



United Way
Niagara

***NURTURING AND
IMPROVING LIVES
IN NIAGARA***

2020
IMPACT REPORT

IMPROVING LIVES IN NIAGARA

When we look back just one year ago, we were preparing to welcome you to our Annual Awards Night, an evening of thanks (and lasagna!), with no indication of what was to come. Though we could not have anticipated what 2020 would bring, we are so proud that in the face of a global pandemic, we have been able to continue to support the people who rely on us. In 2020, United Way invested over \$6.5 million in local programs and initiatives, helping over 130,000 people right here in Niagara.

We have you to thank for making this a reality.

Through your generous gifts and government partnerships, United Way acted quickly to address the severe impact COVID-19 is having on our communities. We could not do this alone. Our efforts have been amplified by neighbours helping neighbours, and our volunteers and agency partners in the community who help us deliver urgently needed services. Thanks to your support we have adapted existing programs, and initiated several more, to respond in our neighbourhoods and show our Local Love.

The core of who we are and the value of how we work have never been more clear. In these unprecedented times, we know our community’s resilience—its survival and its future—is dependent on working together. Together we are addressing the root causes of poverty, food insecurity and isolation, increasing access to services and helping people prepare for meaningful work opportunities. The crisis is not over but we can assure you, United Way is here working hard every day to provide the support needed to weather this storm.

Sincerely,

Jeff Klassen
Chair, Board of Directors


Frances Hallworth
Executive Director



OUR IMPACT IN 2020

131,883 lives changed in Niagara

216
funded programs

103
agency partners

26
collaborations and
special initiatives

**Number of lives changed does not include investments through United Way Niagara’s COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund or the Emergency Community Support Fund, funded by the Government of Canada, as these programs are still in progress.*

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Many aspects of life looked different in 2020, including volunteer work. Our dedicated team of volunteers quickly adapted to the new normal. United Way relies heavily on the work of volunteers to make our mission a reality, from our Board of Directors to Committees and hands-on groups. We thank all of our volunteers for their dedication.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro

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Simpson's Pharmasave



Though food available at food banks is great, imagine canned goods, but no can opener - this is the reality for many in our community. When board member Sean Simpson had the opportunity to source protein power bars at a low cost, he immediately thought "how many can I get?" with United Way in mind.

Protein bars are an easy nutritional option for individuals experiencing homelessness.

10,000 protein bars were distributed to food banks, homeless shelters, seniors and various outreach programs across Niagara.

Board member Sean Simpson loads boxes of protein bars for volunteers to deliver across Niagara in April 2020

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Campaign Cabinet
Heidi Burgess
Mike Clarke
David Day
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Corrine Kwacz
Patrick Little
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Caroline Sherk
Sean Simpson

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Karen MacKay
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Anthony Bilotta
Mike Clarke
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Sponsored Employees
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Nicole Clarke
Amanda Love
Jeremy Van Moorsel

Warehouse Volunteers
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Judith Barker
Kristeen Espinoza
Jane Gordon
Fran Jones
Janice Jones
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Tom Whitelaw

Speakers Bureau
Jacqueline Bakker
Mike Balsom
Michael James
Hayley Keys
Grazia Sheppard
Jennifer Symonds

**Women United™
Committee**
Fiona Peacefull, Co-Chair
Ellen Wodchis, Co-Chair
Michelle Harvey
Christine Sauriol-Bruce

**Community Investment
Panel**
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Heidi Burgess
Mike Clarke
Shirley Cordiner
Dawn Dobbie
Louise Goller
Michelle Harvey
Janice Jones
Jeff Klassen
Michelle Leone
Kory Lippert

Gennext Cabinet
Samantha Hoodless
Co-Chair
Kory Lippert, Co-Chair
Mike Britton
Andre Chabot
Ryan Coutts
Courtney Kaminski
Jessica McCourt
Alicia Noonan
Cydney Nutbeem
Jordan Patterson
Kaley Stewart
Jeremy Van Moorsel



Every week since the beginning of the school year, this group of friends packed care packages serving approximately 450 children and youth in at-risk neighborhoods, through United Way's After School Matters program. The women, (left to right) Margie, Fran, Jane, Trish, Judith and Ann (not pictured), rotate weeks so there are only five volunteers in the warehouse at any given time.

"In these uncertain times, we hope that the few hours we put in each week will help to keep a smile on the faces of children in Niagara," the group told us while carefully placing art canvases and paints into bags.

The care packages, which consist of nutritious snacks, and educational and fun activities, are distributed weekly.

local love

IN A
GLOBAL CRISIS



On March 20, 2020, United Way Niagara launched the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to help agencies delivering frontline services meet increasing demand and unforeseen challenges due to the pandemic. We saw an overwhelming response from the community from the beginning. Over \$425,000 was raised through community and corporate donations and invested in essential programs across Niagara. The fund received an incredible boost with the addition of a \$100,000 matching gift from The Brown Homestead in association with the Humenuik Foundation in April.

The COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund supported agencies and organizations struggling to meet emerging or increased needs due to COVID-19. Support in the areas of emergency food, access to mental health programs, support for vulnerable seniors in isolation and increased supply of hygiene products were among those most requested needs in the early days of the pandemic. Needs shifted as restrictions were extended and changed to include new methods of service delivery and supporting connections to mitigate long-term effects of social isolation.

