

## HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

### Streets Alive Mission

Streets Alive Mission runs 13 supportive programs for marginalized populations / low income or homeless individuals. Two of these programs are:

**Takin' it to the Streets:** A sandwich bus that provides sandwiches, coffee, and other food to homeless and those living in downtown, low income apartment buildings.

- 22,905 sandwiches distributed (Jan 1 – July 31 2016)
- Approximately 50,000 sandwiches were handed out in 2015

**P.I.N. (Persons in Need) Bank:** Free clothing is provided to people in need.

- 31: average number of people served daily
- 9296: number of items given in 2015

Source: [Streets Alive Mission](#)

### Social Housing in Action (SHIA)

An initiative of the City of Lethbridge that works with many community organizations and partners to “Bring Lethbridge Home.” In 2015–16 their coordinated efforts housed 152 individuals.

Individuals who were housed in 2015-16 reported that their day-to-day life was impacted by one or more significant issue or condition:

- 11.2% reported living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) 18.4% reported being released from a correctional facility
- 8.6% reported being released from a mental health facility
- 9.2% reported being released from a health facility
- 11.2% reported being released from a residential treatment facility

Source: [Continuing to 'Bring Lethbridge Home' Annual Progress Report](#)

### YWCA: Hidden Treasures

Hidden Treasures is a YWCA program that provides gently used clothing and household items for women once they are ready to leave the shelter. (The number of women helped is limited to the number of donations that the program receives.)

- 688 Women Helped April 2014 – March 2015
- 579 Women Helped April 2015 – March 2016

Source: [YWCA Lethbridge](#)

### Project Connect: Lethbridge

Project Connect is a biannual event hosted by the City of Lethbridge and Social Housing in Action to help end homelessness by providing free services and supports to those in need. Services available range from hair-cuts to health care and counselling to housing support.

- Number of registered guests per season following the 2009 launch of project connect:
  - Spring 2009: 136
  - Fall 2009: 208
  - Spring 2010: 275
  - Fall 2010: 288
  - Spring 2011: 220
  - Fall 2011: 254
  - Spring 2012: 217
  - Fall 2012: 281
  - Fall 2013: 254
  - Fall 2014: 357
  - Spring 2015: 244
  - Fall 2015: 390
  - Spring 2016: 341

Source: [Diane Randell, Community and Social Development Manager – City of Lethbridge](#)

## WOMEN'S EMERGENCY SHELTERS

### Domestic Violence

Alberta has the highest rates of interpersonal violence of any province in Canada. In the last five years, nearly 75,000 Albertans have reported violence by a spouse or partner.

Source: [CBC News](#)

- Lack of shelter space is a serious issue. On one day last year: 234 shelters had to turn away 305 women and children (nearly three-quarters of those seeking shelter that day).
- The federal budget promised \$89.9 million over two years to create or renovate 3,000 spaces.

Source: [CTV News](#)

### A Snapshot Of Women's Shelters In Our Region

#### Harbour House – Lethbridge

Total women and children in Harbour House from 2015 – 2016: 596

Total women and children in Harbour House from 2009 – 2016: 4475

Number of women and children turned away in 2015 – 2016: 1949

Number of women and children turned away in 2013 – 2014: 1218

Number of women and children turned away in 2013 – 2014: 425

Source: [Jennifer Lepko, YMCA](#)

### Pincher Creek Women's Emergency Shelter

2014-2015 services to 103 women and 82 children

Source: [Julie Coleman, Pincher Creek Shelter](#)

### **Kainai Women's Wellness Lodge**

2015: Services to 184 women and 224 children. The number for children is up from 90. They do their best to find shelter for every woman who comes to their door and will refer to Pincher Creek or Harbour House.

Source: [Wellness Lodge](#)

### **Safe Haven Women's Shelter**

Residential Admissions:

2013: 139 women, 84 children = 223 total

2014: 180 women, 127 children = 307 total

2015: 204 women, 131 children = 335 total

Residential Turnaways:

2013: 107 women, 25 children

2014: 107 women, 52 children

2015: 97 women, 94 children

Source: [Amy Hall, Safe Haven](#)

## **FOOD BANKS**

Food bank usage was up marginally across Canada in 2015, but the picture in Alberta was a stark contrast, with an increase of more than 23% over 2014. According to national *HungerCount* statistics, Alberta experienced the highest jump nationally with a record 67,443 people accessing a food bank during the month of March. The national increase in food bank use was just 1.3%.

- According to the Hunger Count 2015, 16 Food Banks in Southwestern Alberta served 5,049 individuals in 2015, 40% of which were children under the age of 18. This number is up 14% from the 2014 statistics.

Source: [Food Banks Canada, HungerCount](#)

### **2015 Regional Food Bank Statistics**

- The Claresholm Food Bank distributed 1,000 hampers 800 to families and approximately 200 children
- Coaldale Food Bank distributed 506 hampers to 2,015 clients, 555 of which were children
- Lethbridge Food Bank distributed 7,046 hampers to 10,078 adults and 6,513 children.
- Interfaith Food Bank distributed 7,531 hampers to 10,590 adults and 7,635 children.
- Nanton distributed 374 hampers to 122 adults and 59 children
- Pincher Creek Food Bank distributed hampers to 1,791 adults and 1,639 children
- Taber Food Bank 2,075 hampers 3,768 adults and 2,291 children
- Vauxhall and Area Food Bank distributed (Lori) 37 hampers to 71 adults and 82 children
- Vulcan Regional Food Bank 268 hampers to 489 adults and 273 children

Source: [Statistics courtesy of each individual Food Bank](#)

### Ready Set Go – Lethbridge

- Started in 2013 in Lethbridge by Tracey Erickson-Driscoll and Desiree L'Heureux in collaboration with other “Back to School” initiatives. Designed to be “proactive” and enable kids to get the supplies they need before the start of the school year.
- 40: Community agencies and service providers attend the event
  - 2013: 400 youth, children and families invited to attend
  - 2014: 750 youth, children and families invited to attend – expanded to Fort MacLeod
  - 2015: 1160 youth, children and families invited to attend– expanded to Brooks and Medicine Hat
  - 2016: 1,150 youth, children and families invited to attend

Source: [Tracey Erickson – Driscoll, Ready Set Go Program](#)

### Ready Set Go – Fort Macleod

- 2013: 450 youth, children and families participated
- 2014: 500+ youth, children and families participated
- 2015: just under 600 youth, children and families participated
- 2016: just under 600 youth, children and families participated

Source: [Fort Macleod Kids First Family Centre](#)

## RURAL TRANSPORTATION

### Pincher Creek Care Bears Society

The Pincher Creek Care Bears Society is a non-profit group funded by the Town and MD of Pincher Creek and through public donations that transports passengers to Calgary and Lethbridge for medical appointments.

- 27: years in operation
- 11: drivers
- 326: out-of-town trips made in 2015
- 80,853: km travelled in 2015
- 3,065: volunteer hours

Source: [Pincher Creek Care Bears Society](#)

### Claresholm and District Transportation Society

The Claresholm & District Transportation Society provides affordable and accessible transportation for seniors and those with disabilities.

- Expanded service to Vulcan in January 2015 and made 100 trips in their first 12 months and average 10 per month in 2016.
- 7: vehicles (4 rear ramp loaders, 2 seven passenger vans and 1 twenty-nine passenger bus)
- 8: paid drivers
- Now transport passengers to Brooks and Medicine Hat for medical appointments, in addition to trips to High River, Okotoks, Calgary and Lethbridge.

Source: [Claresholm and District Transportation Society](#)