

*"You can see the stars when the sun goes down. There aren't oversized flashy billboards everywhere you look, and you don't spend hours commuting to and from work, surrounded by thousands of other people. It's different here. Life goes by so fast, and I think everyone can benefit from slowing down. I want to live my life in a way that I enjoy every minute, and I get to do that in Perth County."*



## Making a difference

### MONICA

Community Outreach Worker,  
Stratford Perth Shelterlink

Perth East



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#ProsperInPerthCounty

"I wanted to come back home after graduating university, but I didn't think that there were many opportunities for me here. I was so happy to discover that not only are there so many great options, but great options in my field of choice," recalled Monica, a Perth East native who is very involved in her community.

Monica always knew that she wanted to build her career around helping people, and social service work was the best way for her to hone in both her passion and skillset. When she landed her current job and began servicing homeless and at-risk youth, it was a life-changing moment.

"I really feel like I'm making a difference in other people's lives."

Due to her experiences with the youth that she has gotten to meet within her professional role, Monica was inspired to become an addictions counsellor, which she is currently pursuing online.

"Online post-secondary and post-graduate education is fantastic because you can complete your studies from anywhere while continuing to work full time," she explained.

"There's the perception that the only opportunities in the area are in agriculture and factory work. Those are great options with plentiful jobs, but Perth County is so much more than just those two sectors. It really has the demand for every career path you can think of." ■