



**United Way**  
Perth-Huron

**Stratford  
& Area**

### Stephanie's Journey:

Stephanie's father was dealing with serious mental health issues and Stephanie had to leave home. She was connected with a local youth shelter that offered a safe place for her to stay and recover.

Stephanie struggled with depression and had trouble leaving her room when she first arrived. Through counselling and being in a safe environment, Stephanie was able to start working through her emotions and gain a sense of comfort and stability.

Now, Stephanie has a full-time job and is on the list for supportive, independent housing in her community. The future looks brighter for Stephanie and she is able to celebrate the small victories along the way.

## HELPING PEOPLE



The Urgent Needs Fund is designed to support local residents in a time of crisis with funds for essentials such as rent, groceries, car repairs, medication and child care.

United Way is also working for long-term change, lifting people beyond poverty while still ensuring their immediate, basic needs are met.

**184 local residents accessed assistance;  
700+ in total across Perth-Huron**

## SUPPORTING SERVICES

**12,269**  
people served in  
Stratford & Area

**3,913** people were given access to food

**1,247** people received clinical counselling

**77** men accessed institutional visiting and reintegration planning

**57** youth benefited from housing and support care

**64** people participated in subsidized physical/ community activities to increase wellness

**565** seniors and those with mobility challenges connected to the community by transportation services

**45** children who witnessed violence received counselling

## CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH SERVICES



**551**  
served

Using a hub model, 10 non-profit tenants share our space and resources and are able to easily cross-refer clients to other services in the building.

**211** **2,627**  
connected

Working with frontline agencies, 211 is a hotline connecting local people in need with programs and services.  
Free | Confidential | 24/7/365



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### Greg's Story:

"I woke up cold and alone, the rain dripping on my face. It's been 63 days since I slept in a bed and I miss my daughter.

"Every day I tell myself things will get better, but the hopelessness always wins. I've tried to get ID, tried counselling, tried to find some money to get by — but it's weird when I know I smell and my clothes are dirty — I don't like going into places this way."

**ENDING CHRONIC  
HOMELESSNESS**

There's a problem ►

**109** people experiencing chronic homelessness in Stratford & Area

But there's a way forward ► **NEW CONNECTION CENTRE**

The **Stratford Connection Centre** is a place-based intervention combining the efforts of professional service providers and well-trained volunteers to begin or continue a wellness journey for individuals experiencing significant challenges, including but not limited to poverty, homelessness, addictions and mental health, all in one location in downtown Stratford.

- 1 Meet basic needs.** A place to use a washroom and shower. Have a cup of coffee with access to clean water, and/or an indoor space out of the cold or heat.
- 2 Build social ties.** Build trust with service providers and volunteers, leading to opportunities for more formal supports.
- 3 Connect to social services.** Volunteers and staff can help clients navigate entry into formal support with existing agencies.
- 4 Build pathways out of poverty** that provide dignity and choice, empowering clients.

### Refresh & Restart

-  Laundry & Showers
-  Washrooms
-  Food
-  Social Connection
-  Emotional Support
-  Information & Referrals
-  Document Readiness

**Leading to pathways out of poverty!**

*The Connection Centre is an important project for vulnerable local people. It will provide an opportunity beyond offering a warm place to sit or take a shower — although that's certainly important — the centre also offers the possibility of longer-term change for people in need. We're happy to be working together with our partners to make this plan a reality.*

- Choices for Change Executive Director  
Catherine Hardman

*The City of Stratford is proud to be working with United Way and Choices for Change on this project. We see the challenges faced by local people in need. The Connection Centre is a collaborative approach that allows us to address the ongoing issue of homelessness in an innovative way. Ideally, we will see long-term permanent housing solutions through these efforts.*

-Director of Social Services for the City of Stratford  
Kim McElroy