



United Way
Perth-Huron



Investing in **impact**



igniting possibilities in many ways!



United Way Perth-Huron continues to evolve.

Historically identified as only a federated funder, it is now a valued driver of social change through a variety of internal and external programs and projects in our communities as well.

United Way's Support of Community Committees & Initiatives

- Sustainable Huron
- Huron Housing and Homelessness
- Huron Food Bank Group
- Huron Local Immigration Partnership
- Huron Service Integration Committee
- Huron Youth Matters
- Huron Youth Recreation
- Perth Food Security
- North Perth Community of Character
- Perth Service Integration
- Perth Housing First
- Perth Cultural Awareness
- Perth Labour Market
- Perth Healthy Communities
- Perth-Huron Settlement Services
- Perth East Community Hub
- North Perth Community Hub
- Volunteerism Group
- Poverty to Prosperity
- Transportation Task Force
- Living Wage

also supporting almost **50** LOCAL programs & services

Incredible things happen when we unite.

Thousands helped. Thousands served.
Change that matters.
Done together, for all to benefit.



One of the drivers behind a successful community is the quality of life enjoyed by all who call it home. Numerous things influence it; foremost is how we support one another during times of need.

When you boil down the work of United Way, you can say our job is to: 1) Understand the need and 2) Mobilize the community to meet the need. This past year holds many examples of that process coming to completion.



Board
Standing: Matt Orchard (President), Anne-Marie Thomson, Craig Pearce, Wayne Smith, Ryan Erb (Executive Director), Rob Roes, David Clarke
Sitting: Kerry Price, Janice Dunbar, Jennifer Sweedler, Lisa Lawrence, Shelley Groenestege
Missing: Paul Nichol, Dave Jewitt, Cindy Skinner-Wilson

Together, with more than ten organizations, we built on the 2013 study "*The Heart of Community*", focusing on volunteerism in our region, and this year we launched *i-VOLUNTEER Perth-Huron*. An online volunteer centre designed to help organizations resource appropriate volunteers and volunteers to find suitable organizations.

Similarly in 2014, a group of North Perth citizens identified youth mental health as their number one social concern. This past fall, we funded Choices for Change to open *Crossing Bridges* in Listowel. This program is designed for at-risk-youth and young adults struggling with mental health and addiction concerns.

And, after more than six years of incubation, *The Local Community Food Centre* will officially graduate from United Way's governance, to an independent charitable organization that we are thrilled to continue our partner relationship with. It began with an idea, and several partnerships!

Whether it is focusing on children, addressing poverty, or strengthening our community, every dollar raised has a significant and long lasting impact on the lives of many. To our donors, to our volunteers, to the supported partners funded, we tip our hat and say; THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Read through this booklet to see examples of those we help, those we serve, and those we care for. By volunteering, and/or making a donation, you made it all happen; so celebrate with us!



Campaign Cabinet
Standing: Ron Shaw, Ryan Erb, Andrew Williams (Chair), Judd Attridge
Sitting: Sonya Heyen, Bonnie Henderson, Mimi Price, Carolynne Champagne, Joani Gerber
Missing: Joanne McArdle, Tracey Brown, Shelley Blackmore, Shelley Groenestege, Shawn Malvern, Merlin Leis, Anne Martin, Robert Parkinson, Martin Ritsma, Robin Rutherford, Wayne Smith, & Ann Cook

You are a part of the equation!



Our vision

A better life for everyone in our communities.



Our mission

Improve lives and build community by engaging individuals and mobilizing collective action.

YOU GIVE SECURITY...



25,000+



visits by individuals in need going to **food banks & aid agencies** in Huron & Perth. All receive dry goods and food regularly from the *Huron County Distribution Centre*.



... so someone could escape poverty.

259 YOUTH

were given shelter and a fresh start at *Stratford /Perth Shelterlink & Huron Safe Homes for Youth*



Huron County, with all its beauty and vitality, can also be a challenge for those living in poverty. This has led to a group of 30 local agencies **collaborating** to bring system wide change, through the support of funding and advocacy from United Way.

are socially isolated and lack services and opportunities to connect with each other," shared Pam Hannington, Co-Chair, Huron Poverty to Prosperity.

