



## Brandon's Story – Preventing Tragedy

Brandon is a wonderful soul. A bright smile with a warm heart. Unfortunately, Brandon was born with a developmental exceptionality, as well as mental health concerns that he works through each day. Tragically, Brandon had to leave his home because he was being physically assaulted and mentally abused. Without an idea what to do next, and a plan growing to take his own life, Brandon was admitted into the Transitional Housing Program at WRYM.

Amazingly, thanks to the Family Violence Recovery Project at WRYM, funded through the Solcz Family Foundation, Brandon was able to get weekly counselling AT WRYM, as well as receive additional staff support and assistance. Because Brandon needed a little bit more opportunity to learn new concepts, he repeated our Youth Independence Program over his 6+ months in the residence! Talk about a commitment to self-improvement!

It wasn't an easy 6 months, as Brandon is a lively individual who wears his heart on his sleeve. There were moments of anger and moments of tears, but more often than not, there were moments of growth. Brandon broke out of his shell, learned to believe in himself, took ownership of his life, and started to move on from the horrors of his past.

We were just happy to be there for the journey, and to give Brandon the opportunity to end his homelessness and build a new life. There was never a dull moment, but family is always that way. We are pleased to tell you that Brandon moved on to a permanent housing program elsewhere, thanks to the hard work of our team (and several other service providers).

Had WRYM not been there, and this vulnerable youth entered into shelter or onto the street itself, it is difficult to even imagine the tragic outcomes which could have occurred. We want to take the moment to highlight Brandon, his hard work, his growth, and his perseverance, but emphasize that this could not have happened without WRYM, and the commitment/support of this community.

On behalf of us at WRYM, and Brandon, thank you!

*Name changed for confidentiality purposes.*