

# Huron County Is a Caring Community.

Welcoming a dispersed model of  
supportive housing in Huron.



**HEART TO HOME**

Preventing & Addressing Homelessness in Huron County

# Huron is a caring community.

The County of Huron is working towards the creation of a dispersed, or scattered-site, model of supportive housing. In a 'scattered-site' model, a smaller number of units are dispersed among multiple buildings or properties in multiple communities. This method of supportive housing offers significant integration opportunities within the broader community and allows individuals greater opportunity to remain in their own community.

## Who is Huron Heart to Home?

Huron Heart to Home is comprised of County of Huron staff who are focused on preventing and addressing homelessness in Huron County. These staff connect people to community, local organizations, and resources that can help a person access long term housing. Together with community partners, Huron Heart to Home manages the Out of the Cold emergency shelter, and are working on developing a Housing First strategy for Huron County that would reduce, or eliminate, the County's dependency on costly emergency solutions in the future.

## What is supportive housing?

### **It's a Home**

Supportive housing is a housing first approach to homelessness that provides those experiencing temporary or chronic homelessness with immediate access to a permanent housing solution.

### **Plus Supports**

In addition to housing, wrap-around supports are provided that may include: meals, mental health and addiction supports, medical services, financial assistance, life skills, counselling, and employment services.

*Learn more about Supportive Housing:*

[www.HuronCountyConnects.ca/heart-to-home](http://www.HuronCountyConnects.ca/heart-to-home)

## Ignoring homelessness won't make it go away.

Homelessness is already in Huron. As the number of people experiencing homelessness locally grows, so does the strain on the services who provide support such as shelters, funding partners, food banks, law enforcement and healthcare providers.

### 100 individuals experiencing homelessness in Huron (2018)

The next enumeration project will take place in November 2021 and it is anticipated that the number of people experiencing homelessness in Huron has grown.

### 48 guests at the *Huron County Out of the Cold* emergency shelter (2020/21)

In addition to this, individuals and households were temporarily sheltered in local motel rooms to ensure physical distancing during peak COVID-19 periods.

Since the opening of the shelter in 2020, 16 individuals have been successfully, permanently homed with assistance from the Heart to Home Stability Team.

### 500+ individuals waiting for rent-geared-to-income (RGI) properties (2021)

This number has more than doubled from 239 individuals in 2015. RGI properties are one of the best methods Huron has to prevent homelessness.

## The real cost of homelessness

***"For high-needs participants, every \$10 investment in housing assistance with individualized support services resulted in average savings of \$21.72 (in averted costs for hospitalizations and other services)."***

*Ontario.ca/housingstrategy*

Average monthly cost of housing someone while homeless.



## Supportive housing can improve the quality of life for everyone.

Supportive housing makes for good neighbours. When individuals are 'sleeping rough' and living outdoors it can be detrimental, even life threatening, for the individual and possibly disruptive to a community. In this situation, many community partners must become involved, often under emergency circumstances, including supportive agencies, law enforcement, and health professionals.

When individuals are homed, they have a safe and secure place to go 24 hours a day, year round, reducing the potential for disruptions in the community and preventing exposure risks to the individual. Supportive services can be provided on-site regularly, minimizing risks for everyone. Expenses are reduced as the need for emergency support lessens. By homing individuals using a housing first philosophy, homelessness is immediately reduced in a community.

Through supportive housing individuals can be helped in meaningful ways. Individuals with stable housing have greater opportunities to improve their health and personal wellbeing and can become successfully reintegrated into a community.

It takes an entire community, including multiple levels of government, many stakeholders, and certainly the public and neighbours, to create a welcoming atmosphere for supported and affordable housing. This makes a meaningful difference to everyone in our community.

## Huron County is a caring community.

Huron County is a vibrant and diverse community that acknowledges that everyone deserves access to safe and affordable housing. Huron residents know that by caring for our most vulnerable community members, we can improve the quality of life for everyone.

Huron Heart to Home hopes that Huron will welcome a dispersed model of supportive housing in the community as a means to reduce and eventually solve homelessness.

*The Corporation of the County of Huron is dedicated to enhancing the social and economic well-being of Huron County through the creation and preservation of affordable housing. The County supports an individual's fundamental right to housing without discrimination as protected under Ontario's Human Rights Code.*