

**12,515** 

people are living below the poverty line in our community.

This number is more than the population of Aylmer, West Lorne, Port Stanley and Port Burwell combined.

# **OUR STRATEGY**

Poverty to Possibility

**VISION** 

No person in Elgin—St. Thomas will live in poverty

**MISSION** 

To address the root causes of poverty

**FOCUS** 



Housing



**Food Insecurity** 



Transportation



**Income Security** 

### February

Taking Action on Women's Homelessness finalizes Community Plan with 6 local Priorities

### March

Social Media Campaign launched with a focus on Food Security reached 2K people

#### March

COVID-19 State of Emergency and Community Shut Down

### April

Community Help Connect Line created by St. Thomas Public Library

#### June

Launch of Housing and Homelessness Coordinated Access System and By-Name List

#### August

Part-time System Navigator hired with Reaching Home Grant to work with at risk and homeless people in Western Elgin

# October 17 International

Day to Eradicate Poverty Endorsed by Mayor Preston

#### November City Transit

enhancements reported for 2021 implementation

## March

Bridges out of Poverty Community workshop had 30 attendees.

#### March

St. Thomas-Elgin Vulnerable Person Task Force created in response to COVID-19

#### April

Daytime drop-in centre created and staffed by Inn Out of the Cold

#### May

High level collaboration amongst Coalition partners to address urgent needs during pandemic

#### July

Good Food Box expands to families supported by FACS Elgin

#### September

Randy Robinson, CCPA, presented on disproportionate impact of COVID 19 for those experiencing poverty

#### November

Social media campaign highlighting Food security

#### December

Social media campaign highlighting homelessness

Elgin—St. Thomas Coalition to End Poverty

2020 Progress Timeline

# **WORKING TOGETHER**

The Coalition to End Poverty is made up of Elgin St. Thomas citizens, agencies, businesses and government representatives. Our plans and projects align with the good work that's already being done in our community.

# **OUR FOCUS**



## Housing

Everyone can find and maintain a safe and affordable place to call home.



# **Transportation**

Everyone has access to safe, reliable and affordable transportation options.



# **Food Insecurity**

Everyone has access to affordable, accessible, sufficient and nutritious food.



## **Income Security**

Everyone has access to a Living Wage and Employment Resources.

**VISION** 



**ADVOCATE** 



**EDUCATE** 

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

#### COVID-19

When COVID-19 hit our community, people living in poverty lost access to public spaces that provided shelter, washrooms, and warmth. COVID 19 has a disproportionate impact on individuals living in poverty – they are more likely to acquire the disease for a number of reasons including living in crowded housing, the inability to take time off work if they are unwell and the lack of income to afford some of the protections others can. Job loss due to the pandemic has impacted marginalized populations resulting in more individuals struggling with poverty.

### **Living Wage**

In 2020 the Living Wage Committee recognized Oegema Turkey Farms & Turkey Shoppe as a living wage employer.

## **Poverty Awareness Campaign**

During 2020 the Coalition implemented a communication campaign incorporating meaningful statistics and impactful photographs. Although the social media campaign was interrupted in March with completing pandemic related news, we were able to showcase paid advertisements during March, November and December. This campaign will be extended into 2021 with the goal to raise awareness across Elgin County and ignite opportunities for positive change.

## **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**

On October 14<sup>th</sup> coalition members joined Mayor Joe Preston with other city officials at city hall for a declaration from the Mayor. A social media blitz was shared by the Coalition and community partners along with road side signs identifying "1 in 5 live in poverty".



Elgin—St. Thomas Coalition to End Poverty working together for Change

