

Community Impact Report 2019



United Way
Guelph Wellington
Dufferin

We are your **UNITED WAY:**



For the past 78 years, United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin has strived to meet existing and emerging social needs in order to improve lives and build community. Directed by a volunteer board, managed by committed staff and supported by thousands of donors, United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin works with partners in all sectors to identify needs and raise funds to support programs in response to those needs.

Today, United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin funds 72 social service programs at 50 local charitable organizations and community agencies. These programs allow kids to be all that they can be, move people from poverty to possibility and create, strong thriving communities.

Thanks to the generosity of thousands of donors and the hard work of our funded agencies, in 2018 we raised over \$3.6 million. As a result, we are able to improve the lives of thousands of children, youth, adults, families and seniors in our local community.

Thank You!

**SHOW YOUR
LOCAL LOVE.**

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United Way
Guelph Wellington
Dufferin

Our COMMUNITY

Guelph Wellington Dufferin



WHAT SETS US APART

We are local experts

We bring people together

We solve complex issues

We improve lives

We generate high return on
community investment and
measure impact

United Way **IMPACT AREAS:**

United Way works closely alongside issue experts on research planning tables to understand our community's needs and facilitate investment in programs through a volunteer Community Impact Committee. United Way has identified five essential building blocks to create strong neighbourhoods and thriving communities, including:

Connected Kids

All children and youth should believe in themselves and feel like they are a part of the community in which they live. When kids feel a sense of belonging and pride in their communities, they are better able to deal with life's challenges and get involved. Children who participate in activities are more likely to have higher self-esteem, develop skills for learning and form positive relationships.

Adequate Basic Needs

Basic needs include food, housing and income. These are crucial social determinants of health that individuals and families need to survive and thrive.

Sense of Belonging

Feeling a sense of belonging and participating in your community benefits individuals, organizations and communities alike. People who are connected to others and their community tend to be happier and healthier. Belonging and participating are ways to receive emotional support, feel valued, decrease social isolation and give back to the community.

Positive Mental Health

Positive mental health means people can handle life's challenges. Mental health, poverty and overall well-being are connected. People who struggle with mental illness are more likely to have chronic illnesses. A mental illness can impact a person's ability to pursue education, or to find employment.

Supports for Seniors

Social networks provide social, emotional and financial support to individuals, while connecting them to other groups, people and opportunities. Social participation affects physical and mental health and is especially important for older adults. Health benefits include better quality of life, living longer and decreased risk of acquiring a disability, depression, anxiety or dementia.

We are **LOCAL EXPERTS**:

By investing in individual programs and by participating with local community committees - those that receive United Way funds and those that do not - we aim to address the social needs of individuals and families in our community that are vulnerable to social and systemic barriers, in order to create meaningful change. We are happy to work with our community partners on the following committees and task forces:

Community Data Program - Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Consortium

This program functions as a gateway for municipalities and community organizations to access data, monitor and report on social and economic trends within their communities.

Guelph Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination - Membership Committee

This committee focuses on developing an intersectional approach regarding Housing & Homelessness, Livable Incomes & Decent Work, Food Insecurity and Health Inequalities in our local community. This work is supported by the Research & Knowledge Mobilization Committee and the Wellington-Guelph Housing Committee.

Guelph Wellington Local Immigration Partnership - Leadership Council

This council is a large coalition of individuals representing a wide range of groups in the community. Their focus is in creating a more welcoming and inclusive community for immigrants by developing effective solutions that address economic and social issues.

Guelph-Wellington Funder's Network

The purpose of this network is to take a birds-eye view on local issues and needs, and align them to different funding processes. This requires members to take collective action and respond to funding requests and needs in the community.

Integrated Youth Services - Steering Committee

This initiative aims to deliver services to youth ages 12-26 to meet a wide range of needs. Services and programs are co-designed with youth to make sure that they are able to get what they need, when they need it.

Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness and Community Safety

A combination of community leaders and agencies, convened by Mayor Guthrie that work together around the issues of homelessness and related issues of addiction, mental health, and community safety.

Reaching Home, Canada's Homelessness Strategy - Community Advisory Board

This is a governmental, community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness in the community. Funding is directed to address local needs and specific homelessness priorities.

Toward Common Ground - Steering Committee

This committee aims to build a sustainable collective planning model to support stakeholders of social and health well-being, to take action that makes a difference in the lives of people in our community.

United Way's Food Insecurity Network

A network of similar-minded funded agencies that work together to create a collective food security strategy.

