



## **Wyndham House “From Your Household to Ours”**

### ***Funds needed to keep homeless youth in a safe home***

**GUELPH, August 24, 2020** – Wyndham House is seeking support from Guelph and surrounding communities to help enhance and repair one of their Supportive Housing sites. The home with 6 bedrooms has provided a stable, supportive longer term housing option for over 700 homeless youth ages 16-24 since March 2000.

“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 to better meet the needs of the youth who call this home” says Debbie Bentley-Lauzon, Executive Director. She added “last year, 32 youth were supported at Bellevue and the occupancy rate is 100% every year and the everyday wear and tear of constant use has taken its toll”.

All services have continued through the pandemic but due to COVID-19, costs are up significantly due to cancellation of the community fundraiser this year, increased staffing, and food security needs, and adapting all sites to meet new social distancing requirements. Wyndham House also continues to support over 100 youth who live independently in the community to stay housed, connected, and healthy.

Fundraising support from the community is essential to ensure that Wyndham House’s housing programs and services can operate at full capacity. “If we can achieve the support of 2,800 Community members to kindly donate \$25.00 per household, we can then reach our target goal of raising \$70,000 and ensure critical enhancements to the program are completed, but we can’t do it without community help!” says Debbie Bentley-Lauzon.

Last year, over 449 at-risk and homeless youth received much needed housing supports, food security programs, barrier free healthcare, and critical life skills programming from Wyndham House so they can move beyond their current crisis and achieve some much needed stability “The need is great,” says Debbie Bentley-Lauzon. “It’s estimated that each night in communities all across Canada, 6,500 youth are without a place to call home. We see the need in our own community every single day.”

To support Wyndham House’s “**From your household to one of ours**” campaign today please donate online <https://bit.ly/3aPCGhO>.

## **About Wyndham House**

Since 1973, Wyndham House has been working to prevent, reduce and end youth homelessness in the Guelph-Wellington community. Services provided include two, 8 bed Supportive Transitional Homes, a 14 bed Youth Emergency Shelter, a Youth Service Hub, Housing Stability Teams and Youth in Transition Services. <http://www.wyndhamhouse.org/>

## **For more information:**

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