



United Way
Perth-Huron

CONNECTION
CENTRES



900
individuals
accessed
services
last year

ABOUT

An initiative led by United Way, Connection Centres are housing-based programs staffed by, or with access to, Housing Stability Workers and supported by trained volunteers serving local individuals experiencing homelessness or who are otherwise vulnerable.

Centres are region-specific and focus on collaboration to provide wrap-around supports including trauma-informed care, substance use and mental health counselling, as well as basic needs.

LOCATIONS

Southern Huron
In Exeter, operated by
the *Community Table*

595 UNIQUE VISITORS
9,895 TOTAL VISITS

Stratford
Operated by CMHA
233 UNIQUE VISITORS
5,418 TOTAL VISITS

Northern Huron
In Wingham,
operated by CMHA
72 UNIQUE VISITORS
859 TOTAL VISITS



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Huron-Perth
Addiction and
Mental Health Services



VALUES

VOLUNTARY:

Empower participants with dignity and choice.

CLIENT-CENTRED:

Focuses on access to basic needs and prioritizes building trust with participants.

HOUSING-FOCUSED:

Goal is returning people to permanent accommodation as quickly as possible.



SERVICES

INFORMAL / BASIC NEEDS



Warming/
Cooling relief



Shower &
restroom



Laundry
facilities



Storage for
valuables



Footware,
blankets, etc.



Phone/Wi-Fi
& computers



Social
connection



Food

MORE FORMAL SUPPORT FROM STAFF



Applications
and document
completion



Creating and advancing
move-in readiness
strategies



Healthcare
service referrals



Legal Aid
referral



Ontario Works/
ODSP navigation



Mental health
& addiction
counselling

ELLIOT'S JOURNEY

"I walked into the Connection Centre for the fourth time this month. I had a doctor's appointment the next day and thought I should wash my clothes. When I went downstairs, I smelled shepherd's pie. My grandma used to make that for me. I haven't had it in about a year — not since I got evicted from my place.

I wish I could make shepherd's pie for my kids, but I haven't seen them for a long time. I really miss them.

Lately, I haven't been able to sleep. I keep seeing the faces of my army buddies. To feel better, I started drinking. Then I needed something stronger. I just want my brain to stop.

Sara at the Connection Centre is helping me make a plan to see my kids. There are three steps: I need to get my ID and some other documents, stay sober for six months and get a spot in a transitional housing program.

So far I'm 26 days sober so there's still work to do, but today I'm at the Connection Centre doing my laundry and eating shepherd's pie. That feels like a good start."

HOW IT WORKS

Trust between attendees and staff can be built and facilitated through repeat visits, creating opportunities for attendees to engage with more formal supports that can make a real difference in finding housing.





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DOUG'S JOURNEY

When Doug first came to the Connection Centre he was unemployed, sleeping outside and using substances to cope with his anxiety and stress.

Finding housing, keeping appointments and filling out forms felt overwhelming when every day was a struggle to find his next meal and a safe place to rest.

Doug kept coming back to the Centre where he was welcomed.

Over time, he built trust with the staff — people who met him where he was, without judgment. They helped him take one step at a time and celebrated every bit of progress.

After two years of living rough, Doug was able to move into housing with help from Connection Centre staff. Finally, he had a safe place stay and a foundation to rebuild his life. He also started exploring support for his mental health to help him stay on track.

Your support ensures that people like Doug can find hope and a better life.

**BECAUSE EVERYONE
DESERVES DIGNITY,
CARE & RESPECT**



WAYS TO DONATE

Online

perthhuron.unitedway.ca

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M-F 9 a.m.–5 p.m.



*Stories are based on real situations. We have used generic photos and some details were changed to protect privacy.