United Way's Adverse Childhood Experiences Network

A network of similar-minded funded agencies working together to create a collective strategy focusing on children and youth under our Connected Kids area.

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

This committee is a collaborative group that examines and provides access to a wide range of population-level health and well-being indicators. These indicators support the understanding of children and youth well-being in our community. This work is in partnership with the Upper Grand District and Wellington Catholic School Boards. Additional committees that support this work include the Core Indicators Advisory Committee, Data Access Working Group and the Knowledge Activation Team.





CONNECTED KIDS

The **ISSUE:**

Poverty, food insecurity, mental illness, domestic violence, and lack of early-year foundational supports have lifelong effects on children. As they enter adolescence and young adulthood, they often struggle to make connections, finish high school, and find meaningful jobs. This has a lasting impact on our community's young people, creating barriers to opportunity and affecting their chances at building a successful life.

The **RESPONSE:**

United Way works with partner agencies to put kids on the path to success by investing in their development, from early childhood to young adulthood. These investments include vital early-years supports for children and their families, and engagement and employment programs that help youth successfully transition to adulthood. By decreasing barriers to kids' success, and increasing their opportunities for education and employment, we ensure our community's youngest citizens have everything they need to thrive today, and in the future.

The **INVESTMENT:**

Thanks to your generous donation,

\$300,178

was invested in children and youth programs in our community in 2019.

The **STUMBLING BLOCKS:**

LOW SELF-ESTEEM

As many as

2/3

of youth feel that they face too many problems.

LOW CONNECTEDNESS

Almost

35%

of school-aged kids don't feel like they have a friend they can count on.

LOW ACTIVITY

At least

1/2

of youth aren't involved in much service in their community.

The **BUILDING BLOCKS:**

This year, children and youth were able to attend inclusive summer camps, participate in mentoring programs to develop leadership skills, learn about positive mental health and the effects of bullying, and have access to new activity spaces.



1,630

kids now believe in themselves and have the confidence to pursue new opportunities in their community.



893

kids are now participating more at school and engaging in new opportunities.



1,381

kids built new, healthy relationships and have the skills to get along with others.

98

kids have more knowledge about services and resources they can access to help them succeed.

902

kids now feel like they belong in their community and can connect with others.

“The structured environment helped Victor to broaden the range of activities he was participating in with his peers. It was challenging, but his ability to function with others progressed. Victor's parents believe that this summer experience helped him to **improve his self-esteem** when it comes to trying new activities, making him more **confident** in interacting with his peers and making new friends.

- Summer Programming

“Her big sister is the "port in the storm". Her life has had ups and downs, struggles, loses and wins, good times and bad times. Her Big Sister was there for her through it all. She continues to be that **caring person who has been a huge support** for her, three years and counting.”

- Match Program

“The **change I saw in my son was so significant** I didn't think it was real. There was a huge shift during his time at Rainbow Day Camp. He joined the program the following year and wanted to be a volunteer because he wants to apply to be a counsellor! How great would that be? Has Rainbow Day Camp had an impact on his little life? Absolutely, 100% and I will be forever grateful.”

- Inclusive Summer Day Camp

“Reading Rocks has been a great program for Lily to **step outside her box, take chances** and attach her new-found knowledge to the world around her.”

- Just for YOUth Literacy



What your **DOLLAR BUYS:**

- \$25** → Helps pay for personal hygiene items, socks and underwear so that an at-risk youth can look for employment confidently.
- \$100** → Purchases healthy food for students so that they can have a good start to their day and concentrate on school work.
- \$365** → Pays for a week of summer camp with adapted programming so a child with special needs is not excluded and can make new friends.
- \$500** → Provides new art supplies and sports equipment for children attending recreation programs so that they can learn new skills and stay engaged.
- \$1,000** → Allows 20 people to engage in two hours of family literacy every day for two weeks, giving them the confidence to pursue new opportunities.

The **AGENCIES & PROGRAMS** we fund:

- Action Read Community Literacy Centre
Early Start Family Literacy
- Autism Ontario-Wellington County Chapter
Summer Programming
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph
Big Bunch Group Mentoring
One to One Community Match
School-Based Mentoring
In-School Mentoring
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Wellington
Go Girls Game On
In-School Mentoring
Match Program
- Canadian National Institute for the Blind
Beyond the Classroom
- Family & Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington
Give Yourself Credit
- John Howard Society of Waterloo-Wellington
Bullying Prevention/ Social Competency
- Rainbow Programmes for Children
Inclusive Summer Day Camp
- Shelldale Family Gateway
Youth Resiliency Program
- Wellington County Learning Centre
Just for YOUth Literacy

ADEQUATE BASIC NEEDS

The **ISSUE:**

Complex challenges like job loss, illness, and the mounting cost of living prevent many individuals from building the life they hope for themselves. For many people across our community, poverty is a daily struggle. It touches almost every aspect of a person's life, from food, shelter, and unemployment to mental and physical well-being. The social and economic issues that poverty impacts affects entire communities.