The Standard

United Way Niagara's emergency fund gets big boost from Humeniuk donation

By Gord Howard Standard Reporter
The St. Catharines Standard
Thu., April 23, 2020, 3 min. read

Article was updated Jun. 02, 2020



THE BROWN
HOMESTEAD

humenuik
foundation

*Additional funding through the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program and Emergency Community Support Fund was received and distributed to help agencies meet demand caused by COVID-19.

THE RESULTS:



485

donors answered the urgent call for support for our COVID-19 response.

\$425,625

invested in emergency support for those who needed it most.



Community Care of St. Catharines & Thorold receiving one of their first donations of emergency food

"Without the incredible contributions we have received from United Way Niagara, we wouldn't be able to accommodate the number of clients and offer them such substantial food packages through this trying time. We have welcomed various calls from our clients communicating sensitive stories expressing how eternally grateful they are for having been provided food security."

- Community Care West Niagara

115

service providers received COVID-19 relief funding.



36



partners received hygiene supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE).

24



food programs received emergency food to meet increased demand.



"Good Food Boxes" ready for delivery



"I can sleep at night knowing I can feed my family with proper meals. With the help of United Way Niagara, we have been able to ease the pressure on our family's needs for food. With deep and humble thanks".

- Jenn and family

#UNIGNORABLE

COVID-19 is not the only crisis we are facing in Niagara.

Social issues like poverty, deteriorating mental health, addiction, social isolation and domestic violence were amplified as restrictions forced individuals and families out of work and into isolation at home. But what if there is no safe place to call home?

More Niagara residents than ever are in need of support.



"At a young age I was exposed to the violence and insecurity of street life without any idea on how to survive on my own. I spent 12 years homeless, living in constant fear. Stepping through the doors of the shelter was life-changing. I was welcomed with open arms where the staff made me feel safe for the first time. In my three month stay at the emergency shelter, I learned so many valuable skills. Having a roof over my head and food in my stomach was no longer my only concern. I took advantage of every program they had and credit all the support I received to my success in transitional housing. I am no longer homeless, I have a job I enjoy, an apartment to call my own and a healthy vision for the future. Thank you for saving my life."

- Mike



POVERTY IN NIAGARA

Poverty is a complex social issue. Experiencing and living in poverty will affect every aspect of a person's life: child development, access to education and support services, housing, employment, food security and our overall physical and mental health and wellbeing. Prior to the pandemic, 1 in 7 people in Niagara were living in poverty. Unemployment rates and income loss have been at an all-time high this past year and have increased the number of those experiencing poverty.

People are spending a significant portion of their already low income to maintain increased housing and food costs. The economic impacts are even more pronounced in marginalized groups as the ripple effect of this pandemic will be felt for years to come. Only time will tell the true damage COVID-19 has caused, but for now, we know the demand for social services has nearly doubled across Niagara.

EXAMPLES OF UNITED WAY INVESTMENTS

- Emergency shelter
- Employment supports
- Financial literacy training
- Housing supports
- Income supports
- Literacy training
- Outreach
- Transitional housing
- Youth housing

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



31,969

individuals at-risk of or experiencing homelessness accessed programs to find or maintain housing.



13,574

at-risk youth were given opportunities and supports to thrive.



904

individuals developed the necessary skills for financial literacy and better employability.



“

As a mother, there is no worse fear than not being able to feed your child. I was forced to stay at home because of a chronic condition and the cost of purchasing healthy food became overwhelming. I am thankful knowing my daughter is able to get the food she needs at school now, it lessens the stress on me.

- Daliah

EXAMPLES OF UNITED WAY INVESTMENTS

- Community gardens
- Emergency food
- Fresh food boxes
- Meal delivery for seniors
- Student nutrition
- Teaching workshops

FOOD

Access to quality, nutritious food is fundamental to human existence. Secure access to food can produce wide ranging positive impacts including: economic growth, job creation, poverty reduction, social connectedness and overall health, physical and mental wellbeing. Access to enough food for growing children and families is essential to the health of our community as a whole.

The number of families who struggle to put good food on the table is increasing as a result of layoffs, the economic downturn and isolation caused by the pandemic. We know the most significant factor of being food insecure is the lack of income. Niagara food banks reported an increase in demand of up to 30% since the onset of the pandemic as more people than ever turned to them for the first time. Access to community food programs, food banks and community gardens is essential to bridging the income gap many people in Niagara face.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



29,330
individuals accessed emergency food and affordable, nutritious, appropriate food options.



14,141
youth were provided healthy lunches and snacks supporting nutrition.



11,027
people benefited from access to community gardens.

“

“Before my husband’s illness, I never thought I would be in need of assistance for food. When we got the bad news, I instantly fell to my knees. Without an income, life became overwhelming. The bills were due and the cupboards were bare. We were desperate thinking how we would put food on the table. With the generosity of our community and the help we received, I have been relieved of my distress. We were given what we needed during this time of vulnerability. Thanks to you, we have had healthy meals on our table through this horrific time.”

