

DECEMBER 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Guelph-Wellington has reduced chronic youth homelessness by 42% since April 2020!

This is primarily due to cutting inflow to the shelter system (almost down to zero!!) through the great work being done in our Diversion and Rapid Rehousing Programs.



IT IS AMAZING WHAT A STEADY FOCUS ON PREVENTION CAN DO!

Securing a home for a youth in need!

Our Youth Service Hub has been open and operating since 2008. Even during the recent COVID-19 pandemic, youth have been able to access critical supports and services out of this program. Dani has used our Service Hub off and on for the past 3 years. Throughout the past years Dani has been sleeping rough, using our Youth Emergency Shelter, and has been in and out of custody. After months of collecting background information from Dani and community partners and even working with the custody facility, we were able to maintain contact through every incarceration and better understand Dani's complex needs, and determined that to remain successfully housed, Dani needs to live independently in a single unit.

Wyndham House Case Management staff continued to advocate for mental health services that meet Dani's complex needs. After a significant period of custody, we were able to plan for discharge and ensure the appropriate mental health supports were already in place and, with help from Dani's family, a 1-bedroom unit was secured, furnished and ready so Dani was not discharged from custody into homelessness yet again. By continuing to use a Housing First for Youth framework, Dani is now living independently, taking prescribed medication, attending all appointments, and has refrained from engaging in criminal activity and for the first time in years is able to maintain stable housing!

Our Housing Stability staff remain connected to Dani to ensure the new housing placement is successful and assess ongoing needs. Although housed, Dani continues to get critical supports through weekly visits to our downtown Youth Service Hub to visit staff, utilize our food program and stay connected with partner service providers who also remain involved in supporting Dani's steady progress away from crisis and towards stability.

From the desk of the Executive Director at Christmas

In 2020 we have had to find new ways to stay open & deliver all of our services, to ensure that vulnerable & homeless youth in our community continue to stay housed, stay well and stay connected. Over this past year, youth in our programs struggled to come to terms with a new COVID-19 reality on top of an already uncertain time in their lives and thus we know that the need for our programs & supports is now more important than ever. During these challenging months however we have had a tremendous amount of community support.

We have received cards full of kind words and encouragement to continue our work and some resounding messages that clearly say: Yes Wyndham House is welcome "In My Backyard." Additionally, support from our community partners and funders have helped to deepen our partnerships and collaborations to provide enhanced services in difficult times. As an agency we have discovered that we can adapt & be nimble in shifting to meet new demands head on. This year, much has been asked of everyone who works at Wyndham House, and staff in all programs have risen to the challenge to ensure youth in our programs have what they need to stay safe, connected, and remain housed and healthy.

I know that this holiday season will look different for all of us but I also know that we will all do our best to ensure the season is full of the true comforts & moments of joy that we all need as this year draws to an end. From all of us to all of you we wish everyone a safe, happy holiday season.

Debbie Bentley-Lauzon
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Funder Support

A sincere thank you to all our funders and supporters. We would like to especially thank the following agencies and organizations for their generous, long-term support.

WELLINGTON COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES
UNITED WAY GUELPH WELLINGTON DUFFERIN
MINISTRY OF CHILDREN, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

THE HOME DEPOT CANADA FOUNDATION
CITY OF GUELPH
GUELPH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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

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

YOUTH HUB: 133 WOOLWICH STREET (519) 822-2768

Why we support Wyndham House

Our long-standing relationship with Wyndham House began in 2000 when an SJK parent suggested it might be a nice idea to help give the residents of Wyndham House a Christmas to remember. With a gift bag and a handmade card for each resident, the Middle Year students of St. John's-Kilmarnock School have carried on this tradition every year since 2000.

While the initial idea may have originated from an adult, over time, preparing Christmas gifts for Wyndham House has become a student-led event that has taken on a life of its own and become a right of passage for students in Grade 8.

Getting students to understand the importance of being active citizens can be a hard thing to teach. For many, it feels as if the relationship is being built directly with the residents and not just Wyndham House itself. And when learning becomes this personal, as educators, we know it will last a lifetime.

