



WINDSOR
RESIDENCE
FOR YOUNG MEN

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

What do we do?

We end homelessness for young men. Our most successful residents are 16 – 20 years of age.

How do we do it?

We provide 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, delivering individual counselling while teaching basic life skills:

- **Hygiene** – personal, social and domestic
- **Food acquisition and preparation** – for a healthy diet
- **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
- **Budgeting**
- **Accessing existing services** in our community
- **Aftercare** – 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

We offer our guys a hand up not a handout.

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.

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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. We now average 50 admissions per year with a 90% success rate.
- We assist 90 more young men without admission to our residential program.
- One third return to extended family and two thirds are established in independent living appropriate to their needs.
- 70% stay in or return to school.
- 40% find employment while with us.
- One third identify as LGBTQ2+.
- 15% are new Canadians.
- Most 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 until the crisis is overcome.

