

2018-2019

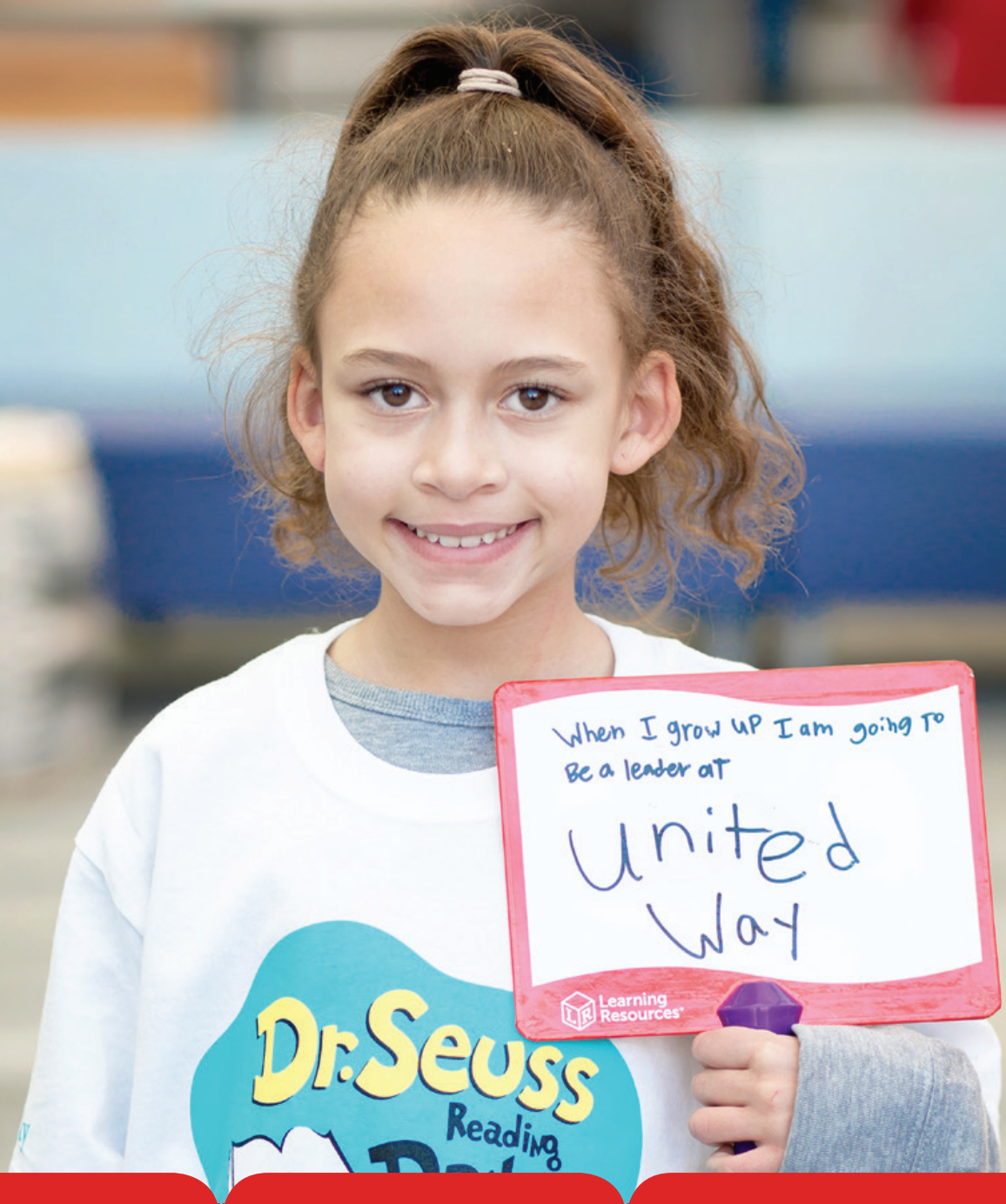
Report to the Community



United Way
Regina



**Working
Together**
so all kids
can succeed



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

Making a Difference Together

Thank you for showing your local love. In our Report to the Community, you'll see how we are tackling child poverty by improving educational outcomes for local kids. Despite our best efforts, poverty isn't letting up. But thanks to you, neither are we!