The **RESPONSE:**

United Way's poverty reduction efforts are designed to achieve measurable results which ensure families and individuals have the financial, social, and personal assets they need to improve their quality of life. We work together with partner agencies to tackle the root causes of poverty by ensuring people meet their basic needs, and build towards stability with financial empowerment supports.

The **INVESTMENT:**

Thanks to your generous donation,

\$ 581,200

was invested in our community in 2019 to alleviate poverty.



The **STUMBLING BLOCKS:**

HOMELESSNESS

Roughly

300

people in Guelph Wellington are homeless each night.

FOOD INSECURITY

Almost

1 in 10

Guelph Wellington households struggle to buy food, or go hungry.

ADEQUATE HOUSING

At least

1/4

of households cope with unaffordable shelter and housing costs.

The **BUILDING BLOCKS:**

This year, your donation helped members in our community live in good health and with dignity, by providing programs and resources to help alleviate poverty.



332

individuals now have access to stable and affordable housing that meets their needs.



572

people now face reduced risk of eviction or homelessness.



2,341

individuals have a decreased need for emergency food.



24,456

individuals now have increased access to nutritious, culturally appropriate, and affordable food.



706

people have access to sustaining income and income supports so that they can focus on their next steps.



8,073

individuals have access to, or new knowledge of, other services that will help them meet their needs.

“ A disabled, shy and marginalized client of the food bank, with a history of unhealthy and sedentary habits, joined the adult cooking class. The transformation that followed was akin to rebirth. Amanda **was re-invigorated and re-energized.** She learned how to select, budget for, and prepare healthier food. She now advocates on behalf of our clients at some of the local social justice meetings she attends.

- Healthy Fresh Food



“ When I first came to Canada, I was poor and had no money. I see everyone who comes to the HOPE House is poor and needs help for everything. I get help from them and get to help others as well. I come on Wednesdays so that I can practice my English and make friends. **There is happiness and joy here.**

- ReFresh: Bringing Good Food Home



“ During my period of homelessness and couch surfing, I had no idea what was going to happen to my children and I. But a **miracle happened!** I learned about Micheal House and moved into the Supportive Housing Program. This was the best thing that happened to us and has **helped me get back on my feet and get control of my life** again. I was able to find myself after being lost.

- Supportive Transitional Housing



What your **DOLLAR BUYS**:

- \$25** → Fills one back pack with school supplies that is age and grade appropriate, so that a student can focus on their lessons.
- \$100** → Buys enough produce for four families of four so that they can meet their fruit and vegetable needs for the week.
- \$365** → Purchases enough food to feed 160 individuals at two community breakfasts, allowing them to have the proper nutrition to start their day.
- \$500** → Gives a homeless individual the opportunity to pay for last month's rent and have a safe place to sleep so that they can focus on their next steps.
- \$1,000** → Buys three mattresses so that individuals can have a sound and restful sleep.

The **AGENCIES & PROGRAMS** we fund:

- Centre Wellington Food Bank
Healthy Fresh Food
- Chalmers Community Service Centre
Food Pantry
- Community Resource Centre of North Wellington & Centre Wellington
Outreach and Support Services
- East Wellington Community Services
Food Bank
- Guelph Community Health Centre
Garden Fresh Box
- Lakeside HOPE House
ReFresh: Bringing Good Food Home
- Michael House Pregnancy Care Centre
Supportive Transitional Housing Program
Residential Program
- Victorian Order of Nurses
Meals on Wheels - Guelph/Wellington
- Welcome In Drop-In Centre
Drop-In Program
- Wellington County Learning Centre
Bridges Out of Poverty: Circles
- Wyndham House
Youth Resource Centre
Long Term Transitional Housing Program

POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH

The **ISSUE:**

Too many people in our community struggle with mental health issues - 1 in 4 people in Guelph Wellington feel too stressed on a daily basis; 8 in 10 teen say they struggle with mental health and death by suicide in Guelph is 2.5X the national average. Mental health, poverty and overall well-being are connected. People who struggle with mental illness are more likely to have chronic illnesses, and mental illness can impact a person's ability to pursue education or find employment.

