

Understanding the issues



Lack of Housing

A single bedroom unit is over \$1,258/month. 142 people are experiencing homelessness in Stratford-Perth-St. Marys.



Low Income

About 50% of people over the age of 15 in Perth-Huron earn less than a living wage (\$37,674 per year).



Food Insecurity

One in six Canadian children live in a food insecure household. Food prices rose 8.9% in one year.



Access to Services

Navigating, accessing and travelling to local social services is challenging, especially for our most vulnerable residents.



Intimate Partner Violence

Police in Stratford-Perth-St. Marys received 586 calls related to intimate partner violence in 2022.



Mental Health

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



Discrimination

69% of Perth-Huron immigrants and visible minorities reported experiencing discrimination.



The Social Research & Planning Council is dedicated to collecting, analyzing and distributing information that inspires social progress.

Helping people like Gabrielle



Sixteen-year-old Gabrielle and her family were living in poverty for a long time, with **no heat or water in the old trailer they called home.**

All Gabrielle wanted was to stay in one spot long enough so she could finish high school.

A concerned member of the community reached out to a local United Way funded youth support organization on Gabrielle's behalf and **once she connected with the staff team, her life blossomed.**

Now, Gabrielle's life is much better. Staff at the support organization helped her find a safe, stable place to live and she continues working toward her goal of becoming the first person in her family to graduate from high school.

IMAGINE A RESILIENT & CARING COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYONE THRIVES

Donate Today!

519.271.7730

32 Erie St, Stratford

perthhuron.unitedway.ca



CONSIDER GIVING AT A LEADER LEVEL:

\$1,200+ Bronze Leader | \$100/month

\$2,400+ Silver Leader | \$200/month

\$6,000+ Gold Leader | \$500/month

*Donors giving at the **Bronze** or **Silver** level will be matched by generous **Gold** donors.



United Way
Perth-Huron

Helping here in Stratford & Area



Stratford & Area 2022 Impact!

- 204** youth received early intervention counselling to avoid a crisis.
- 94** men assisted with reintegration planning upon release from jail.
- 616** people participated in food skills training.
- 20** at-risk youth received shelter support and a fresh start.
- 32** children who witnessed violence received counselling.
- 1,440** people received counselling to improve mental health

How we work as a Transformational Force

Leverage

We leverage our partnerships and financial resources to respond compassionately to community needs.

Lead

We lead community development by establishing and funding innovative programs addressing local issues.

Advocate

We advocate for systems change by speaking up about social issues, fostering constructive relationships with policy makers and championing solutions.

Research & Plan

We generate and share knowledge about social issues and the vital role of innovation and progress.

Read research reports here:

perthhuron.unitedway.ca/research



The **Stratford Connection Centre** is a housing-based service staffed by Housing Stability and Peer Outreach Workers and supported by well-trained volunteers serving those experiencing homelessness or who are otherwise vulnerable.

Staff collaborate with community service partners to provide wrap-around supports such as trauma-informed care, addiction and mental health counselling, along with basic needs including food, clothing, showers, laundry facilities and warming/cooling space.

Building trust between participants, service providers and staff can lead to engaging with more formal supports such as application completion, legal aid and Ontario Works, creating a pathway out of poverty.

287 people connected to services & support

Helping people like Alan



After years of dealing with mental health challenges, Alan found himself without a home.

Life had become an endless loop of frustration and crushed hopes. Years of trauma made it hard enough, trying to locate the services he needed to find a warm place to live seemed almost impossible. That's when a friend told him about the **Stratford Connection Centre**.

At first, Alan wasn't sure. He'd been hopeful before and nothing changed. **Fortunately, he stepped through the doors of the Connection Centre and his life changed.**

The compassionate staff at the Centre supported him and worked tirelessly to connect him with the supports he needed without ever feeling judged.

Now, Alan is doing much better. The support he received at the Centre made him feel part of a caring community and the experience empowered him to take control of his life and realize his dream of getting an apartment to call his own.



350 individuals & families received financial assistance last year in Stratford & Area

Recent environmental shifts including rising inflation and the pandemic put added stress on society and dramatically increased the need for support.



Powered by: **211**

The **Urgent Needs Fund** supports Perth-Huron residents in a time of crisis with an infusion of funds for essentials. It is part of a broader strategy to prevent homelessness and unemployment and reduce the effects of poverty on individuals and families.

211 is a helpline and website to help you discover what programs and services can help in your situation.



Free, confidential and available 24/7/365 in 150+ languages!