

## housing

Homelessness is a national and growing issue; the pandemic years have highlighted the pre-existing housing crisis, bringing it front and centre in the media. Solutions, like housing folks in hotels, is how the government responded under community pressure. However, there are still hundreds living outside.

Middle and working-class families are also experiencing homelessness and insecure housing, mostly through fixed-term leases. (A fixed-term lease has a set end date, meant to be used when someone will be leaving at a given time. Lately, they're being misused to bring in new tenants, raising rent beyond Nova Scotia's two per cent rent cap.) As a result, double-income families with children are being forced out of their homes. With few other options, many live in hotels, going into debt by spending three-times what their former rent had been.

## the daily

We come alongside to alleviate hardship and build friendship and support. Most days are filled with small moments of significant connection: organizing donations to bring to families who need various things; providing grocery or gas gift cards; meeting someone in the park for conversation; accompanying someone to a legal appointment; interpreting situations and systems – like housing, CRA paperwork, community service interactions, bills, etc. – for newcomers to Canada and those in survival mode; finding money in the community for specific needs, like power and oil; and more.

As costs rise, many families and individuals, especially those on fixed income, are finding it difficult to pay for food and oil to heat their homes.

**“It’s not that there isn’t enough food for everyone, it’s that folks don’t have enough money to buy food” – Feed NS 2022**

Over the last year, we partnered with a metro church who funded 70 hot, weekly meals that we prepared and bagged individually to offer to grateful folks living at the Double Tree Hotel in Dartmouth. There have been 100+ people living at the Double Tree who otherwise have nowhere to go. This includes folks who have been chronically homeless for years, senior couples (70+) who have been renovicted from their places and various university students.

## network of community organizations

As the homeless population is growing, we are increasingly affirmed that our need for strong community connections is key in addressing this. In the last year, ARK co-founded a monthly gathering of local community organizations (about 50 are connected). Our aim is to build relationships among community workers, network, share knowledge and resources, and collaborate to address community-identified issues.

*Thank you all for your sustaining generosity & support, encouragement, care & prayers.*  
- Dorothy & Beth



ARK hosted our 11<sup>th</sup> annual Coldest Night of the Year at the end of February 2023 raising over \$61,000. The event was a great success. It was the first time we were back together in-person in two years. We had over 270 walkers participate. We are so grateful for how the community comes together to support.

## community food centres Canada

In 2022, we were grateful to receive a repeat grant from Community Food Centres Canada (CFCC) called the Good Food Access Fund. This fund provided emergency relief to our most vulnerable neighbours. With this opportunity, we bought grocery store gift cards to distribute to individuals and families, offering choice and dignity in their shopping.

This spring, we also received another grant from CFCC called Disability Without Poverty. Recently, members of the ARK community who live with disabilities have shown us how disproportionately poverty affects their demographic. In light of this, we partnered with Prescott Group and hosted a community BBQ to raise awareness for Accessibility Week. We were one of 20 organizations across Canada to participate in this program.

### Items we can use:

Gift cards (i.e. Tim Hortons (\$10-25),  
Walmart, Superstore, Sobeys (\$50-100),  
gas gift cards (\$50+))

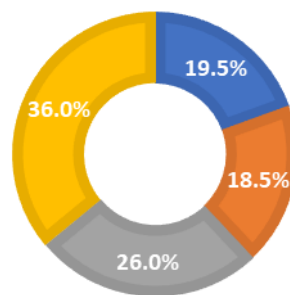
Toilet paper	Pads
Children's clothing	Peanut butter
Good quality footwear	Youth bikes

### The following stats taken from the Halifax PiT Report 2022:

*In 2022, there was a dramatic increase in the number of unsheltered people sleeping outside in public spaces and structures not intended for human habitation, 18.5% compared to 8% in 2018. On the night of the Halifax PiT (Point in Time) Count.*

### CONTEXT OF THOSE UNHOUSED

- Sheltered in institutions (corrections/hospital)
- Unsheltered
- Staying in a hotel (government funded/agency)
- Staying in emergency shelters or transitional housing



### CHALLENGES IN FINDING HOUSING

71% LACK OF HOUSING STOCK

57% INCOME & CREDIT ISSUES

34% DISCRIMINATION

34% HEALTH & ADDICTIONS ISSUES

18% FAMILY/PARTNER ISSUES

## legacy project

Through several conversations with alumni youth, an exciting project came about: an online legacy gallery that exhibits photos, artwork and mementos from the drop-in days. It celebrates and honours our community and we hope it will be a gathering place for those who used the Halifax drop-in as their home base for many years. Weekly, we love hearing from former youth, in Halifax as well as in other parts of Canada, doing significant community work. They communicate their gratitude, questions and desire for mentorship with us. We've also been delighted to host one of our former youth in a college social service placement.

**Ark is funded solely by donations from individuals, churches, and community grants.**

To make a tax deductible donation:

[www.arkoutreach.com](http://www.arkoutreach.com), 'Donate Now'  
or [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) — ARK (Halifax);

E-transfer or cheque payable to Ark;

Pre-authorized monthly plan (of \$20 or more)

# ARK

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