The group seeks an overall county wide impact, where service delivery at the systems-level changes policy, programs and practice to completely support people in need.



The expected outcomes include; increasing the effectiveness of existing services and supports - making them more accessible overall, and increasing the collaboration between these services in a way that makes sense to those in need.

IDENTIFYING NEEDS OF RURAL POVERTY

- LACK OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT
- LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- LESS FOOD SECURITY
- NARROW SPECTRUM OF SOCIAL SERVICES.



Poverty to Prosperity (P2P) has been listening to people with lived experiences and empowering them to make changes.

"The challenge here is women

From Poverty to Possibility

In a community where everyone matters, we create opportunities for individuals and families to not just survive in our community, but to thrive and contribute.



Everyone's basic needs are met.



Everyone is financially stable.

- Invests in:**
- Family Services Perth-Huron
 - PF Solutions
 - Local Community Food Centre
 - Huron County Distribution Centre
 - Stratford/Perth Shelterlink
 - Huron Women's Shelter

YOU GIVE OPPORTUNITIES ...



3,180 RIDES

given to help seniors and those with mobility challenges to get to medical appointments, social activities and necessary errands

One Care - EasyRide & Community Outreach Services.



... to help someone feel included.

4,302 COUNSELLED

to improve interpersonal relationships and personal functioning as well as credit counselling to improve financial literacy.

Through Family Services Perth-Huron



"Volunteers are an important element of many non-profit organizations, including United Way. Having such a geographically large, thinly populated area has limited volunteer connections. United Way has sharpened its focus on impactful solutions and the implementation of "iVOLUNTEER" is thrilling to see. It will facilitate meaningful communication and provide a way to measure effectiveness. It's easy to use, internet based, and will strengthen the whole community." -Volunteer, Wayne Smith



iVOLUNTEER Perth-Huron went live in 2016 and is an on-line volunteer connection service.

i-Volunteer is a match making tool between organizations needing volunteers and individuals wanting



Also new to community: www.myp PerthHuron.ca

An online resource to help track the well-being of our communities.

Strong Communities

United Way Perth-Huron invests in programs that make our community vibrant and safe to help create opportunities for individuals, families and neighbourhoods. We focus on improving access to social and health-related support services, as well as, supporting community integration and engagement



People are fully engaged in creating strong, inclusive communities.



People are connected to a strong network of community services, and to the social supports

Invests in:

- Family Services Perth-Huron
- Poverty to Prosperity
- Social Research & Planning Council
- Community Outreach
- Stratford-Perth YMCA
- John Howard Society

YOU GIVE SOLUTIONS...

200 FAMILIES were assisted through the **Emily Murphy Centre** Child Witness Program for a children's support and counsellor.



75 KIDS

benefitted from being matched with a **Big Brother or Big Sister** in North Perth & North Huron, to promote self-esteem and provide positive role models

YOUTH IN ACTION GRANTS

Active Minds at South Huron, has a goal to erase the negative mental health stigma present at South Huron District High School. **South Huron Nerd Nights**, where youth and community members can play board games, socialize and have fun in a safe environment.

Recently a young person was helped by Crossing Bridges and her mother contacted staff to thank them for all that they have done for her, "My daughter spent the afternoon at Crossing Bridges and absolutely loved the environment. She is buzzing with excitement. This is huge, because typically she is reserved and doesn't show much emotion. Thank you for making this possible."



... to help children and youth reach their full potential.

A refuge, a place to feel safe, a place to talk, a place to feel better. **Being a teenager is difficult to navigate at the best of times, but when there are mental health issues or substance abuse it's important that youth have a place to go. Crossing Bridges is that program.** Already a proven success in Stratford for the last 10 years, the community of North Perth shared their need with United Way to support their youth. Crossing Bridges opened in Listowel in November 2016.

"Most of the youth that are experiencing issues with substance

abuse and/or mental health issues have trouble trusting authoritative figures, so we welcome them in to have some food, play video games, use the wi-fi or computers and to first get use to the space and the workers until they feel like opening up and asking for assistance", explained Catherine Hardman, Executive Director of Choices for Change. The program is quickly becoming a valuable service in the community, with the counsellors planning some outreach events in the highschools to spread awareness about Crossing Bridges.

