



United Way
Perth-Huron



local love

IN A

GLOBAL CRISIS



Dan lost his job because of poor physical health. Unemployed, and without a place to call his own, he struggled with his mental health. It got so bad Dan felt as though he didn't want to live anymore. Before he did anything to harm himself, Dan reached out for help and found his way to Huron Turning Point.

201 PEOPLE ARE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IN PERTH-HURON

Once Dan arrived, his life started getting better. The staff listened with compassion and helped him work through his challenges. Dan felt lucky to have a roof over his head and three meals every day. Even when he was on his own and working, affording rent and food was difficult, so his stress was greatly reduced.

Now, Dan is hopeful. The other residents and staff at Turning Point have become like family to him and he has started working odd jobs because he loves to help. With another grandchild on the way, Dan is looking forward to putting down roots and building a brighter future.



"It was a scary time, but there were lots of people willing to help me."



Supported locally by United Way Perth-Huron, the 211 telephone helpline and online directory helps local people deal with life's challenges. 211 is available 24/7/365, is anonymous and accessible in over 150 languages.



ConnectYouth is an online resource for the youth of Perth and Huron counties to help them make educated decisions about their lives.



IMPACT

1,801
people received counselling to improve their mental health and well-being

97
at-risk youth and children were connected with a mentor to receive positive guidance and support

2,254
people accessed the 211 helpline to find the help they needed

POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS

New Financial Assistance for Individuals & Families



The *Urgent Needs Fund* supports local residents with funds for essentials like rent, groceries and medication if something like this were to happen;

Derek and Sherrie worked multiple part-time jobs to cover rent and groceries. When Sherrie got sick and had to take off work, the bills started piling up. They didn't know where to turn for help...

700+ helped since May, 2020



Advocating For Long-Term Change

To learn more about the Basic Income Forum held in November of 2020, and view the list of current Living Wage employers in Perth-Huron, visit perthhuron.unitedway.ca



Social Research & Planning Council
Operated by United Way Perth-Huron

Read the latest research: The Mental Health & Addiction report is being released in April of 2021. To read this and other research reports, visit perthhuron.unitedway.ca

HELPING KIDS & TEENS SOAR

Jordan needed help. So did Richard. Different challenges, different solutions. What both youth have in common is they reached out to a United Way funded partner for support when they needed it most.

1 IN 3 YOUTH FACE MENTAL HEALTH OR ADDICTION CHALLENGES

Many youth across Perth-Huron are facing mental health challenges and the pandemic has only made things worse. So whether help looks like Jordan seeking counselling to cope with trauma she was reliving because of her forced isolation during COVID-19, or Richard working to overcome low self-esteem and control his anger, United Way Perth-Huron was there, working with our partners — one person at a time — to improve the mental health of local youth; ensuring kids like Jordan and Richard have a chance for a brighter future.



"I couldn't do it on my own anymore."

IMPACT

110
at-risk youth accessed safe shelter and were given a fresh start

7,278
vulnerable people provided with access to food

SUPPORTING WELL-BEING

"It almost broke me."

That's how Carol described losing her driver's license after macular degeneration began affecting her good eye. Feeling alone. Losing independence. These are challenges faced by many seniors across Perth-Huron and COVID-19 has only made them worse.

1 IN 5 SENIORS FEEL LONELY

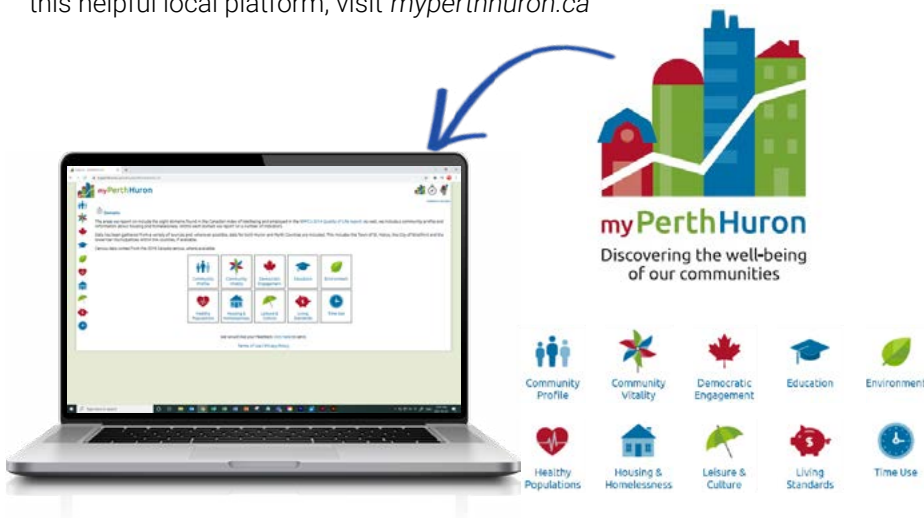
Thanks to a United Way supported partner, Carol accessed affordable transportation to get to appointments and reclaimed some of the independence she feared she would lose.

COVID-19 has changed so many lives, including those of vulnerable seniors. Through supporting food delivery, check-in calls, subsidized respite services and more, United Way has been there to help.

"Dignity is not something you describe. It's something you feel."

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES

MyPerthHuron provides local, provincial and federal data to inform communities across Perth- Huron about the social, economic and environmental well-being of the region. To access this helpful local platform, visit myperthhuron.ca



HOW OUR REGIONAL APPROACH WORKS

With some residents in St. Marys expressing concern about social isolation and housing safety, United Way brought community partners together to discuss solutions. A plan for a Community Developer and Support Worker was formalized and the St. Marys Community Committee raised funds. UWPH is proud to be a catalyst in local communities.



IMPACT

2,889

seniors and people with mobility challenges were connected to their community through transportation services

1,855

website sessions on MyPerthHuron



United Way
Perth-Huron

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