

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)



Social Research & Planning Council

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

Helping people like Evangeline



"I still remember the pain I felt leaving behind everything.

"I moved away from home after coming out to my family. They didn't kick me out, but they didn't take it well either, so I knew I had to find a place I was accepted for who I was.

"Even though I left a lot of stress behind, it was still tough. I wanted to connect with people in my new home, but I struggled with anxiety, depression, and anger. Then I found out about Family Services Perth Huron and the help they provide thanks to support from United Way. A therapist worked with me to deal with my emotions, helping me become less anxious. This gave me the courage to start meeting people—especially within the 2SLGBTQ+ community—and my well-being improved. I am thankful for the help. It made all the difference in the world and led me to lifelong friendships."

A BETTER TOMORROW STARTS WITH



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 Stratford & Area



Stratford & Area 2023 Impact!

- 32** youth received early intervention counselling to avoid a crisis
- 76** men assisted with reintegration planning upon release from jail
- 152** people participated in food skills training
- 32** at-risk youth received shelter support and a fresh start
- 31** children who witnessed violence received counselling
- 959** people received counselling to improve mental 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:
perthhuron.unitedway.ca
/unitedhousing



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 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 pathways out of poverty.

312 people accessed the the Centre in one year

Helping people like Leon



Leon never thought he'd be facing homelessness.

As a new Canadian, he worked hard to build a life and felt blessed to have a job and a safe place to live.

Then Leon was let go from his job, and his life started to unravel.

Without a job he couldn't pay his bills and because the place he worked also provided his apartment, he lost his home too. **Leon didn't know where to turn until he found the United Way Connection Centre in his community.**

Now, Leon is doing better. Staff worked with him to find a place to stay, apply for EI, and connect with counselling to cope with the trauma of losing everything he'd worked so hard to build. Finally, Leon can breathe again and he is looking forward to starting on the next chapter of his journey.



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

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



Our 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 vulnerable individuals and families.

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



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