



United Way
Perth-Huron

Stratford & Area

TOGETHER WE IMPROVE LIVES



THROUGH SUPPORT FOR BASIC NEEDS, SERVICE CONNECTION, ADVOCACY, RESEARCH AND CULTIVATING INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES.

#UNIGNORABLE LOCAL ISSUES



Lack of Housing

A single bedroom rental is over \$1,200/mo. 171 people are experiencing homelessness.



Low Income

57% of people with incomes in Perth-Huron earn less than a living wage (\$35,262 annually).



Mental Health

By the time Canadians reach the age of 40, 1 in 2 have experienced a mental illness.



Access to Services

Navigating the local social service network is challenging, especially for our most vulnerable.



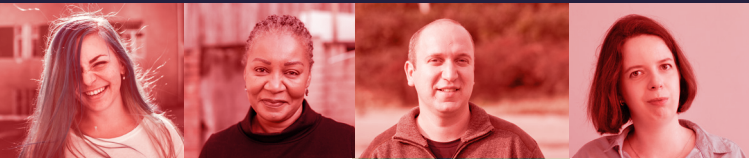
Intimate Partner Violence

Stratford/St. Marys police received 586 calls related to intimate partner violence in 2021.



Food Insecurity

4,820 families in Perth County are food insecure. Food prices rose 7.4% in one year.



HOLISTIC APPROACH

EXAMPLES

SYMPTOMS

- Hunger
- Violence & Crime
- Poor Mental Health
- Homelessness
- Lack of Access to Services

PROBLEM

- Poverty

CAUSES

- Low Income
- Poor Mental Health
- Systemic Racism
- Unequal Opportunities
- Relationship Breakdowns

United Way is committed to cultivating innovative initiatives addressing root causes of local social issues. We research and advocate for a living wage, affordable housing and improved social assistance rates and services.

We also understand that long-term goals don't solve the challenges of a person facing eviction next week, or the parent with empty cupboards and hungry children right now. To that end, we also fundraise and invest in programs to help ensure people get the immediate help they need.



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Show your local love

CHANGING LIVES

Walt needed a helping hand. Faced with eviction and a loss of services, he reached out to a connection centre in his community. Once there, he found a welcoming environment with staff and volunteers who were willing to help. The housing stability worker negotiated with Walt's landlord to allow him to temporarily stay in his home while other staff worked on finding alternate housing and supports.

Now, Walt is doing better thanks to United Way and a supported partner. He looks forward to finding a new place to live and continuing his journey out of homelessness.



HELPING PEOPLE STRATFORD 2021 IMPACT

3,913
visits to
access food

853
seniors
accessed
transportation

401
participants
in food skills
programs

44
children who
witnessed
violence
counselled

67
at-risk youth
accessed
housing &
supports

422
people in
crisis accessed
financial
support

105
men accessed
post-
incarceration
supports

417
people
accessed
YMCA
passes



CREATING PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY

STRATFORD
CONNECTION
CENTRE



Partly as a result of rising housing costs, homelessness increased by 60% during the pandemic. In an effort to tackle this #UNIGNORABLE issue in Stratford, a drop-in space opened for those experiencing homelessness or otherwise vulnerable.

The *Stratford Connection Centre* offers wrap-around supports including trauma-informed care, substance use and mental health counselling, as well as basic needs such as showers, laundry and food. Services are client-centred, providing dignity and choice with an unrelenting focus on securing permanent housing.

GET IN TOUCH OR DONATE

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