

# The Affordable Housing Action Network



[www.hastingshousing.com/ahan](http://www.hastingshousing.com/ahan)

Revised June 2010

# **Homelessness**

***Homelessness is:***

- **Not always a person who sleeps on a park bench or is sleeping on the street**

# **Homelessness**

## ***Homelessness Can be:***

- **A family who was flooded from their home**
- **A family whose home was burned down from a fire**
- **A woman who has fled domestic violence**
- **Someone who cannot afford to pay the heating bill**
- **Someone stays with friends or relatives because they cannot afford rent**

# **Something to think about...**

- **As of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2009, 1385 people remained on the waiting list for rent geared to income housing**
- **In 2009 Hastings County Social Services provided assistance for 1409 individuals who were homeless or at risk of being homeless due to a housing emergency situation**
- **In 2009, the Housing Programs Branch housed 108 applicants who had “urgent housing status”**



**SOCIAL  
SERVICES**

# Something to think about...

- From April 2009 to March 2010 the Three Oaks Foundation: Provided shelter for 107 women and 71 children in crises



- In 2009 the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre provided 353 people with duty counsel service at the Landlord & Tenant Board



# **Something to think about...**

**In 2009 the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) provided shelter for 129 people through the transitional homes for the homeless of which 26 were children**

- 728 calls in search of emergency housing could not be accommodated.**



**CANADIAN MENTAL  
HEALTH ASSOCIATION**  

---

**ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE  
POUR LA SANTÉ MENTALE**

# **Something to think about...**

**In 2009 the Hastings Housing Resource Centre (HHRC) assisted 1400 people on a one to one basis, 93% of these clients were homeless or in critical need of housing**

- 4873 clients registered on the HHRC website in need of affordable housing in Hastings County**



# Who Are We?

- A network of over 100 individuals
- Representing over 40 agencies
- Concerned with addressing the issues of affordable housing and homelessness in and surrounding Hastings County



# **Where Did We Come From?**

- **National Housing Day November 2002, a “Housing Working Group” was formed**
- **Made up of local social service providers**
- **Proposed the concept of a network taking action in response to the affordable housing and homelessness crises in Hastings County**

# **Founding Housing Working Group Agencies Include**

- **Community Advocacy & Legal Centre**
- **Three Oaks Foundation - Women's Shelter**
- **Hastings County Social Services**
- **Youth Habilitation**
- **Hastings Housing Programs Branch**
- **Canadian Mental Health Association**
- **Hastings Housing Resource Centre**

# **AHAN Vision**

**AHAN believes that everyone has a right to safe, secure and affordable housing**



# What Do We Believe?



- Homelessness, precarious housing and the lack of affordable housing, requires a community response
- Everyone needs to take action and be part of the solution

# **Our Mission**

**We will strive to create more affordable housing options for people who are precariously housed or homeless using a variety of approaches including:**

- collaborative networking**
- housing development**
- capacity building**
- and advocacy**



# AHAN Task Forces

- **AHAN is comprised of two working task forces:**
- **Information Sharing and Networking Task Force**
- **Advocacy Task Force**



# **AHAN Steering Committee**

***The Role of the Steering Committee is:***

**To make decisions and set direction reflecting the needs and requests of the AHAN group**

**To unite and support all AHAN task forces**

**To obtain funding to sustain AHAN projects & staff**

**To conduct ongoing community homelessness and housing research**

# **AHAN's Successes**

**Developed an AHAN web site**

**Developed landlord & tenant information packages**

**Conducted a homelessness maze open to the community**

**Conducted a practical solutions forum to avoid housing conflict & eviction**

**Development of AHAN strategic plan**

**Hosted 4 successful Housing Strategy Days**

# **AHAN's Successes**

**Conducted Home Ownership Community Forums to assist steady income earners move from rent to own**

**Supported the development of the All-Together Affordable Housing Corporation (ATAHC)**

**Assist with the development and promotion of Vital Services By-law in communities throughout Hastings County**



# AHAN's Successes

- Submissions to provincial consultation on affordable housing
- Held political forum for municipal election
- Provided support for the 25-in-5 Poverty Reduction Plan and raised awareness



# What Can You Do?

- **Attend our upcoming AHAN meetings**
- **Join a task force**
- **Be supportive of community issues and talk about them**
- **Act as a catalyst for change in your community**



# Questions

Visit our website at:

<http://www.hastingshousing.com/ahan/>