- Nancy

SOCIAL ISOLATION AND MENTAL HEALTH

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic downturn have negatively affected many people's mental health and created new barriers for those already experiencing mental illness or substance use disorders. As the pandemic wears on, ongoing public health measures are pushing more people to situations linked to poor mental health outcomes, such as isolation and job loss. The effects are widespread in Niagara.

Particularly concerning are the levels of suicidal thinking and self-harm, which have increased significantly since before the pandemic (+2.5%) and are further magnified (up to 20%) in certain sub-groups of the population who were already experiencing stigma, exclusion, racism and discrimination. Specifically, suspected opioid overdoses have increased by over 25% since pre-pandemic days.

Seniors experienced some of the worst outcomes including increased anxiety, depression, poor sleep quality and physical inactivity during the isolation period. We recognize the importance of mental well-being, especially during challenging times such as these. That is why United Way made significant investments this year in programs and initiatives that support the mental well-being of the most vulnerable members of our community.



"I am grateful for safe transportation to essential medical appointments. I have no family nearby, and would have had to make the choice between a ride or buying groceries if it was not for your support. Thank you."

- Ken

United Way's social isolation strategy supports programs and initiatives that help individuals build meaningful relationships and feel more included in the social fabric of their communities. The strategy focuses on creating opportunities to participate in community, forming and maintaining social networks, and establishing inclusive environments where people live, play, and work.

Programs addressing mental health and social isolation were forced to pivot quickly due to restrictions and United Way was there to support them. Thanks to your support, we invested in technology, virtual programming and increasing capacity for support across Niagara.

EXAMPLES OF UNITED WAY INVESTMENTS

- Crisis phone lines
- Crisis response for assault victims
- Outreach for addiction support
- Personal supports in shelters
- Resource referrals
- Seniors food support
- Seniors transportation
- Technology for connection
- Virtual counselling and outreach
- Youth mentorship

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



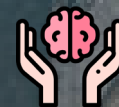
22,795

individuals were connected with the health or social service they needed.



14,724

individuals increased community involvement and connectedness.



17,579

individuals received immediate crisis or suicide prevention/intervention supports.



8,352

seniors accessed supports improving mental health and wellbeing.

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND FAMILIES

COVID-19 has created unprecedented challenges for people across our community. Women and children have been particularly vulnerable to the negative economic and social impacts of the pandemic. Job losses in industries such as food service, tourism and hospitality, have disproportionately impacted women. In addition to these job losses, uncertainty around childcare and school closures have forced many more women out of the workforce. For families with a low-income, the financial impact of these job losses can be absolutely devastating. The financial and emotional stress of the pandemic has taken a toll on the mental health of women and families. The number of people experiencing mental health challenges relating to isolation, anxiety, and stress has grown over the past year. This becomes particularly dangerous when families are isolated in an abusive household. In 2020, domestic violence calls in Niagara nearly doubled.

The impact of the pandemic on the lives of women and children in Niagara will be felt for years to come. Children and youth are resilient, but they require support from their community to overcome challenges and reduce barriers to success. We will continue to focus on supporting a network of programs that aim to create a safe community where everyone has an opportunity to reach their full potential.



"I needed a safe place to stay, as I was fleeing abuse and could not go home. There was a space in transitional housing that became available. Since it is not temporary like a shelter, it has allowed me time to settle and rebuild. If I were not involved in this program, my options were either to stay in a shelter or become homeless while waiting for affordable housing.

This program provided me with a safe place to live, where I feel supported and where my family and I can breathe while we re-start our lives free from violence."

- Julie

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



31,055

youth increased emotional and physical well-being.

7,412

youth were equipped with skills and strategies to thrive.



3,489

individuals who either experienced or witnessed abuse were supported.

531

women and their families accessed safe housing.

EXAMPLES OF UNITED WAY INVESTMENTS

- Advocacy
- After school programs
- Counselling for abuse victims
- Court support and safety planning
- Emergency shelter
- Transitional housing supports
- Tutoring and youth literacy
- Youth mentoring

UNITED WAY SPECIAL INITIATIVES

WELCOME HOME KITS

280

kits distributed through
22 agency
partners



After School Matters

Engage. Enrich. Empower.

450

children and youth served in
4 neighbourhoods



7,380 care packages were delivered to support After School Matters participants and their families in lieu of in-person programming. Each package included: nutritious food and snacks, educational and recreational activities, community resources, public health information and hygiene supplies.

41 hours of virtual programming provided for homework assistance and social visits.

“Me and my family love your help to our community and would love to thank you so much for keeping our five children smiling everyday with these care packages, they've been really helpful this past year and we really appreciate it. Thank you so much.”
- Parent of participants

After School Matters
Engage. Enrich. Empower.