So, thank you Wyndham House for everything you have taught us and for being such a meaningful part of our SJK Christmas traditions for many years. Most importantly, please know that there are people who are thinking of those within your care on Christmas morning.

Ms. Carey Gallagher

Assistant Upper School Director
St. John's-Kilmarnock School



A few years ago I received the usual annual donation request letter from a large charitable organization that I had been contributing to for quite a few years. So I went looking for a new charity. I stumbled across Wyndham House and checked them out. Their premises are very basic, and salaries are anything but generous which means that most of my donation is used to help youth. I was so impressed with them that I joined the finance committee and the board, and found an extremely well run organization.

While on the board I heard about one of their clients. On their 16 birthday they were put in a taxi and sent to WH. Imagine being this child. That's a birthday you won't soon forget. Without help, your future is grim and very likely involves perpetual homelessness, drugs, and crime.

You arrive at WH and someone greets you with open arms and a loving heart. They give you much needed food, shelter and medical care, but much more importantly, they give you hope and encourage you to return to school.

The education component is one thing that makes WH special. They don't just feed youth today, they develop them for long term success. Each dollar spent on a 16 year old will pay high dividends in future years. It's important to me that my donation produces a big bang for the buck. WH not only provides services at the most critical time in a person's life, but they do it in financially responsible way.

Robert Pavlis

Our Community in Action



Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign Update

3,138 Smile Cookies were sold in support of Wyndham House. We were honoured to be the recipient of this wonderful campaign again this year. Thank you Tim Hortons Aberfoyle!



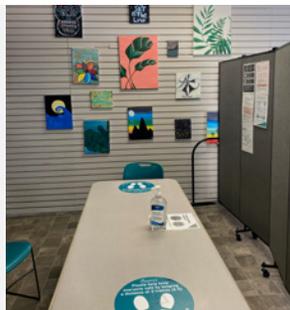
10 Years of Caring

Thank you to the Quilting Ministry at Mount Forest Pentecostal Church. Every year since 2010, beautiful Quilts are hand made with such care to support our youth across all Supportive Housing sites.



New Home Kit Drive

Each year, our Housing First Staff provides 30 youth moving into their permanent new home with a bed, furniture, hygiene kit, a New Home Kit, and cleaning supplies. Thank you to all our donors.



Our Downtown Youth Service Hub Has Re-opened!

CALL US to book an appointment or drop by and knock on the door.

Location: 133 Woolwich St **Hours:** Monday-Friday 8:30am – 4pm **Call us:** (519) 822-2768

Our work cannot stop during a public health crisis such as COVID-19. While our housing sites remain open, services at our busy Youth Service Hub had been suspended due to crowding and lack of ability to distance and has remained closed since mid-March due to the pandemic. With health and safety enhancements now in place, we are once again here to help.

The Youth Hub is a **one-stop-shop** for youth to seek barrier-free access to the services complex youth need. Prior to COVID-19, the Hub had over 300 visits per month. It is a central access point for specific resources such as healthcare, individualized staff supports, technology needs, search for housing, store belongings, food security, and social connection.

Thank you to our Funders: Guelph Emergency Response Fund, United Way GWD & Guelph Community Foundation. **We're all in this together.**



NEWS UPDATES

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WYNDHAM HOUSE



Socks Make The Best Stocking Stuffers!

Our Black Cotton Dress "Open Door" pattern and Grey Wool "Cabin Casual" custom designed socks are available in 2 sizes: Adult Small (6-9) and Large (10-13). **JUST \$10 PER PAIR.**



PURCHASE TODAY: Online on our site, by phone (519) 822-4400 x206 or by email kim@wyndhamhouse.org.

DROP IN AND PURCHASE at Wyndham House, Aaron Zuccala's office, Park Grocery, Hush Salon & Spa, PK Family & Cosmetic Dentistry, Meridian Guelph, Gordon Street Chiropractic Centre, Baker Street Station, and Riot Axe. Thank you for your support!