The **INVESTMENT:**

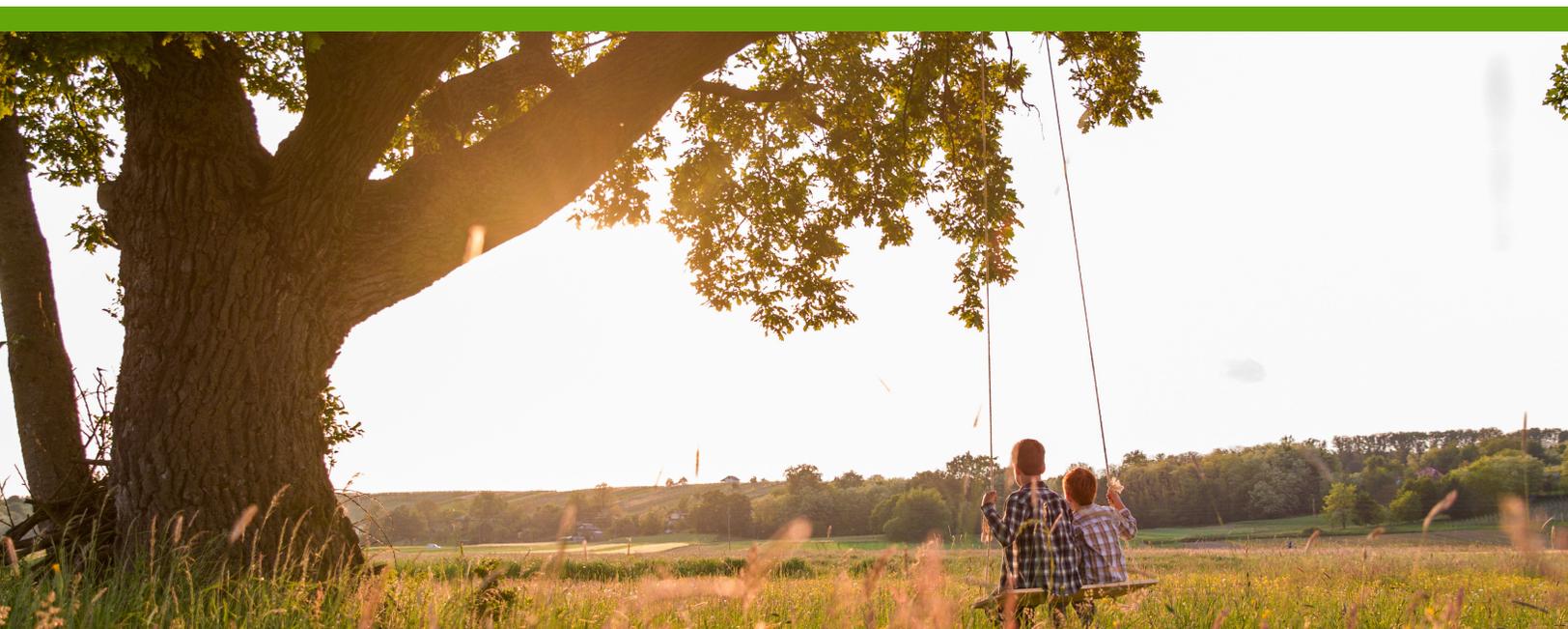
Thanks to your generous donation,

\$ 724,533

The **RESPONSE:**

United Way invests in prevention and early intervention programs which provide a wide range of community-based services that help improve social support, self-regulation of emotion and coping skills, as well as increase access to help & support. With positive mental health, we are better able to cope and thrive personally and professionally.

was invested in our community in 2019 so that our community can thrive.



The **STUMBLING BLOCKS:**

MENTAL HEALTH

Roughly

1 in 5

individuals experience mental illness.

Almost

1 in 8

teens in Guelph and Wellington say they're struggling with mental health.

STRESS LEVELS

At least

1 in 4

people feel too stressed on a daily basis.

The **BUILDING BLOCKS:**

This year, your donation helped members in our community access programs and services that helped them cope with life's challenges and increase their mental health.



7,658

people have access to new resources and supports, giving them people they can count on.



462

individuals have the confidence and self-esteem to work through challenges.



6,743

people have learned new skills to help them cope with life's challenges.



5,462

people feel that they have the social support to work through challenges and are less isolated.



2,811

individuals, with the support of others, have developed personal goals to help reduce stress.