More and more, our stakeholders understand that the rapid and disruptive changes facing the charitable sector affect our work and ability to fulfill our community impact goals. From demographic shifts in the workplace to digital technology, donor expectations are changing the way United Way engages in our community.

In order to fulfill our promise to donors, volunteers and supporters, our organization is rapidly adapting and developing important new strategies and capabilities to deliver our shared mission and grow our relevance, revenue and impact in communities.

In 2018-2019, we engaged community stakeholders, listened to feedback and made strategic decisions to grow our capabilities in order to scale up our efforts and impact for the future.

By better understanding the needs of those we aim to serve, we will improve our efforts in reducing poverty, closing the achievement gap, addressing systemic inequities and racism in order to build a stronger, more inclusive community for all.

Robyn Edwards-Bentz
CEO,
United Way Regina

Judith May
Board Chair,
United Way Regina

Board of Directors

The people who give their time to make change happen

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

Judith May
Board Chair

Susan Zwarych
Past Chair

Bryan Burnett
Chair, Governance

Rosalee Longmoore
Chair, Audit & Risk

Michael Redenbach
Chair, Resource Development

Bruce Willis

Greg Bamford

Dean Rae

Darren McKee

Rob Currie

Pamela Fiske

Brad Vance

Amy McGregor

Jacq Brasseur

Garion Carlson

Karen Mercier

Jordan Sleightholm

Treena Amyotte

**Appointed Labour
Representatives**

Donna Ottenson

Marg Romanow

United, we lift up our community.

Smart Investments.

Our commitment to donors is that we will continue to invest strategically in programs and initiatives that help more people live their best lives.



Giving children a strong start.

Education is the key to disrupting intergenerational poverty. For some kids, the odds are simply stacked against them. That's why United Way and our partners remove barriers.



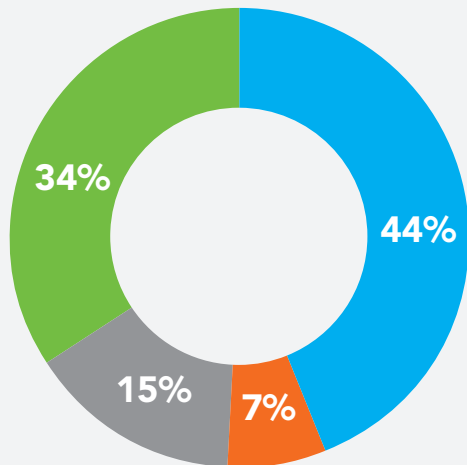
Changing the odds.

Too many families experience social issues like poverty, hunger and mental health. When ignored, the whole community faces serious economic and social consequences.



Impact of your gift.

Here's how we invest to strengthen our community.



Total Community Investment of \$2,987,696

- Grants to Funded Partners
- Donor Giving to Other Registered Charities & United Ways
- 211 Saskatchewan
- 3rd Grade Reading Initiatives, Stakeholder Engagement and Collaborations

Chief Evan Bray, Regina Police Service

"I love that United Way is focusing on #UNIGNORABLE ISSUES. It really speaks to our intentions. We won't stick our head in the sand and say it doesn't affect me or my neighborhood. The fact is social issues affect us all."



Regina Joins the Grade-Level Reading Network



The Grade-Level Reading Network seeks to disrupt intergenerational poverty by mobilizing communities to promote early school success for those children currently on the high-risk side of the achievement gap. This International Network works with more than 300 communities in 44 U.S. States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Canada.

United Way Regina serves as the backbone for Regina's 3rd Grade Reading Collective Impact Initiative. With help from many partners, we combined local research and data with community expertise to create **Regina's Community Solutions Action Plan**. This Plan is designed to guide our efforts in ensuring more low-income children have opportunities for early school success.

Reading proficiency by the end of third grade is a critical milestone towards high school graduation. It marks the transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn". Students who have not mastered reading by this time are 4X more likely to struggle in school and are at risk of dropping out of high school.

Thank you to the members of the **Regina Human Service Partnership** for supporting the initiative, as well as individual donors who provided the necessary financial support. The representatives of the Community Coalition invested time and expertise.

