



# WYNDHAM HOUSE

40  
years

SPRING 2013

*Welcome to a special edition ~ the 40th Anniversary ~ Wyndham House newsletter!*

Celebrating 40 years of providing youth with opportunities for a better future. We gratefully acknowledge all the donors, volunteers, supporters, funders and community partners that it make it possible.

This special anniversary edition of the newsletter brings you 40 Quotes from 40 clients, past and present, and a photo journal of our exciting year of celebration!



Marjorie Brooks, who was a member of the first Wyndham House Board of Directors, is seen here with her daughter and Mayor Farbridge at the launch of our 40th Anniversary celebration. Wyndham House kicked off its anniversary year in January at Riverslea on the Homewood Grounds. Homewood was the original site of the young women's home before the Suffolk property was purchased. Wyndham House -indeed the entire community- is indebted to Mrs. Brooks for her vision, commitment and determination. She was a recipient of the Ontario medal of Good Citizenship in recognition of her work to better our community. Mrs Brooks passed away on April 4th, just three months after this picture was taken.

#### Administration & Resource Centre

26 Douglas Street, Guelph, Ont. N1H 2S9 Tel: 822-4400

e-mail: [info@wyndhamhouse.org](mailto:info@wyndhamhouse.org) website: [www.wyndhamhouse.org](http://www.wyndhamhouse.org)

#### Long Term Residential Programs

51 Bellevue Street 74 Suffolk Street

519-763-8040 519-763-8660

#### Youth Emergency Shelter

18 Norwich Street

519-837-3892

# "I just want a chance for a better life."

## 40 Quotes from 40 Clients - Past and Present

*"The staff and residents at Wyndham House have accepted me and made me feel at home."*

*"Wyndham House is keeping me on track and helping me find a path that I would like to go down. They have pulled strings and accessed doors I would never be able to open on my own."*

*"I have been in the lowest of lows and I never want to go back. If it weren't for the Wyndham House program I would be back on the streets of Ottawa with a syringe in my arm."*

*"BIG UP to that Wyndham House ya!!!!"*

*"I basically owe them my life because if it wasn't for them, I wouldn't have known how much better my life could be."*

*"It takes a village to raise a Neville"*

*"When I first met you I never thought I would be applying for College."*

*"Thanks to Wyndham House I now know how to speak Greek."*

*"Wyndham House is a place I will never forget as they have helped me build a future for myself."*

*"I learned so much from my time there and from the program. It has helped me be the man I am today. If it wasn't for the house I would not be married today and have a great wife that I can understand and communicate with."*

*"Wyndham House brought me out of my shell, fostered my personal growth and for that I am truly thankful."*

*"In the past six months Wyndham house has helped me with many things including getting into physio-therapy, and what I am most proud of: getting into college!"*

*"With all the troubles I have had in my life Wyndham House has been there for me to help make me a better person."*

*"For many years I was told I would never amount to anything. After a while I really started to believe people. Luckily I found out I had options. Throughout my stay at Wyndham House, I learned that my destiny was not set in stone and I truly learned who I really was and who I wanted to become."*

*"You guys are my downtown family."*

*"The Resource Centre staff were there for me. They encouraged me to keep going when all I felt like doing was falling back into my old life. They helped me connect with other community resources so I could deal with my mental health issues and continue to turn my life around."*

*"My experience with the staff and the programs have inspired me to further my education to be a social worker. The impression they made on my life is a lasting one, and I hope that I can make that kind of difference in someone's life someday."*

## Paint the Town Red 40th Anniversary Gala



*Paint the Town Red - a fundraising event held on April 27th - guests Mayor Karen Farbridge, M.P. Frank Valeriote and M.P.P. Liz Sandals*



*The Joint Café - one of the wonderful restaurants who catered the event - decorated their table to fit the theme of the evening. Thanks to The Joint Café, and to Hanlon Convention Centre, Kelsey's, The Other Brother's, Everton Academy of Culinary Arts, Montana's Cookhouse. Moxie's, and Shakespeare Arms.*



*Ruby Sponsor Dan Burnham (far right) from Dan Burnham Insurance and Financial Services and his guests enjoy the evening. Our thanks to Dan Burnham and our Maroon Sponsors the Rotary Club of Guelph Wellington and David Woolcott Law Office.*

## VISION STATEMENT

Wyndham House envisions a community that supports youth in achieving their full potential.



