

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Guelph Community Foundation Releases Vital Focus on Housing and Homelessness in Guelph-Wellington**

**Community leaders call for continued action toward ending chronic homelessness**

**GUELPH-WELLINGTON, ON, October 22, 2026** – The Guelph Community Foundation, in partnership with sector leaders across Guelph-Wellington, released today the Vital Focus: An Overview of Housing and Homelessness in Guelph-Wellington, a report that provides a snapshot of housing and homelessness in our community and highlights evidence-based solutions and local action spotlights.

The Vital Focus combines local data, evidence-based research, and community insights to help residents better understand the realities of homelessness and the actions needed to address it.

The report notes that homelessness continues to be a significant challenge in Guelph-Wellington. As of July 2026, 308 people were experiencing chronic homelessness, with the median number of people entering homelessness each month exceeding the number exiting homelessness. At the same time, the report highlights local successes, including a 71 per cent reduction in chronic youth homelessness since 2018 and the development of new supportive and transitional housing projects across the region.

"This Vital Focus helps our community move beyond assumptions and focus on the realities facing people who live here," said Sarah Haanstra, Executive Director of the Guelph Community Foundation. "Housing and homelessness are complex issues that require a belief that we can do better, a community-wide commitment, and proven, evidence-based solutions. We are grateful to the organizations that contributed to this report and to their dedicated staff who work relentlessly so that everyone in Guelph and Wellington has access to a safe and stable place to call home."

The release coincides with continued momentum behind The Home for Good Campaign, a collaborative fundraising initiative, led by the Guelph Community Foundation and United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin. The Home for Good Campaign supports and raises money for the development of permanent housing solutions for people experiencing chronic homelessness. Since launching in 2021, the campaign has raised more than \$2.7 million to help local organizations create and expand supportive housing opportunities. As one resident of permanent supportive housing shared, "This place didn't just give me housing. It gave me back my voice, my confidence, and my future. And I'll never forget that."

"Homelessness is not inevitable. It is a challenge that can be addressed when communities work together to implement proven solutions," said Glenna Banda, Executive Director of United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin, speaking on behalf of The Home for Good Campaign. "This Vital Focus report demonstrates both the urgency of the need and the progress we can achieve when we invest in prevention, supportive housing, and coordinated community action. Every person deserves the dignity and stability of a place to call home."

This Vital Focus report was developed with guidance from an advisory committee and contributions from numerous organizations across the housing, health, social service, and philanthropic sectors. It aims to raise awareness and support informed community conversations, policy development, advocacy efforts, and collective action to address homelessness in Guelph-Wellington.

-30-

### **Community Advisory Committee Organizations**

Guelph Community Foundation, United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin, Guelph & Wellington Poverty Elimination Collaborative, Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health, Toward Common Ground, and the County of Wellington.

### **About Vital Focus and Vital Signs**

Vital Focus and Vital Signs Reports centralize data and information about the health and wellbeing of our community and make it available for interested community members. These reports are produced by the Guelph Community Foundation, in collaboration with community organizations and community members. Each report examines key social issues that affect people who live in Guelph-Wellington. These reports are intended to increase understanding, spark dialogue, and support evidence-informed action on important community priorities.

### **About The Home for Good Campaign**

The Home for Good Campaign is a collaborative community initiative that raises funds to support permanent housing solutions for people experiencing chronic homelessness in Guelph-Wellington. The campaign works alongside local housing and service organizations

to expand access to supportive housing and strengthen efforts to end chronic homelessness.

**Media Contact:**

Sarah Haanstra, Executive Director  
The Guelph Community Foundation  
PO Box 1311, Guelph, ON N1H 6N6  
519.821.9216 | [ed@guelphcf.ca](mailto:ed@guelphcf.ca)

**About The Guelph Community Foundation**

The Guelph Community Foundation is a registered Canadian charity that provides leadership in community philanthropy and enhances the quality of life for the people of Guelph and surrounding areas through endowments, stewardship, granting and legacy programs. Charitable gifts are pooled in permanent, interest earning endowments that support a range of charitable programs and activities. To learn more visit [guelphcf.ca](http://guelphcf.ca).