Working together, you made education inequality #UNIGNORABLE.

Community Coalition Members:



Dr. Nora Findlay

Regina Human Service
Partnership Coordinator

Amanda Lanoway

United Way Regina

Lori Godwin

Literacy Consultant, United Way Regina

Dr. Anna-Leah King

Faculty of Education,
University of Regina

Clare White

Regina Open Door Society

Dave Slater

City of Regina

Hayley Schnell

City of Regina

Dorothy Lafontaine

Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services

Morag Granger

Saskatchewan Health Authority

Melissa Obey

Imperial Community School Council

Nancy MacKenzie

Regina Public Library

Danielle Pass

KidsFirst Regina

Tracey Mann

Community Initiatives Fund

Helen Flengeris

Saskatchewan Health Authority

Jennie Bryant

Early Childhood Intervention Program

Elder Betty McKenna

Regina Public Schools

Kira Fladager

Regina Public Schools

Laurie Gatzke

Regina Public Schools

Emily Barber

SEARCH

Sarah Longman

Regina Public Schools

Jillian Laursen

Regina Catholic Schools

Sandra Selinger

Regina Catholic Schools

Stacey Gherasim

Regina Catholic Schools

Jeannine Whitehouse

Regina Catholic Schools

Laura Strong

Regina Region Local
Immigration Partnership

Mary Ann McGrath

Regina Early Learning Centre

Phaedra Hitchings

Saskatchewan Literacy Network

Dana Folkersen

Regina Education & Action
on Child Hunger

Summer Success Expansion

Research confirms that students lose ground academically when they are out of school for the summer. High-quality summer learning programs are vital to help those falling behind so they can return in the fall ready to learn.

Children from low income neighbourhoods are often the ones without access to enriching activities, safe spaces, healthy meals and access to books during the summer months. These students experience the 'summer slide' more than their resourced peers each summer and are at risk of never catching up.

This year, United Way funded 12 literacy camps, serving students from both Regina Public and Regina Catholic School Divisions. Thanks to Mosaic for helping Regina Public School Division add 4 more camps.

We were thrilled to receive generous support from the many Contributing Sponsors, which allowed us to expand and add 6 new camps in **Moose Jaw** (2), **Weyburn, Stoughton/Ocean Man First Nation**, and **Swift Current** (2).

6 school divisions

22 Summer Success Camps

92% maintained or increased reading levels



2019 Summer Success Contributors

Visionary Sponsors (\$75,000+)

Knight Automotive Group
One Anonymous Donor

Major Sponsors (\$10,000+)

CIBC
Conexus Credit Union
K + S Potash

Leader Sponsors (\$5,000+)

Harvard Developments
Scotia Bank
Regina Rotary

In-Kind Supporters

Denny's Restaurant
City of Regina
RBC Royal Bank
Sherwood Co-op
Farm Credit Canada
Regina Public Library

Thank you to the many individual volunteers supporting this important initiative!

Dr. Seuss Day: Turning the Page on Literacy

Special thanks to **Blue Sky Financial Planning**, including Managing Partners Grant Karst, Jim Greenwood and their team for sponsoring this year's Dr. Seuss Reading Day. Each student received a t-shirt, a new Dr. Seuss book and the undivided attention of a reading buddy.



"When I first moved to Canada, I was probably about the same age as the Grade 1 students. Reading was really hard for me so I understand the struggle. This experience really meant a lot to me."

Sahar Galbraith, Blue Sky Financial Planning Staff



Attendance Matters

Educators, parents and caring community members agree: helping kids get to school matters. In order to reap the full benefits, students must make good attendance a habit.

Those facing barriers to attendance are most vulnerable to the risks associated with chronic absenteeism. The tipping point for chronic absenteeism is missing 10% of the school year or about 18 days in excused and unexcused absences. That's in excess of two days a month which can add up quickly. It will take a whole community response to tackle chronic absence to keep kids engaged and on track to graduation.



Chronic Absence:
18 + days

Warning Signs:
10-17 days

Good:
9 or fewer days

Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

Community-wide response required

When students don't show up for school, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills. There will always be a need to miss a day here or there. But we can all pay attention to the warning signs, helping with support or removing barriers for students who miss 10+ days.

