**City of Hamilton Seeks Volunteers to Participate in 20,000 Homes Campaign Registry Week**

**HAMILTON, ON - March 16, 2015** – The City of Hamilton is seeking upwards of 100 volunteers to work shifts on Sunday April 26 and Monday April 27 to participate in Registry Week (April 26 to 30, 2015)  for the 20,000 Homes Campaign.

The [20,000 Homes Campaign](http://www.caeh.ca/a-plan-not-a-dream/building-a-20000-homes-campaign/) is a national campaign to house 20,000 of Canada’s most vulnerable homeless people by July 1, 2018. Hamilton has been selected as one of three cities to pilot a Registry Week in advance of the campaign’s formal launch expected early this summer.

Registry Week is the first step in Hamilton’s participation in the campaign. During Registry Week, teams led by professional service staff and community volunteers will systematically canvass the community and complete a short survey with people experiencing homelessness.

The surveys will identify as many people as possible experiencing homelessness and gather information on their health and social needs. The survey data will be entered by trained staff and those surveyed will be prioritized for housing and appropriate support based on their needs.

Results will be shared back with the community during the Community Debrief on April 30.

The deadline for volunteer applications is April 10. The volunteer application form is available [online](http://preview.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2015-03-16/registry_week_application_form.pdf).

The City of Hamilton is one of the first communities in Canada to pilot the 20,000 Homes Campaign and was selected as a pilot community because of our history of supporting Housing First programs.

The 20,000 Homes Campaign is being led by the [Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness](http://www.caeh.ca/), and was inspired by the U.S. 100,000 Homes Campaign ([www.100khomes.org](http://www.100khomes.org/)).

More information on the 20,000 Homes Campaign and the City of Hamilton’s 20,000 Homes Community Registry Week is available on the [City of Hamilton’s website](http://preview.hamilton.ca/social-services/housing/20000-homes-campaign).

Follow @CityofHamilton and participate in the conversation online using the **#20kHomes** hashtag on Twitter.

**2014 Hamilton Housing & Homelessness by the Numbers**

•           There are 5,553 households on the Social Housing Waiting List

* 3,114 people stayed in an Emergency Shelter (3,152 – in 2013)
* 102 Men were housed through Transitions to Home (T2H) – Hamilton’s Housing First Program for men
* 46 Women were housed through Supporting our Sisters (SOS) – Hamilton’s Housing First Program for women
* At any given time >15,000 Hamiltonians experience food insecurity and 7,420 households used Hamilton’s emergency food system during the month of March, 2013.