"I have had times of isolation and aloneness that were very dark. If they hadn’t checked in, I wouldn't have made probation. I'd be back in jail. They have always been there."

O2R Pilot Project Participant
Historical Context

For approximately twenty years, The Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services and The Salvation Army Centre of Hope have worked together to arrange emergency shelter for individuals placed on a Judicial Interim Release Order with a condition to reside at The Salvation Army Centre of Hope until their criminal matter was resolved.

Placing individuals on a Judicial Interim Release Order to reside at The Salvation Army Centre of Hope was a response to the reluctance by Justices of the Peace to release an individual to no fixed address. If an individual had no fixed address and the option of emergency shelter was not there, they would likely be remanded into custody pending their court date.

About The Court Order To Reside Pilot Project

The practice of placing an individual on a Judicial Interim Release Order to Reside at The Salvation Army Centre of Hope often resulted in lengthy stays in emergency shelter and the use of an emergency shelter exceeded its intended purpose. Further, there were many unknowns and gaps in information about what happened to individuals who were on a Judicial Interim Release Order with a condition to reside in an emergency shelter.

The Court Order to Reside Pilot Project (O2R) was commissioned by the City of London Homeless Prevention Service Area to:

1. Test assumptions about what happens to individuals on a Judicial Interim Release Order with a condition to reside at an emergency shelter;
2. Develop a better understanding of the impacts related to ordering individuals into homelessness; and
3. Transition individuals ordered by the Courts to reside at The Salvation Army Centre of Hope into appropriate housing with supports.


The O2R Pilot Project used a Housing First approach. A Housing First approach assists individuals and families experiencing homelessness by seeking out and supporting the right housing, at the right time, in the right place, with the right level of support to develop lasting housing stability.

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1 Generally granted by a Justice of the Peace to release an accused individual from custody prior to the court outcome of their charges. The Order may include specific conditions.
Purpose Of The Evaluation

The purpose of the O2R Pilot Project evaluation was to better understand project outcomes and impact. This report presents a summary of the results and key findings from the evaluation. All statistics provided in this report are inclusive of a November 4, 2014 - September 30, 2016 timeframe.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Number Of Individuals On A Judicial Interim Release Order

There were a total of **421 unique individuals** placed on a Judicial Interim Release Order with a condition to reside at The Salvation Army Centre of Hope. Of those, **17%** had multiple Judicial Interim Release Orders to reside at The Salvation Army Centre of Hope, resulting in a total of **503** Judicial Interim Release Orders to reside at The Salvation Army Centre of Hope between November 4, 2014 and September 30, 2016.

Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age At First Referral</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-19 years old</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29 years old</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39 years old</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49 years old</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59 years old</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 years or older</td>
<td>2%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Average Age

34 years old was the average age of individuals referred to the O2R Pilot Project.

Gender

82% of participants identified as male. 18% of participants identified as female.
KEY FINDINGS

Key Finding #1

The practice of placing an individual on a Judicial Interim Release Order with a condition to reside at The Salvation Army Centre of Hope is not an effective practice.

1/4 of individuals on a Judicial Interim Release Order did not register at The Salvation Army Centre of Hope.

56% of individuals on a Judicial Interim Release Order registered and left The Salvation Army Centre of Hope before receiving support to find housing.

43% of individuals who registered left The Salvation Army Centre of Hope within 10 days.

18% left The Salvation Army Centre of Hope within 25 days.

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3 Length of time involved in the project refers to the total number of days an individual participated in the O2R Pilot Project from program registration to program exit.
**Key Finding #2**

Individuals remained housed during their involvement in the O2R Pilot Project.

67% of participants who secured housing remained in their initial housing, 23% of participants were re-housed, and 10% were not re-housed.

