

## **Integrating Community Youth (I.C.Y.)**

### **Work-Shop I**

**Composed by:** Kevin A. Ashby, MSHS MBA – I.C.Y. Coordinator and Charlotte J. Butler, BA Anthropology – Student Placement Worker; both of Argus Residence for Young People

**Objective:** To educate and inform youth on ‘youth experiencing homelessness’; their resources, challenges and rights in the Waterloo Region.

**Materials:** Photocopies of pages 6, 7 & 8, Pens or Pencils for each participant

**Duration:** 45 minutes to 1 hour

### **Introduction**

***Moderator:** (This section was written with the intent of showing prevalence in regard to youth experiencing homelessness and to let youth know they are not alone) -Please Read Aloud*

There are some 65,000 young people, ages 16 to 24, without adequate housing or at the risk of homelessness here in Canada. There are some 1,700 youths on the street per night in Toronto alone. The majority of these youth, 60 to 70%, who find themselves without safe and adequate housing have fled from housing situations that were abusive. There are many myths, untruths and stigmas associated with youth experiencing homelessness. It is important to know that people are people and that anyone can unfortunately experience a lack of housing. Though experiencing a lack of housing is not fun or anyone’s first choice, it’s important to remember that you are not alone and to stay safe.

### **Feedback:**

***Moderator:** Please open up for brief discussion ≈ (approximately) 10 minutes*

What are some of the first things you would do if you could not go home? Who would you call?

What are things you would not do? – Keeping safety in mind

### **Biased-based Crime**

Unfortunately, recent studies have shown that there has been a higher incidence of hate crimes perpetrated against individuals who lack adequate housing. This is true throughout North America as well as internationally. The Institute for the Prevention of Crime at the University of

Ottawa recognizes this fact in Canada stating, “Those without adequate shelter are more likely than the housed to be victims of violence and, for women, victims of sexual assault.” Biased-based or hate crimes differ from regular crimes, in that the crime committed is motivated by the victim’s affiliation to an identifiable group (i.e. gay, Jewish, black, etc.). Interestingly, there is disproportionate representation of “traditionally protected” groups counted amongst those experiencing housing instability; with gays and lesbians experiencing youth homelessness at a higher rate than heterosexuals.

Biased –based crimes or hate crimes happen because some people are prejudice and discriminate. Prejudice is simply defined by Webster’s dictionary as:

**1. An opinion, especially an unfavorable one, formed beforehand or without knowledge or thought**

**2. Unreasonable, hostile attitudes regarding a racial, religious or national group.**

Discriminate is a verb, an action word, something you do. The word discriminates definition is:

**1. To make a distinction on the basis of prejudice; show partiality.**

### **Feedback:**

*Moderator: Please open up for brief discussion ≈10 minutes*

Why do you think people discriminate? What are some reasons?

*Moderator: Please Read Aloud*

Some reasons why people discriminate have been identified as:

- **Ignorance** – people without knowledge are prone to be prejudice
- **Fear** – scared of the unknown
- **Low Self-Esteem** – some people have a low value of self and impose that view upon others (treat and think of others poorly to feel better about their-selves)
- **Control** – some people have “control issues” and have problems with diversity
- **Insecurity** – (this relates closely to low self-esteem) some people are insecure in themselves and thereby treat and think of others poorly to feel better about themselves
- **Taught** – another reason some people discriminate is because they were taught to do so

Know that no matter what the reason; discrimination, hostility, violence or crime committed against anyone due to their housing situation or lack of housing is unacceptable.

### **Resources Here in the Waterloo Region**

Here in the Waterloo Region, there are 10 emergency shelters. Emergency shelters provide board, lodging and services to meet personal needs of people experiencing homelessness on a

short-term or infrequent basis. 4 of these 10 shelters are specialized to meet the needs of youth. The other 6 shelters serve people of all age groups.