“ Smith became a regular user of the distress line and was connected to many community services that would meet his needs. He connected minimum once weekly to update us on his life and access support from our volunteer operators. Smith expressed that calling Torchlight and having someone on the lines to listen **helped him feel accountable to succeed.** Smith still calls, not in distress, but rather to say hello and thank us for listening when he needed it most.

- Distress Line Listening Service



“ I called the information line and was able to share my situation. Through our conversation, they were able to connect me with an agency that provides in-home support services, as I am unable to feed myself. This conversation **gave me more hope than I have felt in the past three years.** A personal support worker has been coming regularly and I have the support I need.

- Community Information Guelph



“ Like many people I know, I did not know much about depression or understand why people would want to kill themselves until the day it happened to me. I did not realize in the moment that it was happening to me until I almost drove off the road in my car. I remembered that somewhere there was a walk-in clinic to help people. I walked in and was immediately directed to the waiting room. During the session the therapist listened to me and helped me create a safety plan. **I walked out with a plan knowing who I need to connect with for support. I was no longer alone.**

- Quick Access Affordable Counselling



What your **DOLLAR BUYS**:

- \$25** → Allows an individual to access support for one hour and get connected to the services they need.
- \$100** → Provides one hour of support counselling to a woman experiencing domestic violence.
- \$365** → Provides three months of city bus tickets to allow individuals to make appointments and access the services they need.
- \$500** → Allows three individuals to attend Mental Health first aid so they know how to help someone during a mental health crisis.
- \$1,000** → Provides two individuals a full course of short term therapy so that they can get the support they need to handle life's challenges.

The **AGENCIES & PROGRAMS** we fund:

- ARCH: HIV/AIDS Resources & Community Health
HIV/AIDS Prevention & Support
- Canadian Mental Health Association: Waterloo Wellington Branch
YouthTALK
Spark of Brilliance
Mental Health Promotion & Education
- Child Witness Centre
Child Witness Program
- Durana Homes for Recovery
Hoarding Response
- East Wellington Community Services
Community Support Services
- Family Counselling & Support Services for Guelph and Wellington
Quick Access Affordable Counselling
- Guelph Wellington Women In Crisis
Sexual Assault Centre
Rural Women's Support Program
- Hospice Wellington
Grief & Bereavement
- John Howard Society of Waterloo-Wellington
Community Aftercare
- Mood Disorders Support Group of Guelph
Mood Disorders Support
- People and Information Network
Community Information
- Torchlight
Distress Line Listening Services
- YMCA - Guelph
Teenage Parents Program

SUPPORTS FOR SENIORS

The **ISSUE:**

Too many residents in neighbourhoods across Guelph-Wellington find it difficult to access essential services and supports. These barriers are often amplified for vulnerable individuals, including seniors, and can lead to social isolation and mental health issues. The support that older adults receive through social networks is connected to better health, quality of life and an increased life expectancy.

The **RESPONSE:**

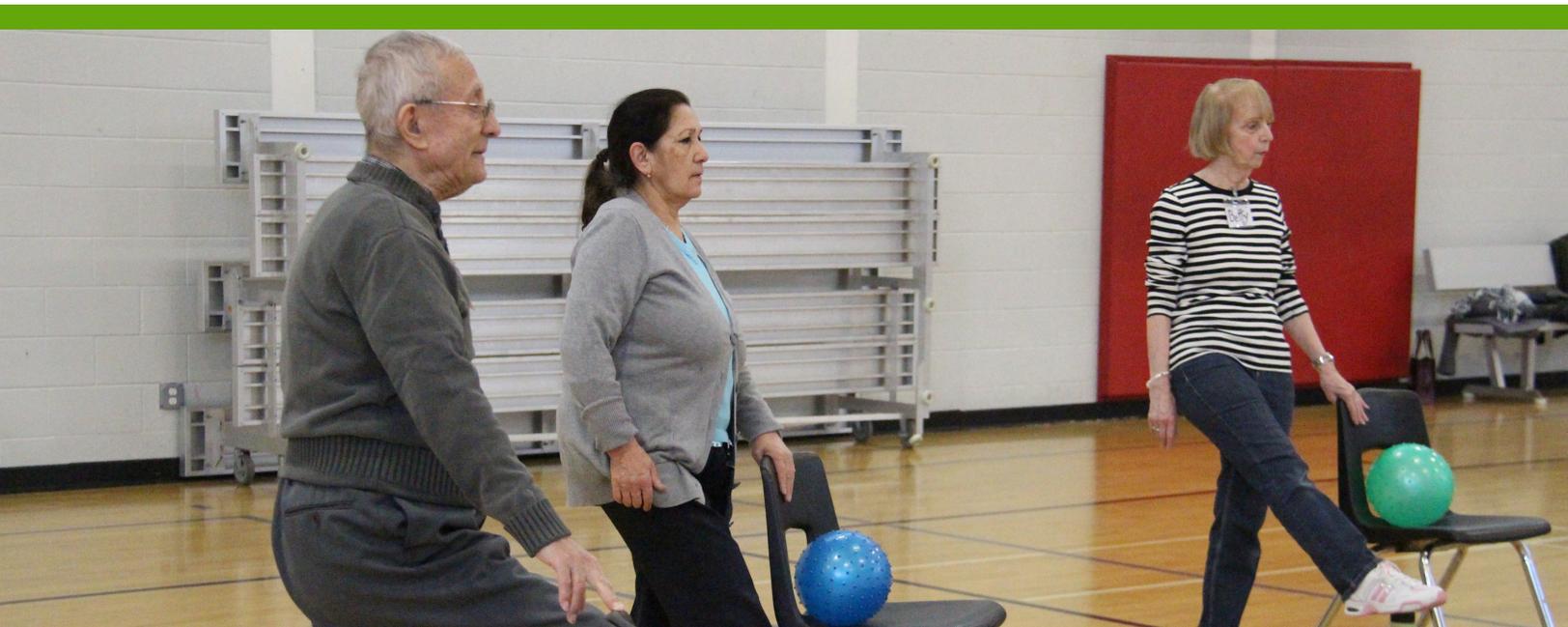
United Way invests in programs which provide a wide range of community-based services that help increase the overall well-being of seniors. Funded programs improve social support, reduce isolation and increase sense of belonging and connection to community. When seniors don't experience isolation and loneliness, they live healthier, happier, longer lives.

