

# Push for Change Gets More Support

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Wednesday, December 7, 2016 Orillia | by Ian MacLennan

***Christmas Dream Silent Auction in Orillia to raise funds to combat youth homelessness.***

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The Push for Change-Christmas Dream Silent Auction takes place for 10 days beginning tomorrow(THURS).

The public is invited to Brewery Bay Restaurant on Mississauga Street East in Orillia to bid on items with proceeds to Push for Change.

Push for Change was launched by Joe Roberts, former homeless youth turned CEO, who is pushing a shopping cart across Canada to raise awareness about youth homelessness.

City councillor Pat Hehn says there are numerous items to bid on including an opportunity to be Honorary OPP Commissioner for a Day, to have your child ride a fire truck in the Orillia Canada Day Parade next July, even dinner for eight prepared by Mayor Steve Clarke.



Hehn says she used to work as head of Victims Services and saw the impact of youth homelessness.

She says they could not keep kids under 18 in motels, so they had to scramble to find friends or family that would provide shelter or send them to Youth Haven in Barrie, which remains the only youth homeless shelter in Simcoe County.

Hehn says sending kids to Barrie was difficult because they did not want to leave their community.

Besides fundraising for the cause, Hehn says she hopes youth will know the community is getting behind them and is trying to understand the problems they have.

Roberts and his shopping cart is expected in the Orillia and Barrie-area later this month.

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