

JANUARY 2024

"Home" is often described as a feeling, an internal pull. It represents comfort, familiarity, and a sense of belonging. Unfortunately, for many of our neighbors who access NeighbourLink services, having a safe home is often just an ideal that they have to give up.

Through our **Furniture Program**, we furnished 96 homes last year. A kitchen table and chairs, a dresser, a couch, and a bed, are the basics that embody a fresh start, a sense of hope to build a safe space that can be called "their own."

The people who have accessed the program come from various backgrounds. They include seniors who have left abusive family relationships and are starting a new life with nothing, previously unsheltered individuals who are bravely embarking on a path of recovery and wellness, courageous single parents starting over after leaving an abusive relationship, refugees and immigrants who are building a new life in a foreign country, families who didn't have tenant's insurance and are starting over after losing everything in a house fire, and many others.

Our **Furniture Program** is the only program available in the Tri-Region that provides all furniture items at no cost to those in need. The success of this program is attributed to our sponsors and donors, **Sentinel Storage**, who provide the storage unit, and **Mattress Mattress**, who donate some mattresses, as well as to the generous donors who donate gently used furniture items.

Each time someone starts new, they are offered an "apartment in a package" of all the household and kitchen essentials to complete their "home. This is provided by our amazing partners at **St. Andrew's United Church Thrift Shop**. In 2023, **The Thrift Shop** provided 87 start up kits/clothing needs to our neighbours starting over. Provided to people in great need and provided at **no cost!**

Our furniture storage unit is almost empty at the moment and we have a waitlist for items. Our partner, **St. Andrew's United Church Thrift Shop**, has also requested **household donations as their shelves are empty.** If you are spring cleaning, please consider donating to either program. Your contribution is vital in building a strong and interconnected community, as well as creating a sense of "home."

HOW DID WE HELP?



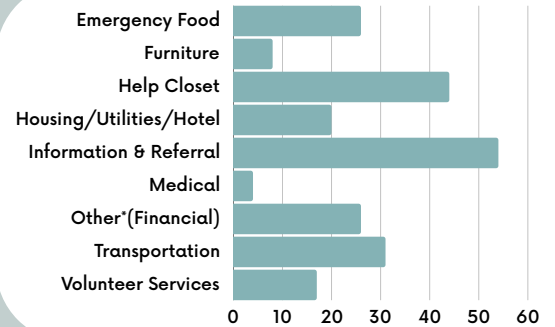
Client Services

587 Calls for Help

52 Care meetings

4 Furniture meetings

Needs We Helped With



Volunteer Services

262 km driven

68 hours total service

8 food bank/essential deliveries

16 hrs - Keep In Touch Program



Financial Assistance Provided

Direct Client Support: **\$2,591.52**

Compared to JANUARY 2023

Calls for Service: **607**

Client & Furniture Meets: **47**

Direct client support: **\$4,907.95**

Volunteer Service: **336 km driven, 43 hours**

Vision: A network of Christian believers, lovingly and effectively working with our partners; responding to immediate and urgent needs; showing generosity, dignity, support, and compassion: providing direction and advocacy; to enhance the quality of life of the most vulnerable and unheard voices in the Greater Parkland Community.