211

22,795

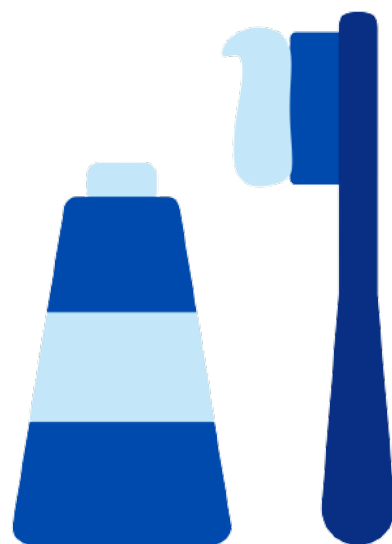
phone calls and
97%
of needs met



3,454

HYGIENE KITS

distributed through
32 agency partners



Hygiene kits provide every day essential items to people living in poverty and/or experiencing homelessness across Niagara. **3,454** kits were distributed to individuals in need across Niagara's **12 municipalities**. Items included in each kit:

- Brush
- Conditioner
- Dental floss
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Wash cloth

“The importance of being able to provide these kits may seem like such a small thing to so many but for our clients it is a huge boost to their self-esteem when they can be provided the necessities of daily living, because of these kits we are able to ensure that no one is ever without the basic necessities.”
- Case worker



2,000

 youth

were provided back to
school essentials with our

SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS

979

 garden plots

in over 30 neighbourhoods

supporting **3,960** people



Through a vast network of **979** community garden plots, the Niagara Community Garden Network (NCGN) is increasing food security for some of Niagara's most marginalized residents. Community gardens were deemed essential as an important food source for residents last spring. Programs run by NCGN were primarily virtual in 2020 yet still supported thousands in Niagara.

105 social enterprise workshops held.

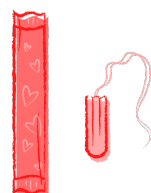
45 agency partners benefited from community gardens.

12 community workshops offered on gardening and food skills.



period
promise **180,000**

period products distributed



OUR INVESTMENTS IN 2020

COVID-19 Support
Domestic Violence
Empowering Children & Families



Food Security
Homelessness
Mental Health & Well-being



Poverty
Social Isolation



Organization Name	Program Name	Issue(s) Addressed
Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region	Activity Kits	
	Connecting Seniors	
	COVID-19 emergency support	
	Safety and Independence in the Home	
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society of Canada (ALS)	Equipment Program	
Anglicans in Action (St. Barnabas Anglican Church)	Family Meal Kits	
Attachment and Trauma Centre for Healing Niagara	Trauma Specific Therapy and Programming	
Autism Ontario - Niagara Region Chapter	Adult Activity Kits	
	Adult Support Services	
	COVID-19 Emergency Support	
	Summer Camp for Children with ASD	
Bethesda Community Services Inc.	Tablet Library - Connecting our Community	
Bethlehem Housing and Support Services	Bethlehem Place Support Program	
	Community Support Program	
	Kenmore Court Community Support Program	
	Reducing Barriers to Access Virtual Support Services	
	School Aged Children's Program	
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara Falls and Greater Fort Erie	Big Bunch	
	Game On! Eat Smart, Play Smart, Live Smart	
	Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds	
	In School Mentoring	
	Supporting Vulnerable Youth	
	Traditional Mentoring	
Big Brothers Big Sisters of North & West Niagara	Game On! Eat Smart, Play Smart, Live Smart	
	Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds	
	In School Mentoring	
	Mental Health & Wellness Supports	
	Traditional Mentoring	
	Virtual Progam Development and Delivery	
Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara	After School Programs	
	Community Based Virtual Mentoring, Match & Intake Support	
	Game On! Eat Smart, Play Smart, Live Smart	
	Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds	
	In School Mentoring	
	Traditional Mentoring/Community Based Mentoring	
Boys & Girls Club of Niagara	COVID-19 Emergency Support	
	Kid and Teen Zone	
	Nightlight Youth Shelter	
Brain Injury Association of Niagara	Community Based Outreach and Advocacy	
Bridges Community Health Centre Fort Erie	COVID-19 Emergency Support	
Bridges Community Health Centre Port Colborne	COVID-19 Emergency Support	
Canadian Cancer Society	Wheels of Hope Volunteer Transportation Service	
Canadian Mental Health Association	COVID-19 Emergency Support	
	Walk-In Mental Health Counselling Programs	
Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)	Child and Youth Services	
	Culture of Leisure, Recreation and Sports	
	Peer & Home Based Support	
Casa El Norte	COVID-19 Emergency Food Support	
Centre de Santé Communautaire	Children, Youth and Family Supports	
	Seniors COVID-19 Emergency Support	
Community Care of St. Catharines & Thorold	COVID-19 Food Security & Emergency Supports	

