

**Homelessness
and Housing
Umbrella Group (HHUG)**

**2016-2017
Annual Report**



HHUG

2016-2017 Message from the Chair- Kristine Dearlove

Waterloo Region has a collaborative, 'build on each other's strengths', collective action approach to ending homelessness. From this culture of connectedness, leaders of various housing and homelessness groups and people with lived experience created HHUG in 2005. The work of HHUG is aimed at ending homelessness by supporting & mobilizing the housing stability & related sectors, as well as the local community. We do this through education and awareness, advocacy and capacity building.

As a natural extension of these three aims, HHUG took on the role of SPDAT Trainer throughout the region this year. The goal is to adapt the tool to our local needs – our system, our culture, our priorities, our language – in way that works here. We will be building upon the capacity of the tool as well to ensure it's being used to its fullest potential, all the while maintaining its validity and integrity. We will also be able to train our system to use the tool to inform housing plans, connect with other communities and systems, and evaluate the comprehensive effectiveness of the whole. This peer-to-peer training is an example of how our housing stability sector is taking ownership of our work, our interconnectedness, and our engagement with the community. I know that with SPDAT, we will be many steps closer to ending homelessness in Waterloo Region.

HHUG is also taking on a more focused role in the community, spending more time in direct connections with the housing stability sector. Moving forward, we will be able to focus more on our digital presence and awareness building. Fortunately, HHUG has been able to hire Paula Last as our Administrative Assistant. Paula has the marketing, website design and focused attention to branding detail that HHUG is now ready for. Together, we are moving ever closer to fulfilling our vision where Waterloo Region is an inclusive community where everyone has the housing, income and support they need to make a home.

Everything that we do is thanks to the passion and commitment of our Steering Committee, our members, and our Initiatives Coordinator Lynn Macaulay. The energy and hope that is palatable throughout the community is thanks to the support that we receive from the Hockey Helps the Homeless Event, the Region of Waterloo, and Lutherwood. We know that if you care about people and their well-being, the first thing to do is help them to have a place to call home. When they have a place to live – where they want to live – everything else improves. We know this thanks to your ongoing support, and that's why we can make this happen.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The work of HHUG is supported by the Steering Committee. It met a total of six (6) times between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017. Meetings were held in April, July, September, October, January, and March. In November, the Steering Committee did not meet, but instead attended the National Housing Day celebrations. Steering Committee is responsible for the following:

- Making decisions and conducting business on behalf of the HHUG
- Providing direction to staff
- Developing and ensuring the implementation of the Annual Work Plan
- Planning HHUG Community Events (including the AGM and Housing Awards)
- Approving the establishment and work plan of any ad-hoc action committee
- Approving all correspondence on behalf of the HHUG
- Collecting, sharing, and coordinating other homelessness/housing group work plans
- Seeking out and addressing homelessness and housing issues

The 2016-2017 Steering Committee:

Name	Organization	HHUG Role(s)
Kristine Dearlove	Habitat for Humanity, Waterloo Region	Chair, Member-at-Large
Melissa Dunbar	Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries	Cambridge Representative
Ron Flaming	House of Friendship	Treasurer, Kitchener Representative
Jason Manseau	oneROOF Youth Services	Member at Large
Gael Gilbert **/ Rob Smith	Supportive Housing of Waterloo (SHOW)	Waterloo Representative
Charlotte Graham	Community Member	Member-at-Large
Pegg Leroux	St. Vincent de Paul	Member-at-Large
Kate Mahon **	Ray of Hope	Member-at-Large
Daniella McIntosh**/ Dan Vandebelt	Immigration Partnership	Member-at-Large
Marie Morrison** / Brad Berg	Region of Waterloo	Regional Representative
Michael Savage	Community Member	Executive Member, Member-at-Large
Jeff Schumacher	Region of Waterloo	Regional Representative
Joseph Richards	Waterloo Region Community Legal Services	Member-at-Large
Alex Troeger	Community Member	Member-at-Large
Lindsey White**	Lutherwood	Chair, Rural Representative
Andrea Wiebe**	House of Friendship	Member-at-Large

Ex-Officio Members of Steering Committee

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ROLE
Judith Binder	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	Consultant
Mira Fortino	Social and Economic Development	Consultant

	Canada	
Paula Last	HHUG	Staff
Lynn Macaulay	HHUG	Staff

**Resigned part way through the year.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES:

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS EVENTS

- **HHUG AGM and RTA Changes Forum– June 1, 2016**

On June 1st approximately 75 people attended the HHUG AGM and forum on proposed changes to the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA). During the HHUG AGM, highlights of the past year’s accomplishments were shared. The 2016-2017 Steering Committee was elected.