With help from **Conexus Credit Union**, we are engaging families, removing transportation barriers, addressing health needs and involving the broader community to get involved.

attendance
MATTERS



A person's hand is shown in the lower right corner, holding a piece of white chalk and drawing a line on a paved surface. The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and a white cap with red text. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with green grass, a fence, and houses under a clear blue sky. A large red rounded rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

In order to fulfill our promise to donors, volunteers and supporters, our organization is rapidly adapting and developing important new strategies and capabilities to deliver our shared mission and grow our relevance, revenue and impact in communities.





Improving Reading with Classroom Libraries

According to experts at Scholastics Canada, the classroom library is the backbone of classroom activity. A classroom library is a cozy, welcoming space where students can read quietly or browse through a rich collection of age-appropriate, culturally diverse texts.

Special thanks to **Wheaton Kia** and **Wheaton Chevrolet** for investing locally to help children read proficiently by third grade. Luke McClellan, Managing Partner, says his team was thrilled to

support students and proud to make a difference by providing cozy new furniture, books shelves, book bins and hundreds of brand new books for the kids to enjoy.



"It is one of the most humbling and heartwarming experiences that I have ever been a part of."

Luke McClellan,
Managing Partner
Wheaton Chevrolet



"I got to talk to the Chevrolet people and we have a lot of books in our classroom because of them."

EJ
Grade 3 student
Regina Catholic Schools

Over the past year, United Way Regina and our partners successfully launched 10 classroom libraries in Kindergarten to Grade 3 classes from three Community Schools. Together, we can help more children unlock their full potential and empower the workforce of tomorrow.

By improving educational outcomes, children and youth in Regina can:

