



Dear YOTO Family,

The holiday season is upon on us! I feel so much joy this time of year. But for youth experiencing homelessness, the holidays can be a bittersweet season.

Many YOTO youth will spend time with “found families” and friends, but will also miss being able to celebrate with parents. **To show youth that they are and will always be a part of our YOTO Family, each year YOTO “spreads the warmth” by sending a holiday card and a gift to each youth in our program.**

This year, YOTO will be providing a \$40 holiday gift that youth can use to make the season special, as well as providing a warm blanket to those who would like one. As YOTO graduate Chuck shared last year: *“Getting a blanket was huge for me. My heart felt at home knowing someone cared enough to get it for me. It made me realize that I was not less than others just because I was homeless, and that a simple act of kindness can have a huge impact on a person’s life.”*

**You can help make a difference for a YOTO youth this year,  
because it’s time to Spread the Warmth again!**

The youth we serve need the support of their YOTO Family. We currently have over 300 more youth enrolled in our program than we anticipated having at this time of the year! Coupled with unprecedented engagement with our services (youth are asking for even more help than before), we find ourselves needing your support more than ever.

Every year, thousands of youth experiencing homelessness continue to reach out for a helping hand from YOTO. That’s why today I’m asking you to continue to encourage and inspire our youth by supporting YOTO’s Spread the Warmth Challenge!

I'm excited to share that for the fourth consecutive year, two of our favorite YOTO Family Members - Larry "Buzz" Petersen and Roberta "Robbie" Willingham - have offered to **match all gifts made toward the Spread the Warmth Challenge up to \$50,000**. That means that once again, you have the chance to **DOUBLE** your impact!

The support you provide youth, whether it's an in-kind donation of food or blankets, a financial contribution to our program, or a note of encouragement, does not go unnoticed by YOTO youth. In the 37 years since YOTO's founding, **YOU** have helped make YOTO a movement in our community. Because of your commitment to our work and the youth we serve, young people you've never met know that you care about their hopes and their futures.

***Help us rise to the challenge and the example set by our Spread the Warmth champions Buzz and Robbie by making a gift today!***

Again, I can't express enough gratitude for everything our YOTO Family has already done to make Youth On Their Own the organization it is today. It's truly impossible to overstate the impact your support has had, and I hope that this holiday season, you'll consider continuing that support! From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all you have done - and continue to do - for the tens of thousands of young people whose lives have been changed for the better through the kindness and commitment of our amazing YOTO Family!

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Slater  
CEO, Youth On Their Own

***PS: Don't forget that if you pay Arizona state taxes, your gift to the Spread the Warmth Challenge qualifies for the **Arizona Charitable Tax Credit!** This year, credits have increased to **\$421** per individual and **\$841** per couple filing jointly!***