



### *Foster Care Group Homes*

The foster group homes accept difficult to serve youth who have been unable to reside in their parental home and/or other group homes due to past conflict. Each home accommodates eight youth 12 years of age and older. Windsor Essex Children's Aid Society places the youth in the foster group home.

[www.newbeginningswindsor.com](http://www.newbeginningswindsor.com)

## Funding

### **Rossini Group Homes**

Ministry of Children & Youth Services

### Foster Care Group Homes



### **Rossini Boys' Home**

866 Rossini Blvd.

Windsor, Ontario

N8Y 2Z3

(519) 944-5660 Fax (519) 945-0535

### **Rossini Girls' Home**

867 Rossini Blvd.

Windsor, Ontario, N8Y 2Z2

(519) 948-6814 Fax (519) 948-6164

## A Brief History of New Beginnings

New Beginnings (Essex County) was incorporated in 1971, in Windsor, Ontario, at which point it became an affiliate member of the St. Leonard's Society of Canada. New Beginnings operated as a group home for young males, fourteen to nineteen years of age. The target groups were those with past or current conflicts with the law. In 1985, the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services designated and funded New Beginnings as an Open Custody facility for Phase II male offenders, sentenced pursuant to the Young Offender's Act. On February 19, 2002, the Youth Criminal Justice Act (Y.C.J.A.) received Royal Assent from Parliament and it was proclaimed on April 1, 2003, replacing the Young Offenders Act. In 2001, New Beginnings established a relationship with the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Windsor Essex County Children's Aid Society. A foster care group home for male youth between the ages of 13 to 17 years, was established, followed by a similar foster care group home for females in 2002. In 2005, the Non-Residential Attendance Centre was established. In January of 2007, a non-residential attendance centre office was established in Leamington to support the youth of Essex County. On February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 the Minister of Children and Youth Services, Mary Anne Chambers, announced that New Beginnings would be the lead agency for the Youth Opportunities Strategy: Youth Outreach Worker and Summer Jobs for Youth programs in Windsor.

## Statement of Philosophy

Adolescence is a difficult time of adjustment and change for the healthiest of youth; one of the elements which can affect this developmental process, is the support provided by a stable environment.

New Beginnings provides our youth the opportunity to make positive adjustments through this period and helps him/her to explore positive lifestyle changes.

## Program Activities

- Involvement of the resident in daily chores such as housekeeping and dishes.
- A behaviour-monitoring program that encourages positive change and adherence to house rules.
- Use of community facilities year round, and an expanded recreation/life skills program during the summer months, made possible through grants.
- Monitoring of progress and behavioural problems at weekly case conference meetings.
- Provision of one-on-one individual counselling with each resident, on a weekly basis, to monitor, support and encourage the individual in achieving program goals.
- Involvement of staff in interpersonal problems that may arise between residents. We encourage constructive problem solving and taking responsibility for behaviour.
- Mandatory attendance in community school program or inter-agency school program

## Program Objectives

1. Cease further conflicts with the law and assist with the court process (Open Custody/Detention).
2. Improve life skills (budgeting, self care etc).
3. Improve education and develop employment skills.
4. Develop healthy attitudes and socially acceptable behaviour.
5. Improve self-image, interpersonal relations, and problem solving skills.
6. Encourage a healthy lifestyle through diet and exercise, and proper medical attention.
7. Develop self-control.
8. Maintain a warm and stable living environment.
9. Protect residents from self-harm and harm from others.
10. Develop a plan of care, which incorporates plans for either the reintroduction of the youth in their parental/guardian home or the development of an independent living program