Organization Name	Program Name	Issue(s) Addressed
Community Care of St. Catharines & Thorold	Food Program	
	Thorold Branch Food Program	
	Youth Support Worker	
Community Care of West Niagara	Vulnerable Seniors Food Security Support	
	COVID-19 Food Security & Emergency Supports	
	COVID-19 Information and Navigation Services	
	Decentralized Outreach and Support Service	
	Emergency Assistance	
	Food Program	
Community Living Fort Erie	Food Security Liaison and Movement Program	
Community Living Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln	Developmental Services and Supports	
Community Living Port Colborne - Wainfleet	Transitional Aged Youth: Preparing for the Future	
	Abuse Prevention and Rights	
	Recreation and Life Skills Development	
Community Living St. Catharines	Camp Program	
Community Living Welland Pelham	COVID-19 Emergency Support	
	CPS: Therapeutic Support Services	
Community Support Services of Niagara	Virtual Connecting	
	Meals on Wheels Delivery and Transportation	
	Virtual Seniors Outreach	
	Access to Meals for Vulnerable Older Adults	
	Food Security & Transportation Access	
Cyber Seniors	Meals on Wheels - Niagara Health System Initiative	
Developmental Services of Ontario	Connecting Generations	
Distress Centre Niagara	COVID-19 Emergency Support	
Dreamwalker Dance Company	24 Hour Crisis Line	
Epilepsy Niagara	The Welcome Project - Sharing Stories (TWP)	
Faith Welland Outreach	Support Services	
Family & Children's Services	Youth Physical Education Program	
Family Counselling Centre	COVID-19 Emergency Support	
Family Mental Health Support Network	Child Advocacy Counselling	
	Core Counselling Program	
	Niagara Childhood Cancer Parent Mental Health Program	
	Walk-in Counselling Program	
Food4Kids	Family Coping Skills Workshops	
	Individual Counselling	
Fort Erie Multicultural Centre	COVID-19 Emergency Food Assistance Program	
Fort Erie Salvation Army	Early Essential Needs	
	Feeding Fort Erie Project	
Foundation of Resources for Teens, The FORT	COVID-19 Food Security Support	
Gateway Residential & Community Support Services	After School Program	
	COVID-19 Response Program	
	Teen Drop-in Program	
Gillian's Place	COVID-19 Emergency Support	
GROW Community Food Literacy Centre	West Niagara Transitional Housing Child and Youth Worker	
	West Niagara Transitional Housing Housing & Counselling	
Heartland Forest Nature Experience	GROW Low Cost Community Market	
	GROW Low Cost Community Market Equipment	
Holy Trinity Anglican Church	Facility Outdoor Lighting to Support Individuals	
	Virtual Programming Development & Delivery	
Home Hospice Association	COVID-19 Emergency Support	
	Harvest Kitchen	
Hospice Niagara	Our Babies, Our Grief	
INCommunities	COVID-19 Food Security Support	
	Capacity Training	
Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region	Tech Connect	
	Reading Rocks	
	B.E.S.T. (Better Emotional & Social Times)	
	Let's R.E.A.D.	

