

Understanding the issues

Lack of Housing



149 people are experiencing homelessness in Stratford-Perth-St. Marys (City of Stratford, Social Services) The local average rent for a one bedroom unit is **\$1,450/month** (Municipal Service Manager, Rental Scan)

Low Income



About Half of residents in Perth 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



2,274 intimate partner violence crisis calls were received by shelter services in Stratford-Perth-St. Marys in one year. (Optimism Place, 2023)

Mental Health



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

Discrimination



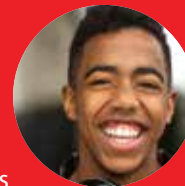
69% of immigrants and visible minorities and 80% of Indigenous people in Perth-Huron reported experiencing discrimination. Compared to 50% of white non-immigrants. (Huron County Immigration Partnership, 2021)

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



Social Research & Planning Council

Helping people like Kofi



Kofi experienced chronic homelessness ever since he aged out of the youth system. **After a lifetime of broken promises and disappointments**, Kofi struggled to trust people and was hesitant to open up and ask for help.

After seeing a friend of his talking with the **St. Marys Community Outreach Worker**, he decided to take a chance and reached out. Slowly, the Worker built trust with Kofi, allowing him to feel comfortable opening up about the struggles he'd faced and his hopes and fears about the future.

The Outreach Worker helped connect Kofi with community supports. He entered a program to address his mental health challenges, started looking for stable housing, and applied for the benefits to make his life easier.

Now, Kofi is doing better. He doesn't have place to call his own yet, but for the first time in many years, he can honestly say he sees a brighter future on the horizon thanks to this United Way supported program.

DONATIONS STAY IN ST. MARYS & AREA



Donate Today!

519.271.7730 32 Erie St.
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 St. Marys & Area



St. Marys & Area 2023 Impact!

- 110** families and individuals received counselling
- 5** at-risk youth received shelter support and a fresh start
- 4** youth accessed early intervention counselling
- 2** children who witnessed domestic violence received counselling
- 7** men accessed counselling and support for reintegration post incarceration
- 23** people received YMCA memberships for wellness and health



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.

Learn more here:
perthuron.unitedway.ca
/unitedhousing



FREE TAX CLINICS

10 to 12% of Canadians don't file their taxes.*
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 taxes. United Way is pleased to support an expansion of this poverty reduction program.

*(Robson & Schwartz, 2020)



The *St. Marys Community Outreach Worker* offers facilitation, education, and referrals for residents needing support including life skills, mental health, homelessness, and addictions, along with providing short-term support and help connecting people to services, and delivering community education and outreach, including neighbourhood mediation.

82 people connected with services



Food insecurity is linked to learning difficulties, obesity, reduced productivity for kids at school, and poorer mental health. *Nourish* helps mitigate the effects of poverty by offering wholesale prices on fresh vegetables, fruits, and meat to residents facing food insecurity, providing a dignified shopping experience.

1,467 visits at the Equal Access Market

Helping people like May



"Getting older, losing your independence is one of the worst things you face.

"Living on my own, going where I wanted. I guess I took it for granted until I couldn't get around so well. Even a trip to the grocery store became difficult with all the walking. Plus, because of packaging, I often had to buy more food than I needed.

"Then I discovered the Nourish Market.

"Not only do they offer affordable, fresh produce and meats, but I can buy one or two of something which is all I need. They'll even take my shopping out to my car!

"Thanks to Nourish and the support they receive from United Way, I've seen my life change for the better. I'm more connected with my community, and I've been able to keep my independence, which is so important."



27 individuals & families received financial assistance last year in St. Marys

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



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!