Safe, Secure and Affordable Housing Is a Human Right

Discover how SSVP members and faith communities are turning housing challenges into opportunities for action

Safe, secure and affordable housing is more than a necessity — it is a human right. Yet, for many of our neighbours, finding and maintaining a safe place to call home remains a daily challenge.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul recognizes the importance of addressing housing insecurity and advocating for solutions that uphold the dignity of every person. This commitment is reflected in our national document, *Safe, Secure and Affordable Housing Is a Human Right*, and was brought to life through a recent webinar hosted by the National Housing Committee.

The webinar, "Housing Initiatives Come in Many Shapes and Sizes," showcases inspiring examples of how communities, faith organizations and Vincentians can make a meaningful difference in addressing housing challenges.

The session features three perspectives offering practical ideas and inspiration for action:

Listen, Connect and Navigate

Pat from the Brantford and Brant County Housing Champions' Committee shares her approach to supporting neighbours in need. Their message is simple but powerful: listen to people, build connections and help them navigate the often-complex housing system. Their work also highlights the importance of understanding local housing challenges and becoming more aware of the barriers faced by people experiencing housing insecurity.

Bringing Faith Communities Together

Garth from the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness' Faith Network explores how faith communities can become important partners in addressing homelessness and the affordable housing crisis. By bringing congregations together, sharing resources and supporting housing initiatives, churches can help create new housing opportunities. These initiatives can also provide a potential source of revenue for parishes facing financial difficulties or the risk of closure.

Learn more about the initiative at **Faith Network.**

Building Affordable Housing Through Partnerships

London Particular Council shares its experience developing the St. Vincent-on-Huron housing project, demonstrating how non-profit partnerships can turn an affordable housing vision into reality. The presentation offers valuable insight into the process, including how the land was purchased from a church within their Diocese — a key factor in making the project affordable. Notably, 80% of the project's funding came from Catholic groups, demonstrating the potential of faith-based collaboration to create lasting community benefits.

Be inspired to act

Housing initiatives come in many shapes and sizes. Whether through advocacy, connecting neighbours with available resources, building partnerships or developing affordable housing, there are meaningful ways for SSVP members and their communities to contribute.

We invite you to watch the webinar and discover how your Conference or Council can become part of the solution.

Watch the webinar: **Housing Initiatives Come in Many Shapes and Sizes – Zoom Recording**

Read the national position paper: **Safe, Secure and Affordable Housing Is a Human Right**

Together, through compassion, collaboration and a commitment to human dignity, we can help make safe and affordable housing a reality for more of our neighbours.

For more information and to reach us, email **housing-logement@ssvp.ca** or **syl4housing@gmail.com**