Organization Name	Program Name	Issue(s) Addressed	Organization Name	Program Name	Issue(s) Addressed
Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region	Online Remedial Reading Program	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	Regional Municipality of Niagara	Seniors Community Programs Outreach	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Reading Rocks Junior	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	Segue Clinic	COVID-19 Emergency Support	<div><div></div></div>
Lincoln County Humane Society	FIDO Niagara Housing Supports	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	Silver Spire United Church	Drop In & Cooling Centre for Displaced People	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Links for Greener Learning	Good Food Box COVID-19 Emergency Support	<div><div></div><div></div></div>		Shower and Laundry Program for Vulnerable People	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Good Food Box Delivery Van	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - St. Alfred Conference	COVID-19 Food Security Support	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Links for Greener Families	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Southridge Community Church	Collective Kitchen	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
Mainstream	Graffiti Removal	<div><div></div><div></div></div>		Southridge Shelter	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Resource Centre	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	Special Olympics Ontario	Healthy At Home	<div><div></div></div>
March of Dimes Canada	Assistive Devices Program (ADP)	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	St. George's Anglican Church	COVID-19 Emergency Support	<div><div></div></div>
	Community Support Services	<div><div></div></div>	St. James and St. Brendan Anglican Church	Out of the Cold Program	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
Meals on Wheels	Fort Erie, Niagara Falls and Port Colborne Meal Delivery Programs	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	St. John Ambulance	Niagara Falls Search & Rescue Program	<div><div></div></div>
Mennonite Central Committee Ontario	Building Community and Connection	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	Start Me Up Niagara	COVID-19 Emergency Support	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Momentum Choir	Keeping the Momentum	<div><div></div></div>		Necessities of Life Triage Through COVID-19	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
MS Society of Canada - Niagara Peninsula Chapter of Hope	Supports for Wellness	<div><div></div><div></div></div>		Food Plus	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Niagara Centre for Independent Living	Advocacy/Individual Disability Support Program	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		Income Matters	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
	COVID-19 Emergency Support	<div><div></div></div>		Reaching Out Program	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc.	Pandemic Family Outreach Program	<div><div></div><div></div></div>		SMUN Centre	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology	Combating Isolation and Loneliness in Long-Term Care	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Strive Niagara	Postponing Parenting Program	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Niagara Falls Public Library	Powering At Risk Residents	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		St. Catharines Outreach	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Niagara Folks Arts Multicultural Centre	COVID-19 Response to Mental Health of Niagara's Newcomers and Immigrants	<div><div></div><div></div></div>		Young Moms Outreach	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Supporting Wellness for Muslim & BIPOC Women	<div><div></div><div></div></div>		Young Fathering Program	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Niagara Foundation for Family and Children's Services	New Outlooks and Beginnings (NOB)	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	The Adult Literacy Council of Greater Fort Erie	Financial Literacy	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
Niagara Furniture Bank	Building Capacity to Support Vulnerable People	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	The Corporation of the City of St. Catharines	Seniors' Centre Without Walls	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Furniture & Home Support through COVID-19	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	The Hope Centre	Community Wide Strategies	<div><div></div></div>
Niagara Ina Grafton Gage Village	Equipment for Meals for Seniors	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		COVID-19 Food Security Support	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Niagara Nutrition Partners	COVID-19 Family Gift Card Program	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		Financial Literacy & Individual Supports	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
	COVID-19 School Supplies and Food Supports	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		Food Security	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
	School Nutrition Program	<div><div></div><div></div></div>		Housing Stability	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
Niagara Peninsula Community Resource Centre	COVID-19 Housing & Mental Health Support	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	The Salvation Army Eventide Home	New Care Approach for Senior Residents	<div><div></div></div>
Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre (CARSA Inc.)	Child Assault Prevention Program (CAP)	<div><div></div></div>	The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara	Migrant Farm Workers Program Support	<div><div></div></div>
	Hospital Response (24 Hours)	<div><div></div></div>	Victim Services Niagara	Mobile Tracking Emergency Response System	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
Niagara Regional Learning Centre	Literacy for Life	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		Victim Crisis Assistance	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
Niagara Regional Native Centre	Children, Youth and Family Supports	<div><div></div><div></div></div>		Victim Crisis Support Services	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
	COVID-19 Emergency Support	<div><div></div></div>	Welland Heritage Council and Multicultural Centre	Supporting Congolese Seniors and Individuals	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
Niagara Resource Service for Youth (The RAFT)	Home From School	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		Supports for Newcomers	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Steps to Independent Living	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	West Lincoln Community Care	Food and Hygiene Security	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Youth Reconnect	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		COVID-19 Emergency Support	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	COVID-19 Emergency Support	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		Food Safe Storage	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Support for Vulnerable Youth and Young Adults	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	West Niagara Palliative Care	Rose Cottage Visiting Volunteers	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Niagara Women's Enterprise Centre	Multi-Sector Training Program: Retail Professional	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		Virtual Next Step Connections Services	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
Niagara Worship Centre	Meal Program for Vulnerable People	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Westview Centre4Women	COVID-19 Emergency Food Security Program	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer	Supporting Niagara Childhood Cancer Families	<div><div></div><div></div></div>		Food & Financial Security	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Open Arms Mission	COVID-19 Food Security Support	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Women's Place of South Niagara	Court Support Program	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Port Cares	COVID-19 Capacity	<div><div></div><div></div></div>		Emergency Shelter Nova House	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Community Navigator	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		Emergency Shelter Serenity House	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Reach Out Food Centre	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		Volunteer/Public Education Program	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Positive Living Niagara	Beyond the N.O.D. Niagara Opioid Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Distribution Program	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	YMCA of Niagara	Youth Action School Programs	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Community Fund Program	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		YMCA Adventure Club	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	COVID-19 Emergency Support	<div><div></div></div>		YMCA Social Hour	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Mobile Harm Reduction Outreach Program	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	Young Carer's Initiative	Summer Camp	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Project SHARE	COVID-19 Frozen Meal Distribution across Niagara		YWCA Niagara Region	Adult Life Skills	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Food Program Partners	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		Children's Program/Youth Life Skills	<div><div></div></div>
	Food Provision, Access and Support	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		COVID-19 Emergency Support for Seniors	<div><div></div></div>
Regional Municipality of Niagara	Children's Community Services	<div><div></div></div>		Emergency Shelter, Culp Street	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	COVID-19 Emergency Support	<div><div></div></div>		Niagara Falls Emergency Shelter and Supports	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	COVID-19 Emergency Support for Seniors	<div><div></div><div></div></div>		Safer House	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

\$100,000

The UNIGNORABLE Match matched any increase in previous donations dollar-for-dollar from donors giving \$1 to \$1,199, increasing the impact of gifts from donors at every level.

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MATCH

THE BROWN
HOMESTEAD humeniuk
foundation

Generously Sponsored By:

Thanks to the incredible generosity of The Brown Homestead in association with the Humeniuk Foundation:

..... 948 \$230,507
donors increased their support in 2020. leveraged through this match.
Thank you!



Thanks to the incredible generosity of The Partridge Family, United Way Niagara was honoured to offer The Partridge Family Leadership Match, in memory of Peter M. Partridge, which provided up to **\$50,000 in matching funds**. Peter was a loyal supporter of United Way and the community we serve and embodied United Way’s mission through his incredible life as a respected leader and philanthropist in Niagara.

THE RESULTS:
..... 236 \$452,423
new leadership donors and increased leadership gifts. leveraged in new leadership giving.
Thank you!

\$25,000

The Friends of Golf New Donor Match matched any new donation dollar-for-dollar.

FRIENDS OF GOLF
NEW DONOR MATCH

THE RESULTS:
..... 1,323 \$372,775
new donors. leveraged in new donor giving.
Thank you!

Generously Sponsored By:



TOP 20 EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGNS

United Way Niagara receives a significant portion of revenue through annual employee campaigns. We thank all of our employee campaign donors for their support through one-time, payroll, corporate and event contributions.

