



Respond.  
Recover.  
Reimagine.

2019-2020

# Community Impact Report



**United Way**  
Regina



## Our Mission

Ignite the desire in everyone to improve lives by mobilizing our community for lasting social change

## Our Vision

To build a strong, caring community where everyone has the opportunity to live a good life

## Our Values

- Demonstrate trust, integrity, respect, inclusivity and transparency
- Energize and inspire volunteerism and volunteer leadership
- Endorse innovation, partnerships and collective action
- Provide non-partisan leadership
- Embrace diversity

# A Year Unlike Any Other

The COVID-19 Pandemic has brought into full view our community's fault lines. Collectively, we have witnessed deeper poverty, challenges with inequity and experienced threats to our own individual physical and mental health.

United Way steps up whenever our communities need us. We have always focused on the underlying social problems, and those problems have been magnified by COVID.

211 Saskatchewan is the go-to information and referral service in our province. As programs and services became strained and unable to meet the demands, 211 played an important role in connecting people to resources and up-to-date, accurate information. We have seen a spike in usage as more people are seeking food, financial assistance, housing and mental health supports.

The solutions we create together go beyond short-term interventions. We all benefit when a child succeeds in school. Our focus on education doesn't just benefit students. When we help more youth graduate, we know they have a much better chance of landing a job or continuing their education, of staying out of trouble, and of living longer, healthier lives — and that translates into a safer, more prosperous community for all.

We rise or fall together. Together, we invested more than \$3.4 million to support the communities we love. With your support, we will continued to innovate and reach for great new heights. We remain committed and steadfast in advancing our mission to improve lives by mobilizing our community for lasting social change.

With gratitude,



**Darren McKee**  
Board Chair



**Robyn Edwards-Bentz**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Board of Directors

Thank you to the volunteers who make up United Way Regina's Board of Directors.

**Darren McKee**, Board Chair  
Saskatchewan School Board Association

**Judith May**  
Past Chair & Governance Chair, Retired

**Pamela Fiske**, Vice Chair  
Integra Consulting

**Rosalee Longmoore**  
Audit & Risk Chair, Retired

**Michael Redenbach**  
Resource Development Chair  
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**Marg Romanow**  
Appointed Labour Representative  
Saskatchewan Union of Nurses

**Wendy Daku**  
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Information Services Corporation

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**Garion Carlson**  
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**Karen Dackiw**, CFRE  
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Accounting

**Kristél Kriel**  
MLT Aikins LLP

**Karthik Malladi**, CPA, CA  
KPMG LLP

Committee of the Board Members  
(Non-Board Members)

**Lorna Hamilton**, CPA, CA, Audit & Risk  
The Cooperator's Group Limited

**Chad Hilton**, BSc, CIM, Governance  
BMO Personal Banking



# champion:

a person who fights or argues for a cause or on behalf of someone else.



# 2019 Community Champion

For the past three years, United Way Regina has invited strong community leaders and influencers to share their own personal stories about the importance of giving back to the community we love.

During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, Thomas Benjoe, President/CEO of FHQ Developments became our United Way Community Champion. Growing up in North Central Regina, Thomas is a community leader and role model. Raised by his grandfather, Thomas says he instilled a strong work ethic and emphasized the importance of school. As a one of CBC's Future 40, he strongly believes in mentorship and supporting youth to reach their dreams.

**"As a community leader, it is so important to find ways to give back to our community – especially to our Indigenous youth."** – Thomas Benjoe



Thomas Benjoe, President/CEO of FHQ Developments



Steve McLellan, CEO of Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

## Passing the Torch

**Welcome to our 2020 Community Champion**

Steve McLellan, CEO of Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

**"The combination of collective resources and common goals makes our communities and our people stronger and Regina is blessed to have both in large quantities."**

**– Steve McLellan**

# Local Love in a Global Crisis

In partnership with the Government of Canada, United Way Regina provided our expertise in grantmaking and connecting to community networks to help deploy funding to qualified charitable organizations with eligible program activities.