1

**Start school
ready to
learn**

2

**Read at grade
level early on**

3

**Succeed in the
middle grades**

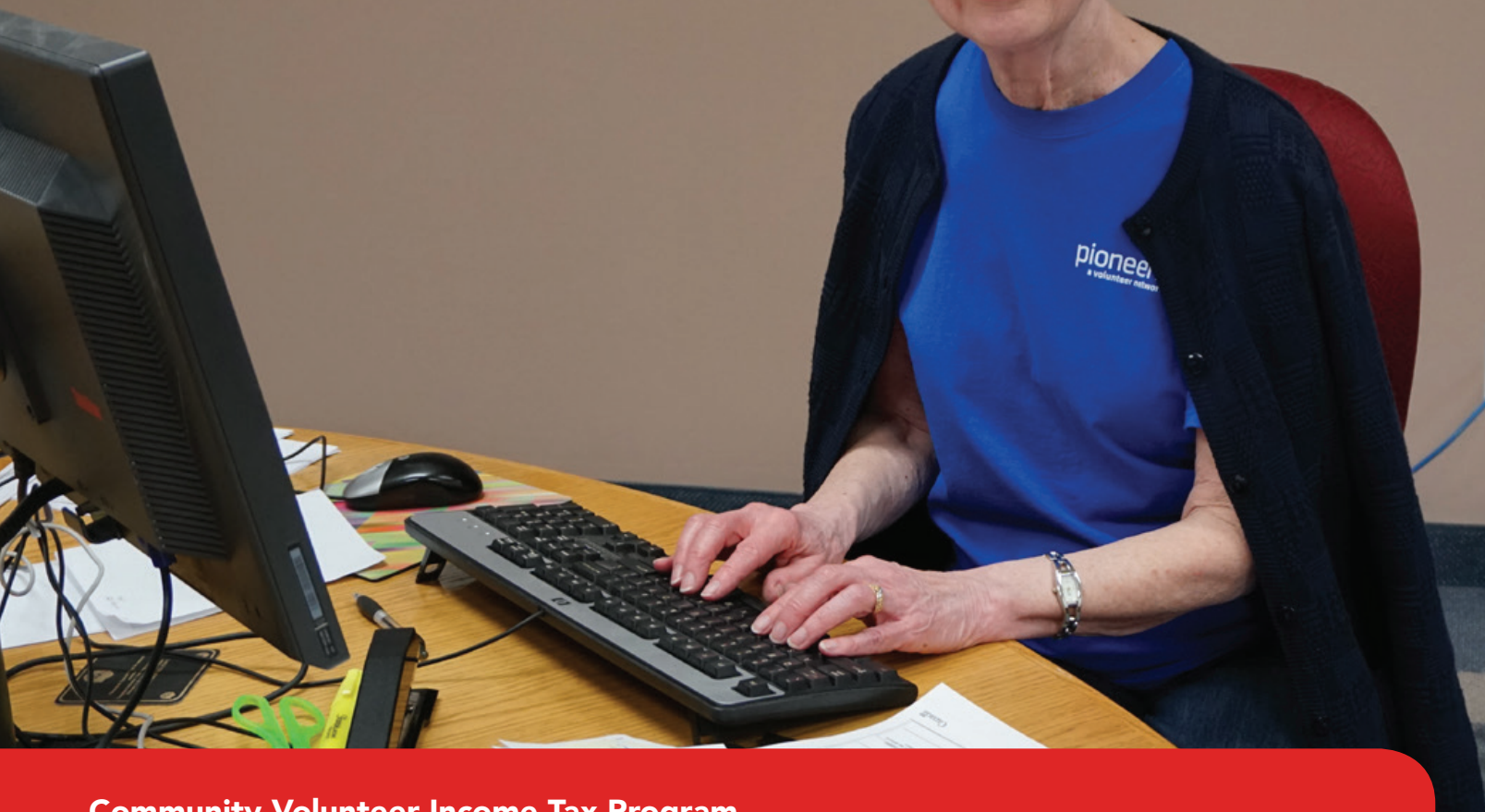
4

**Graduate from
high school**

5

**Pursue work or
post-secondary
education**

Tax Clinic Expands to Serve More



Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

Thanks to the support of **SaskTel Pioneers** and the **Canada Revenue Agency**, many low income people from Regina and surrounding area benefited from the free income tax return preparation offered at United Way.

Volunteers completed a record 5,938 Income Tax and Benefit returns from March 4 to April 20. When the number of children impacted through additional benefits is included, the number climbs to a remarkable **7,682 served** and an injection of over **\$23 million dollars** in benefits and credits returning to people who need it most in our community.

Affinity Credit Union contributed financially so more individuals and families could gain access to important federal benefits and credits, moving one step closer to financial stability.

When you give locally, you help people like Dixia



**Dixia Baltodano,
Tax Clinic Client**

Dixia is living at a local women's shelter for victims of domestic violence. She is working hard to stabilize and get her life back on track.

"I'm going through a very difficult separation. I find myself with limited means. Coming in here (to the Tax Clinic) I felt a tremendous sense of relief that I was helped out. The staff was very kind and the volunteers were very nice. I felt like I was actually stuck at this point but having the United Way help me out and provide the service means everything to me."



**Cara Bahr,
Affinity Credit Union**

"Community impact is incredibly important to us. One of the things we focus on is social and financial inclusion. We strive to remove barriers. We think everybody has the right to access financial goods and services. We also believe that everybody has the right to live a healthy, successful, stable life and, so, by supporting the income tax program that's exactly what we are doing."



211 Saskatchewan

For more than a decade, United Way Regina and Saskatoon & Area recognized the need to find a way to more effectively connect people with the programs and services available in their community.

Whether it's a person seeking support for an aging parent or looking for mental health and addictions support for their child or trying to find income assistance to stabilize their family, 211 Saskatchewan connects people to the more than 5,000 programs and services throughout our province.

In June 2018, 211 Saskatchewan expanded to include phone, text, web chat and email services answered by Community Navigators who are highly trained and certified information and referral specialists. They provide appropriate information and referral to clients.

No matter where you are in the province, 211 Saskatchewan is ready to help you get connected to services free of charge, day or night and in over 175 languages, including 17 Indigenous languages.

Thanks to **Community Initiatives Fund** and **CanPacific Potash** residents across Saskatchewan can now call or text 2-1-1 and continue to go online at **www.sk.211.ca** to access information and referrals to get the help when they need it.