- General Motors St. Catharines Propulsion Plant

Brock University

Canada Border Services Agency

Algoma Central Corporation

Niagara Region

Niagara Regional Police Service

LCBO

Niagara Health

RBC Dominion Securities

Enbridge Gas Inc.
- Rankin Construction Inc.

Meridian Credit Union

Niagara College Canada

Deloitte

Costco Wholesale Canada Ltd.

TD Bank Group

RBC Financial Group

The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation

Canada Revenue Agency

Desjardins

SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

- ANITA ROBERTSON LEGACY AWARD

Domenic & Patrizia Trapasso
- CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR

Costco Wholesale Canada Ltd.
- CHAIR’S AWARD

Canada Revenue Agency
- COMMITTEE OF THE YEAR

Brock University
- COMMUNITY BUILDER AWARD

Enbridge Gas Inc.
- LONGSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Niagara College Canada
- MUNICIPAL CHALLENGE

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
- UNsung HERO AWARD

Avondale Stores Ltd.

The Anita Robertson Legacy Award is bestowed upon individuals that have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to United Way Niagara, in memory of The Late Anita Robertson. The recipients embody the spirit of Anita in her unrelenting desire to help those most in need.

In a time when United Way needed support the most, the Trapassos came through in many ways. When the children at our After School Matters program were impacted by closures, they generously sponsored care packages for over 400 participants. In light of the need for masks in Niagara due to COVID-19, they found a way to provide an essential item to members of the community while boosting our fundraising efforts through the *Masks for a Cause Initiative* raising over \$20,000. And, in the way that would mean most to Anita, they have made giving back to the community a part of family tradition involving their sons, Isaac and William.

Congratulations Patrizia and Domenic.



LASTING LEGACIES

In 1965, Clara Crawford bequeathed \$14,000 to United Way in her will. Since then the Forever Fund, United Way’s endowment fund, has grown substantially to \$1,750,000. Gifts to the Forever Fund earn income which is invested in community programs that address immediate needs and sustain long term projects that will help children, seniors and families. Clara Crawford’s legacy continues to live on. The fund has positively impacted our community for the last 56 years and will continue to make an impact for years to come.

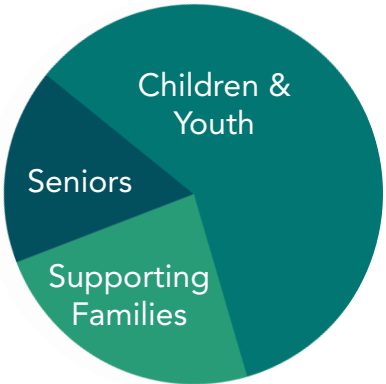
“I would like to express my gratitude for your kindness and generosity, helping me to get the glasses that I need to see. They are such a great help to me. I will wear them and remember the kindness that made this possible. Thank you.”

- Sylvana

While you may not be able to make a financial contribution right now, you can ensure a prosperous Niagara for generations to come with a planned gift. For more information on Legacy Giving, please contact our Donor Relations Manager at 905-688-5050 ext. 2113.

FOREVER FUND INVESTMENTS

The income from the Forever Fund annually supports United Way’s special initiatives and projects. Each year, investment income supports After School Matters, Backpacks for Kids and other initiatives as needed. The fund offers stable funding to keep these valuable programs running year after year.



“Thank you for selecting me to receive a scholarship from the Education Opportunity Fund. Your generosity went a long way in helping me succeed in my education and to get where I am today. With your assistance, I have now graduated with two diplomas and one certificate and am ready to give back to the community.”



- Batool

The Education Opportunity Fund is a named fund, part of our Legacy Giving Program, providing post-secondary scholarships to graduates of United Way’s After School Matters program.

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY

CORPORATE SUPPORT & FOUNDATION GIFTS

\$100,000 +

The Branscombe Family Foundation 
The Brown Homestead in association with the Humeniuk Foundation 
The Co-operators
Anonymous - 1

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Algoma Central Corporation
General Motors St. Catharines Propulsion Plant 

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Amazon 
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Enbridge Gas Inc. 
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Meridian Credit Union
Niagara Community Foundation 
Rankin Construction Inc.
RBC Financial Group
Shark Marine
Technologies Inc. 

\$10,000 - \$24,999



Alectra Utilities 
The Anita Project
BMO Financial Group
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Charles & Florence Martin Foundation
CIBC
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David S. Howes Fund at the Niagara Community Foundation
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The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation

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\$500 - \$999





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IN-KIND SUPPORT

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Beatties 
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Niagara Catholic District School Board
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Niagara Loves Home Concert Series 
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Niagara Region through the Niagara Prosperity Initiative
Niagara Regional Housing
Oakridge Public School 
Post Foods Canada 
Queenston Residents Association 
RBC Dominion Securities 
Real Canadian Superstore 
Ridley College 
Rotary Club of Niagara Falls
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Safari Niagara
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Shark Marine Technologies Inc. 
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The Body Shop Pen Centre
The Upper Space
The Vegan Hippie Chick
Urge to Purge Inc.
Vaxxine Computer Systems Inc.
White Oaks Conference Resort & Spa
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91.7 GiantFM toy drive for After School Matters



John Deere Canada with large donation of Personal Protective Equipment



Oakridge Public School donated food and snacks for families



Post Foods donated thousands of boxes of cereal for meal programs

 The organizations that appear with the  symbol contributed to our **COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.**

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

PHILANTHROPIST CIRCLE

Acknowledging individuals who have made cumulative gifts of **\$25,000** or more to United Way over the last five years.

