

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 2, 2023

United Way Announces Current Homelessness Response through Reaching Home Investment totalling \$1.8 million

PETERBOROUGH, ON (February 2, 2023) – Today in the training centre of the John Howard Society on Stewart Street, United Way Peterborough & District CEO Jim Russell announced the current round of funding to address critical needs in our community related to homelessness. The United Way is the Community Entity for **Reaching Home: Canadas Homelessness Strategy**.

A total investment of \$1,798,667 was distributed to 8 community partners. This funding has been provided in addition to the ongoing, multi-year Reaching Home partnerships that the United Way holds with YES Shelter for Youth and Families, Fourcast, and the Elizabeth Fry Society.

“Our current shelter system is strained to meet the needs of all those community members experiencing homelessness. It is imperative that any investment is strategic, encourages partnerships, and puts the needs of those individuals, our neighbors, at the forefront of service and intervention” states Russell.

Joining Russell at today’s announcement were representatives from the following organizations:

- **Canadian Mental Health Association Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge**
- **Community Counselling and Resource Centre**
- **Elizabeth Fry**
- **One City Peterborough**
- **Fourcast**
- **John Howard Society**
- **Research for Social Change Lab - Trent University**
- **Peterborough Housing Corporation**

The coalition of partners is dedicated to ending homelessness in Peterborough and will be administering programs encompassing outreach, supportive housing, purchasing housing stock, partnering with private sector landlords, transitional housing, research, winter warming room. Please see the attached summary for program descriptions and funding amounts.



United Way
Peterborough & District

Canada

Kathy Neil, Executive Director of the John Howard Society, who hosted the media event noted, **“I am excited by the energy in this community and desire to work together as partners with the goal of ending homelessness.”**

This funding will run through until March 31st, 2024 noted Russell. **“We all have a stake morally, economically and in particular as a human rights issue to end homelessness.”**

For further information, please contact:

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2022-2024 Reaching Home Recipients

Agency	Project	Description	Amount
Canadian Mental Health Association - Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge (CMHA HKPR)	Pilot Garden Home Project	CMHA HKPR will enter into an agreement of purchase and sale with Metrosuites Inc., to build a modular pre-built garden home, that would be constructed and delivered as a turnkey one bedroom building suitable for one individual currently on the City of Peterborough’s by-name-priority list.	\$150,000
Collaboration between: CMHA HKPR Community Counselling Resource Centre (CCRC) One City Peterborough	Finding Home	A collaborative project between CMHA, CCRC and One City to support individuals who have been identified as being involved with Housing Unit Takeovers (HUTS), both the individual legally entitled to the unit and the individuals “squatting”. Through the coordination of services, the three organizations will work with the individuals involved in the HUTS to reach out and support them in a variety of ways with the ultimate goal of connecting them to appropriate housing.	\$488,489
Elizabeth Fry Society of Peterborough (EFry)	Pathway Peer Housing Program	This project expands the “Wings of Change” program to include criminalized men experiencing homelessness. EFRY will employ a Housing coordinator and a housing worker with lived experience to provide to secure safe / stable housing for criminalized men, with priority given to indigenous men. The housing worker will assist with housing searches, provide advocacy and landlord mediation and housing rights training.	\$257,034



Fourcast	Reaching Home Stabilization Fund	The funding will be used to support and retain 3-4 identified landlords who are interested in housing clients on the By-Name-Priority-List. The project will provide a dedicated fund to mitigate costs such as property damages due to tenant behaviour or the actions of guests (wanted or otherwise) or hostile unit takeovers. Funds will also be used to fund the “Bridge Housing Option”, a short-term accommodation designed to transition people from homelessness to permanent housing.	\$139,808
Collaboration between: John Howard Society of Peterborough One City Peterborough	Actualizing Community as a Housing Strategy	The project aims to provide better and affordable housing by: Building Client Capacity, Improving Agency Capacity and Increasing Community Capacity. To achieve these, funding for the project will be used to: 1. Hire a full-time case manager (Resident Life Coordinator) to provide care in a 24/7 supervised house, giving residents a consistent support system and point of contact 2. Hire a part-time Housing Support Worker position to increase current capacity of One City's housing team 3. Hire a capacity-building position, housed at One City and working jointly with John Howard as well as other community organizations providing housing services to explore community building strategies within congregate housing	\$235,977
One City Peterborough	Community Homes	The funding will be used towards the purchase and renovation of a house on Collison Crescent as a 8-bed facility which will provide transitional/supportive housing for individuals who are homeless or at risk on homelessness.	\$219,000



Peterborough Housing Corporation	Hunt Terrace Supportive Housing	The project commits 40 units of The Hunt Terrace building at 555 Bonaccord St. as inventory to the City of Peterborough's By Name Priority List of people experiencing chronic homelessness, broken down as follows: - 20 units dedicated to Alternative Level of Care (ALC) beds from Peterborough Regional Health Centre - 6 units dedicated to the VON wait list for people requiring assisted living services - 15 units dedicated to the City of Peterborough's By Name List of people experiencing homelessness	\$197,512
One City Peterborough	Stop Gap – Overnight Drop In	This funding is supporting One City's operation of Stop Gap, the overnight drop-in program at Trinity United Church. The program operates between 8PM and 8AM, 7 days a week, from January 16 th 2023 until April 30 th 2023.	\$61,659
Research for Social Change Lab Trent University	Investigating Shelter (In)Justice in Peterborough	Documenting how Peterborough's Coordinated Access System works in practice.	\$49,188

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Thursday, February 2nd, 2023 – 10:30 AM
John Howard Society of Peterborough – 305 Stewart Street

Note: The entrance for the media event is off of the back of the building and is accessible by going around the north side of the building. Parking on site is unavailable but there is street parking along Stewart and surrounding streets.

Welcome and Introduction

Jim Russell, CEO, United Way Peterborough & District

Partnerships and Collaboration

Kathy Neil, Executive Director, John Howard Society of Peterborough

Innovation and Program Development

Jennifer Bain, Manager of Supportive Housing, Canadian Mental Health Association Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge

Annie Hedden, Program Manager, Housing Resource Centre, Community Counselling Resource Centre

Christian Harvey, Co-Executive Director, One City Peterborough

Responding to emerging priorities

Debbie Carriere, Executive Director, Elizabeth Fry Society of Peterborough

Holistic responses to homelessness

Donna Rogers, Executive Director, Fourcast

Systems-level research

Mary Anne Martin, Post-Doctoral Researcher, Research for Social Change Lab at Trent University

Capital investments

Jennifer Bain, Canadian Mental Health Association Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge

Hope Lee, Executive Director, Peterborough Housing Corporation

Christian Harvey, Co-Executive Director, One City Peterborough

Closing remarks

Jim Russell, CEO, United Way Peterborough & District