



# Durham Region - Clarington Winter Warming Initiatives

Success and Community Collaboration

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Presented to: Clarington Council Meeting  
Date: April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025



# Winter Warming Initiative

- Winter warming operated from December 1, 2024, and had its last night on March 31, 2025
- Do Unto Others (DUO) provided pet-friendly services to individuals experiencing homelessness, helping them seek protection during the winter months by offering:
  - warm, safe place to stay overnight
  - hot meals, snacks, beverages, blankets, and warm clean clothing
  - access to a bathroom, shower and laundry services on site
  - information and referrals to social services, mental health and addiction support, and other community resources
- Clarington winter warming served an average of 8-11 individuals nightly
  - 51 unique individuals accessed the space
    - 2 youths (16-24)
    - 33 adults (24-59 years)
    - 16 seniors (60+)





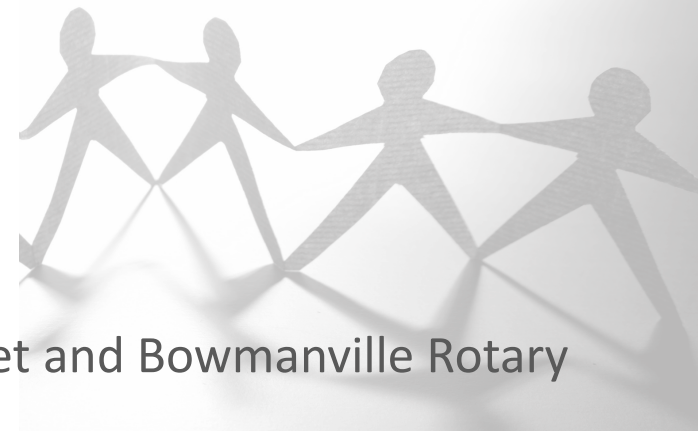


# Integrated Community Outreach Network in Clarington

- Collaborative Network Includes:
  - Clarington residents
  - Community organizations
  - Local charities
  - Bowmanville library
  - Members from the Municipality of Clarington and Durham Region
- Create an integrated community of care for the unsheltered population in Bowmanville through awareness and programming
- Discuss community needs, share resources, and developed outreach programs
- Drop-in programming for those in need every day of the week in Bowmanville to support those using winter warming



# Engagement & Contributions



- Generous donations from the Clarington community
  - Meals provided by Community Garden Team at 181 Church Street and Bowmanville Rotary Club
- Strong volunteer support ensuring availability of personal supplies like hygiene packs
- Bowmanville Library expanded social services programming by offering:
  - Drop-in outreach programs from John Howard Society of Durham Region (JHSD)
  - Access to Ontario Disability Support Program
  - Food pantry
- Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) regular visits to winter warming demonstrated support
  - During cold weather alerts, officers ensured vulnerable individuals had access to a warm and safe environment

# Site Operations and Community Response

## Safety

- Lack of sidewalk or cross walk led to transportation being provided

## Public Perception

- Initial hesitation expressed about opening of the space
- Positive shift happened as community directly begin to engage, provide meals and offered supported solutions

## No Complaints

- No complaints recorded through [Homelesshelp@Durham.ca](mailto:Homelesshelp@Durham.ca) from surrounding businesses or residents

