



SPRING 2015

## In Our Own Words

A current resident at Suffolk writes:

*Trying to graduate high school hasn't been the easiest thing. My parents divorced and I have bounced around homes over the past couple of years. Last year, while living with my dad, things got really tough as he lost his job and our home. That was when I first came to Wyndham House. My plan was to move back with my dad once we found an apartment together. I stayed in the long term program for a couple of months and last June of 2014, my dad and I found an apartment. We stayed there until October of 2014. Again, hard times had fallen on us and I returned to Wyndham House. Since moving to Wyndham House there have been many changes, some good some bad. Thanks to the help of staff I am on my way to graduating. Together we are working to get me into college. So far I have been accepted into the program I want and have applied for OSAP. Living with other people is hard and requires sacrifice. I know that I will not like everyone but that is part of growing up. I have made friends since moving in that I hope that when I move out we will keep in touch. Overall I can't wait to finish high school and start college. I am going to miss everyone.*

### 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

# Friends of Wyndham House

## Buy a “paper door” and help give local youth housing and hope

*The Home Depot Canada Foundation is dedicated to taking action to put an end to youth homelessness in Canada through The Orange Door Project fundraising campaign.*

*Between May 28 and July 2, purchase a \$2 paper door at the checkout of The Home Depot store on Woodlawn Rd Guelph. You can also make a secure, online donation at [homedepot.ca/foundation](http://homedepot.ca/foundation) and give homeless young people in your community the housing, support, and hope they need to live safe, healthy and productive lives.*

*Guelph's The Home Depot store has selected Wyndham House to be the charitable recipient of all proceeds they raise throughout the campaign. As a past recipient of a grant from The Home Depot Canada Foundation, Wyndham House was able to do significant repairs to both our long term homes. The on-going support of the local store, the regional branch and the national foundation is greatly appreciated.*



## Five Days for the Homeless

Once again this year, Wyndham House had the honour of being chosen by the University of Guelph's Five Days for the Homeless campaign which helps bring awareness to the problem of homelessness AND raises money to support charities doing work to help alleviate the problem. Even in a wealthy country like Canada, homelessness is a problem and Wyndham House provides options to youth in an attempt to lessen chronic or ongoing homelessness. This year the Five Days for the Homeless raised approximately \$10,000! This will help finance our long term programs, which provide youth -with nowhere else to live- a safe stable home while they focus on completing their secondary school education. Thanks so much to the participants who lived outside during those five days, the organizers, the donors and supporters. Your contributions are VERY MUCH appreciated!



*La Luma Salon and Academy students -seen here- volunteered their time and talent to brighten the spirits of some Wyndham House Resource Centre clients with cuts, styles, and even highlights and dyes jobs. A big thank you goes out to La Luma for sharing their hair dressing skills.*



*Sales Representative Christianne Child and Alyson Anker from Homelife Realty are seen here presenting a cheque to Wyndham House Executive Director Debbie Bentley Lauzon. Thanks to both Christianne and Alyson for their generosity.*

## VISION STATEMENT

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

## Focus on Aftercare

Wyndham House Outreach Manager:

*“So you spent the first night in your new place ....  
how was that?”*

Aftercare Client with multiple stays at the Youth Emergency Shelter,  
*“It was glorious.”*

Every year, thousands of young Canadians who have been living in foster homes or in group homes like Wyndham House age out. Aging out means the youth has reached an age limit and no longer qualifies for the supports and services he or she has been relying on up to that point. So this youth -who has already experienced the trauma that comes with losing your family- now experiences further abandonment when the people and supports that have been his or her surrogate family are no longer there. We know that young adults in the general population rely on some level of family support well into their twenties while those in care who -because of the trauma they have experienced- probably need it more than the general population, are left to fend for themselves.

Until six years ago that was the case with clients in the Wyndham House Residential Program; clients no longer qualified for that program as soon as they graduated from high school. Recognizing the need for aftercare support, Wyndham House implemented a program to assist clients leaving our long term homes to live on their own. Supported through a grant by the Homeless Partnering Strategy the Wyndham House Aftercare Worker provides supports to youth after they leave Wyndham House, even years later if it is required. Help finding a place to live, help moving in and acquiring basic household needs, trips to the food bank, advocating with landlords, as well as support around ongoing issues in the youth's life ... they are all part of the Aftercare Worker's job description.

