



PRESS RELEASE

THE COWAN FOUNDATION SUPPORTS YOUTH EDUCATION AT ARGUS

The Cowan Foundation has provided Argus Residence for Young People with a grant to strengthen educational outcomes for teenage youth in their care. “The Cowan Foundation’s generous and important funding will provide enhanced educational support through one to one tutoring and provide learning opportunities for youth to build skills, overcome barriers, build resilience, self worth and financial literacy,” said Mary Adamson, Board member at Argus. The donation of \$32,500 represents the first of three equal installments to support education and financial literacy programming at Argus Residence for Young People.

The Cowan Foundation grant provides Argus with the ability to provide young people, in their care, with 16 hours of professional tutoring support, per week, to strengthen educational outcomes and access to needed technology. In addition, The Cowan Foundation and Argus will work closely together to ensure young people receive education in financial literacy.

“We are pleased to support Argus and this innovative program. Providing youth with basic necessities is crucial but going a step further to provide them with the knowledge, tools, and mentorship lays the groundwork for a brighter future. Investing in transformative programs for

youth is one of the ways The Cowan Foundation makes lives better for Canadians and we have great hopes for the youth who participate in this program,” says Mary D’Alton, Executive Director, The Cowan Foundation.

Argus has also entered into a three-year training, implementation and evaluation agreement with Cornell University to implement their care practice model. The CARE practice model provides an evidence base approach to working with young people to support better youth outcomes. “The Cowan Foundation has provided the funding for Argus to hire teachers and Cornell has provided the framework to support better youth engagement. It’s a winning combination”, said Eva Vlasov, Executive Director.

In 2015, Argus started to pilot youth homelessness prevention and shelter diversion activities. This work, which was independently evaluated, led to a significant decrease in the number of young people experiencing homelessness in Cambridge. As a result, in December 2020, Argus was able to convert its emergency shelter locations, in Cambridge, into care homes for teenage youth. Argus continues to provide young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, in Cambridge, with homelessness prevention services.

About Argus Residence for Young People

Argus Residence for Young People was established, in 1986, as a charity, by Dave and Julie Kinder and a group of concerned congregation members from St. John’s Church, in Cambridge. Today, Argus is an award winning charity responding to over 2,800 requests for service, each year, through its employment, residential care and homelessness prevention and shelter diversion services. Through the implementation of evidence base approaches, the goal of Argus is to provide people with opportunities to be supported and thrive.

About The Cowan Foundation

The Cowan Foundation was started in 1995 in honour of Frank Cowan, our founder. The Foundation is sustained by the ongoing success of the Princeton Holdings group of companies including Cowan Insurance Group (and its subsidiary Cowan Financial Solutions) and Fountain Street Finance. Together they provide insurance and risk management solutions to clients. The

goal of The Cowan Foundation is to make a positive difference in the lives of Canadians and the broader well-being of our communities. For more information, please visit www.cowanfoundation.ca.

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