## New Horizons for Seniors – Seniors Response Fund

This funding provided by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program intended to support isolated seniors impacted by COVID-19. The following organizations received funding through an open call for proposals process:

REGINA – 8 Projects Funded, Total Funding \$43,000	
Canadian National Institute for the Blind (Regina)	\$5,000
Circle Project Inc.	\$5,837
Eden Care Communities (Regina)	\$4,650
File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (RT/SIS)	\$5,837
North Central Family Centre Inc.	\$5,838
Phoenix Residential Society	\$5,837
Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc.	\$5,000
University of Regina's Lifelong Learning Centre	\$5,000
MOOSE JAW – 5 Projects, Total Funding \$15,000	
Canadian National Institute for the Blind (Moose Jaw)	\$2,246
Eden Care Communities (Moose Jaw)	\$2,500
Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc. (Moose Jaw)	\$2,500
The Moose Jaw Non-Profit Housing Corporation	\$3,877
The Salvation Army (Moose Jaw)	\$3,877

<b>SWIFT CURRENT – 4 Projects, Total Funding \$15,000</b>	
Canadian National Institute for the Blind (Swift Current)	<b>\$1,978</b>
Shaunavon Food Bank Inc.	<b>\$3,000</b>
Spinal Cord Injury of Saskatchewan (Swift Current)	<b>\$6,652</b>
Southwest Homes Inc.	<b>\$3,370</b>
<b>WEYBURN – 4 Projects Funded, Total Funding \$15,000</b>	
Canadian Mental Health Association (Weyburn)	<b>\$5,930</b>
Canadian National Institute for the Blind (Weyburn)	<b>\$3,750</b>
Community Low Income Centre	<b>\$1,570</b>
Weyburn Special Care Home Auxiliary	<b>\$3,750</b>

## Emergency Community Support Fund

This funding provided by the Government of Canada, through Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) intended to provide financial support to charitable organizations, adapting their frontline services to support vulnerable populations in southern Saskatchewan. The following organizations received funding through an open call for proposals process:

<b>REGINA – 25 Projects Funded, Total Funding \$496,875</b>	
Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan (Regina)	<b>\$10,000</b>
Big Brothers Big Sisters Regina and Area	<b>\$65,000</b>
Cornwall Alternative School	<b>\$25,000</b>
Eagle Heart Centre	<b>\$49,572</b>
Eden Care Communities (Regina)	<b>\$25,000</b>
Family Service Regina	<b>\$41,090</b>
File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (RT/SIS)	<b>\$20,000</b>
Habitat for Humanity Regina Inc.	<b>\$18,000</b>
John Howard Society of Saskatchewan (Regina)	<b>\$25,000</b>
Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan (Regina)	<b>\$15,195</b>
Regina Catholic Family Services Society	<b>\$24,898</b>
Regina Public Library Board	<b>\$13,930</b>
Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association (Regina)	<b>\$25,000</b>
SOFIA House	<b>\$25,000</b>
South Saskatchewan Independent Living Centre	<b>\$18,000</b>
St. John Il Syro Malabar Catholic Church	<b>\$25,000</b>
Street Culture Project Inc.	<b>\$25,000</b>
The FASD Network of Saskatchewan (Regina)	<b>\$1,920</b>
Whitmore Park Child Care Cooperative	<b>\$15,000</b>
Young Women's Christian Association Regina	<b>\$24,270</b>

<b>MOOSE JAW AND AREA – 8 Projects Funded, Total Funding \$113,580</b>	
Canadian Mental Health Association (Moose Jaw)	<b>\$20,000</b>
Eden Care Communities (Moose Jaw)	<b>\$6,500</b>
Iver Main Place Inc. (Central Butte)	<b>\$20,000</b>
John Howard Society of Saskatchewan (Moose Jaw)	<b>\$20,000</b>
Moose Jaw and District Food Bank	<b>\$20,000</b>
Moose Jaw Family Services	<b>\$22,000</b>
YMCA of Regina (Moose Jaw)	<b>\$5,080</b>
<b>SWIFT CURRENT AND AREA – 10 Projects, Total Funding \$142,000</b>	
Canadian Mental Health Association (Swift Current)	<b>\$15,000</b>
Dr. Noble Irwin Regional Healthcare Foundation Inc.	<b>\$4,500</b>
Family Resource Centre Swift Current Inc.	<b>\$20,000</b>
Great Plains College (Swift Current and Maple Creek)	<b>\$40,000</b>
Herbert Group Home Inc. (Herbert)	<b>\$20,000</b>
Long-Term Care Home (Swift Current)	<b>\$14,500</b>
Southwest Homes Inc.	<b>\$20,000</b>
West Bank Bible Camp	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>WEYBURN AND AREA – 3 Projects, Total Funding \$45,930</b>	
Canadian Mental Health Association (Weyburn)	<b>\$20,000</b>
Envision Counselling and Support Centre Inc.	<b>\$18,930</b>
Inclusion Weyburn	<b>\$7,000</b>
<b>YORKTON AND AREA – 5 Projects, Total Funding \$93,824</b>	
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yorkton and Area	<b>\$20,000</b>
Boys & Girls Club of Yorkton	<b>\$20,000</b>
Ituna and District Regional Park	<b>\$20,000</b>
Yorkton Transitional Homes for Youth Inc.	<b>\$20,000</b>
Yorkton Tribal Council	<b>\$13,824</b>
<b>Other Communities and Provincial Projects – 3 Projects, Total Funding \$90,000</b>	
Town of Moosomin, Parks & Recreation	<b>\$10,000</b>
The Kidney Foundation of Canada	<b>\$25,000</b>
OUTSaskatoon	<b>\$55,000</b>