- Akram Askoul

Peter & Fern Boldt

Glenn & Heidi Burgess

David & Ruth Burtnik

John & Sue Bylhouwer

Frank & Beverley Cooper

Santo D’Agostino

Linda Dal Bianco & Gordon Jarvis

Dan & Donna Dargavel

George O. Darte III

Paul & Joyce Eckel

Bill & Nancy Elkin

The Late William Fedorkow

Greg & Trish Finn

John & Stacy Gotts

Matt Greenway & Elaine O’Reilly
- Frances Hallworth

Jacob & Katherine Hildebrand

Ted & Maureen Hoxie

J. Robert (Bob) Lavery

Harriet & John Lehen

Pam & Craig Lilley

John & Kathryn Lye

Fraser & Karen MacKay

Erna McBride

Janet Partridge

Peter W. Partridge & Poppy Gilliam

The Jasmine & Kevin Patterson Family Foundation

Mike Plyley & Gail Macpherson

Peter Ramm & Helen Staal

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Mark & Carrie Sherk

Sean & Stephanie Simpson

Domenic & Patrizia Trapasso

Keith & Tammy Vandenberg

Carol Walker

Norris Walker

George Waters

Carolyn & Paul Weiss

Ed & Barb Werner


Sheryl Wherry


Tom Whitelaw

Jim & Laurie-Ann Whitnall

Ellen Wodchis

LEGEND

 The donor names that appear in **RED** are members of the *Red Feather Society* and have been supporting United Way for 20 years or more. If you have been giving for 20 years or more but your name does not appear in **RED**, please contact our Donor Relations Manager at 905.688.5050 ext. 2113. **Thank you for your loyal support!**

 The donor names that appear with the **WU** symbol are members of **WOMEN UNITED™**. Women United is an inclusive, vibrant community of change makers bound together by a powerful sense of belonging - to one another, to the community and to the mission of transforming the lives of women and their families. For more information or to join Women United, please contact our Donor Relations Manager at 905.688.5050 ext. 2113.

 The donor names that appear with the  symbol contributed to our **COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund**.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

MAJOR GIVING SOCIETY

Acknowledging individuals who have made annual gifts of **\$5,000** or more to United Way.

- Visionaries (\$100,000+)

Anonymous - 3

Pillars (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

J. Robert (Bob) Lavery

The Jasmine & Kevin Patterson Family Foundation

Anonymous - 1

Benefactors (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

The Late William Fedorkow

Janet Partridge

Peter W. Partridge & Poppy Gilliam

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Gregg Ruhl

Domenic & Patrizia Trapasso

Jim & Laurie-Ann Whitnall

Joan Worthington

Anonymous - 1
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John & Sue Bylhouwer

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Gini & Tim Rigby

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Sean & Stephanie Simpson

Keith & Tammy Vandenberg

Carol Walker

George Waters

Ed & Barb Werner

Ellen Wodchis

Don & Valerie Wolfe

Anonymous - 8



Volunteer Karen MacKay delivers boxes of cereal to a local shelter in April 2020


THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Patrons (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Laurie Andrews [WU](#) 
Carlos & Heather Antunes [WU](#)
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Mr. & Mrs. Roy & Janet Baldwin
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Jeff & Leah Bolan
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Robert Cary & Jane Laughton
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Sheryl Wherry
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Steve Bortolussi
Finlay Buchanan
Corwin & Grace-Ann Cambray 
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Dave, Linda, Shaun & Alanna Wyllie 
Anonymous - 11

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Jordan & Kristen Beekhuis 
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Wayne Blakely
Terry & Cathy Boak
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Kevin Cosby
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Greg & Sharon de Prinse
David & Carol Dec
Marc Doucet

Susan M. Drake
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David J. Farley
Jamie Fleming
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Barclay & Lilli Holbrook 
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Susan Velkers 
Andrew & Jennifer Walker
Wills Family Foundation at the Niagara Community Foundation
Keith Wood 
Bruce Zvaniga
Anonymous - 12

Leaders (\$1,200 - \$1,499)

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WOMEN UNITED™

In December, 20 Women United volunteers joined us on three evenings in groups of five to assemble 150 Welcome Home Kits. The kits are requested by agencies as they help to move homeless individuals into more permanent housing.

Kits were distributed immediately to 13 agency partners across Niagara. Welcome Home Kits are designed to ease the financial burden on individuals moving into permanent housing with essential kitchen and bathroom items.

The value of the kit is \$175. United Way works with partners to bring the cost down to \$75.



Cheryl McCormick, Women United volunteer, packing Welcome Home Kits

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Tina D’Agostino, Women United volunteer, packing Welcome Home Kits

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Jeremy Van Moorsel, gennext volunteer and Meridian Credit Union Sponsored Employee, sorting hygiene products in the United Way warehouse.

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By The St. Catharines Standard
Fri., Jan. 29, 2021, 1 min. read

Article was updated Jan. 31, 2021



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