The **INVESTMENT:**

Thanks to your generous donation,

\$ 224,000

was invested in 2019 to support seniors in our community.



The **STUMBLING BLOCKS:**

AGING POPULATION

Almost

1/3

of Guelph residents will be 65+ within a decade.

LOW CONNECTEDNESS

Roughly

1/2

of people over 80 feel lonely on a regular basis.

MENTAL HEALTH

At least

1/3

of seniors are at risk of isolation.

The **BUILDING BLOCKS:**

This year, your donation helped seniors in our community live healthier, happier, longer lives by providing programs that allow them to stay engaged with others and remain active.



176

seniors have improved knowledge of additional support services so that they can get the help they need.



2,849

seniors feel that they belong in their community and are more connected.



2,714

seniors are less isolated and have the social support they need to thrive.



103

individuals have engaged in new volunteering opportunities or spent more time volunteering.



5,789

seniors have greater relationships with their family and friends.

What your **DOLLAR BUYS**:

- \$25** → Supports four older adults to attend a gentle exercise class, so that they can keep moving, have fun, and connect with others.
- \$100** → Supports therapy dogs and their handlers, giving them the tools they need to attend visits and meet other's needs.
- \$365** → Provides 7 rides to medical appointments for older adults so that they can get the help they need.
- \$500** → Provides five tub transfer benches to people in need, allowing them to bathe safely and live independently.
- \$1,000** → Allows 7 seniors the opportunity to attend a free monthly program for a year to cook and share a meal together, so that they are less isolated and can maintain their independence.

The **AGENCIES & PROGRAMS** we fund:

- Alzheimer Society Waterloo Wellington
Rural Outreach Services
- Canadian Hearing Society
Hearing Care Counselling Program
- Canadian National Institute for the
Blind
Peer & Home Based Support
- Guelph Enabling Garden
Volunteer Program
- Guelph Wellington Seniors
Association
Community Support Services
- March of Dimes
Assistive Devices
- St. John Ambulance
Therapy Dog Program
- Victorian Order of Nurses
Client Subsidy Transportation



“ I have dealt with hearing loss most of my life and hearing aids were only marginally beneficial due to the type of hearing loss that I have. My husband helped me with all the sounds I couldn't hear, but when he died I felt very helpless. I was able to get in touch with the Canadian Hearing Society, which was a godsend.

I was set up with special equipment and safety systems that allowed me to live on my own. I honestly don't know how I would have managed without the help they gave me.

- Hearing Care Counselling Program



“ Mary lives alone, doesn't have family close by, no longer drives and doesn't have the financial means to have a taxi drive her to and from the hospital three days a week. An individual at the hospital connected her to VON and the subsidy program. Mary has expressed on many occasions how **grateful she is to have this support.** She says she feels a great sense of relief knowing that she can get to the hospital and home safely. Without this support, Mary has said that she likely wouldn't make it to her dialysis appointments.