**Big thank you to our wonderful volunteers who generously provided many hours of personal time sharing their local knowledge and expertise during the Government of Canada funding process.**





# local love

IN A  
GLOBAL CRISIS

Many people could not afford to prepare for how COVID-19 is affecting their family. Thanks to you we are able to support local community organizations to help our most vulnerable citizens.

## National COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Fund

The Centre (Swift Current)	<b>\$4,505</b>
Canadian Mental Health Association (Swift Current)	<b>\$1,500</b>
Southwest Homes Inc. (Swift Current)	<b>\$3,000</b>
PPE Supplies	<b>\$12,257</b>
Forehead Thermometers	<b>\$2,284</b>
Summer Food Support Program	<b>\$30,884</b>
Book Worms Summer Literacy Kits	<b>\$22,000</b>

## United Way Regina Essential Services Funding

REACH (Food Insecurity)	<b>\$20,000</b>
CMHA Regina (Mental Health)	<b>\$20,000</b>
Family Service Regina (Mental Health)	<b>\$20,000</b>
Mobile Crisis Services (Crisis Intervention)	<b>\$20,000</b>
YWCA of Regina (Emergency Shelter)	<b>\$20,000</b>
Transition House (Housing Support & Shelter)	<b>\$20,000</b>
SOFIA House (Housing Support & Shelter)	<b>\$20,000</b>



**Book Worms**  
SUMMER LITERACY KIT

Together, we prepared literacy kits full of resources, supplies and activities to keep hundreds of local children reading and learning after schools closed. Thank you to our sponsors Conexus Credit Union, Regina Rotary and the Canadian Progress Club – Regina Centre.



# vello



Vello, an online tutoring software, pairs passionate professionals with students needing some extra guided reading through a safe and secure digital setting. Together, students and volunteer tutors read e-books using simple screen sharing and audio. Giving back has never been so easy or so rewarding. Sign up as an individual or build a team of employee volunteers to tutor local students.

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**For more info, email Amanda Lanoway, Director of Engagement at [alanoway@unitedwayregina.ca](mailto:alanoway@unitedwayregina.ca).**





# local love

IN A  
GLOBAL CRISIS



# 211 Saskatchewan



For more than a decade, United Way Regina and United Way Saskatoon & Area have been working together to offer the award-winning 211 service to the residents in Saskatchewan. 211 is a free, confidential, 24/7 information and referral service that connects people by phone, text or web chat or through a searchable website with over 5,500 listings of social, community, non-clinical health and government services.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, 211 Saskatchewan demand dramatically increased by over 200% becoming an essential service for people across the province looking for financial assistance, mental health support, non-crisis health information and information on community service closures or adapted programming.



## Database Searches (January to December 2019)

1

**166, 676**

unique visits to  
the 211 website

2

**315, 757**

page views of  
the 211 website

3

**Top searches:**

- 1) Mental Health
- 2) Homelessness/Housing
- 3) Income Support/Employment
- 4) Food Security
- 5) Children/Families

