



february 27
2027

Annual winter peer-to-peer fundraising walk in support of programs helping those facing hurt, hunger & homelessness.

...because
it's cold out
there



Walking in a town near you!

Exeter, Goderich, Wingham, Clinton, Blyth, Lucknow, Zurich & Seaforth.

Living Wage

The concept of a living wage goes beyond income. It's about quality of life. Calculated annually, the living wage shows what a worker needs to earn to cover basic expenses and participate more fully in their community.

The living wage is a response to the rise of precarious employment and a key part of economic growth. It provides workers with a better way of life, benefits employers and helps build more vibrant, healthy communities. Learn more about the living wage at perthhuron.unitedway.ca/research/living-wage/



Social Research & Planning

The SRPC includes community volunteers dedicated to increasing well-being by researching local social justice issues such as poverty reduction, housing security, access to services and equity. The SRPC helps United Way understand root causes of issues and mobilize the community to create effective solutions.

In the past year, United Way deepened our impact through research and consultation led by the SRPC, including reports on the housing crisis and the experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ residents, as well as the launch of *United Insights*, a blog that shares research and community perspectives.



Social Research &
Planning Council



READ
REPORTS

United Housing

United Housing is the region's first non-profit housing organization dedicated to developing and operating mixed rental units. It works across the region to create affordable living spaces through renovations, retrofits, acquisitions and new builds, as well as operating existing and newly built housing — helping ensure everyone lives in housing that is affordable and suitable to their needs.



**UNITED
HOUSING**

Ways to Give:

Online
perthhuron.unitedway.ca

Mail
32 Erie St., Stratford
ON N5A 2M4

Phone
519.271.7730
877.818.8867
M-F 9 am-5 pm



**United Way
Perth-Huron**

@UnitedWayPH

BN 119278414RR0001

United Way Perth-Huron is
a Living Wage Employer



Huron



**United Way
Perth-Huron**

GOING HYPER-LOCAL IN A COMMUNITY NEAR YOU!

Thanks to enthusiastic volunteers and a commitment to solving issues using a hyper-local approach, we're able to help more people. We connect with area residents through *Community Committees* to discover the issues that matter most in the places they call home, then work with partners to create solutions that effectively meet local needs.



- Southern Huron Community Committee
- Mid-Huron Community Committee
- Northern Huron Community Committee

LOCAL CHALLENGES



HOUSING

151 households are experiencing homelessness in Huron.

Huron County Social Services, April 2026



POVERTY

19.8% of households in Huron-Perth experience food insecurity.

Public Health Ontario, 2024



MENTAL HEALTH

1 in 3 Canadians will experience a mental health issue in their lifetime.

Cdn. Institute for Health Information, 2025



ACCESS TO SERVICES

Small communities in Perth-Huron have limited access to essentials such as health care and medication.



INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

1,372 IPV crisis calls received by shelter services in Huron.

Artemis and Victim Services, 2025-2026



DISCRIMINATION

69% of immigrants and visible minorities and 81% of Indigenous people in Huron reported experiencing discrimination.

Huron County Immigration Partnership, 2021

LAURA'S JOURNEY



When Laura first went to the Northern Huron Connection Centre, she was overwhelmed with stress. Faced with mounting debt and possible eviction, Laura felt like she was failing herself and her daughter, even though she worked so hard for everything she had.

As a young mother, she was doing everything she could, but the pressure of making ends meet never let up. Laura hadn't filed her taxes for years and she couldn't afford help to do them. But each missed year meant lost benefits and more stress, even as she tried desperately to keep her head above water.

At the Connection Centre, Laura was introduced to the local volunteer tax program. With guidance and care, her returns were filed — and the results changed everything: she was eligible for more than \$76,000 in credits and refunds!

For the first time in years, she could breathe.

That support allowed Laura to pay off debt and begin rebuilding her life, restoring a sense of stability. Now, instead of constant worry, she has a new, hopeful path forward. Laura and her daughter are preparing to move into a new apartment, one offering more than just shelter, but the promise of a fresh start.

SIGNATURE INITIATIVES

United Way Perth-Huron is more than a funder, we are a community builder. By bringing people and organizations together, we work across sectors to address complex issues like poverty, housing and mental health. Through innovative initiatives, partnerships, research and advocacy, we help strengthen the entire system, creating short- and long-term solutions to pressing issues and ensuring vulnerable people get the help they need, when they need it.

CONNECTION CENTRES

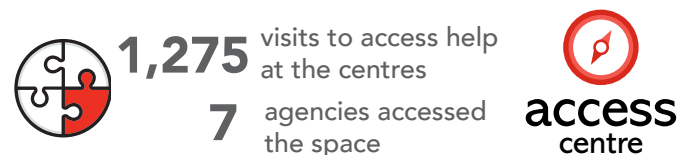
Connection Centres empower individuals to move toward a brighter future by connecting them with allies and supports. They are safe places for vulnerable people to access basic needs including shower and laundry facilities, food and clothing. The forging of social ties and trust between participants, volunteers and staff leads to client referrals to services with the goal of creating pathways out of poverty.