- Client Subsidy Transportation



“ Therapy dog Taksim visits Hospice Wellington and the days they visit we have seen an **increase in family member visits.**

Therapy dog visits not only help people staying at Hospice and staff, but also the family through such a difficult time.

- Therapy Dogs



SENSE OF BELONGING

The **ISSUE:**

Feeling a sense of belonging and participating in your community benefits individuals, organizations and communities alike. But feeling like you belong isn't automatic - 1 in 4 people in Guelph Wellington feel like they don't belong and 1 in 3 newcomers feel out of place. This leads to social isolation, lack of involvement and mental health issues.

The **RESPONSE:**

United Way supports residents in creating strong neighbourhoods where everyone has a sense of belonging. When people are connected to others, our community is happier and healthier. Our funded programs help grow our connections to others, create opportunities for people to get involved and connect people to community services to reduce isolation and improve social support.

The **INVESTMENT:**

Thanks to your generous donation,

\$ 323,625

was invested in 2019 to help everyone feel like they belong in our community.



The **STUMBLING BLOCKS:**

ISOLATION

About

1/3

of families with young children feel they can't count on their neighbours.

LACK OF BELONGING

Roughly

1/4

of people in Guelph Wellington feel like they don't belong in their community.

LOW CONNECTEDNESS

In Guelph,

1/3

of newcomers feel out of place.

The **BUILDING BLOCKS:**

This year, your donation supported programs that help people grow connections, develop opportunities for people to get involved, and get people help, when they need it.



5,218

people have made new social connections, helping them to feel less isolated.



15,132

individuals now feel like they belong in their community.



1,735

individuals are engaging in new volunteer opportunities or have spent more time contributing to their community.



466

people have made new social connections within their community.



1,462

people have increased knowledge of services that they are able to access to get the help they need.



2,086

individuals have developed leadership skills that enable them to be active contributors in their community.

“ Not being able to read has been a big wall in front of me and I felt very alone. I joined a book and writing club and I tried my hardest. The steps to reading are challenging, but the reward in the end is that you get what you need and you are **no longer alone.** For the first time in my life, I felt that I was able to read a book and go out into the community.

- Adult Program for Community Inclusion



“ I can honestly say that the Learning Disabilities Association has been the most influential organization in supporting our ability to navigate my daughter's IEP. I personally couldn't have gone through the struggles of understanding the world of learning disabilities without the services offered. **They gave us hope for my daughter's future.**

- Information, Referral & Support Program



“ Our 1-on-1 meetings are really beneficial to me. I am happy to find this opportunity and want to continue these meetings. **I feel comfortable with Steve in terms of my speaking.** He is a very patient, kind, friendly, and helpful person. I learned lots of Canadian expressions and improved my conversational skills.

- Mobilized, Engaged, Involved



What your **DOLLAR BUYS:**

\$25



Gives an individual the opportunity to spend one hour in 1-to-1 English practice.

\$100



Pays for a individual to take their GED test, which allows them to attain employment or higher education.

\$365



Allows three buses of volunteers to attend events and help community partners.

\$500



Supports a parent in need with a parent outreach worker to help them overcome challenges and get involved in their neighbourhood.

\$1,000



Provides a month's worth of food for a Neighbourhood Group's Morning Meal program.

The **AGENCIES & PROGRAMS** we fund:

→ Action Read Community Literacy Centre
Adult Program for Community Inclusion

→ Family & Children's Services of Guelph
Wellington
Nurturing Neighbourhoods Initiative

→ Guelph & District Multicultural Festival
Community Engagement

→ Guelph Independent Living
Community Inclusion

→ Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition
Neighbourhood Wellbeing and Resiliency

→ Hospice Wellington
Wellness Program

→ Immigrant Services Guelph Wellington
Mobilized, Engaged, Involved

→ Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington
County
Information, Referral & Support

→ People and Information Network
Volunteer Services

→ University of Guelph, Student Life
Project Serve

Additional **INVESTMENTS**:

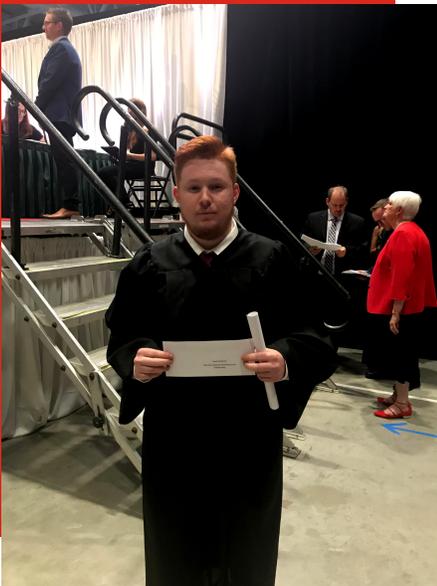
Special Programs - \$40,000

Special Programs Funding is reserved for innovative programming or programs addressing social issues that balance between prevention and direct intervention. A program receiving funding will support collective community impact of funded agencies where no one agency has the capacity to do so on their own.