4

**Top Search Physical Locations  
(within Saskatchewan):**

- 1) Regina
- 2) Saskatoon
- 3) Prince Albert
- 4) Moose Jaw
- 5) Yorkton

## Contact Summary

### Top 5 Issues/Needs Reported



**Mental Health/  
Substance Use**



**Basic Needs**



**Health Care**

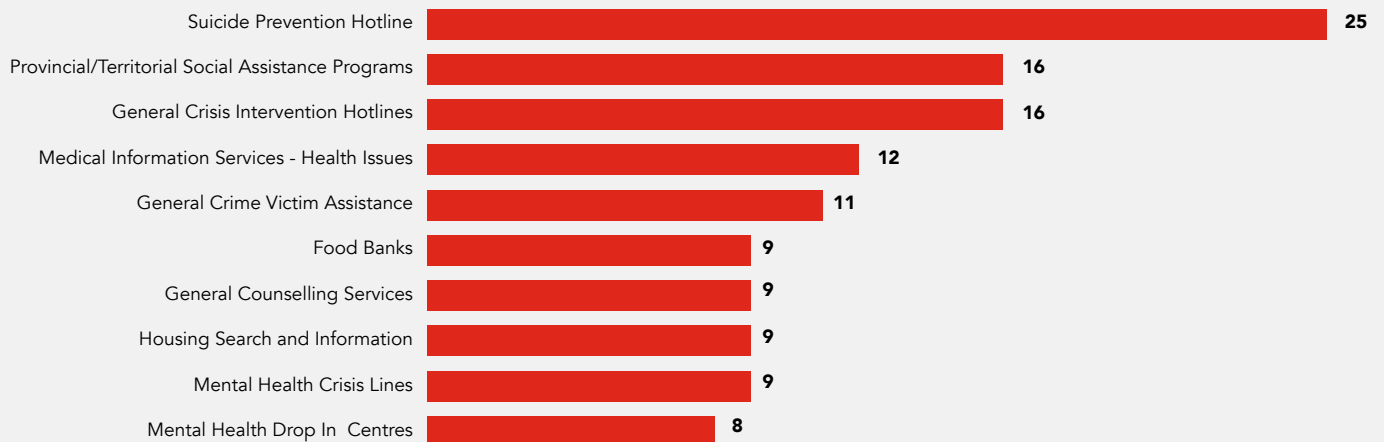


**Income Support  
and Employment**



**Criminal Justice and  
Legal Services**

### Top Needs Met



Thank you Community Initiatives Fund for supporting 211 and ensuring people have help 24/7 by phone, chat, text or searchable website to find programs and services they need.



# UNITE WITH US

TOGETHER, WE ARE A #COMMUNITYUNITED





# COVID and the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

In partnership with the SaskTel Pioneers and Canada Revenue Agency, United Way Regina played host to the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program for the eighth consecutive year.

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The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program is a free tax return filing program by Canada Revenue Agency, in partnership with community organizations across the country. The clinic at United Way Regina is the second largest in Western Canada.

With the number of individuals and families seeking this service, Affinity Credit Union and KPMG LLP provided financial support to build capacity and ensure sustainability of the clinic.

With the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Tax Clinic had to be closed for a number of weeks and then upon re-opening services were only offered by appointment to keep staff, volunteers and clients safe. As a result, from March to June 2020, 2,565 returns were completed for individuals and families. This resulted in \$10,961,100 in returns and

benefits for low and moderate income people in our community. The Late Filers Clinic has completed over 100 returns to date and nearly \$300,000 in benefits.

SaskTel Pioneer Rick Gaucher and the team of 35 volunteers take great pride in providing excellent service to those who need a helping hand in their community.

"We are so proud to sponsor this initiative with the United Way of Regina." Says Sarah Tkachuk, Partner at KPMG. "Last year, we saw \$23M return to our local community and economy as a direct result of these tax clinics, which are run by dedicated volunteers. This is a cause that KPMG in Canada strongly supports to help reduce inequalities, lift people out of poverty and eradicate hunger in our communities."





## 2020 Tax Clinic By the Numbers

Total returns:	2,565
# of volunteers:	35
\$ in Returns & Benefits:	\$10,961,100



# WOMEN UNITED™



## What is Women United?

Women United is an inclusive and vibrant community of change makers bound together by a powerful sense of belonging – to one another, to their community and to transforming lives.

Women United is a Leadership Giving program, where members have made a gift of \$1,200 or more. Our goal is to inspire and connect female leaders who have a passion for making a difference in their community.

## Our Vision

We are a powerful force for social change, where women are key drivers of philanthropy in local communities, through both giving and volunteering.

## Our Values

Leadership  
Impact  
Mentorship

Commitment  
Empowerment

# Join Us And Make A Difference.

Women United members are rallying around one of the most pivotal childhood milestones for mastery – reading proficiency by third grade. While the long-term impact of COVID-19 on the achievement gap remains to be seen, the prolonged school closures and the disparate instruction students received based on access to broadband internet and devices has highlighted the need for greater equity in education and further support for children's health and wellbeing.

**For more information, email Trish Dupuis, Director of Resource Development at [tdupuis@unitedwayregina.ca](mailto:tdupuis@unitedwayregina.ca).**

## Meet our Women United Co-Chairs



"I am elated that Regina is joining the Women United global initiative. This group of strong, driven and passionate women are ready to go all in to move the needle on reading success for Regina Youth. Through contribution and collaboration we will further nurture the growth and development of women leaders in our community."

