



“We help young men to overcome homelessness and build new lives.”

## What do we do?

“We end homelessness for young men, 16 – 24 years of age. 95% are 16 – 20 years and are our most successful residents.”

## How do we do it?

By providing a supportive functional family, often the only family “our guys” have ever known, with staff who are real men and women in the roles of older siblings or aunts and uncles, who deliver individual counselling while teaching basic life skills:

- **Hygiene** – personal, social and domestic
- **Food acquisition and preparation** for a healthy diet
- **Budgeting**
- **Social Responsibility** – not entitlement
- **Work Ethic** – for kids who often have not learned to use a snow shovel or lawn mower, having come from unstable multiple unit housing
- **After Care** – following them when they leave us, assisting them in times of crisis, and inviting them back “home” again if necessary – as any good parent would

While abstinence is not required, we are a non-prescribed drug free zone. Violence, in any form, is not tolerated. We teach “our guys” to stand on their own two feet; and they are using these feet to walk away from the abuse and negative peer influence that they previously had to accept “on the street”. They walk with the pride of knowing that they finally have something that their peers don’t – the knowledge that they can truly live on their own, with the confidence that “we have their back”.

### The Windsor Residence for Young Men

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## How well do we do it?

We have exceeded every promise made to this community when we opened in October 2012:

- We promised to welcome 40 young men per year when we first opened — we now average 50 admissions per year
- 28% return to (extended) family
- 70% are established in independent living appropriate to their needs
- 51% stay in or return to school
- 29% find employment while with us
- 10% are from Essex and Chatham-Kent Counties
- 16% are refugees
- 89% of “our guys” are challenged by mental health issues upon admission; but thanks to two volunteer psychiatrists and three clinical psychologists, we can usually obtain diagnosis and begin treatment within four days
- Challenges to learning skills are often present, but with dedicated volunteer assistance from psychologists who specialize in learning challenges and two special education teachers, these needs are addressed
- We help to remove young men from violent or abusive environments, providing a supportive setting where they can begin to heal and prosper
- We are helping to break the cycles of domestic violence, violence against women, street violence and the potential for the abused to become abusers

We also provide 2 emergency beds for victims of crime, family tragedy, or stranded travellers for a day or so until the crisis can be overcome.

