

SHELTERING HOPE: OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

By Rebecca Jones; statistics provided by Rehana Sumar, Blue Door

From June 2025 to June 2026, seven churches provided shelter and meals to **868 individuals**, many of whom relied on the shelter and meals every night through one of the churches.

Without the Blue Door program and the support of these churches, 868 individuals would not have had access to a safe place to sleep or to essential meals, including dinner, breakfast, and lunch-to-go.

Holy Trinity Thornhill, supported by Vaughan Community Church, provided shelter, meals, and clothing to an average of **26 men and women every Sunday evening** from October 2025 to June 2026. Hillary Brown and a small group of volunteers do an amazing job of putting Christian love into action.

Compared with June 2024–June 2025, last season’s demand **increased 24%**. This growth reflects a rising need for emergency shelter and food support in York Region, with **868 individuals served, 84,000 meals provided, and 27,862 overnight shelter stays** recorded during the year.

Five churches, including Holy Trinity, each provide shelter one night a week from October to June. Rouge Valley Mennonite and Victory Baptist each operate a shelter every night throughout the year.

KEY NUMBER: 27, 862

868 unhoused men and women needed overnight protection, **24% MORE THAN LAST YEAR**, and **YOUR DONATIONS** ensured them this protection.

7 Churches in York Region provided 27,862 nights of shelter and food to people experiencing homelessness.

SHELTER NUMBERS AT PARTICIPATING CHURCHES: MINISTRY IN ACTION

- 868 Individuals were served at the participating churches with shelter and food
- 40 Individuals’ average age
- 91 Percentage occupancy of shelter spaces
- 7 **Churches provided 27,862 nights of shelter to people experiencing homelessness.**

Blue Door Out of the Cold Program 06/15/2025 – 06/15/2026

Location	# of Individuals Served	Average Age	Males	Females	Occupancy Rate	Total # Shelter Visits	Total # Meals Served
ROUGE VALLEY MENNONITE CHURCH	360	48	70%	30%	88%	11,198	
VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH	327	42	76%	24%	93%	10,212	
SOUTH ROTATING PROGRAMS: St. Marys Anglican Church Ebenezer United Church The Bridge Markham Community Church Wideman Mennonite Church Holy Trinity Anglican Church	211	30	78%	22%	91%	6,452	
OUT OF THE COLD PROGRAM TOTAL	868* <i>*24% increase from 2024-2025</i>	40	75%	25%	91%	27,862	84,000