**~Lori Daelick, Women United Co-Chair**



"Education is the key to building future leaders and ensuring that our community continues to grow. Women United's support of Campaign for Grade Level Reading through our membership has the potential to positively change so many young lives in the Regina area. It's personally rewarding to know that the time and energy we invest in our youth today, will have a lasting impact for decades."

**~ Anne Bilczuk, Women United Co-Chair**





Since 2016, United Way of Lower Mainland has developed and piloted the Social Purpose Institute. Social Purpose is an emerging trend in business – where companies define their reason for being in societal terms and place it at the core of their operations. It gives companies a competitive advantage, helps them navigate turbulent times, and creates new opportunities for maximizing profits and building shareholder value.

United Way Regina is excited to be the very first United Way to offer the Social Purpose programming outside of British Columbia.

The Social Purpose Institute offers structured and supportive programming that supports senior business leaders to incubate, accelerate and scale social purpose as a way to drive both their business growth as well as the company's potential for social good.



Our programs and workshops are designed to bring together like-minded business leaders in Regina to identify their own organization's core social purpose and ultimately create positive change in our community– all with a view to strengthening their business.

**Social Purpose Innovators** - is a unique introductory program developed by the Social Purpose Institute at United Way that helps businesses uncover or further refine their core, societal reason for being. Through an interactive, cohort-based program, companies are guided through the journey of determining their best-fit Social Purpose. The Innovators Lab is a 12-month peer collaboration of eight values-based businesses.

**Social Purpose Implementers** – is a follow-up program developed by the Social Purposes Institute at United Way. It assists businesses to fully implement and bring their Social Purpose to life. Implementers is designed for companies that already have a Social Purpose. It has a hands-on workshop-based design and innovation lab where eight companies in a cohort attend half-day sessions quarterly, with self-administered preparatory work and projects to be completed by the company between sessions.

## Learn More.

If you are a visionary leader, the Social Purpose Institute programs intended to support businesses to fully embed their company's Social Purpose into its operations. We will walk each business through four key steps to develop their implementation plan.

For more information about fall programming, please contact Cindy Kobayashi, our Social Purpose Strategist, at [ckobayashi@unitedwayregina.ca](mailto:ckobayashi@unitedwayregina.ca).



# The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Overview



Research validates that reading proficiency by third grade enables students to shift from learning to read – to – reading to learn so they can master more complex subject matter in fourth grade. Many students who fail to reach this critical milestone falter in later grades and often become frustrated, increasing their chances of dropping out before graduating from high school.

Regina’s Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is based on the belief that schools cannot succeed alone. When our community pulls together, we can ensure more children in low-income families succeed in school and stay on track to high school graduation.

United Way Regina and its tremendous supporters are mobilizing to remove barriers, expand opportunities and assist parents in fulfilling their role as full partners in the academic success of their children.

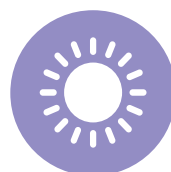
**The Campaign focuses on four key priorities:**



**Promoting  
school readiness**



**Tackling  
chronic absence**



**Improving  
summer learning**



**Expanding access to  
books and literacy  
materials**

## SPOTLIGHT ON:

Chronic absence is a measure of how much school a student misses for any reason. Starting in the earliest grades, the percentage of students missing 10% of the school year or only 18 school days can reach remarkably high levels. These early absences can rob students of the time they need to develop critical literacy skills in order to read proficiently by third grade. Together, with Regina Public and Catholic School Divisions, we want to thank the following organizations for your tremendous leadership and commitment to engaging families, removing barriers and addressing basic needs so all learners can stay on track and graduate from high school.

**Conexus Credit Union** – Conexus is a committed promotional partner and provided \$45,000 in funding over 2-years for Grade Level Reading initiatives like Summer Success and Attendance Matters. Thanks to Conexus, our newest promotional video was created to engage and inspire other to get involved. Conexus continues to go above and beyond, gifting radio ads to help create positive attendance messaging year round and highlights our partnership on the Community Page on their website.

**Regina Pats Hockey Club** – Education matters to the Regina Pats and that's why supporting Attendance Matters makes so much sense. They are seeking corporate sponsors to provide game tickets and experiences to children who otherwise would not attend Pats games. Sponsors will be featured as the Attendance Matters partner of each regular season game. They have also committed their executive and player Champions to appear on promotional posters distributed throughout the City.

