

SUMMER 2025

FINDING HOME NEWSLETTER

# SANCTUARY LONDON



## A PLACE TO BELONG

We're striving to find home. Together.



# The State of Homelessness in London, ON.....

In the next several newsletters we're going to be doing a series entitled State of the City: Homelessness in London. Londoners know that the number of people facing homelessness in London is increasing, but we hear lots of questions and confusion about the details.

In this article we'll focus on some of the numbers and figures related to homelessness in London. In future sections we will share a more personal look at homelessness in London and what a better path forward may look like.

It's understandable to be confused. It can be difficult to get reliable data. People who don't have homes tend to move often and for many reasons. By-law officers might forcibly displace them, they may need to move to be nearer services, the area where they're staying may flood, or they may find an opportunity to move in with a friend for a few days or weeks.



So, how is information collected?  
London uses two main methods:

- A ByName List (BNL): The BNL requires that people interact with specific services and consent to have their information recorded. As you might imagine, many people either don't interact with those specific services or don't consent to be tracked.

- A PointinTime (PiT) Count: The PiT Count is a one-day, city-wide count of people in shelters, urban areas, and encampments that takes place every two years. The PiT Count misses anyone camping/sleeping in a place not known to city staff, people staying on a friend's couch for a night, or most of the people who are walking, doing an errand, or taking shelter in a coffee shop, etc.

Both of these measures end up significantly undercounting, and the city doesn't have data available for every year, so we have to try and decipher the trends in spite of the limited information.



In short, the city's information indicates that the number of people who are homeless has quadrupled between 2018 and today.

- In 2018 there were 406 individuals recorded during the Point-in-Time count (data not available from the city for recent years)
- In 2025 there were 1,942 individuals on the By-Name List (data not available from the city for past years)

Keep in mind that these numbers are significant undercounts, and that the true numbers are far higher. However, the numbers show a trend that is mirrored through the experience of charities and organizations in London. The number of people who attend Sanctuary drop-ins has roughly tripled in this same time period.

Unfortunately, as the number of people who are homeless climbs, the number of shelter beds in the city has remained steady or even declined slightly to around 316 spaces. You may have heard about the City's initiative to develop Service Hubs, aren't those helping the situation?

### Service Hubs

One of London's strategies to address homelessness was its network of service hubs—24/7 centres that offer shelter, health care, case management, meals, hygiene, and links to stable housing.

- The goal was to open 15 hubs, each serving 25–35 people, prioritizing youth, Indigenous peoples, women, and medically complex residents. The funding came from the province (\$10.4 million) and from a portion of the \$25 million donation from an anonymous family.
- Despite these plans, only 2 hubs are open as of mid-2025:
  1. Atlohsa Family Healing Services Hub (Indigenous focus)
  2. Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.) Hub (youth focus)

### What This Means for Sanctuary and Our Community

For Sanctuary's community all of these numbers add up to more vulnerability, exposure, and marginalization, and it highlights the need for some new ideas. Sanctuary is working towards the creation of micro homes communities that can offer people safe, affordable, dignified housing. We are looking for suitable land (5+ acres, on transit routes) in order to build a community of care and safety and to help address this crisis.



a micro home built by Pathways at the Chippewa-of-the-Thames Reserve, just outside of London

# TREKKING FOR HOME



**We had a very successful first run/walk/cycle event back in April.**  
Together, we raised just over \$36,000.00 to support the life-giving work of Sanctuary London.  
We are so thankful for all who participated and for all who helped to make it happen!

## **Save the Date!**

Trekking for Home 2026 has already been booked!  
Please mark your calendar for April 18, 2026

# The summer is hot, and we've got a lot going on!

The needs in our community are great. And we know that perhaps the most important need we can meet is that of a meaningful connection to community. A sense of belonging, a place to call home. What we need more than anything are people who want to join our community and simply be with our community members. This looks like listening without judgement, learning from, and sitting and eating with folks, who are too often disregarded by society.

But when we care for people, we can't simply ignore their physical needs. Can you help us meet some of these needs?

## CURRENT NEEDS



### FREEZIES!

So helpful for cooling our community members down in a hurry.



### WATER AND OTHER DRINKS

We are in constant need of hydrating drinks.



### HOMEMADE COOKIES

Our community loves anything home baked, and it absolutely helps bring a small taste of home to our programs!



### SLEEPING BAGS

Even though it is hot during the day, the nights are still cool, and sleeping can be tough without proper gear.



### TENTS AND TARPS

We meet people who are new to the street almost everyday. They are looking for ways to shelter themselves.



### BACKPACKS

Folks need a way to carry all their belongings. Too often things go missing otherwise!

# Harvest Moon

OUR THIRD ANNUAL FALL FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF: 2025

## Sanctuary London



Join us for a fun-filled evening as we learn about and support the important work of Sanctuary London.

# SAVE THE DATE!!!

Friday October 3, 2025  
5:30pm

● Tickets will be available soon! ●



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# We couldn't do any of this without your support.

Please pray with us and for us. As you likely know, the Sanctuary office building has been sold and will be torn down with an expected move out date for early 2026. We are exploring various options, and have a number of different conversations happening. Ultimately, we are learning to trust in the leading and care of our Creator to provide for our needs.

# THANK YOU!



## Sanctuary London

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