

Community Impact

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, we have chosen to focus efforts in **five impact 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.

“*My son received support that was informed by a lived experience of racialization. As a parent, I appreciated the Outreach Worker's support in speaking to the principal and teachers at the school about my concerns. I also appreciated having someone who could clearly explain microaggressions and other racialized experiences. My son has some worries about attending high school next year. The Outreach Worker offered to help him navigate this transition, organizing a tour ahead of time and offering support to help him feel more comfortable.*”

Poverty to Possibility

We believe that every person in every community deserves the opportunities, access, and connections they need to build a good life — regardless of their income, the neighbourhood they live in, or their social identity. 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.

- **18,615 people** had access to nutritious & culturally appropriate food.
- **36 people** moved in to housing with supports.
- Almost **10,000 grocery deliveries** to more than 700 individuals & families.



Total Investments
\$430,468

“*United Way creates a 'united way'. United Way gave us an opportunity to imagine a bigger, brighter future, that we're excited about and that only happens if we work collaboratively, together.*”

All That Kids Can Be

Total Investments
\$230,462



United Way provides funding to a service network of community partners who collaborate to support those who have experienced adversities. Our network supports wrap-around children, youth, and their families to build protective factors, mitigate the effects of adversity, and empower children and youth to reach their full potential. Members are using the network to gain information, collaborate, learn and understand, which leads to better decision-making within their own organizations and referrals to other services for clients.

- **12 partner organizations** worked collaboratively to support children and youth.
- **5,239 children & youth** were supported through local programs in 2022 and **940 adults** connected to those children and youth.

EDI

Our key focus areas of All That Kids Can Be, Healthy People, Strong Communities, and From Poverty to Possibility still apply, but we support this work from the lens of a marginalized community, including Black and racialized communities, Indigenous, newcomers and immigrants, women (including cis, trans, non-binary, intersex), people with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQ+.

- **221 Indigenous people** were able to access culturally appropriate supports and healing.
- **114 transgender individuals** accessed gender affirming mental health support.
- **36 assistive devices** were purchased for **23 individuals** with disabilities.



Total Investments
\$274,233

Healthy People, Thriving Communities

Total Investments
\$434,127



People who are connected to others and their community tend to be happier and healthier. Belonging and participating are ways to get emotional support, feel valued, decrease social isolation, and give back to the community. United Way partners with local, front-line agencies to deliver vital programs and services that focus on belonging, inclusion, and connection to support in our communities.

- **2,969 people** got mental health support through crisis lines.
- **540 rural seniors** participated in programs—building connections & improving their wellbeing.
- **485 safety and coping plans** created. 900 psychotherapy sessions delivered 485 people.

Rural Communities

At United Way we recognize that the needs and issues that impact the communities we support are different in rural and urban areas, and across distinct communities. Applying a local lens to funding in Wellington County and Dufferin County gives those who are closest to the issues the opportunity to tackle them in ways that they know will work for their location.

- More than **11,500** individuals & families in Wellington & Dufferin County got the support & resources they need to thrive.
- Over **1500 rural youth** reported better coping skills and emotional regulation.
- **223 people** in East Wellington received food hampers & school supplies for kids.
- **23,205 people** were connected with social supports and feel less isolated.



Total Investments
\$166,974

Additional Investments

- 13 Community Action Grants: **\$104,000**
- 11 high school scholarships: **\$2,750**
- Toward Common Ground: **\$12,000**