In 2013 -as part of a province wide pilot program funded through the Ministry of Children & Youth Services- Wyndham House hired a Youth in Transition Worker to specifically work with youth aging out of the child welfare system (Children's Aid and Family and Children's Services). Youth who had been crown wards now entering adulthood, find support through the transition from care to living on their own, thereby increasing their chance of successful independent living. The Wyndham House Youth in Transition Worker provided the following about one of the youth he is working with:

Brian accessed the Youth in Transition program looking for support with education, housing and stable employment. Brian's story is unique yet equally reflects the experiences of many former youth in care: a lifetime of loss, abandonment, and alienation. Brian has shared a profound sense of loneliness, as well as deep felt sense of disappointment in the way his life has turned out. He has uttered a sentiment many others have shared: "you turn 21 and suddenly you realize that you're alone. The parents that other kids have are not there when you get a new place, when you graduate from school and for other future events in your life". Brian wishes his life could be different. That desire to change is evident in all youth and through the support of the Youth in Transition Program, youth like Brian have a few more years of formalized supports to help navigate the terrain of independence and build new social connections that will last a lifetime. Brian found a place, secured a job and is working towards post-secondary. He did most of the hard work independently because he had someone who believed in him.

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

# Wyndham House News

## Annual General Meeting

The Wyndham House Annual General Meeting will take place on:

**July 7th  
11:45am**

at the Wyndham Youth Resource Centre/  
Administration Offices  
26 Douglas Street

*A light lunch will be served beginning at 11:45 with the meeting beginning promptly at noon.*

Please RRSP to  
[info@wyndhamhouse.org](mailto:info@wyndhamhouse.org)  
or  
519-822-4400  
if you wish to attend.

## The Resource Centre's Role in Supporting Youth as they Transition to Independence

In 2014 the Wyndham House Resource Centre assisted 1,063 individual youth. Each of these individuals received at least one referral if only to the ID clinic or the Health Practitioner ... most received three different referrals. In addition there are community agencies that provide weekly services at the R.C. Youth can access Hep C, STI and HIV testing at the R.C. as well as supports like tenant rights assistance through the legal aid clinic. Food security continues to be an on-going issue for the youth we work with. In 2014 the R.C. provided rides to the food bank 72 times, provided 236 emergency food hampers and provided lunches on 249 days.

## National Youth Week 2015

STEP Well and the North Wellington Coalition for Youth Resiliency have joined forces, to bring Youth Week 2015 to North Wellington! During Youth Week, the STEP Well Coordinator, Valerie Lafave and the Community Youth Resiliency Worker, Alison Vasey, coordinated 1-2 daily activities in the areas of Palmerston, Mount Forest and Arthur. The two of them are seen in the photo to the right. Some of the activities were soccer baseball, art workshops, martial arts instruction, a rock concert, yoga, fitness class, and much more. Overall, 75 youth attend Youth Week events from May 1st-7th! North Wellington Youth Week 2015 was declared a success!



*Shout out to Wyndham House staff: Becki, Mike, Erin, Kathy and Chris who also participated, encouraged and helped out with Youth Week events! Thank you!*

STEPS, in conjunction with the City of Guelph, ran a free rock climbing session for youth on May 4th from 4:30-6:30pm at the Guelph Grotto rock climbing gym. We had 18 youth attend, most of whom had never rock climbed before, which was amazing! We also had 3 youth volunteers belaying. On May 5th we also offered a free Hot Yoga practise at Moksha yoga.

## Long Boarding for Peace

Wyndham House's STEPS program invited Michael Brooke and his Long Boarding for Peace event to Tytler School on May 19th. Participants were invited to join Brooke's overall theme of "balance" – having balance in your everyday life. Participants were able to try longboarding, use balance boards, and try out some stilts! Brandon actively participated during the presentation and said, "It was great. I learned the different kinds of longboarding and how it relates to peace. Absolutely great. Loved it." A student from New Way Classroom, Max, said it was "Mind blowing" how Brooke related the concept of balance to everyday life. Brookes' presentation has left quite the impression!



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. Wyndham House works 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  
Charitable Registration number: 11930 5217 RR 0001

*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

**Executive Director**, Debbie Bentley Lauzon ~ **President - Board of Directors**, Terri Millar

**Board of Directors** - Goldie Barth, Pauline Breitman, Bryan Dean, Gia Lucchetta, Morris Twist, David Woolcott, Steve Wynen, Robert Pavlis, Chris Perkins