HHUG was pleased to partner with Waterloo Region Community Legal Services to offer a community forum on the Government of Ontario discussion paper on proposed changes to the Residential Tenancies Act. Participants were asked to comment on how a number of proposed changes would impact lower income tenants. As a result, HHUG and WRCLS sent a joint submission to the Ministry of Housing.

[Link to submission:](#)

<http://www.hhug.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/HHUG-and-WRCLS-Submssion.pdf>

- **Hockey Helps the Homeless- October 28, 2016**

The Third Annual Hockey Helps the Homeless tournament was held at RIM Park. On this day, 225 players on 16 teams joined 32 professional hockey players for a day long tournament. This year the expansion of co-ed teams continued and as a result, 12 male NHL alumni were joined by four female alumni from the Canadian National Hockey Team. The day is made possible by the over 119 volunteers who shared their time and talents. This year a total of over 2,100 donors came together to raise over \$150,000 for five local organizations, including HHUG.

The funds raised are of great assistance, but another huge benefit of this event continued to be the awareness and education about the realities of homelessness in our community from a “real person” perspective. This year our local HHTH Committee worked with Pepper Box Productions to create a promo video about the event and individual videos for each of the recipient agencies.

Pepper Box Productions: <https://vimeo.com/pepperbox/videos>

- [HHTH announcement](#)
- [Sandy Dietrich-Bell](#) – ONERoof
- [Lindsey White](#) – Safe Haven Youth Shelter
- [John Neufeld](#) – House of Friendship
- [Elizabeth Clarke](#) – YWCA
- [Lynn Macaulay](#) – HHUG
- [Rob Way](#) – HHTH
- [HHTH 30 second version](#)
- [HHTH 3-minute version](#)

This year, we learned that as a result of media attention for Hockey Helps the Homeless, Steve Gosslin's daughter was able to locate him. Steve was the banquet speaker at the first HHTH tournament in 2015. As a result of a media story from that tournament, he and his daughter found each other for the first time.

<http://www.therecord.com/community-story/7042122-local-father-meets-his-long-lost-daughter-for-the-first-time-on-christmas-eve/>

Push for Change – Dec 17, 2016

Joe Roberts and Push for Change came to Waterloo Region on December 17 as part of his cross-Canada tour to raise money to end youth homelessness <http://www.thepushforchange.com/> HHUG was pleased to join oneROOF in co-ordinating the KW event.

Joe Roberts experienced homelessness as a youth and with support, recovered from his addiction and then completed high school and post-secondary education. By age 40 he was one of Canada's top high tech businessmen. He decided he needed to do something to support others experiencing the challenges he did. He is spending 2016-2017 walking across Canada pushing a specially designed shopping cart.

Joe's inspirational story focuses on people in his life who recognized the "possibility" rather than the "probability".

ADVOCACY

In the past, advocacy activities have occurred on an ad-hoc basis, either when HHUG was asked to participate, or when appropriate opportunities have arisen. While continuing to participate in these activities, the HHUG Steering Committee adopted a specific advocacy goal at the end of 2015-2016. Much of this year was spent working on better understanding the challenges of people experiencing homelessness who were discharged from Provincial jails.

The Ontario Expert Panel on Homeless identified transitions from Provincial Institutions and Services as a time when many people are at risk of homelessness. The HHUG Steering Committee chose to focus on discharges from the Correctional System.

To date, the work has been on data gathering and system mapping to better understand what is happening in Waterloo Region. Over two dozen interviews have been held with key contacts in the Justice and Housing Stability Sectors. As a result of this work, a proposal was submitted for a Safer and Vital Communities Grant. Although the proposal was ultimately unsuccessful, great partnerships were developed between HHUG, Waterloo Regional Police, the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council and Lutherwood.

Ultimately, it was decided that this project needed more funding and leadership in order to continue the work. The information gathered as part of this work was shared with a Provincial Inter-Ministerial working group.

Here is a list of some of our other advocacy activities:

- April 4, 2016 – Presentation to Waterloo City Council in support Development Charge waiver for new affordable housing units

Lynn Macaulay (HHUG Initiatives Coordinator) joined YWCA CEO Elizabeth Clarke to ask Waterloo City Council to waive development charges for their four new affordable housing units on Lincoln Road in Waterloo. This request was successful.

