

YOUR GIFTS ALLOW US TO DECREASE BARRIERS
AND INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES

Wesley's 4 Pillars of Investment

1. Children, Youth & Family Programs



- 8 early learning centres offer the best possible start for children across our community
- 5 after school programs help to build literacy and skills for long term success
- 2 teen programs help build leadership, life skills and offer safe centres to access recreation and socialization opportunities
- 4,360 home visits were made to support new parents and children
- 90 children every week are provided with summer camp programming

2. Emergency & Human Support Services



- Critical emergency support services help 250 marginally housed, at risk and homeless men and women every day at Wesley Day Centre
- Over 100,000 nutritious meals are provided annually in our Hot Meal Program
- Transitions to Home now supports over 350 shelter and recently housed individuals to maintain their home and connect them to supports at Wesley Day Centre

3. Supportive & Transitional Housing Programs



- 35 street-involved or at-risk of homelessness youth are provided with housing and vital life skills development at Wesley's Youth Housing Program
- Claremont House, one of only 3 managed alcohol programs in Canada, helped 28 individuals improve their quality of life and decreased hospitalizations, emergency room visits and police contact in Hamilton by 95%

4. Case Management, Counseling & Employment Programs



- 500 people every year are supported with case management and counseling services to make positive life changes
- 100 people every month access Wesley's new Employment Program located where Wesley's overnight program once provided shelter
- Since our employment centre opened over 50 people have built new resumes and employment profiles, highlighting skills built through one of the 15 workshops held every month at Wesley Day Centre

OUR VISION

Wesley Urban Ministries has a vision of community, where justice and compassion guide the way we live, where all members are treated with respect and dignity.

OUR MISSION

To achieve our vision, we will use our resources to:

- Decrease Barriers by developing and delivering programs that address the needs of people who are marginalized;
- Increase Opportunities by providing services that help individuals to achieve their full potential;
- Be a model and catalyst for social transformation.

OUR VALUES

Compassion Being aware of the suffering and difficulties of others and wanting to do something about it.

Respect Having compassionate consideration of others by listening and trying to understand.

Responsiveness Moving to action with an understanding of the needs of our community.

Stewardship Using resources wisely to be responsive to the community, to provide maximum value to the people who access our services, and to be accountable to all who support our work.



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Smart Money
sees the Light.

WESLEY IS NAMED
A CHARITY OF CHOICE BY
CHARITY INTELLIGENCE FOR THE
SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

 Recommended Charity 2009

 Recommended Charity 2010

Independent watchdog Charity Intelligence Canada has – for the second year in a row – selected Wesley Urban Ministries as one of the most financially responsible charities in Canada.

More significantly, Charity Intelligence not only measures financial efficiency, but also social impact, selecting charities that have a proven track record of making a real difference in their communities.

Wesley Urban Ministries ranks in the top 10 of charities combating homelessness in Canada, and is the only Hamilton organization to have made the list.

“We’re thrilled to be on the list again this year,” says Daljit Garry, Wesley’s Executive Director. “This proves to people that they can be absolutely confident about giving to Wesley. We are definitely among the best choices for people who want their donations to have the biggest impact possible!”

Follow Wesley Urban Ministries on Facebook

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For every dollar invested in the healthy growth and development of children and youth, a return of up to 17 times can be achieved and impact their long-term success.

Wesley’s Transitions to Home Program engages homeless men and women with safe, private housing and connections to ongoing supports for just two-thirds of the cost of ‘band aid’ relief provided by Emergency Shelter and Services.

92% of every dollar you donate goes directly to helping people in our community! Wesley’s administrative costs are only 4% and our fundraising expenses are also kept to just 4%.

Help us help others

LIVE THE
EASTER STORY

Wesley Urban Ministries is an outreach ministry of The United Church of Canada and our mission is also realized with our friends at the Presbyterian Church of Canada



**Without Wesley Urban Ministries,
Ron knows that he would still be living a hellish
existence. Here, for the first time, is his story.**

COVER STORY

The epic story of Easter – the transition from darkness to light, from despair to hope – is one that is lived out daily at Wesley Urban Ministries. One such story concerns a man named Ron and his journey to hell and back.

Ron first showed up at Wesley 15 years ago, a widower with chronic health problems who smoked too much, drank too much and had too little money to live on. A regular client of the day programs and the emergency shelter, Ron was caught in a cycle of deprivation and depression.

Life hadn't always been like this for Ron, but it did always have its challenges. Growing up with his 3 sisters, their home had always felt the influence of alcohol, and as often happens, the coping mechanisms of the parents were passed down to the next generation.

Ron quit school in grade 7, so his prospects for earning his way in life were never very great. Still, he managed to get by, until the loss of his wife sent him into a depression that gradually spiraled out of control. He self-medicated with more and more alcohol. He spent time in and out of jail. He stayed with friends and family, until the day he was finally kicked out of his sister's home and it just became easier to go to Wesley where he was neither judged nor shunned.

It was far from an ideal life – really just a marginal existence – but it was comfortable and put no demands on Ron, and he preferred it that way.

But all that changed last June, when Wesley staff informed their clients that their shelter beds would be closing August 1st. Suddenly, Ron realized that he was about to be pushed way out of his comfort zone,

and if he didn't start making his own decisions, circumstances would do so for him. He knew he wouldn't like the fall-out. He had been staying only at Wesley Centre, since the rules and staff at other shelters did not accept him the way he was. He was distrustful of going anywhere else, even though he was assured by Wesley staff that some shelters would now start taking people even if they weren't sober when they arrived (previously only Wesley Centre had this policy). He had developed important relationships at Wesley, and would rather sleep on the streets than go anywhere else.