- Guelph Community Health Centre
Toward Common Ground
- Public Health Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph
Guelph & Wellington Poverty Elimination Task Force

Student Scholarships - \$3,900

- Upper Grand District School Board
Scholarship
- Wellington Catholic District School Board
Scholarship



DUFFERIN COUNTY

The **ISSUE:**

Poverty, food insecurity, mental illness, domestic violence, and lack of early-year foundational supports have lifelong effects on children. As they enter adolescence and young adulthood, they often struggle to make connections, finish high school, and find meaningful jobs. This has a lasting impact on our community's young people, creating barriers to opportunity and affecting their chances at building a successful life.

The **INVESTMENT:**

Thanks to your generous donation,

\$ 54,000

The **RESPONSE:**

United Way works with partner agencies to put kids on the path to success by investing in their development, from early childhood to young adulthood. These investments include vital early-years supports for children and their families, and engagement and employment programs that help youth successfully transition to adulthood. By decreasing barriers to kids' success, and increasing their opportunities for education and employment, we ensure our community's youngest citizens have everything they need to thrive today, and in the future.

was invested into Dufferin County organizations in 2019.



The **STUMBLING BLOCKS:**

LOW COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS

Over

20%

of households cope with unaffordable housing costs.

About

1/4

of children in Dufferin feel like they don't have anyone they can count on.

In Dufferin,

47%

of youth have low self-esteem.

The **BUILDING BLOCKS:**

This year, your donation helped community members in Dufferin County feel like they belong and help kids become all that they can be.



261

parents and caregivers learned new skills to help them cope with challenges and raise successful children.



1,200

individuals are more engaged and connected to their community after participating in volunteer and community opportunities.



101

children were matched with an adult role model in the community, giving them the opportunity to build new relationships and learn new skills.

“ Amy is in our program and faces many barriers, but we were able to match her with Lisa who is a wonderful cook and baker. Lisa has been able to teach Amy and get her out in the community. Lisa gives Amy experiences that she would otherwise never have the chance to experience. Amy is **happier and has better mental health** as a result of her match with Lisa.

- Match Program

”

“ Community volunteer activities give participants a sense of **pride, responsibility and purpose.** Every time we are in the community we are breaking down barriers.

- Community Wellbeing

”

“ The parenting workshops created a positive, judgement-free learning environment, which **allowed me to become the best parent I can be.** I was struggling and faced many road blocks, but through the workshops I was able to learn new, tangible skills that I often put to practice when I am at home.

- Group Parenting Education

”



What your **DOLLAR BUYS**:

- \$ 25** → Purchases a bag of produce for a family so that they can meet their fruit and vegetable needs.
- \$ 100** → Provides emergency funds for a youth in need of shelter or food support.
- \$ 365** → Allows 25 parents or caregivers the opportunity to learn new skills to help their kids be successful.
- \$ 500** → Pays for 20 taxi vouchers so that youth can get home safely after attending workshops.
- \$ 1,000** → Matches an at-risk youth with a positive adult role model in the community for a year.

The **AGENCIES & PROGRAMS** we fund:

- Dufferin Parent Support Network
Group Parent Education Program
- Dufferin Child & Family Services
GLOW Program
- Headwaters Communities in Action
Volunteer Dufferin
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
Dufferin and District
Match Program
In-School Mentoring

We are **LOCAL EXPERTS**:

Dufferin County- Managing Organizing Visualizing Engagement Strategy

This is an initiative that updates social and health services members and community on community wellbeing, resource sharing and poverty.

Dufferin County Equity Committee

This committee is made up of agencies representing a diverse cross section of social, health, education, and economic organizations, decision makers, and community leaders who work with the Dufferin population. Their focus is to help everyone reach their full potential by advocating for and informing others about housing & homelessness, employment and health equity.



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The data in this report was collected by United Way funded agency partners between April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019. This data does not necessarily reflect unique individuals served, as one client may access a program several times and may access multiple programs between agencies.