## Clean Grounds

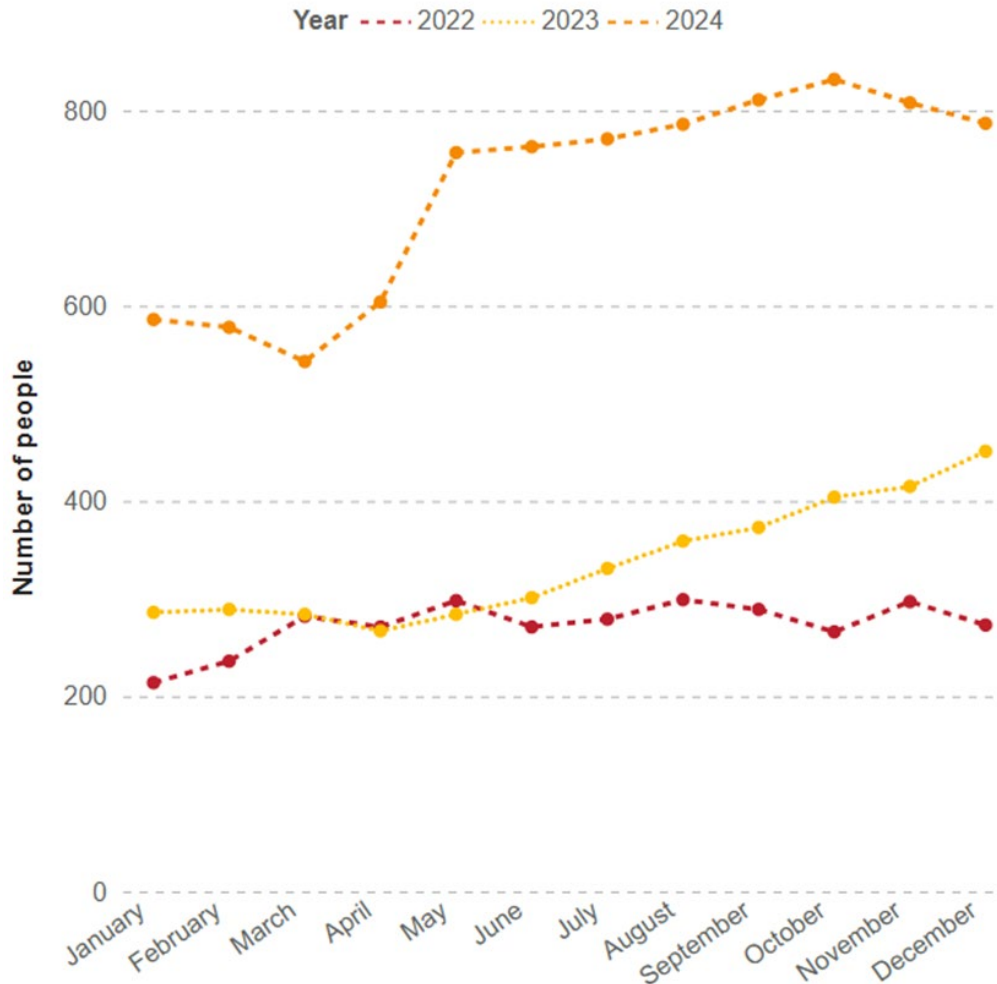
- Grounds remained clean and well-maintained





