

AUGUST 2020

WORKING TO PREVENT, REDUCE AND END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



OUR PHILOSOPHY

At Wyndham House, we understand that housing means far more than a roof overhead or a place to eat a meal. For us, it means a space where youth are empowered to develop skills, make impactful decisions, contribute to their community, forge their identity and ultimately reach their full potential.

To foster this philosophy, Wyndham House offers a variety of programs that ensure all youth, regardless of where they are in life, are given the opportunity to make healthy decisions and bring greater stability to their lives.

DIVERSION PROGRAM AT WYNDHAM HOUSE

Diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services to help them return to permanent housing.

44 Youth were prevented from losing their housing.

12 Homeless youth transitioned into our Supportive Housing Programs.

6 Youth transitioned from Supportive Housing programs into permanent housing.

(April 2020-July 2020)

Sam now has a house of his own!

Our Youth Service Hub submitted a referral for an 18-year-old male, Sam. He was using our Youth Emergency Shelter, sleeping rough and at times difficult to locate. We had a bed at our Bellevue Supportive Housing site available and our Intensive Case Manager and Youth Resource Hub came together to locate him in the community and moved him in! Within the first 2 weeks, we were able to provide a new pair of shoes, a couple new outfits and most importantly a safe and warm bed. Within 2 months, Sam was connected to school, a fitness centre, received a hair cut, connected with family, completed community service hours for court, and was put on 4 housing waitlists.

We continued to work with Sam over the months to gain stability, work on his mental health and addiction. We continued to provide an open door to Sam, even when he tried to sabotage his placement out of fear and worry he would just mess it up. 6 months later, Sam was offered a housing placement where his needs could continue to be met for the next 5 years. We supported Sam in viewing this new home, helped him move and had a goodbye celebration! Sam continues to call us today and reminds us about his stories at the house, and often shares that he really misses the staff! We were so grateful to support Sam for 9 months at Bellevue!

From the desk of the Executive Director

So far 2020 has been quite a year for all of us. The COVID -19 pandemic has interrupted almost every aspect of regular life; work, school, social interactions, and recreational activities have all been halted for a time and the pandemic has taken a terrible toll in terms of suffering & lives lost. Within our work here at Wyndham House the pandemic has come when we are already dealing locally with a housing shortage as well as an Opioid crisis, all of which has made our work to keep youth safe, healthy and housed much more complex and difficult. As with many businesses and community partners we have had to respond quickly and be nimble in how our programs needed to change to put the health & safety of all youth and staff as a priority. None of our residential or shelter services closed at all and while we did shut down our Youth Service Hub for a time, it is now slowly reopening to provide very necessary services for youth in a newly adapted and safe way. Our community outreach, Diversion and Housing First for Youth teams that provide housing stability supports for youth living independently in the community have been very busy during these past months ensuring that youth remain well and housed and diverted away from the homelessness sector where possible.

While the past few months have been difficult and often challenging, there have been many bright spots. We have worked closely with Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health and are thankful for their assistance and support to guide us so we could continue to ensure that our most vulnerable youth have safe housing options and clear pathways to the critical supports and services they continue to need to access. Throughout the past few very difficult months I have had the privilege to see firsthand the generosity of this community through the ongoing support we have received; everything from cash donations, funding dollars to keep our services open, to donations of handmade masks, hygiene supplies and more. I have also witnessed these challenging times bring out the very best in our Wyndham House staff. Since the pandemic started, staff have continued to come to work, adapted often to new health/safety policies and protocols and even new work locations. This dedicated staff group made sure the work continued uninterrupted and for that I am most thankful to this amazing group of people.

Take good care,

Debbie Bentley-Lauzon
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1898 STN. MAIN GUELPH, ON N1H 7A1

YOUTH EMERGENCY SHELTER: 18 NORWICH STREET EAST (519) 837-3892 GUELPH, ON



OPEN HOUSE

Below are overall statistics from the 2019-2020 year. The numbers include all of our programs and services throughout the organization.

Youth Service Hub

A "one-stop shop" for youth to get support and specific resources.



AVERAGE AGE
21 YRS OLD



MEDICAL CLINIC
150 HOURS



YOUTH VISITS/MONTH
315 YOUTH



FOOD HAMPERS/MONTH
24



NEW HOME KITS/MONTH
6

Supportive Housing

2, 8-bed Long-Term Transitional Homes for youth aspiring to graduate high school.



ADMISSIONS/YEAR
49



AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY
7.5 MONTHS



AVERAGE AGE
19 YRS OLD



BED NIGHTS USED
7,750



HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS
41 EARNED



HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
4 GRADUATES

Youth Emergency Shelter

Often the first stop when youth become homeless, our 14-bed shelter is there when youth need it most.



AVERAGE AGE
20 YRS OLD



AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY
14 DAYS



HOW MANY STAYED?
168 YOUTH

Shelter Transitions to Supportive Housing



HOW MANY HELPED?
16 YOUTH



OF YOUTH ASSISTED
449

This is the overall number of youth that used our programs and/or services over the 2019-2020 year.



OF BUS TICKETS
2,505

A safe method of transportation to school, appointments, family visits, and more is critical to the development of youth.



YEARLY GROCERIES
\$67,375

This is the total cost of groceries across all programs in order to properly nourish youth every day.



HOUSING ASSISTANCE
100 YOUTH

The total number of youth that found housing through our housing related programs.



