

Understanding the issues

Lack of Housing



111 people are experiencing homelessness in Huron (County of Huron, Social Services)
The local average rent for a one bedroom unit is **\$1,420/month** (Municipal Service Manager, Rental Scan)

Low Income



About half of residents in Huron earn less than a living wage, \$41,405/yr. (StatsCan, 2021)

Food Insecurity



1 in 4 Ontario children lives in a household struggling to put food on the table. (U of T, PROOF Research, 2022)

Access to Services



Navigating and accessing local social services can be challenging, especially for the most vulnerable.

Intimate Partner Violence



1,729 intimate partner violence crisis calls from across Huron were received by shelter services in Goderich in one year. (Huron County Women's Shelter, 2023)

Mental Health



Use of an emergency department for psychiatric reasons in rural vs urban Ontario is **two times higher**. (ROMA Report, 2024)

Discrimination



69% of immigrants and visible minorities and 80% of Indigenous people in Perth-Huron reported experiencing discrimination, compared to 50% of white non-immigrants. (Huron County Immigration Partnership, 2021)



Social Research & Planning Council

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

Helping people like Edward



Life can change in an instant. Take it from Edward, he's been there.

Two years before, he had an apartment, a good job, and was able to make ends meet.

Then the fire happened.

Because Edward was in the apartment at the time, he ended up with severe burns. Although he was glad to be alive, Edward also knew he didn't have anything left to call his own—not a roof over his head, or a stick of furniture—and that left him anxious and stressed about the future. After he was discharged, he didn't know where to turn to get back on his feet while his body healed enough to work again. That's when he found United Way supported partner, **Huron Turning Point**: a safe place to stay while he recovered.

Now, Edward is doing better. Thanks to his own hard work and support he received at **Turning Point**, he found a safe, secure home to call his own and is looking forward to a brighter future.

DONATIONS STAY IN SOUTHERN HURON



Donate Today!

519.271.7730 | 877.818.8867

perthhuron.unitedway.ca

Consider supporting us through your donor-advised funds or gift of securities

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 Southern Huron



Southern Huron 2023 Impact!

- 31** visitors to the Southern Huron Connection Centre
- 4** youth received shelter supports
- 6** men were supported in transitional housing
- 4** women and children escaping violence supported and sheltered
- 7** local food bank agencies supplied
- 52** youth supported with financial assistance for extracurricular activities
- 28** people in crisis helped with finances



Exeter youth drop-in centre

During the fall and winter of 2023–2024, United Way and our *Southern Huron Community Committee* held consultations to identify a pressing local need. It was determined that youth needed more opportunities to connect with peers, and the idea for an Exeter youth drop-in centre was born.

To be located at *Trivitt Memorial Church*, the planned drop-in centre will focus on youth aged 13 to 17, or youth who have financial/physical barriers to extra-curricular activities. **The centre would offer a safe and supportive space for up to 15 youth to get together, enjoy snacks, and take part in games and activities; reducing isolation and allowing youth—whatever their situation—to have a place to be themselves.**



Perth-Huron's first full-service, non-profit housing organization dedicated to creating and sustaining mixed rental units. United Housing aims to develop and operate housing locally, creating living spaces through renovations and new builds, as well as operating existing and newly-built housing.

Supported directly by United Way, United Housing tackles the housing crisis across Perth-Huron, working toward our vision of ensuring everyone lives in housing suitable and affordable to their needs by 2050.



Operated by The Community Table, the **Southern Huron Connection Centre** is a housing-based poverty reduction service helping 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.

31 people connected to services & support

Helping people like Hannah



“Living with my mom meant dealing with constant conflict and abuse. I never felt safe.

“When I turned 17, I took matters into my own hands and left after contacting **Huron Safe Homes For Youth**. My caseworker found me a family to stay with and we all worked together to plan out my future.

“Even after I wasn't involved directly with **Safe Homes**, my caseworker continued to support me.

“Thanks to the solid foundation Safe Homes helped me build, I graduated with honours from a Registered Nursing program and I am working at a career I love.

“It's possible I could have achieved what I did without **Safe Homes**, but my journey was much easier because of this United Way supported partner. While I don't fondly remember why I ended up at Safe Homes, I appreciate my time there. It has helped me get where I am today, and I will always be grateful.”



The **Coldest Night of the Year** is a winterrific, family-friendly walk to raise money in support of local people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness.

Join us again next year on February 22, 2025! Team up, fundraise, walk, and gather for good... because it's cold out there.



FREE TAX CLINICS

\$1,814,200 was returned to lower income households in Huron last year thanks to local volunteers.*

If people don't file taxes, they can't claim critical refunds and benefits. Volunteer-led free tax clinics are helping. By dialing 2-1-1, seniors, newcomers, students, and those receiving social assistance can find the nearest clinic and get help filing their returns. United Way is pleased to support an expansion of this poverty reduction program. *(CVITP reporting, 2023)

28 individuals & families in Southern Huron received financial assistance last year



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!