<https://www.waterloochronicle.ca/news-story/6493729-waterloo-waives-charges-for-affordable-housing-project/>

- May 2, 2016 – Speaker at InspirED 2016 at St. David Catholic Secondary School
- June 14, 2016 - Presentation to Regional Council Regarding Discretionary Benefits: Regional Council continues to struggle with how to adequately fund the increasing need for Discretionary Benefits when the Provincial Funding for this program remains capped. Lynn Macaulay and Doug Rankin presented on this issue to Region Council when significant decreases to services were proposed because all of the funding had been spent. Regional Council again decided to augment funds from the tax stabilization fund.
<https://communityedition.ca/discretionary-benefits-for-basic-needs/>
- July 5, 2016: Presentation to Planning and Development Committee – Cambridge Council on their proposal regarding Municipal Incentives

Lynn Macaulay joined other members of Cambridge Affordable Housing Roundtable (CAHR) in presenting to the Planning and Development Committee in support of the staff report recommending Municipal Incentives for Affordable Housing.

<http://www.therecord.com/news-story/6754389-council-ponders-incentives-to-boost-affordable-housing-in-cambridge/>

- National Housing Strategy

HHUG celebrated the announcement from the Federal Government regarding the development of a National Housing Strategy (NHS). As part of its consultation process, the Federal government released its “Let’s Talk Housing” on-line survey. HHUG both participated in this initiative and promoted participation.

HHUG was also pleased to support the Participant Advisory Group (PAG) in hosting a focus group for people with lived experience on priorities for the NHS on Thursday, September 8, 2016.

In the Fall, 2016 the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) asked member agencies to promote their campaign – a National Housing Strategy that must address Homelessness. HHUG joined partners across the country in contacting local MP’s about this issue.

SECTOR CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

In December, 2016 HHUG learned that it had been selected to become a region-wide trainer on the VI-SPDAT and full SPDAT tools. These new training sessions were a good fit with the existing training through the Housing Stability Training Centre (HSTC) project. The additional funding for this project from the Region of Waterloo meant that HHUG could expand its staff and hire a part-time administrative assistant.

Housing Stability Training Centre

Seven workshops were held on various topics. The evaluations from each workshop continue to be very positive. Participants almost unanimously feel that the training is applicable to their jobs, and that is good value for the money. HHUG continues to be very grateful to our community partners for their support of these training opportunities.

Housing Stability System Overview – April 27, 2016

- 37 people attended
- Presentation on the overall Housing Stability System, including the Regional Homelessness and Affordable Housing Plans and the role of different orders of government, and local services.
- Presenter: Lynn Macaulay, HHUG

Understanding Ontario Works – May 3, 2016

- 18 people attended
- Presentation on the basic eligibility and income support benefits of Ontario Works
- Presenter: Sharon Martin, Region of Waterloo

Intro to Community Housing – September 28, 2016

- 18 people attended
- Presentation on the application process, eligibility requirements and on-going requirements for people in Community Housing
- Presenter: Sherri White, Region of Waterloo

Housing Stability System Overview – October 19, 2016

- 16 people attended
- Presentation on the overall Housing Stability System including the Regional Homelessness and Affordable Housing Plans as well as role of different orders of government, and local services.
- Presenter: Lynn Macaulay, HHUG

VI-SPDAT Training – March 8, 2017

- 15 people attended
- Training on the background of the VI-SPDAT tool, how it is used in Waterloo Region and how to administer this assessment
- Presenter: Lynn Macaulay, HHUG

• FULL SPDAT Training – March 20, 2017

- 16 people attended
- Training on the background of the SPDAT tool, how it used in Waterloo Region and how to administer this assessment
- Presenter: Lynn Macaulay, HHUG

• Understanding the RTA – March 20, 2017

- 20 people attended
- Presentation on various aspects of the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA), including tenant selection, reasons for eviction, the eviction process and legal resources and supports
- Presenter: Joseph Richards, Waterloo Region Community Legal Services

Waterloo Region Housing Coalition Awards – October 17, 2016

The Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group (HHUG) is pleased to continue the Housing Award program begun by the now disbanded Waterloo Region Housing Coalition. Again, excellent nominations were received this year for people doing amazing work within the Housing Stability Sector. The awards are presented as part of the National Housing Day celebrations organized by the Region of Waterloo Housing Department. This year's winners are as follows:

Outstanding Volunteer Housing Champion

Awarded to an individual or group who through volunteer work, has significantly increased the community's awareness of affordable housing issues and/or has measurably contributed to the creation of new affordable housing or to the sustainability of existing stock within Waterloo Region.

