

The Affordable Housing Action Network



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 31st 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/>