Database Searches (June 2018 to July 2019)

1

137,461 unique visits to the 211 website

2

166,998 unique searches on the website

3

Top searches: 1. Mental Health; 2. Homelessness/ Housing; 3. Children & Families; 4. Food Security; 5. Old Adult & Senior Services

4

Top physical location of those searching for help:

1. Regina 2. Saskatoon
3. Calgary 4. Prince Albert
5. Moose Jaw



**Tracey Mann,
Executive Director,
Community
Initiatives Fund**

"211 provides timely and easy access to information and referral services for all Saskatchewan residents

regardless of location, language or time of day. With our shared goal of improving wellbeing and quality of life for all people and communities in our province, the Community Initiatives Fund is pleased to partner with United Way Regina and United Way of Saskatoon to support the expansion of 211 delivery, and to decrease the barriers encountered by those seeking the supports and opportunities they require."



**David Waugh,
CEO
CanPacific Potash**

"CanPacific Potash is based in Saskatoon, but our interests and business cover the province. We are

thrilled to have the opportunity to support the United Ways of Regina and Saskatoon 211 initiative for a province wide call-based help service. We have seen United Ways across Canada successfully implement the 211 service and we are very pleased to play a small part making the service available to Saskatchewan residents."

All That Kids Can Be



Some highlights from 2019 Program Results Reports include:

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMMING

United Way Regina invested in programming to improve the school readiness of 485 children with additional needs. (235 more children served over 2018)

86%

of children served by 3 programs improved in behaviour & social skills (+6% over 2018)

69%

of children served by 3 programs improved in language & cognitive development (-13% over 2018)

87%

of children served by 5 programs improved in gross & fine motor skills (+1% over 2018)

MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMMING

United Way Regina invested in programming to help 172 at-risk youth re-engage in school and 26 teen parents to graduate high school.

63%

of kids/youth served by 4 programs improved school attendance or engagement in school (-22% over 2018)

80%

of kids/youth served by 3 programs improved self-esteem or confidence (+7% over 2018)

86%

86% of kids/youth served by 2 programs improved coping skills (+25% over 2018)

TOTAL OF \$709,800 INVESTED IN PROGRAMMING OFFERED BY THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS

Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Regina and Area, Catholic Family Service Society Regina, Circle Project Association, Cornwall Alternative School, Early Childhood Intervention Program, Family Service Regina, Rainbow Youth Centre, Regina Early Learning Centre, SCEP Centre Early Intervention & Training Services, YMCA of Regina

Poverty To Possibility



This year, United Way Regina contributed to helping 345 individuals and families secure safe and stable housing, provided 829 individuals in crisis emergency shelter, distributed 15,714 family Food Boxes to people in need, increased job readiness skills for 73 individuals and helped 41 individuals obtain increased access to affordable transportation.

Some highlights from 2019 Program Results Reports include:

90%

of individuals served by 2 programs stabilized with emergency shelter or transitional housing (-9% over 2018)

48%

of individuals served by 1 program have resources & supports to maintain housing (-37% over 2018)

84%

of participants served by 1 program reported increased access to affordable, nutritious food (+3% over 2018)

84%

of individuals served by 1 program reported increased job readiness or employment skills (+3% over 2018)

TOTAL OF \$368,890 INVESTED IN PROGRAMMING OFFERED BY THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS

Regina Education and Action on Child Hunger (REACH), Regina Transition House, Regina Work Preparation Centre, SOFIA House, Street Worker's Advocacy Project Regina, YWCA of Regina.

Healthy people, strong communities



2019 United Way Day

Last year, United Way Regina contributed to programs helping 1,448 newcomers increase their knowledge of community services and 106 people living with mental health challenges were supported.