**Dilawri Group of Companies** – Transportation continues to be a barrier for too many students in our community; especially those experiencing chronic absenteeism. Dilawri Group of Companies is happy to help with the donation of a vehicle to Regina Catholic and Regina Public schools to assist with removing the barrier or transportation and help kids get to school.

**City of Regina** – The City of Regina has year round representation on the Campaign for Grade-level Reading Regina Network and is committed to improve educational outcomes for Regina's students. A few ways they do that is by providing 5,000 leisure passes as healthy attendance incentives. In 2019, they City of Regina annual workplace Campaign revenue will target Attendance Matters initiatives making a significant investment in removing barriers and increasing opportunities.



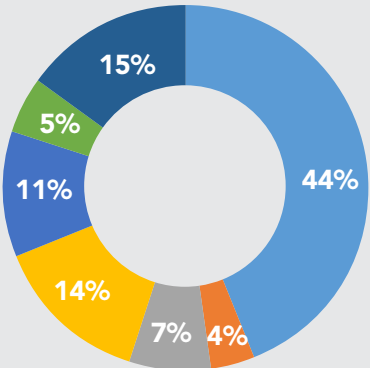




# Community Investments

United Way is improving lives locally by moving people out from poverty to possibility, investing in childhood success to help kids be all they can be, and building strong and healthy communities. Nationally, United Ways work focuses on three focus areas that create opportunities for everyone in our community to live a better life.

Thanks to the generosity of our corporate and individual donors, United Way Regina stepped up by investing more than \$3.4 million into our community during a global crisis.



**Total Community  
Impact Investment:**  
**\$3,484,464**

- Community Fund Grants to Funded Partners
- COVID-19 Grants & Supports
- Donor Designations (Other registered charities and United Ways)
- 211 Saskatchewan
- Campaign for Grade Level Reading (including Summer Success)
- Community Engagement & Capacity Building
- Non-Profit Support & Other Initiatives



# Poverty To Possibility



## The Challenge:

People who lack necessities like food and shelter can't get ahead in life. Those that struggle to find work or manage their finances aren't able to reach their full potential. The following investments were made to help people move out of the cycle of poverty.

Regina Education and Action on Child Hunger	<b>\$40,858</b>
Regina Transition House	<b>\$37,940</b>
Regina Work Preparation Centre	<b>\$55,262</b>
SOFIA House	<b>\$30,000</b>
Street Workers Advocacy Project	<b>\$61,413</b>
YWCA of Regina	<b>\$143,420</b>

# All That Kids Can Be



## The Challenge:

Early development – from childhood to adulthood – is a strong predictor of future success. Unfortunately, too many kids face barriers to achieving Childhood Success. United Way Regina believes education is a cornerstone for success. We are fighting to shift the odds so tomorrow's leaders can build a strong foundation today.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Regina & Area	<b>\$30,000</b>
Catholic Family Services	<b>\$30,000</b>
Circle Project	<b>\$70,420</b>
Cornwall Alternative School	<b>\$108,124</b>
Early Childhood Intervention Program	<b>\$30,000</b>
Family Service Regina	<b>\$155,653</b>
Rainbow Youth Centre	<b>\$34,553</b>
Regina Early Learning Centre	<b>\$96,441</b>
SCEP Centre	<b>\$101,770</b>
YMCA of Regina	<b>\$52,839</b>

# Healthy people, strong communities



## The Challenge:

The strength of a community is in the wellbeing of the people who live there. Everyone – no matter who they are or where they live – needs the chance to reach their full potential. United Way helps people in our community access and navigate the resources they need the most through 211 Saskatchewan or access to crisis intervention through Mobile Crisis Intervention. Through strategic investments, we help people manage life's challenges and gain a sense of belonging in the place they call home.

Canadian Mental Health Association – Regina	<b>\$69,035</b>
Mobile Crisis Services	<b>\$35,169</b>
Regina Open Door Society	<b>\$106,506</b>

## Our Solution

Together, we are moving people from poverty to possibility, helping kids be all they can be, and building strong and healthy communities. Thanks to your generous support, we create opportunities for everyone to have a better future.



United Way Regina,  
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Regina, SK., S4R 2E9  
Phone: 306-757-5671  
[www.unitedwayregina.ca](http://www.unitedwayregina.ca)



**United Way**  
Regina

**Find us on: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube**



All children deserve the best start in life. But disparities do exist. United Way will continue to bring together the right people and partners for better educational opportunities for local kids.