All That Kids Can Be

United Way helps children and youth reach their full potential. Working toward ensuring that all children and youth experience positive mental health and wellbeing and feel involved with a sense of belonging in their communities



Children and youth experience positive mental health and wellbeing.



Children and youth are involved and feel they belong in their communities.

Invests in:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Listowel & Area
Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Huron
CNIB - Early Intervention
Emily Murphy Centre
St Marys Youth Centre
YMCA Mitchell Youth Centre
Huron Recreational Arts & Sports Program

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF OUR COMMUNITY AND STRENGTHENING THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR

When you don't know where to turn



Connect Youth is a website that provides options for youth to make healthy decisions for their lives and to find community services in Perth and Huron County that can help

them. Concerns ranging from complexion and weight, to family challenges, pregnancy, violence, bullying, and health related fears – issues both small and large can be searched in an easy format to connect them to the appropriate services that can help. Youth can remain empowered, searching the information themselves and finding the help they need.

connectyouthperthhuron.ca

Simply dialling 2-1-1 or visiting www.211ontario.ca is a simple solution that offers confidential, free, information and referral. 211 helps to navigate the complex network of human services quickly and easily, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in over 140 languages.



The United Centre acts as a community hub for non-profit organizations where United Way provides substantially subsidized rent, resources such as office equipment, meeting spaces and a receptionist.

Tenants Include:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Autism Ontario | Stratford Symphony Orchestra |
| Blankets for Canada | Spotlight Church |
| Facile | John Howard Society |
| Leads Employment Services | DigiWriting |
| Legal Aid | PF Solutions Skills Series |



Embracing Diversity - New SRPC Report

With an aging population, high numbers of youth leaving our area and a declining workforce, newcomer integration holds the key to creating sustainable, vibrant and dynamic communities. A problem is posed with only 5.8% of Canada's new permanent residents settling and staying in rural areas. SRPC's newest research project will report on newcomers experiences with opportunities and challenges associated with newcomer integration into Perth and Huron counties. Additionally it will highlight service gaps and best strategies to help make our community even more welcoming to newcomers.

Our donors give with purpose & understand every dollar counts.



"Giving back and paying it forward are values I hold dear. United Way provides me with a vehicle that I can accomplish both and provide resources and programs that truly help people take their lives back."

- Nathan Winker
Enterprise, Assistant Manager



"I am fortunate to have so much family support in my life. I donate to United Way so no others have to go without support through troubling times."

- Kendall McKay
Dyna Mig, Associate



"Investing is what a lot of Canadians do and I have found a niche in our community to invest in being United Way supported youth services that I feel a connection with and relate to, helping youth progress in their lives."

- Ron Cameron
Retired Community Member

Top 20 Donor Organizations! *Thank you!*

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Scotiabank | Ideal Supply |
| LCBO | Avon Maitland District School Board |
| Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance | Famme & Company Professional Corporation |
| Dyna Mig Manufacturing | Schaeffler Group |
| City of Stratford | Huron Perth Catholic District School Board |
| Cooper Standard Automotive | EFS Plastics |
| Hendrickson Spring | RBC Royal Bank |
| FIO Automotive Canada Corporation | TD Canada Trust |
| Compass Minerals | Town of St. Marys |
| Steelcraft Inc | |
| BMO Financial Group | |



Forever Fund is the permanent endowment fund of United Way. When you donate to the Forever Fund, the money is invested and the principal is preserved. Only the income earned is used to support essential services and programs, ensuring your gift will benefit future generations.

Contact us to see how you can make a planned gift.

Building capacity

We engage and empower all sectors of our community to come together and share their experiences, expertise and energy. The power of partnerships and collaboration multiplies our impact and leads us to find progressive and lasting solutions.

UNITED WAY:



Identifies, understands and addresses the root causes of the social issues we face.



Brings together the needed research, experts and resources.



Initiates and invests in programs that hold the most promise for long-term solutions.



Develops leaders and skills to strengthen the non-profit sector.

This document generously Sponsored by:



**United Way
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Supported Partners

