

Community Impact

Not all community members have an equal opportunity to create a vibrant life. Many struggle to achieve a sustainable livelihood because they have vulnerabilities that place them at risk and face barriers in accessing opportunities and support. Our community impact mission is to improve lives and build community by engaging individuals and mobilizing collective action.

Community Impact is about achieving meaningful, long-term improvements to quality of life in Guelph Wellington and Dufferin communities by addressing not just the symptoms of problems but also getting at the root causes. Recognizing this, United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin chooses to focus efforts in three key community investment Focus Areas essential for our community to thrive. We do this by investing in programs and by working closely with local community groups – those that receive United Way funds and those that do not – to address the social needs of individuals and groups in our community that are vulnerable to social and systemic barriers to create meaningful change.

To learn more about United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin's local community impact contributions please review information about the community planning tables we are engaged with in this report.

From Poverty to Possibility

Guelph and Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination

The Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination (Poverty Task Force) works collaboratively, informed by diverse voices of experience, to take local action and to advocate for system and policy change to address the root causes of poverty.

Success in their work requires the following four pathways to deliver results:

Current Poverty Task Force priorities for the community are:

- Income Inequality
- Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Food Security
- Health Inequities

For more information and a list of current Poverty Task Force initiatives and actions please visit www.gwpoverty.ca

Research & Knowledge Mobilization Committee – a subcommittee of the PTF

The Research & Knowledge Mobilization Committee (R&K Mb) provides research, evaluation and knowledge mobilization support to the Poverty Task Force Action Committees. The committee is primarily responsible for the development of research tools, data management and data analysis. United Way co-chairs this committee.

Current projects include:

- Developing a snapshot of the working poor in our community
- Creating an evaluation plan for the Pod (the SEED's food distribution initiative)
- Developing retrospective evaluations of all of the action committees of the PTF

Wellington-Guelph Housing Committee – an aligned committee of the PTF

The Wellington-Guelph Housing Committee (WGHC) believes that everyone should have access to housing that offers choice, security, affordability and adequate shelter within communities. Recognizing that homelessness and precarious housing is a complex problem that requires solutions at multiple levels, the WGHC involves a variety of stakeholders in educational, collaborative and advocacy activities that are aimed at easing and preventing the problem in our community.

Recent projects include:

- Developing and advocating for an [Ontario Housing Benefit](#) to decrease the gap between income and rent.

Participation in the committee is open to everyone: For more information on how to participate or for recent initiatives, please contact Kari Simpson, WGHC Chair, Kari.s@ew-cs.com.

Living Wage Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to assist and make recommendations to the PTF on matters relating to the Guelph & Wellington Living Wage Employer Recognition Program.

The scope of the Living Wage Advisory Committee may include activities such as:

- Provide input into the expansion of the Living Wage Employer Recognition Program;
- Provide advice on issues or concerns related to the implementation of internal policies for Living Wage Employers;
- Assisting with the dissemination of information from the PTF to the local business community;
- Provide feedback on key issues related to the development of provincial and national living wage employer programs.

20,000 Homes Leadership Committee

The 20,000 Homes Campaign is a national movement of communities working together to permanently house 20,000 of Canada's most vulnerable homeless people by July 1, 2020. Working closely with the County and the PTF, the purpose of the Leadership Committee is to provide wide direction, planning, oversight and visionary leadership to the Guelph & Wellington 20,000 Homes Campaign.

The Leadership Committee will play three specific roles:

1. The committee will be Community Champions. We will take on the challenge of ending homelessness and are fearless in raising awareness and support for it.
2. The committee will be Networkers. We identify resources to support the project such as, expertise, ideas, solutions, networks, and funding opportunities.
3. The committee will be Transformational Leaders. We will use our influence to encourage and support innovation.

All That Kids Can Be

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Coalition for Report Cards on the Well-Being of Children

The Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Coalition for a Report Card on the Well-Being of Children is a collaborative group that examines and reports on the state of well-being of children in Guelph, Wellington, and Dufferin. Report Cards are produced for different age groups: 0-6, 7-13, and 14-18 years of age.

