

Understanding the issues



Lack of Housing

148 households experiencing homelessness in Stratford-Perth-St. Marys. (Stratford Social Services, Apr. 2025)
The average asking rent for a one-bedroom unit is **\$1,594/month**. (Stratford Social Services, 2024)



Low Income

Around 9% of people in Perth County live in low-income households, including 735 children. (StatsCan, 2021 Census)



Food Insecurity

1 in 3 Ontario children live in a household struggling to put food on the table. (PROOF, new data on household food insecurity, 2024)



Access to Services

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



Intimate Partner Violence

4,779 intimate partner violence crisis calls were received by shelter services in Stratford-Perth-St. Marys in one year. (StopVAW, 2024)



Mental Health

Use of an emergency department for psychiatric reasons is **two times higher** in rural vs. urban Ontario. (ROMA, Fill the Gaps Closer to Home, 2024)



Discrimination

69% of immigrants and visible minorities and 81% of Indigenous people in Perth-Huron reported experiencing discrimination, compared to 49% 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 Avery



"I was born with a developmental disability that affects my ability to communicate and navigate social situations. Growing up, I always felt like I was on the outside.

"My parents did everything they could to try to help, but I still felt very alone.

"I wanted so badly to fit in.

"I was relieved when I met my therapist, who shared they worked with other individuals who struggled in similar ways. It showed me I wasn't alone, and that there are some people who really do care.

"Slowly but surely, I began to develop confidence. I started making friends at school and participating in robotics club.

"Thanks to the help from this United Way supported program, I began to feel proud of who I am. I'd like to attend College after high school, and for the first time, it feels possible."

DONATIONS STAY IN NORTH PERTH



Donate Today!

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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

North
Perth



North Perth 2024 Impact!

5 at-risk youth received shelter support and a fresh start.

14 youth connected with a caring mentor.

157 calls to 211 to discover and connect with local services.

160 individuals, families, and seniors received counselling.

3 youth received early intervention counselling to avoid a crisis.

9 children who witnessed violence received trauma counselling.



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

Supported 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.

Read more here:
unitedhousingperthhuron.ca

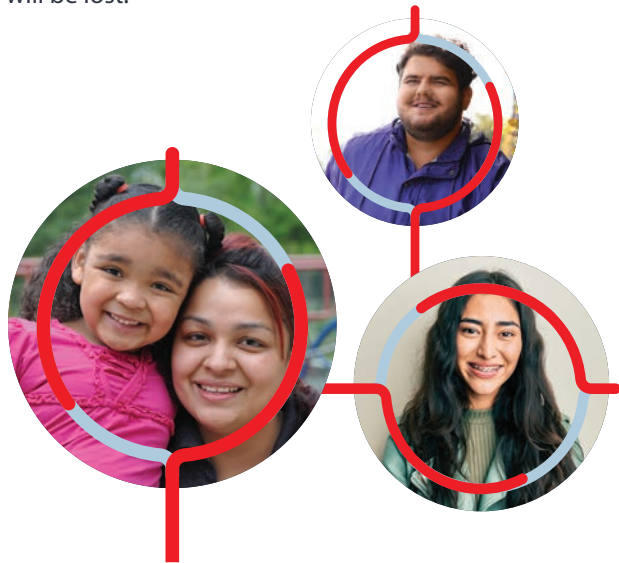


North Perth Project

The first United Housing development in Perth-Huron!

Located at 190–198 Main Street West Main Street in Listowel, the Music Hall Apartments aims to offer ten apartment units by 2026.

A mix of affordable, workplace, and market rental units, the North Perth development is intended to bring people into the downtown, where amenities and services already are. This project also doesn't alter the streetscape, making it a part of the current community. As an added benefit, by developing under-utilized space within Listowel's existing boundaries, the project is greener, and no agricultural land will be lost.



Supporting local youth, adults and seniors

Mental health and well-being are critical to a strong community and North Perth has demonstrated a commitment to United Way supported programs that help improve the mental health of local people in their time of need.

The Youth Counselling, Supports and Mentoring program provides early intervention service for youth and their families, aiming to reduce demand for more serious interventions by improving coping skills and general well-being.

United Way is also committed to funding counselling programs for other individuals and families to help ensure vulnerable people get the support they need to face life's challenges.

163 North Perth residents received help to improve mental health & well-being

Helping people like Marg



"Things weren't going well.

"I moved to be closer to my daughter, but then she moved as well, leaving me behind in a community I didn't know. I felt alone and in a very dark place.

"I started counselling to deal with my grief, isolation and depression: feelings I've wrestled with for years. My first suicide attempt was at age nine, and I've tried many times since.

"My family disowned me as a teenager after I told them my older brother abused me. I never dealt with that pain and lived alone for a long time, often working multiple jobs to survive. I'm recovering from substance use and was in an abusive relationship that left me with PTSD and a brain injury.

"Counselling has helped me understand the impact of trauma on my life and how to move forward. I've found strength in telling my truth and breaking cycles I've been stuck in for years.

"I'm so grateful to United Way supported counselling for providing me with a safe place to share my story and find hope again."



Recent shifts including tariffs and rising prices have put added stress on society and dramatically increased the need for support.



The **Community Outreach Worker** offers facilitation, community education and referrals for residents needing support including life skills, mental health, homelessness and addictions, as well as providing short-term support and help connecting people to services.

100 people connected with services



The **Urgent Needs Fund** supports Perth-Huron residents in a time of crisis with a financial support for essentials. It is part of a broader strategy to prevent homelessness and mitigate the effects of poverty.

8 individuals & families received financial assistance last year in North Perth

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



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

