

Housing and Heritage

ST. MARK'S PLACE, INDWELL

More affordable and supportive housing is coming to the Waterloo region in Ontario. Thanks to the collaboration of Indwell, a charity focused on housing vulnerable people and St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 43 affordable housing units will be created within the existing walls of St. Mark's Church to provide much needed housing to vulnerable people in Kitchener.

The space became available following the amalgamation of three local churches that left St. Mark's open to new life. The Lutheran Church sought a developer that espoused the principles of community and care that the church had shared with Kitchener for over 70 years. Now, three years on, tenants have started to move into their new homes in St. Mark's and the building is once again filled with life and community.

Along with the housing units, a commercial kitchen was added and the sanctuary was preserved, including the historic stained-glass windows for a community gathering space to continue the tradition of bringing the community together at St. Mark's. Working as both the developer and service provider, Indwell will continue to provide services onsite including health support and optional food service to help their tenants stay housed.



PHOTO CREDIT: INDWELL.CA

“We, at Indwell, love to find buildings that have had a previous life and a previous use, and are ready for another chapter.”

MARK WILLCOCK,
COMMUNITY OUTREACH
COORDINATOR AT INDWELL

HERITAGE IS LIVING HERITAGE IS LIVING HERITAGE IS LIVING HERITAGE IS LIVING

Indwell provides affordable housing to over 1000 households in Southern Ontario and has a history of restoration and adaptively re-using existing and heritage buildings. “We, at Indwell, love to find buildings that have had a previous life and a previous use, and are ready for another chapter, and take those spaces and convert them into housing,” says Mark Willcock, a community outreach coordinator with Indwell. “It allows us to convert buildings that are already existing in a community and can be reused for a purpose that is needed in the community but also convert them in such a way that is environmentally friendly for the long term,” added Willcock.

St. Mark’s Place will provide many vulnerable individuals with the housing and the support they need as well as keep a Kitchener landmark alive in the city. This project represents the potential of heritage and existing buildings to be part of the solution to the housing crisis and to live on as important places in their community.

By Angus Affleck

SOURCES

New to Waterloo Region: Indwell moves into Kitchener
[New to Waterloo Region: Indwell moves into Kitchener | Indwell](#)

City News: [Canadian charity converts Kitchener church into housing for people experiencing homelessness \(citynews.ca\)](#)

First tenants welcomed into new affordable housing at St. Mark’s Place:
[First tenants welcomed into new affordable housing at St. Mark’s Place - Around the Region](#)