# Durham Region Homelessness Numbers

## Annual Number of People on the By-Name List 2022 – 2024



February  
2025

835

By-Name  
List

55.8%  
Chronically  
Homeless

93% with  
Mid to Very  
High Acuity

### Municipality Breakdown:

### Actively Homeless February 2025

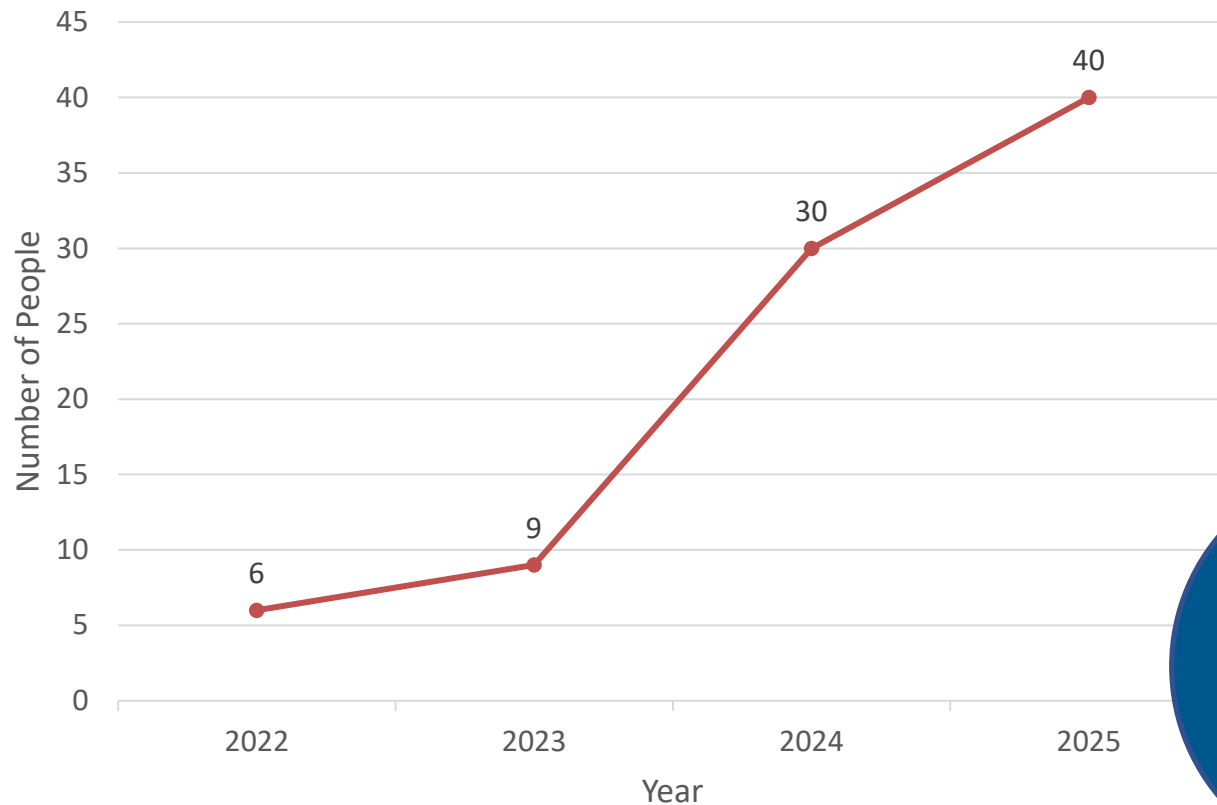
- Ajax: 183
- Clarington: 40
- Brock 9
- Scugog 12
- Uxbridge: 10
- Oshawa: 377
- Pickering: 31
- Whitby: 132
- \*Other/Unknown: 41

Refers to people who may have not been living in Durham but have a meaningful connection to Durham, or who are working with the homelessness support system to complete intake information.



# Clarington Homelessness Numbers

## Annual Number of People on the By-Name List Clarington 2021 – 2025



### Age

**15%** of people were youth (aged 16-24)

**72%** of people were Adults (aged 25-59)

**12%** of people were Seniors (aged 60+)

**February 2025**

**40**

**By-Name List**

**50% Chronically Homeless**

**87% with Mid to Very High Acuity**



# Conclusion

- The Clarington Winter Warming program and the ICONIC group have made a tangible and lasting difference in supporting the community's most vulnerable members.
- Demonstrated the value of collaboration, the importance of accessible services, and the need for continued investment in programs that address homelessness and food insecurity.
- The Region will continue working with Clarington staff to explore options for supporting people experiencing homelessness.





# Communicating Homelessness Supports

Council resolution (Dec) to look at signage in Newtonville parking lot

Reviewed data and best practices

- **Newtonville**

- 7 total individuals with 16 interactions. All referred to services. Encampment sites reported were found abandoned.
- Outreach team met and distributed information to businesses in Newtonville and Newcastle.

- **Clarington**

- 552 interactions. 13 encampments reported and visited.
- Outreach checks in with local businesses, providing information and support.

# Communicating Homelessness Supports

- Recommendation: Street Outreach continue to deliver post cards
  - Delivered where people are congregating which can change over time.
  - Outreach can answer questions and build a relationship of trust.
  - Can leave a message for those not ready to receive help or support.
  - Cards travel with people as they move throughout the community.



## Homeless Help Line



 **Phone** 311 ext. 5510

 **Email** [Homelesshelp@durham.ca](mailto:Homelesshelp@durham.ca)



**Online**

[durham.ca/EmergencyShelters](http://durham.ca/EmergencyShelters)



**Email**

[Homelesshelp@durham.ca](mailto:Homelesshelp@durham.ca)



**Phone**

905-668-4113 ext. 5510  
toll free 1-800-372-1102 ext. 5510



Scan the QR code to  
visit Durham's  
Emergency Shelters  
webpage.

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact the  
Accessibility Coordinator at [accessibility@durham.ca](mailto:accessibility@durham.ca) or 905-668-4113 ext. 2009.



# Questions

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[@RegionofDurham](https://www.instagram.com/RegionofDurham)