A GIFT WITH A PURPOSE

100% of all proceeds support youth in our Supportive Housing Programs.

Show us your socks! Tag #socksforshelter @Wyndhamhouseguelph

HELP US END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

\$10 per pair

100% OF ALL SALES SUPPORT OUR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAMS.

WORKING TO PREVENT, REDUCE AND END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Thank you to our Returning Sponsor:  **aaron zuccala**
here to help

From your household to one of ours

WE'RE ENHANCING ONE OF OUR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SITES

With the recent support from the Community, we have begun the safety improvements and repairs to the home, but we do need to reach to raise \$70,000 in donations.



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 it's toll this year.

THE SOLUTION:

- By just **DONATING \$25 TODAY**, we can secure a safe place for homeless youth to call HOME and we can complete the renovations.
- With the support of our generous donors, we can reach that goal, BUT we can't do it without you!
- **Thank you to all recent Household Donors, Neighbours, and Community Supporters.**



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS:

Wellington Laboratory, Guelph & District Association of Realtors, Birthday Angels, Toasty Toes, Guelph Shoe Box Project, The Seed, Guelph Box, Holiday Inn Guelph, Socks4Souls, Aaron Zuccala, Scotia Bank,

Hitachi, Top Choice Electronics, Just Right, University of Guelph, Rachael Aiken, Mount Forest Quilting Ministry, Lakeside Church, Victory Public School, Wendy McGregor, S.M. Blair

Foundation, The Oak Tree Project, Red Cross, Global Medic, Laura Beattie, CUPE Local 57, Kathryn Troubridge, Kathy & Jacques Mireault, Baker Street Station, Mealcare Guelph, Guelph Red Chevrons,

Food Rescue, Tim Hortons, Guelph Lions Club, Rotary Clubs of Guelph, and Robert Pavlis.

Thank you to all Supporters, Monthly donors, and In-kind donors.

Here are ways you can help:

PLEASE DONATE meaningful Holiday Gifts that will provide hope and compassion to our young people experiencing homelessness.



YOUTH HOLIDAY WISH LIST

- Coats
- Warm Clothes
- Underwear/Socks
- Running Shoes
- Gift Cards
- Guelph Transit Bus Tickets
- Art Kits
- Personal Care Items
- Treats
- Back Packs
- Towels
- Sleepwear

Adult sizing please (M, L, XL).



NEW HOME KIT WISHES

- Double/Queen Sheets
- Comforters/Blankets
- Pillows
- Shower Curtains/Bath Mats
- Towels/Kitchen Cloths
- Hamper for Packing
- Cookware/Cutlery
- Small Appliances
- Grocery Gift Cards
- Personal Care Items
- Cleaning Items
- Dishes for 4

15 youth are on the move to independent living soon.



EMERGENCY SHELTER NEEDS

- Non-Perishable Food Items
- Coffee/Tea/Juice
- Healthy Snacks
- Towels/Cloths
- Pillows
- Blankets/Comforters
- Warm Clothes
- Underwear/Socks
- Holiday Treats
- Cleaning Items
- Personal Care Items
- Gift Cards
- Donate a prepared dinner for 20



MAKE A DONATION

Donate today and we will do the shopping for you.
You can also complete the form below or make a donation online.

 wyndhamhouse.org

Donations are being accepted by appointment only at this time.

Please call Kim Evershed (519) 822-4400 x206 or email kim@wyndhamhouse.org to schedule a drop off or arrange a pickup. Thank you!

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** Your gift supports our "From Your Household to One of Ours" campaign.
- \$50** Your gift provides a night's sleep in the shelter.
- \$100** Your gift provides a winter clothing kit.
- \$250** Your gift provides one day of meals across all 4 Wyndham House sites.
- _____ Set-up monthly giving to support at-risk youth ongoing.
- _____ Provide this one-time donation.
- _____ Purchase Socks to support our Socks for Shelter Campaign. \$10 per pair.
Select colour: Black qty: _____ Grey qty: _____

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