Work is already underway on a potential United Way Connection Centre in Goderich. More details to come!

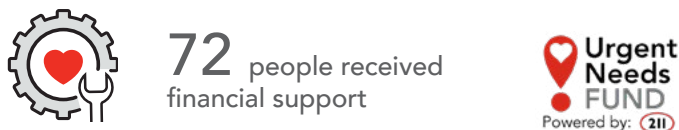
EXETER & VANASTRA ACCESS CENTRES

Access Centres offer people a central, easy-to-reach location where they can find information and assistance. It's an important step toward improving access to programs and services for everyone across our region. These centres are part of United Way's strategy to address transportation challenges and other barriers in our rural regions by offering space for organizations to bring services to communities that otherwise would not have them.



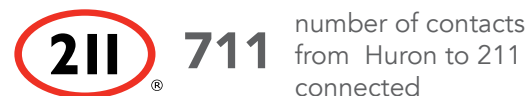
URGENT NEEDS FUND

The fund supports residents in a time of crisis with financial assistance for essentials including rent, groceries and emergency car repairs. To access the fund, dial 2-1-1. A trained navigator will assess a caller's challenges, determine if the fund is the best option and help begin the application.



211 ONTARIO

211 Ontario is a free, confidential live answer helpline, available 24/7/365 in over 150 languages. 211 navigators are trained to refer anyone looking for assistance to available local services to help with their unique needs.



COLLABORATION IN ACTION

SOCIAL CHALLENGES RARELY HAVE ONE SOLUTION. UNITED WAY HAS MANY PARTNERS AND SUPPORTS A VARIETY OF SERVICES. THROUGH STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS IN LOCAL AGENCIES, WE HELP MAXIMIZE THE SUPPORT BEING PROVIDED TO OUR MOST VULNERABLE RESIDENTS.



HOUSING STABILITY

BRIDGE HOUSING & STABILITY

Transitions vulnerable individuals out of homelessness and into stable and supportive environments: offering safety to those in need of rest, food and connection to services.

18 people facing homelessness served



HURON TURNING POINT

Provided transitional housing for individuals in Huron County.

12 clients helped



HURON SAFE HOMES FOR YOUTH

Provided intensive longer-term support services to young people who have limited or absent parental/natural supports.

29 youth benefited from the Extended Care program



JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY

Provided institutional visiting and supports to help individuals reintegrate in their community.

23 individuals accessed counselling and reintegration support post-incarceration



INCLUSION

YMCA

The Recreation, Arts and Sports Program helps children participate in activities that build confidence and belonging, ensuring families can access activities supporting well-being and healthy development.

148 children received financial help to participate in extracurriculars



EQUITY SUPPORT

KASWENTHA/TWO ROW NOW

Develops and hosts cultural programs promoting social connectedness and belonging for Indigenous students and families. Awareness raising events and teaching circles are open to all who have an interest in learning about Indigenous cultural ways. This collaborative organization is guided by Indigenous teachers, speakers and knowledge holders who follow the values of the Kaswenha/Two Row wampum.

2,673 people across Huron and Perth attended Indigenous-led meetings and events

Kaswenha Two Row Now



SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES ESCAPING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

ARTEMIS HURON WOMEN'S SHELTER

Provided emergency shelter and support services to women and children who experienced gender-based violence.

43 women & children stayed at emergency shelter



POVERTY MITIGATION

HURON COUNTY FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

Access to nutritious food reduces poverty by easing tough choices between paying for food or other basics, improving health and productivity, and helping people focus on building a more stable life.

33 agencies provided with nutritious food



FREE TAX CLINICS

If people don't file their taxes, they can't claim the refunds and benefits they're entitled to. By dialing 2-1-1, seniors, newcomers, students, and those receiving social assistance can find the nearest volunteer-led free clinic and get help filing their taxes. United Way proudly supports the expansion of this important poverty reduction program.

1,098 tax returns filed

\$3.2M in benefits and refunds obtained



CONNIE'S JOURNEY

From the outside, it looked like Connie was fine: two young kids, a stable home and a circle of friends. But the reality of her life was very different.

Behind closed doors, Connie was living with the effects of intimate partner violence — assessing the risks of every decision she made and carrying the weight of her trauma. At the same time, she was navigating the legal system, making appointments, filling out paperwork, and going to court, all while trying to shield her children as best she could.

It was exhausting.

Then Connie connected with Artemis Huron. Through outreach counselling, she found space to speak openly and begin to heal. Child and youth care supports helped her children feel safe and supported. Slowly, things began to change. With each conversation and connection, Connie began to rebuild her life.

Today, Connie is moving forward with strength and determination. The fear hasn't disappeared entirely, but her confidence has grown — and her children feel it, too. Their sense of security is returning. Their routine is becoming steady again. Connie's journey hasn't been easy, but she has regained her confidence to move forward because she knows she is not alone.

