

—The April Issue 2026—

40 years of Argus Residence for Young People

Opening Doors to Opportunities

A message from our Executive Director: *Eva Vlasov*

April 2026 marks my 32nd year with Argus, and it has been a privilege to watch this award winning charity grow and evolve, serving more than 5,000 people last year alone. From youth development to helping write new chapters in community support, I'm proud to be part of a team that continues to make a meaningful difference.

My journey with Argus began as a student on academic placement. One of my earliest responsibilities was supporting a young woman—my own age—who was accessing emergency shelter after experiencing profound trauma and abuse. As she shared her story, I was struck by the stark contrast between her circumstances and mine, differences that existed through no fault of hers. That moment reshaped my understanding of the world and deepened my commitment to this work.

Thank you to our community for standing with us, believing in our mission, and helping Argus grow into the organization it is today. Your trust, partnership, and compassion make every step of this work possible.



United Way
Waterloo Region
Communities



Introducing the Youth Foyer Program: *A place for youth to call home*

Argus has launched Waterloo Region's first Youth Foyer, a new semi-independent transitional shelter designed for **working youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness, as well as youth enrolled in full-time studies**. During their stay, young people will work, build savings, and develop the skills needed to move toward independent living and self reliance. Students will be able to focus on their education rather than survival, and youth who are working will have the **opportunity to save up to \$10,000 to support their future stability**.



115 Wellington Street Cambridge, ON

Breaking Barriers: Youth Employment Skills Strategy (YESS)

Supporting youth facing barriers to employment in the Waterloo Region



WHO IS THIS FOR?

- Individuals aged 15-30 in the Waterloo Region
- Facing barriers to employment
- At risk of homelessness or chronic unemployment



WHAT IS YESS?

A program that helps youth build skills and gain experience to enter the workplace



WHAT YOU'LL GAIN:

- ✓ Job experience
- ✓ Build professional skills
- ✓ An easier transition into the labour market
- ✓ Employment income



PROGRAM IMPACT Oct 2024- Dec 2025

84%

completed the program

89%

who completed YESS secured employment or returned to school

15%

remained enrolled

For more information about the YESS program, please contact Holli at 226-338-9966



UPTOWN THRIFT:

Turning Your Donations Into Opportunities

Uptown Thrift, located in Preston (Cambridge), is more than your average thrift store, it is a **fashion filled social enterprise that is changing youth's lives.**

ALL proceeds directly fund employment opportunities for youth facing challenges like income instability and housing insecurity. In the past year alone, about 45 youth gained meaningful employment and training through Uptown Thrift. Store hours are Monday - Saturday, 10:00am - 5:00pm!



Donate today to help the youth of your community build skills, gain experience, and move toward a stable future.

FIRST CONNECT:

Your first point of contact, whenever you need it.



About First Connect

First Connect provides 24/7 coordinated homeless prevention and shelter diversion services. It can be your first point of contact if you are experiencing or at risk of homelessness or seeking emergency shelter in the Waterloo Region.



First Connect works extremely hard to prevent homelessness. We do this through a strength-based approach. One way that we do this is by working to reunite individuals with family and natural support across Canada and in some cases, internationally!



Accessible to All

Services are accessible in more than 350 languages, including four Indigenous languages, ASL, LSQ, Deaf Interpretation, Braille and Closed Captioning.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

 **5,000+**
individuals
supported by First
Connect in 2025

 **74%**
shelter diversion rate
from Jan 2025-
Sept 2025

CONGRATULATIONS!

We are honoured to celebrate **Laura Coakley, Manager of First Connect**, for launching **Canada's first Community of Practice on homelessness prevention and shelter diversion** in partnership with the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness and the Canadian Shelter Transformation Network

Bridges 4 Youth

Bridges 4 Youth helps young people with disabilities get ready for work, find a job, and keep it. Through hands-on workshops, paid work placements, and ongoing support, you'll build skills and confidence while overcoming barriers, helping reduce the risk of homelessness.

BRIDGES 4 YOUTH IMPACT

From Sept 2023- Dec 2025...

 **100%**
were youth with a self-
identified disability

 **96%**
secured employment or
returned to school!

For more information about Bridges 4 Youth,
please contact Nancy: 519-404-1521

A Night of Wine and Roses: Argus' Annual Fundraiser

You're Invited!

Join us on Friday November 6th, 2026 at Whistlebear Golf Club for our annual fundraiser: **"A Night of Wine and Roses"**

This years fundraiser will support our **NEW Youth Foyer Program**, which will allow us to continue to support working youth and full-time students who are in need of safe and stable living.



A glimpse of last years fundraiser!

Help us support this program! We need...



**Corporate
sponsorships**



**Auction
Items**

Our Registered Charity Number:
118789429RR0001

For more information,
please contact Eva: 226-600-
4564



Contact us!

Argus Residence: (519) 623- 7991

Uptown Thrift: (519) 650-1241

First Connect: (519) 624-9133

Visit our website: <https://argusresidence.ca>

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