### Number Of Times Individuals Were Re-Housed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Times Re-Housed</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 time</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 times</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 times</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 or more times</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Length Of Time For An Individual To Be Re-Housed

- **Same day**: 59%
- **1 day**: 18%
- **2 days**: 5%
- **3 or more days**: 18%

### What Participants Had To Say

- “They have been a go-between between me and my landlord. Also, some Housing Stability Workers have connections to the community and things like mental health services.”
- “Comfort. I’m not ready to do this myself yet. I enjoy connecting with the Housing Stability Workers. I know they care.”
- “Extra support in the community. When I have court or counselling appointments, I know they can help me. They are a listening ear.”

### The 3 most frequently reported reasons for re-housing include:

1. **Wanted to Move** 33%
2. **Possible Eviction** 33%
3. **Fire** 10%
Key Finding

#3

Individuals involved in the O2R Pilot Project who secured housing experienced reduced recidivism.

The 5 most frequently reported criminal charges for individuals at the time of referral to the O2R Pilot Project were:

1. Breach of Recognizance, Probation, or Undertaking* 50%
2. Assault 30%
3. Uttering Threats 18%
4. Theft Under $5,000 15%
5. Domestic Assault (self-reported) 12%

67% of individuals with available charge information had more than one criminal charge.

73% of individuals who secured housing did not receive new charges during their involvement with the O2R Pilot Project.

79% of participants who secured housing and completed their court trial process continued receiving support after the final court hearing.

What Participants Had To Say

“When you get out of jail, you don’t have anything with you. Without them, I wouldn’t be where I’m at. They took me from nothing on my way to something.”

“If you had any issues in the outside world, sometimes to get back into society, you need help. It’s not all that easy. I would recommend somebody to participate.”

“I’ve become more of a people person. I’m now helping someone else because I saw the help they were giving me.”

* Breach of recognizance, probation, or undertaking refers to when an individual does not comply with the terms and conditions of an issued Release Order. Conditions may be issued for an individual as part of their release pending the outcome of a charge, at the time of arrest, as part of a probation order, at the time of release from custody, or at the time a charge is dealt with by the court.
Key Finding

#4

Individuals on a Judicial Interim Release Order were able to secure housing as a direct result of the O2R Pilot Project.

92 unique individuals secured housing as a result of the support provided through the O2R Pilot Project.

Length Of Time To Secure Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-14 days</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-30 days</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-45 days</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 or more days</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

39 days was the average number of days required to secure housing.

26 participants accessed the Housing Stability Bank.5

16 participants accessed the Whatever It Takes Fund.6

What Participants Had To Say

“They facilitated that transition between being in custody and being housed.”

“I have a place of my own. They went with me to look at places. They give you a positive outlook on life.”

“If you are coming from nothing, you need help finding housing and getting stable.”

5 A program operated by The Salvation Army Centre of Hope that offers financial assistance to low-income Londoners and those at risk of homelessness to obtain and retain their housing. Assistance includes Last Month’s Rent through an interest-free loan program.

6 A flexible fund available to support housing stability for participants involved in specialized Housing First programs.
Summary & Next Steps

Individuals who are currently housed continue to be supported. Findings from the evaluation of the O2R Pilot Project demonstrated that placing individuals on a Judicial Interim Release Order with a condition to reside at The Salvation Army Centre of Hope was not an effective practice. As of October 1, 2016, the O2R Pilot Project no longer accepts new participants.

Based on the findings from the evaluation, it is evident that generally, individuals placed on a Judicial Interim Release Order with a condition to reside at The Salvation Army Centre of Hope will make their own arrangements for housing, given a small window of time. Through discussion with representatives of the Court, Bail Recognizances are generally now issued to 'no fixed address' versus an emergency shelter.

There is a sub-group of individuals involved in the justice system who do require housing with supports. As demonstrated by this evaluation, through the use of a Housing First approach, the O2R Pilot Project has achieved positive outcomes related to assisting individuals, on a Judicial Interim Release Order and experiencing homelessness, to secure and maintain housing.

Building on the success of the Housing First approach, a new initiative is in the planning phase and will provide a response for individuals experiencing homelessness involved in the justice system.

To receive a copy of the report please contact:
homelessprevention@london.ca

Court Order To Reside Pilot Project
Final Evaluation Report

Prepared By: Kovacs Group Inc.