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The Center for Youth Premieres Short Film, *If These Walls Could Talk*, Feb. 8, 2016
Film celebrates resiliency of young men facing homelessness

Rochester, N.Y., Feb. 1, 2016 -- The Center for Youth is proud to announce the premiere of a short film entitled *If These Walls Could Talk* (PG-13) on **February 8th, at 7 pm** at the **Dryden Theatre** at the George Eastman Museum. Based on and inspired by actual events and featuring local talent, this film celebrates the resiliency and determination, the talent and the creativity of young men facing homelessness and living in a transitional living center. This aspirational "narrative improvisation" is remarkable in its authentic portrayal of both the struggles and the opportunities. Supported through a significant contribution from AT&T, hosted by the George Eastman Museum, sponsored by WDKX and Rochester Institute of Technology, and directed by Matthew Spaul of Northlight Productions with a team of RIT students, *If These Walls Could Talk* is free and open to the general public. The film will be followed by an interactive panel discussion with the actors, director, and the production team.

From its earliest inception, this film was intended to portray an accurate perspective of the challenges faced by youth and families suffering from trauma and abandonment as a result of homelessness while also capturing the positive energy and dreams that can still be realized through community understanding and support.

"The stories of the young men in *If These Walls Could Talk* are inspirational and yet so real. They tell us the truth; they share their creativity, their humor and their sadness, while they take us on their journey. This film ranges from despair to determination and honors the work at The Center for Youth and the young people we serve," said Elaine Spaul, Executive Director of The Center for Youth.

"The George Eastman Museum is honored to host the premiere of this film which calls attention to one of the most critical challenges facing our community--poverty and the human toll it exacts



from a highly vulnerable population," said Bruce Barnes, Ron and Donna Fielding Director, George Eastman Museum.

"AT&T is proud to support the production of this inspiring film and to provide an opportunity for these young men to share a powerful story based on their real-life experiences," said Marissa Shorenstein, president of AT&T New York. "AT&T collaborated with the Center for Youth on this initiative as a way to expose these young men to the skills and technology necessary to create film and multimedia projects. As video content continues to become more and more popular, this is quickly becoming an increasingly valuable trade."

The support for *If These Walls Could Talk* grows out of AT&T's commitment to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its community initiatives, AT&T has a long history of investing in projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; or address community needs. [AT&T Aspire](#) is the company's signature \$350 million philanthropic initiative that drives innovation in education by bringing diverse resources to bear on the issue including funding, technology, employee volunteerism and mentoring.

About The Center for Youth

Started by youth for youth in 1971, The Center for Youth delivers a continuum of services to homeless and runaway youth and families in crisis, including emergency shelter, transitional housing programs and Crisis Nursery, which provides temporary childcare during emergencies. The Center's school-based, counseling and community awareness programs aim to educate, engage and empower young people. All services are delivered with the knowledge that youth want to and can take responsibility for their life choices. For more information, visit www.centerforyouth.net or find us on social media: Facebook (Center for Youth) and Twitter (@center4youth).