



**Support, every step of the way**

**Special 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summer Appeal**

Summer 2015

Dear Friends,

*After his family deserted him, Amir\* was trying to work full-time while also attending high school. He was renting a room in a house, while the other people living there were eating his food.*

***He was hungry, lonely, discouraged, and suffering.*** Read how you changed this young man's life!

Amir's life turned around when his high school teacher noticed something wasn't right. After learning about his difficult circumstances, she helped him apply to Wesley Youth Housing. On February 1st, 2014, he moved into the program and hasn't turned back since.

***"I've learned so much at Wesley Youth Housing about how to live independently, but most importantly, I found people who believe in me."***

He recalls how his family told him that he would never be successful in school or amount to anything. This June, he will be the first person from his family to graduate from high school and has already been accepted into three great colleges for the Electrical Engineering program.

In one year, Amir's life has been transformed from hunger, loneliness and hopelessness, to a bright and promising future filled with education, employment and independence. This was only possible through the generous donations of people like you! Amir chose to share his story with Wesley supporters as a way to demonstrate firsthand how you are changing the lives of individuals in Hamilton. We can only offer this life changing support and assistance with your help.



**1955 - 2015**

**60 YEARS OF SUPPORT**

**Please see over for more of Amir's story and new program initiatives...**

\*Name changed to protect identity.

Based on current research, even 48 hours on the streets or in a shelter can entrench a youth in the homeless culture, which can be a difficult pattern to break. With your support, our staff and Board of Directors are continually seeking new ways to provide early interventions that can lead to long-term success. One new program enhancement is at the Wesley Youth Housing program. **This 19 bed program for homeless youth now has four beds reserved for early intervention, for youth that have been on the streets less than 48 hours.**

Another new initiative that our staff recently participated in is the 20,000 Homes campaign in Hamilton, a project developed by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness. The goal of this campaign is to house 20,000 of Canada's most vulnerable by 2018.

**"Hamilton was chosen to be a pilot city because of its track record as a national leader in Housing First initiatives,"** reports the Hamilton Spectator, April, 30, 2015.

In 2014, Wesley's Transitions to Home program housed a remarkable 102 chronically homeless individuals. Wesley Day Centre was a primary location in April for campaign volunteers to survey individuals experiencing homelessness to better understand their health and housing needs.

**With your help, we are housing vulnerable youth and adults, working towards long-term success. Please donate and make a significant difference for a child, youth, adult or senior this summer!**

\$50 = A special activity for girls only or co-ed teen drop in program

\$100 = Summer camp for a child from a high priority neighbourhood

\$250 = Equipment and food for a Homeless Baseball League's game

\$600 (or 12 \$50 monthly donations) = Nutritious lunch for 200 homeless adults

\$1,200 (or 12 \$100 monthly donations) = Skill-based workshops for 100 at-risk youth

You can donate by returning the enclosed business reply envelope or donate securely at [wesley.ca](http://wesley.ca).

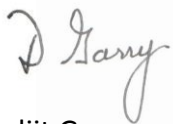
**Our fundraising costs are a low 3% which ensures your donation is directly making a difference!**

Please join us at one of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary events this summer, such as for Tai Chi & Tea on Saturday July 18, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at Beasley Community Centre, 145 Wilson Street. More information is available at <http://wesley.ca/donate/> or contact us at [info@wesley.ca](mailto:info@wesley.ca) or 905 528 5629.

Thank you for remembering Wesley Urban Ministries this summer.

I hope you have a very enjoyable and restful season!

Sincerely,



Daljit Garry  
Executive Director

**"I never believed in myself until I came to Wesley," shares Amir. He remembers the moment this changed, "A Wesley staff member told me how amazing I was. I had tears rolling down my face."**