The four Shelters here in the Waterloo Region for Youth are:

- **Argus Residence for Young People** - Male Facility – Cambridge, Ontario
- **Argus Residence for Young People** – Female Facility – Cambridge, Ontario
- **Roof (Reaching our outdoor friends)** – Co-ed Facility – Kitchener, Ontario
- **Lutherwood: Betty Thompson Youth Centre** – Safe Haven - Kitchener, Ontario

Here in the Waterloo Region there are also many, many programs and support systems for those who lack of adequate shelter or may be at risk of experiencing homelessness. Some of these programs are labeled Outreach programs. These programs and support systems are:

Street Outreach (for those experiencing homelessness or at risk, those who are involved in street-based work, or those who are mainly associated with those who are street-involved):

- **Cambridge Shelter Corporation:** Welcome Aboard
- **House of Friendship:** Men's Hostel Drop-In
- **Kitchener Downtown Community Centre:** Peer Health Worker Program
- **Ray of Hope:** Ray of Hope Community Centre
- **Roof:** Drop-In
- **The Working Centre:** St. John's Kitchen
- **The Working Centre:** The Bridge Port Café

Specialized:

- **ACCKWA**
- **Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre:** ID Clinic
- **Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre:** Medical Outreach
- **The Working Centre:** Psychiatric Outreach Project & Concurrent Disorders Project

Street Outreach programs that will come to you (Mobile):

- **Roof:** Outreach
- **The Salvation Army Community and Family Services:** Community Response Unit
- **The Working Centre and Cambridge Self Help Food Bank:** Street Outreach

Specialized:

- **ACCKWA:** Mobile Outreach
- **Canadian Mental Health Association- Grand River Branch:** Concurrent Disorder Outreach

- **Canadian Mental Health Association-** Grand River Branch: Proactive Outreach
- **The Working Centre:** Psychiatric Outreach Project & Concurrent Disorders Project

### **Feedback**

*Moderator: Please open for brief discussion ≈ 10 minutes*

What programs or organizations have you heard of or are familiar with?

What have you heard about these programs, organizations?

*Moderator: Please Read Aloud*

As you can already see there are a myriad -many, many- programs and formal support systems available in the Waterloo Region, especially for young people. These programs and support systems are made available pursuant to the Canadian Constitution which ensures public services of reasonable quality to all Canadians and international human rights laws guaranteeing the right to adequate housing.

### **STAY SAFE – Know Your Rights**

If you are ever in need of adequate housing, **please seek shelter**. Sleeping out- doors and in public places is unhealthy and unsafe. Remain calm, think and make safe and healthy choices. For emergency services in the Waterloo Region, medical or otherwise, dial 911. Please know and remember that experiencing a lack of housing is not a crime and that there is no need to be ashamed or fearful of the police. For assistance finding services to fit your needs please dial 211. 2-1-1 is a 3 digit phone number that provides information on community, social, health and government services in Ontario. These are both free calls and can be made from any pay-phone. GRT – Grand River Transit offers free rides to youth and peoples who are fleeing from crime or abusive situations. Please feel free to speak to the bus operator, if passage is needed. Unfavorable situations and circumstances will unfortunately arise. Know that these times are only temporary. **Shelter and Housing is not only a necessity but a human right.**

### **EXAM**

*Moderator: Please pass out Exam Papers and Pens/Pencils for 15 min. exam and scoring*

## **EXAM KEY**

*Moderator: Please provide participants with answers from exam -key for self-scoring of exam*

1. D - 65,000
2. J - Free rides to youth and peoples who are fleeing from crime or abusive situations
3. H - 10
4. A - Biased-based or Hate Crime
5. C - Ignorance, fear, low self-esteem
6. G - Cambridge Shelter Corporation: Welcome Aboard
7. E - To make a distinction on the basis of prejudice; show partiality
8. B - 60-70%
9. F - 15
10. I - On the street

## **RESOURCE SHEET DISTRIBUTION**

*Moderator: Please distribute copies of Resource sheet and inform workshop participants that the sheet is theirs to keep for reference purposes.*

## **EVALUATION**

*Moderator: Please pass out anonymous questionnaire form for completion by participants*

Please collect completed Evaluation forms and mail, send or call for pick up to Kevin Ashby, I.C.Y. Coordinator at Argus Residence for Young People, PO Box 22041 RPO Water Street, Cambridge, Ontario N1R 8E3. Phone: 519-650-0452

"The I.C.Y. (Integrating Community Youth) Project and this workshop have been made possible by a grant through the Safer and Vital Communities Grant Program."



**Ontario** Ministry of **Community Safety and Correctional Services\***



***Argus Residence for Young People***

***"The Watchful Guardian"***

*\*The views expressed in this video are views of the I.C.Y. Project and do not necessarily reflect those of the Ministry.*

## Matching Quiz

Put the letter of the correct answer next the question.