The coalition continues to:

- Develop and evaluate the Youth Survey
- Issue the Report Card on the Well-Being of Children
- Build awareness of the needs of children and youth
- Play the role of a planning tool to reveal service gaps
- Hold community forums and discussions
- Be guided by Wellington Dufferin Guelph Children's Charter of Rights

Core Indicators Advisory Committee – subcommittee of the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Report Card Coalition

The purpose of the CIAC is to create a comprehensive list of core indicators that reflect the well-being of children and youth in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph. Core indicators, in this context, are measure of wellbeing of children and youth populations and their communities. They reflect complex concepts in a concrete, clearly defined way using standardized definitions and methods. Core indicators will form the foundation for children and youth wellbeing status reporting.

Data Access Working Group - subcommittee of the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Report Card Coalition

DAWG members conduct various types of data analysis depending on the data source and expertise of the member. The DAWG may, as capacity allows, support system monitoring and/or a system's level evaluation by providing population data and/or consulting on which population data should be used.

The DAWG is responsible for:

- Implementing the WDG Youth Survey every three years and updating the questions to reflect the data needs in the community.
- Gathering data from local community organizations and from administrative datasets as it pertains to children, youth and their families.
- Critically review, analyze and present data collected from the WDG Youth Survey, community organizations, national surveys, and administrative datasets to make sense of the trends

Strong Communities

Guelph-Wellington Local Immigration Partnership Leadership Council

The Guelph-Wellington Local Immigration Partnership (GWLIP) is a large coalition of individuals representing various groups in the community. We are creating a more welcoming and inclusive community for immigrants by addressing important economic and social issues and finding effective solutions that make it easier for immigrants to settle in Guelph Wellington. The GWLIP is one of 35 LIPs across Ontario funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). It is steered by a leadership council, on which United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin is a member of. The leadership council provides strategic leadership and direction to the project as a whole, sets priorities, and oversees the implementation of those priorities.

Research Team – a subcommittee of the GWLIP

The mandate of the Research Committee is to conduct research and raise awareness of emerging immigration issues and evaluate the GWLIP's impact. Currently, the primary focus of the Research Committee is the 2016 GWLIP Progress Report. The purpose of the report is to highlight work being done in the community to address newcomer needs, identify gaps and suggest actionable recommendations to improve the wellbeing and inclusion of newcomers in Guelph and Wellington County.

- The team becomes a hub for emerging immigration research in the community
- The team develops systems of measurement used to guide activities and future priority setting of immigration issues

Toward Common Ground (TCG)

TCG aims to build a sustainable collective planning model to support stakeholders of social and health wellbeing to take strategic action that makes a difference in the lives of people who live in Guelph & Wellington.

Within all of the current collaboration in the community, there is room to be more strategic and intentional about the way that we work together across issues, across populations and across sectors.

The pathways in which we will achieve success include:

- Creating a bird's eye view of the health and social services sector
- Connecting the dots and contextualizing among the issues in our community
- Transferring and mobilizing knowledge by sharing information in an ongoing and accessible way as a resource for human service stakeholders to make key planning decisions
- Building collective capacity as needed or requested by the sector
- Championing and supporting strategic action in response to community needs

Some of the outcomes that will be achieved by implementation of these pathways include:

- Clarity about how and where we intervene to affect change
- Opportunities to work together for a common purpose
- Identification of duplication of efforts
- Inform resource allocation

For more information about the project and the deliverables, please visit:
www.towardcommonground.ca.

Community Data Program – Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Consortium

The Community Data Program (CDP) was established by the Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) as a gateway for municipalities and community sector organizations to access customized tables from Statistics Canada and other providers to monitor and report on social and economic development trends within their communities.

Relying on a Community Consortium model, the group is able to reduce the cost of acquiring community data, builds community data analysis capacity and connects a national network of data users.

External Funding Review Panels

Community Advisory Board - HPS

We are on the Community Advisory Board for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). The HPS is a governmental, community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness in communities across Canada. It does this by providing direct funding to support community efforts in addressing local needs and specific homelessness priorities.