# "Wyndham House is a life changer."

## Home Depot Build Day

The Home Depot Canada Foundation's Affordable Housing Grant Program has surpassed all of our expectations. From our first contact with foundation staff, informing us that we were successful in our application to the amazing support and volunteer time from our local store associates, we have been amazed at the true community spirit displayed by everyone involved. The Home Depot Canada Foundation is fully supporting our dream of making the needed improvements to our residential programs. The Suffolk Home Build Day took place on April 17th with the support of The Home Depot associates from the Guelph and Burlington store locations, members of the Wyndham House team (including staff, board, youth and local volunteers) and The Home Depot Canada supplier representatives. In recognition of their tremendous commitment to this project Wyndham House wishes to thank:

*Amanda Cornelisse, Community Affairs Specialist @ The Home Depot Canada Foundation*

*The Home Depot Store; Guelph, (Connie Locke, store Manager & all the staff & team associates for volunteering),*

*The Home Depot Store, Burlington, Gaetano Berardi (District Manager) & Mark Getty (Regional VP) both of The Home Depot Canada*

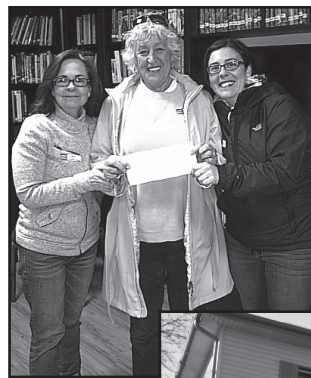
*Lovett Signs, Dublin St. United Church, Permacon, Premiere Tech, Moen, Brookedale/Seacliff Nurseries, Behr Premium paints, Surefix Handyman, Martini Construction, Magic 106 FM/Cjoy, TTI, Smokin Tony's Bar-b-que, Hersey Bins, East Side Mario's, Community partner volunteers & Wyndham House board & staff volunteers.*

*Recognition of some of the businesses who contributed to the Suffolk Home Depot Build Day.*



*Executive Director Debbie Bentley Lauzon, volunteer and supporter Delores Trokes, and Program Director Leisha Burley on Build Day.*

*Home Depot representatives present Wyndham House employees with the cheque for the Home Depot Build Day. From left to right: Home Depot employees Connie Lockie and Keith Dobson, Leisha Burley Program Director, Adam Metcalf and Tiffany McMillan Wyndham House Managers, Foundation Staff Amanda Cornelisse*



*The Home Depot District Manager and Regional Vice President roll up their sleeves and get to work renovating the bathroom.*

*Volunteers work on the porch.*



*Wyndham House employees Adam Metcalf, Manager and Emilie Anderson Youth Outreach Co-ordinator, paint bedrooms.*



*A group shot of the Home Depot employees, Wyndham House staff and board, community partners and other volunteers who helped out that day.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

Wyndham House provides youth a continuum of care that includes referrals, services and residential and educational options.

# "It teaches what you need for everyday life."

## 40 Quotes from 40 Clients - Past and Present

*"Thanks to S.T.E.P.S. running is my new high."*

*"It's a place that cares and will always be there for you."*

*"You guys have helped me a lot, and when I've abused it, you still gave me a second chance."*

*"I thank god every day for the people there that helped me get on the right track."*

*"I came here in 2010 and I was lost, because of you guys I am now in the right direction."*

*"They have helped me deal with my anger and to communicate with others."*

*"I just want a chance for a better life."*

*"Since Wyndham House I have finished a science degree, I am married and providing a stable home for my three children. I know that I couldn't have gotten this far without the help of Wyndham House."*

*"Family is not just blood."*

*"Wyndham House and everyone there put a smile back on my face and the drive to push forward."*

*"Thanks to Wyndham House I am now going to College in September."*

*"I have met some of my best friends living at Wyndham House."*

*"Hello!!! From both of us ... love all u guys!!! miss u all like crazy...especially u Kathy!!!"*

*"We teach life skills too. I taught Leisha how to make grilled cheese."*

*"That woman over there with the pink in her hair who sits in the office all day, she's super nice to me on the street."*

*"Can't even express how much you have helped me in my life."*

*"I haven't been in school for two years and now I almost have my English credit."*

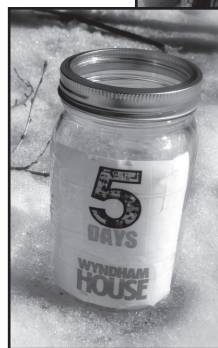
*"I have one more semester to complete my 3 years of college. I am so excited and can't wait to be finished. I miss everyone from Wyndham house a lot and I have used past experiences from Wyndham house in a lot of my papers and presentations. I talk about the organization often and explain how incredible everyone was and how much you guys helped me grow and learn. So for that I thank everyone."*

*"When I first moved to Wyndham House I was pretty careless. I wasn't attending school and doing some things I probably shouldn't be doing... after a couple of months living here I wanted to show everyone that I can live on my own, make good decisions for myself and attend school. I feel really good and proud of myself! I am happy!!!"*

*"I'm not sure where I would be if it weren't for Wyndham House."*



University of Guelph students participate in the national Five Days for the Homeless to raise both awareness and revenue for homelessness. It is an annual event held by universities across Canada where students volunteer to experience the feeling of being homeless by living outside on campus for Five days.



Philanthropy Initiative Civic students from John F. Ross gave a presentation on Wyndham House which won first place and garnered a donation for Wyndham House.

Wyndham House Board member Terri Millar who, in addition to all she does for Wyndham House, is instrumental in the local C.I.B.C.

Run for the Cure. Terri was named the C.I.B.C. National Volunteer of the Year for 2012.

Congratulations to Terry!



