

Support, every step of the way

“I have learned that while partying and getting high may seem like a good time in the moment, it can lead to a really lonely and scary place. I’ve been there and I wouldn’t wish it upon my worst enemy.”

Dear Friends,

Thank you, our valued donor, for generously supporting children, youth and adults experiencing great disadvantages and personal hardships.

Wesley has been featured prominently in the media for our role in welcoming Syrian refugees to Hamilton. Community members and even some donors are learning for the first time about the comprehensive range of programs we offer for vulnerable individuals and families. We keep hearing “I never knew Wesley did so much!”

Easter and Spring is an exciting time of many parallels. There are so many new beginnings in the natural world, and our personal lives, that it seems fitting to share with you three stories from across Wesley’s different programs, each person reflecting on their own significant steps towards new life.

From a Youth

I was in in grade nine, 14 years old, when I started smoking pot. It changed my life forever. It became my main priority and school fell out of focus. I started using ecstasy, acid and mushrooms. Eventually I was kicked out of my home and found myself struggling just to stay safe. I ended up staying in places that were infested with rats, covered in garbage, and full of drug addicts. It took a lot of strength and courage to finally admit that I had a problem and needed help. It was during that time that I met my early intervention worker and moved to Wesley’s Youth Housing. I made new friends who understood what I was going through, and found a staff team that genuinely cared for and supported me. I have been sober for six months now.

**From a Child**

I am from Syria. I came to Canada from Lebanon. I like Hamilton. I thank Wesley staff because they gave me toys and took me to school readiness program. I made a new friend at Soccer World. This was my first time playing in a real indoor soccer field. I love soccer so much! I am happy in Canada because I can go to school and learn English. I know the teachers will take care of me and not treat me badly.

Photographer: John Rennison for The Hamilton Spectator

From an Adult

My life is good now. I have a full time job and just got a car, but it hasn’t always been so. When I was 22 years old, I came to Hamilton from the East Coast. I knew only one person in Hamilton and was trying to navigate the city and downtown. I found Wesley and the staff were good to me. They became like my new family. While I

have been addicted to drugs, it was gambling at casinos that has really cost me, financially and emotionally. My life turned around when I began to work with the staff at Wesley's Transitions to Home program, moving into my own apartment. And Employment Services has helped me apply for jobs, including my current one. For over 14 years, Wesley has helped me. If I find people and an organization I trust, I stay with it.

These are the lives you are dramatically changing.

Your donations have made it possible for this youth, child and adult to find the much needed compassionate support and the practical help to make steps towards positive change in their lives.

I invite you to make a donation to Wesley to make a difference!

\$50 10 hot lunches plus access to showers, laundry facilities and community supports at Wesley Day Centre

\$100 4 life skills workshops on budgeting, cooking, cleaning and time management at Wesley Youth Housing

\$500 5 children with games, crafts, field trips and literacy at Summer Camp and March Break Camp

\$1000 1 individual with a year of critical interventions at Transitions to Homes and Employment Services

Please consider becoming a Monthly Donor which offers the convenience of one annual tax receipt and the ability to budget your donation in advance. Unless otherwise requested, monthly donors receive one annual fundraising appeal letter. Regardless of how you choose to give, I can assure you that your donation will directly impact the lives of marginalized individuals in our community.

Click <http://wesley.ca/> to donate now.

Thank you greatly for considering my invitation and I wish you new life!

Sincerely,



Daljit Garry
Executive Director

P.S. Please <http://wesley.ca/> to learn more about our financial statistics, including our low operating fundraising expenses in the 2014/2015 Annual Report. You can also read the full story of the youth who is rebuilding his life after selling drugs and living so precariously. His life changing moment was when he said to himself, "Was this how I really wanted to live? Were these the type of people that I wanted to become? The answer was no."