Our Community in Action

A sincere thank you to all our funders, grantees, donors and in-kind supporters. Together, we continue to keep our most vulnerable youth safe, housed, nourished and provide a pathway to supports and services. We're all in this together!

We need your help more than ever!

There's no place like home.

From your household to one of ours

WE'RE ENHANCING ONE OF OUR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SITES

With help from the Community, we can begin the safety improvements and repairs to the home, but we need \$70,000 in donations.

Together we can change the lives of youth experiencing homelessness.



THE CAMPAIGN:

2,800 Community members to kindly donate \$25

HERE'S THE STORY:

- Our Bellevue Supportive Housing site is in urgent need of a complete overhaul with immediate safety improvements to restore, repair and install enhanced building materials.
- The home with 6 Bedrooms provides a stable, supportive longer term option for 8 homeless youth.
- Last year alone, 32 youth were supported at Bellevue. The occupancy rate is 100% every year and the everyday wear and tear of constant use has taken its toll this year.



THE SOLUTION:

- By just **DONATING \$25 TODAY**, we can begin the immediate enhancements to all bedrooms, hallways, walls, floors, trim, paint and purchase new mattresses.
- TOGETHER, we can secure a safe place for homeless youth to call HOME and we can begin the renovations, but we need \$70,000 to do it!
- With the support of our generous donors, we can reach that goal, BUT we can't do it without you!

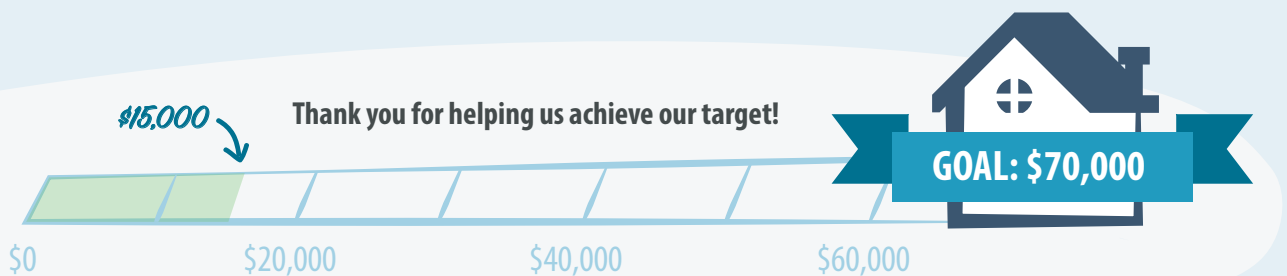


IS YOUR HOUSEHOLD IN?

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE, DONATE ONLINE TODAY



wyndhamhouse.org



Executive Director: Debbie Bentley Lauzon **President:** Rita Isley

Board of Directors: Terri Millar, Ed Myers, Michelle Dwyer, Courtney Turner, Aaron Zuccala, Tina Danese, Arif Hasham, Lee Vosburgh, Lisa Vandenberg

HELP US END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



\$10
per pair

**DECEMBER PICK UP,
PRE-ORDER NOW!**

PRE-ORDER ONLINE:
www.wyndhamhouse.org



Sponsored by:
aaron zuccala
here to help

ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP?

25 youth will be transitioning to independent living soon.

NEW HOME KITS DONATION WISHES:

- Double Sheets/Pillows
- Blankets/Comforters
- Drapes/Shower Curtains
- Towels/Kitchen Cloths
- Dishes/Cookware/Cutlery
- Sleepwear/Fleece
- Cleaning Supplies
- Hygiene Items (shampoo, deodorant, body wash)
- Gift Cards

Please contact Kim Evershed, Fundraising & Communications Coordinator.

✉ kim@wyndhamhouse.org

☎ (519) 822-4400 x206

UPDATED INFORMATION ON SHELTER SERVICES DURING COVID-19 FOR YOUTH (16-24)

Monday to Friday – 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Please call: (226) 962-3574

Monday to Friday – 4:30 pm to 7:00 am

Please call: 1-844-437-3247

Weekends – Anytime

Please call: 1-844-437-3247

No phone?

Go directly to Royal City Mission @ 50 Quebec St., Guelph.

Lunch served from Monday to Friday at 11:00 am and tell staff you need shelter.

UPCOMING WYNDHAM HOUSE EVENTS



Buy a Smile Cookie for \$1.00

DATE: September 14-20, 2020

LOCATION: Tim Hortons Aberfoyle/Brock Rd/401

Pre-Order Form available.
Help us make a difference.



20% of the homeless population in Canada is comprised of youth between the ages of **13-24**.¹

In a given year, **35,000-40,000** youth experience homelessness.¹



Your donation can help us end youth homelessness.

1. Homeless Hub

I/WE WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE A SAFE HOME AND SERVICES FOR HOMELESS YOUTH AT WYNDHAM HOUSE.

- ☐ **\$25** From Your Household to Ours Campaign.
- ☐ **\$50** From Your Household to Ours Campaign.
- ☐ **\$300** Provides 4 New Home Kits to youth moving to permanent housing.
- ☐ **\$1000** Provides 1 week of groceries at all 5 Wyndham House locations.
- ☐ _____ Provide ongoing monthly support to at-risk youth.
- ☐ _____ Provide this one-time donation.

Full Name: _____ Credit Card #: _____

Phone Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____ CVC: _____

Email Address: _____ Signature: _____

Full Address: _____

Please return form with cheque (*payable to Wyndham House*) or credit card information to:
P.O. Box 1898, STN. MAIN, GUELPH, ON N1H 7A1 • CRA# 11930 5217 RR001