

Homeless Report from Windsor Region - 2018

HOME—we think of it as a safe haven, a warm and secure place. For many, there is no place to go. No Home. They live in the streets, or in temporary housing. Families, mothers and children, kids who run from home because they don't feel safe. These are faces of the homeless.

At Christmas, councils donated Turkeys to Street Help. Members worked with their churches, to give to St. Vincent de Paul and Food Banks around the city. One church council's giving tree had ten different homeless charities on it. Another had envelopes on the tables at their Christmas party for donations to St. Vincent de Paul.

During the winter, 25 small grocery bags full of scarves, mitts, and hats for men were given to Street Help. Members put hours in the community working at Windsor Youth Organization, Street Help, and the Downtown Mission.

One council gives \$200 monthly toward the Breakfast Program at Street Help. Toiletries and women's supplies are collected for Hiatus House. Another CWL sponsors a child at St. Vincent de Paul summer camp.

In February, there was "An Evening with Elvis" put on by a CWL. Three groups that work closely with the homeless were given gift cards for Walmart, MacDonald's, and Tim Horton's.

Street Outreach Worker Colm Holmes walks the streets and alleys to find the homeless every day. He builds relationships assisting with basic needs first; dinner at a church or a bed for the night. He continues to work to get long term goals met; a place to live, counseling, and whatever else is needed. His goal is to get the homeless off the streets and he works to make that happen in Windsor. One of our councils had him speak at their general meeting and I was very fortunate to attend.

In Windsor, we continue our support for people experiencing homelessness. Councils work together to make this possible.

Madam President, this ends my report.

