



Architectural renderings show the future of the former St. Mark's with an additional floor to accommodate 40 apartments.

## New to Waterloo Region: Indwell moves into Kitchener

We're thrilled to announce that at the end of June, Indwell advanced our vision of Hope and Homes for All into Waterloo Region with the purchase of Kitchener's former St. Mark's Lutheran Church. As with many cities in southern Ontario, homelessness and substandard, expensive housing highlight the need for more supportive affordable housing in the region.

When three Lutheran churches amalgamated at the end of 2018, the St Mark's property needed a new use. Our shared values are reflected in the congregation's legacy of ministry to the vulnerable. Even when no longer worshipping in the building, they continued opening their doors while they finalized the sale of the building to Indwell. Nightly, 45 people found refuge in the church hall as part of YW Kitchener - Waterloo's winter overflow shelter, a space that will be transformed into permanent homes.

Embraced by Waterloo Region, we feel momentum growing. To launch this project and demonstrate their commitment to ending homelessness, the church offered Indwell the property at half its value, and the Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation supplied a mortgage for the purchase. The Cowan Foundation provided a gift of \$250,000 to launch the capital campaign for this project. Generous grants from the William Voortman Foundation and River Dali Foundation are supporting the first full-time staff member and office.

The repurposing of the former St. Mark's will create 40 new homes. But we're setting our sights much higher, committing to a minimum of 150 units of deeply affordable housing in Waterloo Region.

*Leah Logan*  
Regional Manager

**Watch the Hope@Home**  
Virtual Gala at [indwell.ca/hope-at-home](https://indwell.ca/hope-at-home)  
go to minute 54 for the Waterloo Region clip.

### Quick Facts – St Mark's

- 40 one bedroom apartments
- Former sanctuary – will be common space
- Additional floor above church hall and offices
- Construction timeline – occupancy fall 2022



Indwell's Jake Tighelaar, Southwest Facilities Supervisor and Hans Stief, Facilities Operations Manager enter the former St Mark's on June 30

Go to our website: [indwell.ca/projects](https://indwell.ca/projects) for more details about each project and to learn about how you can give to create homes.

# Indwell responds to COVID-19

The pandemic has brought many changes to Indwell. Staff at each housing program have adapted countless procedures to ensure the health and safety of tenants. Our typically lively Resource Centre (main office) is empty as staff work from home. Events have been cancelled or gone virtual (read more about our first ever virtual gala on page 3) and most volunteer activities have been suspended.

Despite these changes, our entire team is working diligently to ensure that one thing does not change: the quality of support our tenants receive. At the outset of the pandemic, Indwell created a COVID-19 Communication Team to coordinate and streamline communication, and provide additional 24-7 support to staff. Regular staff e-mails share important information and stories of hope.

We've seen the incredible creativity and adaptability of our program teams. Some examples:

- Staff now deliver meals to doors, split communal meals into shifts, and source and deliver food hampers to reduce the need for grocery shopping.
- Staff continue to check in with tenants through physically distanced office hours, neighbourhood walks or by phone.
- Intake meetings with potential new tenants have resumed, physically distanced—we are so thankful to be able to continue providing hope and homes to more people especially at a time like this.

We've seen tremendous kindness pour in from our community. Thank you for sending notes of encouragement to tenants, donating food and sewing PPE, giving to our COVID-19 Response Fund, and for your continued prayers. We've seen the resilience of tenants who, despite the challenges of COVID-19, care for their communities with selflessness, optimism and love.

We've seen over 24 administrative staff, managers and directors receive training to prepare to support program staff if needed (not yet needed, thankfully!). We've seen our Facilities team quickly procure PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and sanitizing supplies. We've been able to provide enough PPE to support our programs through a potential outbreak and even had extra to share with other organizations! We've seen, in new ways, the invaluable resource we have in our Nursing team who educate us on how to properly use PPE and safely conduct day-to-day work.

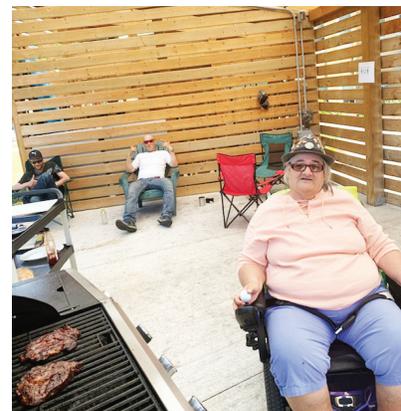


We are so thankful for the health of our Indwell community over these past months and for every staff member, supporter and tenant who has made that possible. While there is much uncertainty about the months ahead, we draw deep encouragement from what we've seen so far and hope you do, too.

