



*Practice the Presence.  
Know your purpose & gifts.  
Go make a difference.*

**OutReach Groups** *Connecting & Blessing Our Neighbourhoods & Communities*

### HOMES FOR EVERYONE

**Purpose:**

Homes for Everyone will work in cooperation with the Stratford Housing Alliance, seeking to improve access to affordable housing for Stratford and area residents by engaging faith communities in related issues.

**Time / Frequency:**

The group will meet monthly. Activities will be defined at the regular meetings.

**Volunteers:**

We are looking for 5 - 10 volunteers.

After the group gains an understanding of local housing issues, in the context of national/provincial plans and best practices, it will explore faith based responses, potentially including:

- Volunteering to support homelessness enumeration activities or otherwise
- Making awareness presentations
- Supporting the building of affordable housing
- Supporting the creation of dwelling units within existing infrastructures
- Supporting the day to day needs of local shelters



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### HERO PROJECT 1TO1 MENTORING

**Purpose:**

The 1TO1 mentoring program provides elementary age youth with a role model and a friend to talk to, not an authority figure trying to fix them...all within school grounds during school hours!

**Time / Frequency**

For one hour a week, mentors meet with their mentee and engage in activities such as board games, crafts or just hang out on school grounds.

The 1TO1 mentoring program requires a weekly visit of one hour for the duration of the school year. Matches do not go through the summer break or during other school holidays.

**Volunteers**

We are seeking adult women and men who answer yes to these questions:

Are you a good listener?

Do you enjoy spending time with children and youth up to Grade 8?

Would you like to build a friendship with a child or youth?

Do you have one hour a week to commit to meeting regularly with a mentee match? Would you like to be a positive adult influence in the life of a young student?

A Vulnerable Sector Police Check is required as well as a vetted application.

The HERO Project provides the training and works with schools to match mentors and mentees.



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### INDIGENOUS NEIGHBOURS

**Purpose:**

- a. To educate the congregation on the history of indigenous peoples that has led up to the present-day status quo
- b. To examine attitudes and beliefs held by non-indigenous people (settlers)
- c. To provide meaningful opportunities for Avon participants to engage with our First Nations neighbours
- d. To foster/develop lasting relationships between AMC and our Indigenous neighbours, based on respect, understanding and trust.

**Time / Frequency:**

The group will meet 1x month plus additional meetings when planning events.

**Volunteers:**

We are looking for 6 - 8 people who want to:

- a. Find out who our First Nations neighbours are, learn about their culture and understand history from a First Nations perspective
- c. Learn about the role of 'settler' thinking in Canadian culture and the effects it has had, and continues to have, on Indigenous people and culture and the challenges they face in our predominantly white privileged society
- d. Recognize their own 'settler' thinking with the goal of ending it
- e. Help facilitate reconciliation with our indigenous neighbours
- f. Build quality, long lasting relationships with our Indigenous neighbours

We are looking for the following gifts / skills / abilities:

- a. Comfort and ability to share what they learn with others
- b. Ability to plan and participate in events for education and interaction with our Indigenous neighbours
- c. Healthy connections to regional First Nations people / organizations
- d. Storytelling, journalism and media skills



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### NEIGHBOURHOOD FAMILY FUN NIGHT

**Purpose:**

To provide a fun activity for families of Avon to connect and offer a point of contact for families in the local area around the Greenwood Drive area. There will be stations of rotating activities including games, crafts, storytelling, etc. Themes will relate to Avon's core beliefs but will be light and easily accessible to all. The evening will conclude with a meal, which will be key to creating a hospitable and inviting event for newcomers.

**Time / Frequency:**

This event will occur once a month.

**Volunteers:**

We will need 4 volunteers minimum for each event (once a month).

With enough volunteers we will have a rotating schedule.

Volunteers will help plan, prepare and host one of the activities at each event and help with meal prep and clean up.