

## Transformative eye-opener

By Neil Moore

Our assignment for the "360 Experience," and that of 32 other community leaders, wasn't the silly stuff of TV's *Amazing Race*, but reflected actual cases looked after by staff and volunteers at 360Kids, an organization that has been providing programs and services for at-risk and homeless youth in York Region since 1988.

My partner, Christine Walterhouse of ONEnergy Inc., and I were to walk in the shoes of an

18-year-old girl and her little brother. We had no money and no home. The challenge was to make do with what a pair of homeless teens might have in their pockets - or be provided from a handful of local support agencies.

There was no room at the Blue Door Shelter, so we headed back to Richmond Hill and a 24-hour coffee shop.

Then at 3 a.m. we were handed a tarp and two sleeping bags. We pooled our resources with another pair, laying one plastic sheet

on the ground, and one over all four of us to protect from the falling snow.

The melting flakes on my face made sleeping difficult .... Although I knew I'd be tucking into a cozy bed in a few hours, I couldn't help but imagine this as a daily routine.

The experience was transformative. Maybe not an epiphany, but it'll stop me from whining next time the coffee's a bit cold, or my four-star hotel room turns out to be a three-star...

For full story, go to [yorkregion.com](http://yorkregion.com)



PHOTOS COURTESY PARTICIPANT DAVID WEST

York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe (left) and York Region Media group manager Neil Moore, clutching a warm coffee, enjoy temporary warmth inside a Viva bus.



STOUFFVILLE CARES PHOTO

## NOODLED

The youth fellowship group at Stouffville United Church hosted a pasta dinner in support of the Stouffville Cares refugee program Saturday. The Fandi family, who arrived in Stouffville from Syria via Jordan, attended. For more on them, see Jim Mason's column on page 9.



# FREE Easter Event!

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March 26

Closed Good Friday and Easter Sunday



## FREE Craft!



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Bunny Box  
Saturday,  
March 26  
1-4PM

While supplies last.  
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## FREE 4x6 Photo!

Thursday, March 24 6-8PM  
Saturday, March 26 11AM-4PM

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Registration 1:30-2PM. Ages 2-10.  
Find 5 eggs and return for candy!



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