



## **The Windsor Residence for Young Men**

### *What We Do and Don't Do*

The Windsor Residence for Young Men, (WRYM) is the only provider of transitional housing for homeless male youth, 16-24 years of age, in our tri-county communities. Our funders, be they individual or corporate citizens invest in citizenship. We are totally administered by volunteers, resulting in less than 5% administration expense, with 90% of our funding coming from individual, corporate and benevolent groups of citizens from our community.

**WRYM does not support homelessness** – we try to end it, for “our guys”. The number of meals served or the number of bed nights our guys shelter under our roof does not assist to end their homelessness. Such “assistance” may actually support the state of being homeless. While we keep track of those statistics, to us they are meaningless. What counts is our program and how successful we are at “getting our guys off the street”. That’s where our existence becomes meaningful. No one comes to WRYM to get a meal, but to learn how to make it – not to “flop” or “couch surf”, but to learn how live independently. We offer a hand up – not a hand out. “Our guys” must commit to learning the life skills that will turn them into productive citizens; AND, we’re good at it! Assisting on average about 50 each year, 74% left the street in 2015, 80% in 2016, remarkably 98% in 2017 and 79% in 2018. Of those succeeding with our program, about 1/3 are re-united to family, 1/3 find supportive housing appropriate to their needs, and the other 1/3 move on to their own place to live with a job or educational funding, usually both. These are the numbers that are meaningful to us.

**WRYM does not duplicate services; and we are not a treatment centre.** We are a collaborator and were founded on the principle that we would not take jobs away from others in their field of expertise, nor could we afford to do so. Rather, as an independent living skill, we teach “our guys” how to access the many and varied services offered to them already existing in our community.

**Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day.**

**Teach him to fish and he will feed himself for a lifetime.**

*A hand up – not a “hand-out”*

**Gregory D. Goulin, LSM, JD,**

**Executive Director (*pro bono*) & Founder**