

## Execulink Makes First Donation of 2021 to First-Ever Emergency Shelter Fundraising Campaign in Oxford County

(Woodstock, ON) January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – <u>Execulink Telecom</u>, the Woodstock-based telecommunications provider with a serious commitment to supporting its local communities, has made its first 2021 community donation to the <u>Coldest Night of the Year</u> initiative in Woodstock.

The Walk, founded 11 years ago in Kitchener-Waterloo, is now held in more than 150 Canadian cities coast-to-coast. Each city raises funds for a local shelter in its community, with over \$6.5 million collectively raised as of 2020. The Woodstock Coldest Night of the Year event is donating all proceeds to <a href="The Inn of Oxford">The Inn of Oxford</a>, Oxford County's only emergency shelter, via <a href="Operation Sharing">Operation Sharing</a>.

"As this was the first-ever Coldest Night Event in Oxford County, I wasn't sure what to expect in terms of community involvement, but I've been blown away!" says Event Director Scott McKague. "Even with the announcement earlier in January that we'd need to cancel the in-person group walk due to the lockdown, the number of people signing up and the amount of funds being donated hasn't slowed at all. In fact, I think it's gained in momentum since then!"

Support of local community initiatives like this is <u>a regular practice</u> at Execulink Telecom. "We're thrilled to be kicking off a new year of giving back to our local communities with the Coldest Night of the Year donation," shares Ian Stevens, President and CEO of Execulink. "Our service communities are also our homes. This is as simple for us as supporting our family in a time of need and we are delighted to be able to do so."

Andrea Atkinson, VP Customer Experience at Execulink, couldn't agree more. "To use <u>last year's word of the year</u>, 2020 was unprecedented. 2021 brings with it a new era of hope, but the battle isn't over. We must do everything in our power to support each other and the wonderful initiatives run by community members to better our local communities in the face of the global pandemic."

As of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 155 walkers on 33 teams have contributed to the cause, with the support of sponsors like Execulink bolstering the contributions to the tune of nearly \$30,000 raised for the Inn of Oxford. For more information on how to register or make a donation, <u>visit the Woodstock Coldest Night of the Year page</u>.

## **About Execulink Telecom**

In operation since 1904, Execulink Telecom has evolved from a small independent local telephone company into one of the leading telecommunications providers in Ontario. Through innovation and forward-thinking, the telecom provider has cultivated what began as local telephony offerings to provide a full-scale suite of telecommunications services including data, internet, television, mobility, and advanced voice features. These services are now available to all levels of industry, encompassing 50,000 business, enterprise, government, and residential customers.

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