



Affordable Housing & Homelessness

Housing is a right, not a privilege. Everyone deserves a home.

A home provides the foundation for individual health and wellbeing and is the launching pad for positive social interactions and being engaged in your community. No one can reach their goals without safe, appropriate housing.



Over 8,300 households are on the wait list for an affordable unit in Waterloo Region. Wait time for community housing ranges from **3 to 8 years**.

Chronic homelessness has **increased 28% annually** since 2020.

A story of resilience from

Beyond headlines on local homelessness comes a story of resilience and hope from A Better Tent City (ABTC). Joe, a resident at ABTC, worked in construction before experiencing an injury, that led to a prescription that in turn led to a life changing addiction and the loss of what he calls a “normal good life”. His cabin is neat and clean and on one wall he has built shelves that hold photos of his smiling, young children.

He began to volunteer to do more jobs on site by shovelling and snow removal so that all residents (including the one who uses a wheelchair) could get to both the tent for food and to the washrooms. He built shelves, porches, and bed platforms for other residents. As his confidence grew and he took on more work, ABTC’s site coordinator shared stories of his good work in the community. Slowly, he began enjoying regular video calls with his kids. At times it is heartbreaking, but he knows that he is on a good path, with friends & supports.



Local Solutions

Thanks to your support, United Way WRC was able to provide funding to the following organizations, that list 'Affordable Housing & Homelessness' as their main cause area over the past 12 months:

Programs Changing Lives

- Emergency shelters & alternatives
- Supportive and transitional housing
- Supports and street outreach
- Prevention Supports



1. CBC (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/seniors-affordable-housing-retirement-building-waterloo-1.6877226>)

2. Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation (<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/629f5ec7c1e9382dc5ce72b9/t/6329b9a7e16a7911b4580c30/1663678894875/KWCF+2021+Waterloo+Region+Vital+Signs+Report+-+Affordable+Housing.pdf>)