Some highlights from 2019 Program Results Reports include:

94%

of newcomers served by 3 program reported an increase in knowledge of community services (+4% over 2018)

84%

of newcomers served by 1 program reported the ability to create and maintain supportive relationships (0% change over 2018)

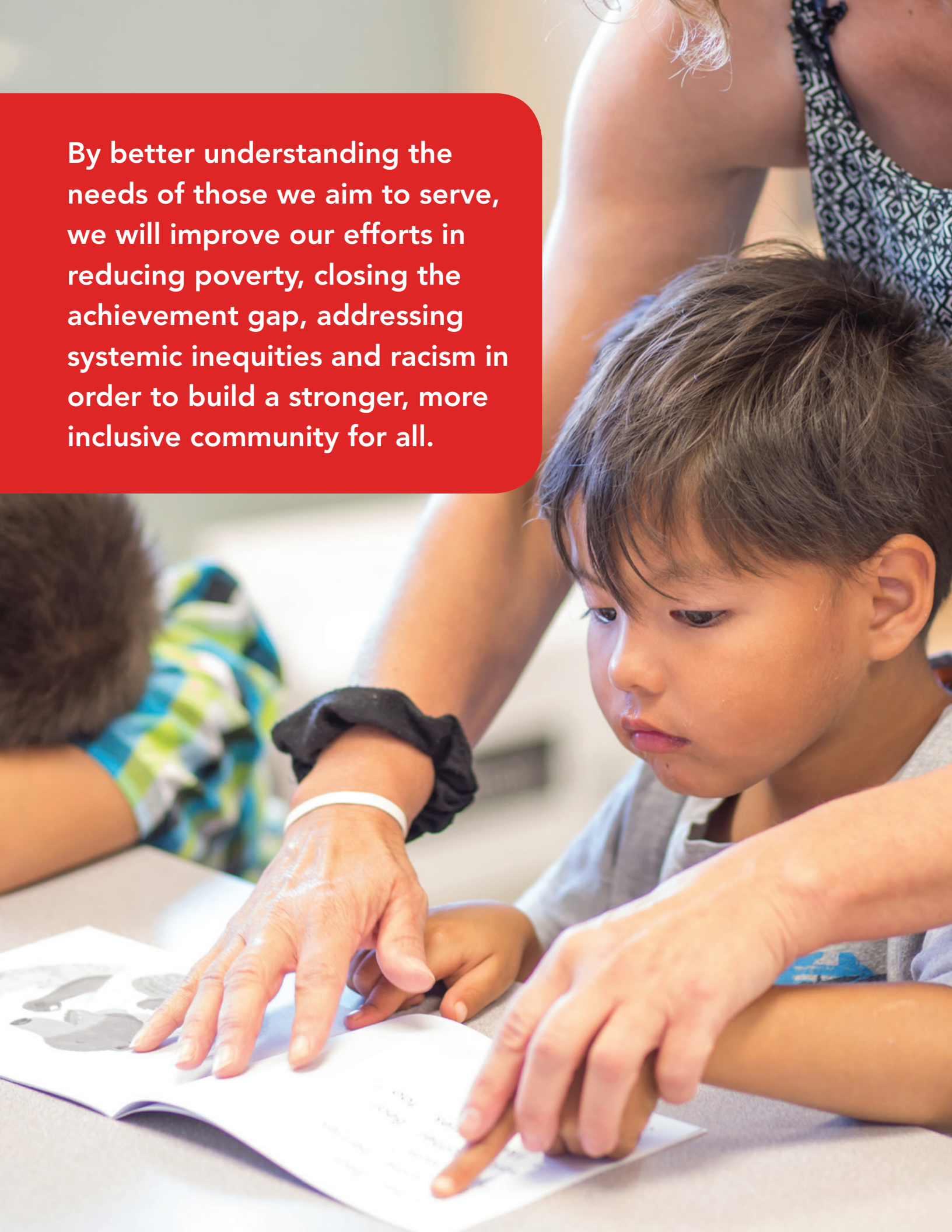
3,176

individuals in crisis found the services they needed when they needed them the most (+25 more over 2018)

TOTAL OF \$210,710 INVESTED IN PROGRAMMING OFFERED BY THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS

Regina Open Door Society, Canadian Mental Health Association (Regina Branch), Mobile Crisis Services

By better understanding the needs of those we aim to serve, we will improve our efforts in reducing poverty, closing the achievement gap, addressing systemic inequities and racism in order to build a stronger, more inclusive community for all.



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United Way
Regina

Find us on: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube



**"When you give to our kids,
it's making their lives rich.
It's building this community
to be a better society.
Thank you so much."**

Dengmarol Atem,
2019 Summer Success Parent