**Executive Director**, Debbie Bentley Lauzon ~ **President - Board of Directors**, Chris Perkins

**Board of Directors** - Goldie Barth, Buzz Dean, Drew Hughes, Gia Lucchetta, Terri Millar, Morris Twist, Danny Williamson, David Woolcott, Steve Wynen



# "Wyndham House was my family when I didn't have one."

## Facts on Youth Homelessness

- Almost one-third of Canada's homeless population is 16 – 24 years old. This translates to about 65,000 young people without a place to call home.
- The longer a young person is homeless, the worse their health and life chances become. That is why it is so important to help homeless youth before homelessness becomes a way of life.
- Young people who drop out of school are 10 times more likely to be homeless than those who have graduated from high school.
- Youth who do not complete high school are limited in their opportunities to secure training and employment as well as accessible, affordable and suitable housing.
- Prevention, interventions and supports for homeless youth are vital: youth who are left unsupported frequently become a cost to society later.
- Research demonstrates that the key to helping youth move toward the path of opportunity frequently requires appropriate interventions at the critical moments in a young person's life.
- Investing strategically in street-involved youth – by providing critical educational and employment opportunities, access to stable, secure housing and by helping them develop essential life-skills - launches them on a positive path towards independence and self-sufficiency as contributing members of society. This kind of investment makes sound economic and social sense.

## Our Response to Youth Homelessness

Incorporated in 1973, Wyndham House is celebrating its 40th year of working with marginalized youth in Guelph. The primary goal of our services has always been to help young people reach their full potential as productive, independent members of our community.

While our first priority is the provision of housing, basic needs and educational opportunities for homeless youth, we have also developed programming and services that address the social, physical and development needs of youth in the community. Through partnerships with a variety of community service providers, including Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, The Guelph Community Health Centre, The City of Guelph, The County of Wellington and a diverse range of recreational providers from both the public and private sector, Wyndham House provides a holistic service approach that has proven beneficial to youth and the community.

### *What you typically might know we do.....*

- Four service sites:
  - Two Long Term Residential Programs where young people can stay and focus on completing their high school diploma.
  - A Youth Emergency Shelter providing short term housing solutions for youth experiencing a housing crisis.
  - A Youth Resource Centre
- Each night we have a bed capacity of 32
- Last year we provided supports & services to over 1,000 youth in our community.

### *What you might not know we do.....*

**Outreach Supports and Services to youth:** this component of our program provides supports to any youth in need. Our Outreach Staff works with youth to support them in overcoming barriers, developing essential life skills and building a support system that is accessible and sustainable. Reaching out is easy for youth through Facebook, Twitter and texting.

**Aftercare & Transitional Support:** is a collaborative effort between a young person and the Aftercare Support Staff to develop a successful transition from our shelter or residential programs to independent living. Once housed, the Aftercare Staff will continue to provide resources and referrals ensuring long term success. Assisted supports - in addition to housing searches- may include advocacy

with landlords, help acquiring household essentials, food hampers, transportation assistance, and building awareness about the community and resources available to them.

#### **The Skills Development Program:**

focuses on the strengths that youth already possess. It is upon these strengths and with these assets that skill building occurs. From this strength-based perspective, the Skills Development Worker uses a variety of case management techniques and youth-driven activities to support the skill building process.

**Access to Basic Needs:** includes a health clinic, laundry services, meals and shower services which are available to any youth in need.

**The STEPS Program** explores both the barriers that stand in the way of youth participating in social recreational activities, as well as providing an opportunity for them to speak about issues impacting them. STEPS provides early intervention strategies, and offers barrier-free recreational programming designed by youth for youth. All activities are free and are offered on a consistent monthly schedule in priority neighbourhoods.

**The New Mentality:** is the name of an anti-stigma magazine that gives youth a voice to discuss the issues impacting their lives. Quarterly issues include topics such as Mental Health, Health and Wellness, Recreation, Healthy Relationships, etc. The magazine is youth lead and youth designed. Youth are offered an honorarium for submissions that are published.

# Wyndham House ~ 40th Anniversary

Wyndham House has been working with youth for 40 years and we believe that providing opportunities for youth continues to be just as important today as it ever was. Improving youth outcomes has a positive impact on the health and prosperity of all of us. In this, our 40th year, Wyndham House hopes to bring more awareness to the barriers many youth face in reaching their full potential. A current resident, when asked why she was at Wyndham House, stated, "I just want a chance at a better life". Wyndham House is committed to seeing that she gets that chance.

Funding is no more certain today than it was forty years ago. Wyndham House relies on donations, and fundraising events to generate almost one-third of our budget for the long term residences. We ask you to make a donation to help ensure we can continue to provide both basic needs and critical programs to those youth who most need it. Please help us give each of them their chance at a better life.

Please make your cheque payable to Wyndham House

Mail to: 26 Douglas Street Guelph, ON, N1H 2S9

or you can provide us with your credit card number

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of your donation: \_\_\_\_\_

All donations will receive a tax receipt

*We invite you to celebrate the highlights and successes we share with you in this newsletter. Your support is crucial to providing a safe and accepting environment for youth to discover their future possibilities. We could not do this without you. Thank you for your support.*



**United Way**  
Guelph Wellington  
Dufferin



Wyndham House thanks The Letter M Marketing for our new logo and newsletter design.