



## A Rough Night Out – Better with Friends

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the *Windsor Residence for Young Men (WRYM)* hosted its *Annual Rough Night Out* fundraiser, where volunteers, staff, and agency leadership spent the night outside in the cold, as a youth experiencing homelessness may be forced to do. Although we can never know the experience of a young person without a home, a night outside in the middle of winter is always a humbling reminder why our work is so important and why it must continue.

This *Rough Night Out* was particularly special, as we hosted the event in a hybrid manner, meaning some participants could join us at WRYM, or they could participate in a place of their choosing. We are so thrilled to report that our volunteers and donors raised approximately **\$6,000** in funds for our housing services!

We would also like to note our esteemed participants this year, as we were not only joined by WRYM's Past-President Susan Freeman and her husband Dave Freeman (whose team led the entire event in pledges raised), but we were even joined by a former resident who came back to WRYM to spend the night outside with us! What made his participation even more moving, was that this past resident even raised funds from his employer for the *Rough Night Out*, and we couldn't have been more honoured.

Another exciting addition this year was the participation of St. Clair College's Community and Justice Services Program's Social Committee! This resulted in a group of students and faculty spending the night out at the College, doing push up contests, getting to know one another, and frankly, trying to stay warm. Thank you to Melissa Kakuk, the CJS students, and the entire College, who showed us how a *Rough Night Out, is better with friends*. Check out the photos below!