- 1) How many young people, ages 16 to 24 are without adequate housing or at the risk of homelessness here in Canada? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) What does the GRT offer? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) How many emergency shelters are in the Waterloo region? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) What is it called when a crime that is committed is motivated by the victim's affiliation to an identifiable group? (i.e. Jewish, gay, black, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5) What are some reasons why people discriminate? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 6) What is the name of one Street Outreach Program? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 7) What is the definition of 'discriminate'? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 8) What percentage of young people flee from their home because of abusive situations? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 9) How many youth does the *Argus Residence for Young Men* house? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 10) Where is it unhealthy and unsafe to sleep? \_\_\_\_\_
- A. Biased-based or Hate Crime
  - B. 60-70%
  - C. Ignorance, fear, low self-esteem
  - D. 65,000
  - E. To make a distinction on the basis of prejudice; show partiality.
  - F. 15
  - G. Cambridge Shelter Corporation: Welcome Aboard
  - H. 10
  - I. On the street
  - J. Free rides to youth and peoples who are fleeing from crime or abusive situations

## **RESOURCES FOR YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

The four Shelters here in the Waterloo Region for Youth are:

- Argus Residence for Young People - Male Facility – Cambridge, Ontario  
Phone: 519-623-7991 or toll free 1-877-565-0755
- Argus Residence for Young People – Female Facility – Cambridge, Ontario  
Phone: 519-650-0452 or toll free 1-877-818-0388
- Roof (Reaching our outdoor friends) – Co-ed Facility – Kitchener, Ontario  
Phone: 519-742-2788
- Lutherwood: Betty Thompson Youth Centre –Safe Haven - Kitchener, Ontario  
Phone: 519-749-8305 or 519-749-2450

Street Outreach (for those experiencing homelessness or at risk, those who are involved in street-based work, or those who are mainly associated with those who are street-involved):

- Cambridge Shelter Corporation: Welcome Aboard  
Phone: 519-624-9305 or toll free 1-877-624-9305
- House of Friendship: Men’s Hostel Drop-In  
Phone: 519-742-8327
- Kitchener Downtown Community Centre: Peer Health Worker Program  
Phone: 519-745-4404
- Ray of Hope: Ray of Hope Community Centre  
Phone: 519-578-8018
- Roof: Drop-In  
Phone: 519-742-2788
- The Working Centre: St. John’s Kitchen  
Phone: 519-745-8928
- The Working Centre: The Bridge Port Café  
Phone: 519-501-7929

Specialized:

- ACCKWA – Phone: 519-570-3687
- Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre: ID Clinic  
Phone: 519-745-4404
- Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre: Medical Outreach  
Phone: 519-745-4404
- The Working Centre: Psychiatric Outreach Project & Concurrent Disorders Project  
Phone: 519-743-1151

Street Outreach programs that will come to you (Mobile):

- Roof: Outreach - Phone: 519-742-2788
- The Salvation Army Community and Family Services: Community Response Unit  
Phone: 519-745-4215
- The Working Centre and Cambridge Self Help Food Bank: Street Outreach  
Phone: 519-622-6550

Specialized:

- ACCKWA: Mobile Outreach – Phone: 519-570-3687
- Canadian Mental Health Association- Grand River Branch: Concurrent Disorder Outreach – Phone: 519-766-4450
- Canadian Mental Health Association- Grand River Branch: Proactive Outreach  
Phone: 519-766-4450
- The Working Centre: Psychiatric Outreach Project & Concurrent Disorders Project – Phone: 519-743-1151

## EVALUATION – I.C.Y. WORKSHOP I

Anonymous (No Name Required): Please check Yes / No

1. Have you gained a better understanding of youth experiencing homelessness?  
 YES  
 NO
2. Do you believe you would know what to do to remain safe?  
 YES  
 NO
3. Do you better understand what biased-based or hate motivated crime is?  
 YES  
 NO
4. Do you believe you now know more about the resources available to Youth in the Waterloo Region?  
 YES  
 NO
5. Have you ever been a victim of crime, assault (sexual or physical), violence, harassment?  
 YES  
 NO
6. Do you believe you are at risk of being victimized due to biased-based crime?  
 YES  
 NO
7. What was your favorite part of the Work-shop in which you participated today?  

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8. What, if anything would have improved this work-shop and your learning experience?  

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