



There is a charitable organization in Haliburton County that you may not have heard of, but that impacts hundreds of residents every day. **SIRCH Community Services** is an innovative and fluid organization that **focuses on reducing poverty, creating resilience and encouraging connection.**

Starting in 1989, SIRCH incubated and divested several services that county residents now take for granted, (such as adult mental health services and community hospice). Then it turned its attention to how it could level the playing field for residents who were struggling with food security, unemployment, isolation, and other factors that influence general health and wellbeing.

Today, SIRCH provides free nutritious meals (47,000 portions just since the pandemic) through its Community Kitchen program. It offers training, also free, in basic carpentry, food service and other skills that are needed by employers in Haliburton County. It provides low cost furniture, clothing, electronics and more through the Thrift Warehouses in Haliburton and Bancroft, and also donates household items to families who have been homeless, burned out or have fled an abusive relationship and are starting over.

This summer, SIRCH created resilience in over 80 children who were entering or were in junior kindergarten. School's Cool, a program created by SIRCH, increases critical developmental skills that aid in the chances of those children being successful in school.

SIRCH encourages moms who are feeling the pressure of raising young children to join their peer support and parenting groups. Seniors feel less isolated through SIRCH programs like Memories to Life and The Community Table. The Bistro and Bakery offer affordable food and a welcoming place to connect, with any profits going back into SIRCH programs.

You can help SIRCH and help your community!

- **Volunteer** for one of our programs.
- **Renovating or updating your space? Donate** the things you no longer need (in good condition) to the Thrift Warehouse.
- **Visit the Bistro & Bakery** and dine in or take home some delicious meals and treats.
- **Sponsor a program** (we would love to hear your ideas!)
- **Contribute generously to SIRCH's Gifts from the Heart campaign this fall or visit our website to donate monthly.**

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." – Coretta Scott King

To get in touch with SIRCH or to donate, go to www.sirch.on.ca or call 705-457-1742.



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