Recipient: *Sandhills Cooperative Homes Inc.*

Over the past year, the volunteer team at Sandhills Cooperative has accomplished a great deal that has both assisted in sustaining and revitalizing the co-op. A few years ago this site was identified as having several serious challenges. With the hard work and commitment of the co-op members and Volunteer Board of Directors, Sandhills is once again a desirable and attractive place to call home.

Sybil Frenette Outstanding Housing Creator

Awarded to an individual or group who has measurably contributed to the creation of new affordable housing or to the sustainability of existing stock within Waterloo Region. This award is named in honour of Sybil Frenette, whose visionary leadership has inspired many to make the building of affordable housing a priority within Waterloo Region.

Recipient: *Elmira Developmental Support Corporation (EDSC)*

The Elmira Developmental Support Corporation (EDSC) creates affordable housing opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities. Using a unique model that allows tenants to live with maximum independence in their own units with a designated apartment for a "good friend and neighbour", EDSC has completed two projects – Snow Goods and Field of Dreams with additional projects underway. In addition to enriching the lives of both the tenants and the "good neighbours", this model has met with great interest from government and service providers across the Province.

Christine Wilson Outstanding Housing Community Worker

Awarded to an individual who has demonstrated exceptional commitment, dedication and ability in assisting individuals or households to access or maintain adequate affordable rental housing. This award is named in honour of Christine Wilson whose passion and commitment to low income tenants has created a lasting legacy in Waterloo Region.

Recipient: Gary Warren

HHUG was very saddened to hear of Gary's passing in the early hours of National Housing Day. June Anderson from the Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank spoke about Gary's contributions to Waterloo Region. When Gary had been told about winning the award he was puzzled as he did not feel that what he had done was very remarkable.

In 1997 Gary set up the first drop-in centre in Galt at the Lion's Hall. Over the years this would be formalized into "Welcome Aboard" and eventually become part of the Cambridge Shelter Corp. Gary's vision was to combine a place where people who were homeless or were living with very low incomes could receive the services they require but also where people could connect and feel included. Over the years the program to include ID services, a nurse practitioner, food and clothing assistance. Through the services of Welcome Aboard countless people in Cambridge were able to access assistance to find housing and to resolve issues so that they can keep their housing.

INFORMATION SHARING

HHUG acts as an information hub in order to share, collaborate, and coordinate activities, research and information within the Housing Stability Sector. This is done in a number of different ways including:

- **Listserv**
Through the Listserv we share a wide range of information, training, events and research related to homelessness, affordable housing and poverty. Currently over 200 people receive these emails
- **Website** www.hhug.ca
The HHUG website has information about who we are, what we do and our key documents

Committee and Group Involvement

HHUG regularly participates in the following groups/committees:

- **Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO Board Member)**
ACTO is a specialized legal clinic, funded by Legal Aid Ontario to better the housing situation of Ontario residents who have low incomes including tenants, members of co-ops and people who are homeless. They achieve this through test case litigation, law reform, housing policy work, community organizing and public legal education
- **Housing For All (Formerly the C-400 Group)**
This National group was formed in order to promote the passage of Bill C-400 which would have required the Federal Government to create a National Housing Strategy. Although the Bill was defeated, this group continues to work on a national level to ensure everyone in Canada has a place to call home

- **Right to Housing Committee**

This is a provincially based group of academics, advocates, people with lived experience, and service providers which was initially formed to support the Right to Housing legal case. The committee recently supported a delegation to present at the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Sixth Period Review of Canada in Geneva, Switzerland

- **Cambridge Action on Homelessness Group (CAHG)**

- A group of primarily direct service providers meet to network and to respond to issues related to supporting people experiencing or at – risk of homelessness in Cambridge

- **Cambridge Affordable Housing Roundtable (CAHR)**

- This group works to support the creation of affordable housing stock and policies within Cambridge

Network Memberships

HHUG is pleased to be a member of:

- Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH)
- Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH)
- A Way Home – A National Coalition to End Youth Homelessness

HHUG Financials

Revenue

Region of Waterloo	16,698.97
Hockey Helps the Homeless	<u>21,280.00</u>
Total Revenue	<u>37,978.97</u>

Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	28,668.14
Travel	51.40
Program Supplies	130.66
Office Expense	655.02
Meetings	1,090.78
Cell Phones	387.11
IT - Laptop/Computer	992.67
Honorarium	315.00
Advertising	-
Professional Development	1,279.31
Occupancy Costs	846.58
Administrative	<u>3,562.30</u>
Total Expenses	<u>37,978.97</u>