heralded by a police escort. Volunteers were on hand to help unload and store the packages. YSI serves 4,000 children each year. Learn more at www.ysiphila.org.

Youth Service, Inc. (YSI) is a nonprofit organization that has provided immediate shelter and support services to Philadelphia's children, youth and families for 70 years. YSI offers unique programs and niche services throughout the city, including Philadelphia's only Crisis Nursery program and the longest standing shelter in the area for runaway and homeless teens. Through shelter, counseling, and in-home support services, YSI reaches more than 4,000 clients annually, the majority of whom live below the poverty level.

Youth Service, Inc. strives to be an inclusive, affirming and safe place for all who are involved in our agency as employees, clients, partners, etc. regardless of race, ethnicity, LGBTQ-IA+ identification, physical/developmental ability, or background.



Group Photo: Gwen Bailey, Executive Director of Youth Service, Inc. and some drivers and volunteers for Tows for Tots

YSI is in the process of integrating with People's Emergency Center. Together they will be known as HopePHL™ starting in January 2023. Learn more at <https://ysiphilly.org/>

Please contact Trish Downey at 215-888-6364 with any questions

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