



Why Your Support Matters

33 people enter houselessness each month in Chatham-Kent, while only **19** secure housing (net increase of **14**)
259 people were experiencing houselessness (September 2025)
154 were living outdoors
2 in **3** were navigating mental health and substance use challenges

R.O.C.K.'s Impact in 2025:



Drop-in centres:

Chatham: Over **4,100** visits, averaging **24** people per day
Wallaceburg: Over **11,000** visits, averaging **47** people per day



Outreach

350+ days of on the ground support in Chatham and Wallaceburg

MART Pilot Project



CKPS and CKHA launched the Mobile Addictions Response Team (MART) pilot project. The team consists of a plain-clothes officer and an addictions therapist from the CKHA Addictions Clinic. The pair will respond to calls for service involving mental health and addictions issues, connect them to appropriate services, and follow up with the individual. We are grateful for their support and partnership with our team.

Pathway2Care

Integrated Outreach

The Pathway2Care (P2C) program was established in Fall of 2024 through a multi-sector partnership to provide person-centered care for those experiencing houselessness.

P2C is built on strong partnerships across various sectors, including healthcare, housing, social services, and community organizations.

R.O.C.K. Peer-2-Peer Leaders, a Community Paramedic, and a Housing Stability Worker from the Municipality work together to provide integrated care and navigation.

Weekly clinics are held at R.O.C.K. in both Chatham and Wallaceburg, and other various community locations. Recently added locations include the transitional cabins (Pathways on Park) and local encampments.

These outreach sessions aim to build relationships, strengthen trust between the P2C Team and the target population, and address health and social determinants of health needs.



In addition, the P2C Team supports hospital discharges for patients experiencing houselessness by coordinating needs such as transportation, medications, and immediate concerns, while providing follow-up care in the community. Ongoing support helps ensure continuity of care, improve access to essential services, and reduce unnecessary readmissions.

P2C partners include the CK Ontario Health Team, the Municipality of CK, CKHA, CMHA, CK EMS and R.O.C.K.



Pathway2Care

IN 2025:



135 clinics and encampment outreach sessions



137 external referrals to other agencies



Community Paramedics completed 636 assessments



77% reduction in 911 calls for P2C clients

A message from our Executive Director

It is clear to me that this newsletter reflects the strength of teamwork and the value of our community partnerships. None of the work we do happens in isolation—it is made possible through the collaborative efforts of dedicated individuals and organizations across many sectors. We are honoured to work alongside such caring, compassionate, and committed partners. Together, we are creating meaningful, positive change for everyone in our community. Thank you to everyone who contributes to this shared vision. Well done, Chatham-Kent!

Renee Geniole, Executive Director, R.O.C.K. (Reach Out Chatham-Kent)

Compassionate Approaches to Substance Use Workshop

In collaboration with the Chatham-Kent Community Drug Strategy, the R.O.C.K. Peer-2-Peer (P2P) team has developed an educational workshop that explores the realities of houselessness, substance use, and harm reduction through the lens of lived and living experience.

This training is delivered by R.O.C.K. peers with lived and living expertise, who share their experiences and perspectives to create meaningful learning opportunities and encourage more inclusive community responses.

Topics covered include stigma and its impact, misconceptions about houselessness and substance use, the role of peer support in the community, building understanding and compassionate responses and R.O.C.K.'s services.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK:

87% agreed that the training increased their knowledge & understanding

THE PEER-LED PERSPECTIVES SHARED IN THIS WORKSHOP HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS:

Eye opening, powerful, valuable and humanizing

If you are interested in bringing this workshop to your organization, business, church, or community group, please contact us at ck@reachoutck.com to learn more.

Recent R.O.C.K. Highlights



Celebrating the premiere of Unhoused: Communities in Crisis by the Sisters Strain.



Remembering those lost to houselessness and substance-related harms.



Four more amazing folks completed the R.O.C.K. Peer Training Program.



R.O.C.K. recently celebrated the receipt of a 3 year Ontario Trillium Fund grant.



P2C Receives National Recognition

Congratulations to our Pathway2Care team on receiving the 2026 Paramedic Chiefs of Canada Award of Excellence for Innovative Treatment and Technology!

R.O.C.K. is proud to be a community partner in this award winning program.

MYTH BUSTING

"Harm reduction is enabling and keeps people stuck."

Harm reduction is an evidence-based approach that helps reduce the risks associated with substance use by meeting people where they are at. It prioritizes safety, health, and dignity while supporting people without judgment.

2025 Annual Report

We are pleased to share that R.O.C.K.'s 2025 Annual Report is now available. To view the report and explore reports from previous years, visit:

www.reachoutck.com/who-we-are/annual-reports



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