

Press Release

Gofundme created by citizens for winter survival for Cobourg Encampment residents

Neighbours come together to raise money for winter tents and wood stoves for folks experiencing homelessness in Cobourg, ON.

COBOURG, ON: A small group of neighbours have come together to raise money to purchase hot tents, woods stoves and accompanying safety items for approx. 18 people living outside at a small encampment outside of Brookside.

The citizen-organized initiative began at the start of December and so far has raised \$13,400. In consultation with the encampment residents, campaign organizers Tony Mercieca and Jenni Frenke, choose a hot tent/wood stove that has been approved by Cobourg Fire for outdoor use. Each hot tent/wood stove set includes two patio stones, a smoke/CO2 alarm, fire extinguisher and ash pail and shovel. The encampment residents were able to provide excellent feedback on what they needed in terms of camping equipment to survive the winter but asked for support in raising the required funds.

"Currently we have been able to provide 9 individuals/couples with a hot tent and wood stove and we also were able to purchase a large community tent with two stoves that is being used as a kitchen and a place for folks who need somewhere warm and safe to go for a short period of time" says Jenni Frenke. "Community support so far has been amazing. This campaign is about keeping people warm, safe and alive until they can move onto some form of housing".

The campaign still needs to raise another \$4,000 for equipment and will continue to fundraise for firewood. With so many wood stoves operating, the encampment is going through more than a bush cord of firewood a week, which costs about \$400+ per week.

Anyone interested in donating to the gofundme can visit this link: <https://gofund.me/fd62d5e1>. Or search on gofundme for "Winter survival for Camp 413". You can also contact organizers directly through this page - monetary donations and donation of fire wood are very much appreciated.

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Jenni Frenke (she/her)