

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



North Simcoe, like many other communities, has seen an increase in those experiencing homelessness and/or at-risk of homelessness. COVID-19 has played a significant role in the past 2 years with limited supports, and high rental prices.

Shelter Now is an active advocate in the community, supporting initiatives related to poverty, homelessness, and support services. North Simcoe’s average market rent has inflated far beyond the reach of those we serve. Shelter Now currently offers transitional housing in Midland Ontario. This housing is designed to offer temporary case management support and accommodation for those experiencing homelessness. The goal of transitional housing is aimed at helping individuals to transition to long term permanent housing in the community. Our team of support staff spends hours every week looking for permanent housing options for our clients, and there just isn’t enough.

2018 and 2020 Simcoe County Homelessness Enumeration Survey identified North Simcoe to have the second highest number of people experiencing homelessness next to Barrie. We need more affordable housing options, including Supportive Housing. In the 2020 Homelessness Enumeration Survey 563 unique households were experiencing homelessness in Simcoe County. 23% of participants reside in North Simcoe. 31% of those surveyed identified as Indigenous, 67% of participants identified as also having a mental health issue, 61% of people identified as having a substance use issue, and 64% of participants were experiencing chronic homelessness.



32-SUPPORTIVE HOUSING UNITS

Shelter Now is pleased to announce the development of 32 supportive housing units located at 860 Yonge St in Midland. These units will offer affordable housing and supports to those most vulnerable in our community.

This development is supported by Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative, The Weber Foundation, The Town of Midland, Town of Penetanguishene, Township of Tiny, and Township of Tay. We are in the home stretch of our capital campaign looking to the community to help us reach our fundraising goal. Donations can be made directly to Shelter Now

Expected occupancy date is May 2023

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SNAPSHOT OF 2022

The COVID-19 Pandemic has increased the need of those seeking services. Isolation and reduced access to supports and group programming have had a negative impact on our client's well-being. As we move into 2022, we are hopeful to see group programming and community supports get back to regular activities.

In April Simcoe County is launching a new Coordinated Access System for those experiencing homelessness. This system is a community-wide strategy to help prevent homelessness and match individuals and families experiencing homelessness to housing and support resources.

Participating agencies in Simcoe County's Homeless Services and Supports System work together to assess people's housing-related needs and connect them to available supports to find and keep housing.

Shelter Now will be transitioning to this system and supporting the initiative to end chronic homelessness in Simcoe County.

To learn more visit <https://bfzcanada.ca/getting-to-zero/>



LIFE SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Shelter Now uses the Wraparound Model of care and Housing First Philosophy. This model allows us to build a network of supports while also working on housing placements, with NO housing readiness requirements.

We offer case management supports unique to each individual along with educational programs, life skill development and family reunification.

Those in Transitional Housing are moved to permanent housing once they have reached their goals and have the skills to maintain housing. We work with a wide range of housing programs, such as social housing, rent supplement programs, The Housing First Program, Supported living programs, and shelter programs. We try to match participants with the most appropriate housing options.



ADVOCACY

ADVOCACY IN NORTH SIMCOE

Shelter Now is a community advocate for homelessness. We are represented on many committees including:

- Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness and Community Advisory Board- Committee member
- North Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness (NSCATEH)-Chair of the Chapter
- Simcoe County Homelessness Enumeration REAC Team. North Simcoe Lead for 2018, 2020, and 2022 Homelessness Enumeration
- Indigenous Community Advisory Board-committee member
- Built for Zero Planning Team- Simcoe County Coordinated Access System-Committee member



TEAM DEPOT COMMUNITY GARDEN

COMMUNITY GARDEN

- Shelter Now has been partnering with Team Home Depot for the past 10 years to plant a Community Garden. Volunteers assist Shelter Now residents with learning how to plant vegetables and how to maintain the garden. All plants are donated through the volunteers at Home Depot.
- The Community Garden offers a tranquil place to work and learn new skills, while also providing healthy food security.





FRIENDSHIP GAZEBO



ELMVALE AND DISTRICT
FOOD BANK

THANKS FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT

- Through the generous support from the Alliance Church in Midland, Shelter Now has a beautiful Gazebo offering outdoor living space for our residents to enjoy the outdoors in all seasons.
- Through the generosity of the Elmvale and District Food Bank, Shelter Now is able to maintain a food pantry to assist those we work with to have access to food security

MISSION AND VISION:

Mission Statement: We support individuals and families to improve their well-being by providing housing, supports, connections, and opportunities in North Simcoe

Our Vision: We are valued community partners that believe everyone has the right to safe affordable housing and individualized supports.

To donate please visit
shelternow.ca

STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS

Shelter Now Staff

Executive Director: Sonia Ladouceur
Community Support Worker: Monika Hollander
Community Support Worker: Tonia Smith
Housing Support Worker: Jennifer Ritchie
Admin Assistant: Cynthia Rider

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