Ron remains a regular fixture at Wesley Centre. It keeps him from falling off the wagon.

In July, Wesley staff started working with Ron in the Transitions to Home program. Having these housing supports at Wesley Centre, a place Ron knows and trusts, made it easier for him to access them. Through this program, Ron was shown how to acquire and maintain safe and affordable, long-term housing in the community. But Wesley staff didn't just look for a stable place for him to live. They embarked on something of an extreme lifestyle makeover. The 'housing first' strategy really paid off for Ron. Once he was in a home of his own, he got on a super fast track to change his life.

Although Ron now has a home of his own, he is still a regular fixture at Wesley Centre. He considers it his safe haven, a place he comes to when he's 'bored' and in danger of falling back into drinking. The supports at Wesley are just as important to him now as they were when he came to the emergency shelter. Because rent takes up a large part of his income, he comes to the hot meal program so he doesn't have to make the choice

between food and shelter. He relies heavily on the relationship he has built with Cynthia, one of our staff, to help him access the employment program, addictions counseling, and healthcare, and counts on Wesley Centre to keep him connected to the strong support network that keeps him on track.

So what has Ron's life been like since finding a home of his own?

When he began the Transitions to Home program, Ron's lung capacity was so dangerously low that stopping smoking was vital to his health, as well as critical to his employment prospects, but Social Services does not cover cessation programs. Wesley's Transitions to Home staff gave him his first few weeks supply of nicotine replacement patches. His victory over nicotine spurred Ron on even further.

Through the nutrition program, Ron is now on a healthy eating binge and says he prefers to have nutritious food in the fridge rather than beer. Through the Community Kitchen program, staffed by a case manager who is a professionally trained chef and others who are experienced in public food preparation, Ron is learning how to cook and is enthusiastic about trying new recipes. He has even started volunteering at the Wesley Sunday Dinner, and is looking forward to the day when the changes in his life will bring a reunion with his sisters and parents.

Without Wesley, Ron knows that he would still be living a hellish existence. But the support and hope he's found that have enabled him to turn his life around are now radiating outward to touch the whole community with the Easter message of redemption and renewal.

On January 1, 2011, Wesley Urban Ministries welcomed our new Executive Director, Daljit Garry. Daljit has worked in family and children services for over two decades and has been at Wesley since 2003 as Director of Family and Children's Programs. She has been instrumental in the development of several of Wesley's key programs, including: Ontario Early Years Centres; Child Care Centres; School Age Programs; and the Teen Drop In and Summer Camp Programs. She also played a significant role in the development of the city wide Family Home Visitor Program and the Beasley Child & Family Centre. Recently, we sat down with Daljit to talk to her about her new role at Wesley Urban Ministries.



No New Kid on the Block

**AN INTERVIEW WITH DALJIT GARRY,
WESLEY'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

What do you see as Wesley's greatest challenge moving forward?

Obviously, funding is always an issue. Closing our emergency shelter beds was fabulous news, because it means that our efforts to get people into stable, sustainable housing have been working. But the funding received for those shelter beds was offsetting the costs of operating day time activities. We still need to provide these things to keep people in successful tenancies, especially when rent typically eats up 60% or more of income. So we're still doing this 7 days a week, but we're facing about a \$350,000 shortfall to pay for them now.

How difficult was it for you to make the decision to become Executive Director?

Not very. I see it as a natural extension of what I had already been doing at Wesley and in the community for the past 25 years. None of us at Wesley work completely independently of the others, so I was already very aware of all of our work. We recognize the tremendous importance of integrating all of our programs. It's one reason we are as efficient and effective as we are, both in terms of managing our financial resources and in making a real impact on our city.

What do you feel are the most compelling reasons for people to support Wesley Urban Ministries?

Number 1 has got to be the way we literally transform people's lives. It could be something huge like giving an addicted man a loving and comforting place to spend his final days, or something simple like helping a child with her homework after school each day while her mom settles into the meaningful employment we helped her obtain.

And then I would want to remind people how very seriously we take the responsibility of being good stewards of the money they invest in Wesley. Our admin costs are only about 4% of our budget, and fundraising is the same. We're proud to be one of the most efficiently run charities in Canada!

Your investment in Wesley Urban Ministries represents your best investment in Hamilton's future. Thank you for your continued support!

Most people may be surprised to learn that almost two-thirds of Wesley's work is done to serve the growing needs of children, youth and families.



**YES, I WANT TO
help Wesley help others
LIVE THE EASTER STORY**

My Name _____

My Address _____

Apartment / Suite _____ City _____

Postal Code _____

Home Phone _____

Email _____

HERE IS A GIFT OF: \$220____ \$175____
\$110____ \$65____ OTHER \$ _____

PAYMENT BY:

CHEQUE Please make cheques payable to "Wesley Urban Ministries"

VISA MASTERCARD

Card Number _____

Expiry (MM/YR) _____ Cardholder Signature _____

Knowing that the need of those who are poor or homeless continues year-round, please send me forms to fill out so that I can make a monthly contribution through my bank account (pre-authorized withdrawal) or my credit card.

Please send me information on "Furthering A Legacy" through planned giving.

I have remembered Wesley Urban Ministries through a legacy gift in my will.

We at Wesley Urban Ministries want to share more news of the tremendous ways in which your generosity is making a difference. Help us to provide you with incredible news and updates!

How would you like to receive our news?

Email: _____

Postal Mail at my current address



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This contribution is tax deductible and will be promptly acknowledged with a tax receipt.
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