*Miranda Crocket and Nikki Thompson*  
Indwell's COVID-19 Communication Team

## Summer Fun

This summer is different from any other we've seen, but our tenants and staff are adapting and finding creative ways to have fun. Being outdoors seems to be a theme; it's easier to adhere to physical distancing guidelines, and it just feels good to be out in the sunshine and warmth.





**ALICE PLUG-BUIST** President | Board of Directors

**JEFF NEVEN** Executive Director | Indwell

Board President Alice Plug-Buist and Executive Director Jeff Neven hosted Indwell's first ever virtual gala, **Hope@Home**.

## You made Indwell's first Virtual Gala amazing!

Instead of cancelling four annual signature community building and fundraising events, on Friday evening, June 12, Indwell staff, tenants, family, supporters and friends came together virtually for Hope@Home. Thanks for all the shout-outs!

### Here's a quick look at how it went, by the numbers:



**1,300+**

People tuned in from **6** provinces, **6** American states, and **2** additional countries (UK and Argentina)



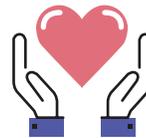
**33%**

of attendees were new to Indwell



**28**

Businesses sponsored the evening



**384**

People gave **\$103,321** to keep rents affordable and staff supports for our **600** tenants



**10%**

of attendees were active on social media

Did you miss the gala? Want to see parts again?

Go to our website, [indwell.ca/hope-at-home](https://indwell.ca/hope-at-home) – we've made it simple to find highlights.



At Woodfield Gate in London, staff and tenants take a 30-minute walk to tend herbs and vegetables in their community garden plot – we're looking forward to a delicious harvest.

With a BBQ bought by tenants, we at Hambleton Hall in Simcoe enjoy a weekly meal together. Despite physical distancing restrictions, we've found a way to enjoy time together around the BBQ.

Tenants from the Blossom Park community in Woodstock spent time spreading love, joy and encouragement through chalking.

A morning walk at the Perkins Centre in Hamilton has been a nice way to get some exercise, while still respecting physical distance measures. It's also been an opportunity to catch up with neighbours.

# Your questions answered

## What does “Indwell” mean?

Indwell is an old English word meaning to “inhabit” or to “dwell in”. Christians use the word “indwell” to reference the change they observe when the Holy Spirit (God) indwells them: people begin to think and act like Jesus. The name Indwell also references homes (dwellings) and wellness.

## Who lives at Indwell?

Indwell serves adults and some families, totalling over 600 people. Typically, tenants have a history of chronic mental health issues like schizophrenia or depression. Many of our tenants have experienced homelessness or had difficulty keeping housing. Some face additional health issues. Some struggle with addictions. Everyone has a need for affordable housing and support.

## How long can people stay?

Indwell is home. We offer permanent affordable housing with supports. Some tenants have lived with us for decades, and some move on after finding more stability in their lives.

## Do your tenants work?

While very few people have paid employment when they move into our housing we have found that this changes as a result of stable quality supportive housing. In a 2019 survey of our tenants, we learned that 18% of Indwell tenants work part-time or full-time, 10% are in school, and 28% volunteer in the community or in an Indwell building.

Have more questions?  
Send us an email: [info@indwell.ca](mailto:info@indwell.ca)

Cut off and return to Indwell

Yes! I want to provide hope and homes for people in Southern Ontario!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - I'm including a cheque
  - I'm including credit card information
- Sign me up as a monthly donor at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /month
  - I'm including a void cheque
  - I'm including credit card information
- I'd like to **Furnish an Apartment** with a one-time gift of \$2,500
  - I'm including a cheque
  - I'm including credit card information
- Please contact me about other opportunities to support Indwell through a directed or planned gift
- VISA     Mastercard    or visit [indwell.ca/donate](http://indwell.ca/donate)

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please contact me to tell me more Indwell's work or volunteer opportunities.

Please contact us or return this form to:

Indwell  
1430 Main St E  
Hamilton ON L8K 1C3  
1.866.529.0454 [info@indwell.ca](mailto:info@indwell.ca)

**DIRECTED GIFTS:** Donations are used only for approved programs and projects. Donations received in support of a specific program or project will be used as directed by the donor, with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met or cannot be completed for any reason determined by Indwell, the remaining amount of the donation will be used where most needed. A 10% contribution toward Indwell's general operating support will be included in gifts received for specific programs and projects. Donors will receive a charitable tax receipt for gifts of \$10 or more.  
Charitable Registration Number: 131295198 RR0001



SUMMER/FALL 2020