

# local love

IN A  
GLOBAL CRISIS



United Way  
Regina



COVID-19 Funding Report | March 2020 – March 2021

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic.

In response, communities have been coming together for the safety of families, loved ones, and neighbours providing urgent support to help individuals affected by COVID-19.

# When crisis strikes, we all must take action together.

When you give to United Way Regina through this COVID Fund, you help provide:



## **BASIC NEEDS:**

To ensure individuals have access to life's essentials, such as food.



## **CAPACITY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES:**

To ensure that community partners can continue to do their vital work.



## **MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT:**

To enable crisis lines and system navigation services.

In March 2020, 211 Saskatchewan saw an increase in Calls/Chats/Texts/ Emails of 244% as the pandemic began to significantly impact our province.

### **Top Service Areas:**



**58%**  
Health Care



**10%**  
Income Support & Employment



**11%**  
Basic Needs



**9%**  
Mental Health & Substance Use

### **About 211 Saskatchewan:**

- 211 is a free, confidential service that connects people to critical social and community supports.
- 211 acts as the front door to support, helping people navigate the complex network of government and community programs and services quickly to find what they need for their unique situation.
- 211 service is accessible 24 hours a day and in over 150 languages.
- Across Saskatchewan, the service is offered through a variety of ways, including phone, chat, text, and website.

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## Global crisis

As most governments around the world were closing their countries down in an attempt to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus, United Way offices were working to identify ways to support those most in need.

As United Way worked with community partners to assess and prepare for how COVID-19 would not only affect our health, but also the social fabric across our city, we considered how the challenges we faced as a community were impacting the most vulnerable.



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## Local love

In the face of this global health crisis, we have been amazed by the acts of local love we have seen. From neighbours helping neighbours buy groceries or supplies, to strangers supporting strangers.

We know that many people could not, and cannot, afford to adequately prepare for how social distancing and the spread of COVID-19 is impacting their family. Many do not have supports, should they need to self-isolate. Those who already face barriers—like poverty, homelessness and social isolation—need even more help during this time.

On March 27th, United Way Regina launched the Local Love in a Global Crisis Fund and called for the compassion, and strong sense of community of donors to help individuals affected by COVID-19. The response has been truly heart-warming.

**“To build a better tomorrow,  
we must start today.**

**United, we help children and  
their families have an equal  
opportunity to thrive.**

**Thank you for generously  
supporting our community’s  
recovery and setting the stage  
for future success.”**

~Robyn Edwards-Bentz  
CEO, United Way Regina

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## Supply & Demand

With the announcements of school and business closures and the request to “Stay Safe and Stay Home”, began the dilemma of panic buying and disruptions to global shortages. PPE and cleaning supplies were in serious short supply.

Trying to source these key items was difficult and the incredible increase of demand on supplies meant escalated costs. Costs that most charitable organizations were not prepared or equipped to incur.

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## Bianca Amor’s Liquidation Supercentre

In February 2021, United Way received a generous monetary donation of PPE supplies from Bianca Amor’s Liquidation Supercentre.

United Way Regina decided to focus efforts from this donation to ensure agencies had the necessary supplies they needed to continue delivering their essential programs and services. This meant meeting their needs, and alleviated the time taken away from programming while trying to locate supplies or worry about trying to cover these additional costs in the midst of their already strained budgets.



### TOTAL # OF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED TO AGENCIES:

- 205 Face Shields
- 1160 Disposable Masks
- 200 Disposable Protective Gowns
- 17 1Litre Bottles of Sanitizer
- 20 Jugs of Medical Grade Disinfectant
- 3,380 Disinfecting Wipes

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**THANK YOU FOR HELPING  
KEEP EVERYONE SAFE!**

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## Addressing Community Needs

United Way Regina knows that proper supplies are essential for agencies to continue delivering services and we wanted to help alleviate some of the burden and strain for 7 organizations in southern Saskatchewan.

### Swift Current:

Canadian Mental Health Association  
Family Resource Centre  
Riverview Estates – The Willows

### Moose Jaw:

YMCA – Moose Jaw Location  
Thundercreek Rehabilitation Association  
Moose Jaw Pride  
Moose Jaw Senior Citizen District Association



**Thanks to Scotiabank's commitment to supporting communities during COVID-19, United Way Regina was able to purchase 8 forehead thermometers for specifically for Southwest Homes Group Homes.**

**Scotiabank®**



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## Social Distancing Forces Us Apart, but Compassion Defies Distance

While front-line support services worked hard to keep up with the needs in our community, United Way Regina worked hard to support their staff in their efforts.

With the support of the City of Swift Current, in May 2020 the Local Love in a Global Crisis Fund was launched in Swift Current. A local Community Response Committee was formed to assist with allocating relief funding as immediate needs were submitted. A special thank you to all who served on the Community Response Committee:

- Jim Jones, City of Swift Current
- Mike Boutilier, City of Swift Current
- Stacey Schwartz, United Way Regina
- Jahnaya Mann, Rubicon Pharmacies
- Bula Ghosh, South Sask Community Foundation
- Ward Strueby, Holy Trinity Catholic School Division
- Bob Vavra, Chinook School Division
- Karla Wiens, Swift Current Chamber of Commerce
- Jim Dekowny, Dr. Noble Irwin Foundation
- Kara Thompson, Community Futures Southwest

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IN A  
GLOBAL CRISIS



United Way





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## #UNITEDAPART

Together we must listen, learn and take action as our community presses on through these challenging times. The social fabric of our community is being tested like never before. COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on all of us, but the pandemic has hit vulnerable people the hardest.

United Way Regina's value has never been more clear: we know our community, we know what the most immediate needs are, and each day, we work with our partners and supporters to have the greatest impact.

To date, we have deployed a total of **\$22,573.00**, over and above in-kind donations, through the Local Love in a Global Crisis fund to ensure those who are most in need, are supported.

**The tough work is far from over.** However, with the power of local love, together we can continue to help our communities' most vulnerable people when they need us the most. There are so many in our community who are all contributing to our city's resilience, while front-line support services work hard to keep up with the needs.

**During the period of March 2020 - February 2021, we put the following COVID Fund donations to work to help address immediate needs, and create impact in our community:**

Month	Agency	Program/Need	Investment	Impact
March	The Center-SCCYI	Meal Program	\$4,505	4,576 meals delivered to 137 individuals, over a 3-month period.
May	Canadian Mental Health Assoc.	Meal Program	\$1,500	375 meals delivered to 63 individuals, over a 1-month period.
June	Southwest Homes	One on One Support	\$6,250 (\$3,000 + \$3250 from Kiwanis Club)	6 weeks of additional support staff for clients during lockdown.
January	Canadian Mental Health Assoc.	Meal Program	\$7,500	1,875 meals over 6 month period
February	Salvation Army	Basic & Household Items	\$2,500	100 Families received basic household cleaning supplies. In addition, 600 hamper bags were purchased to support 6 month period of food hampers.
February	The Willows – Riverview Estates	PPE Supplies	\$318	Purchased Sanitization spray, wipes, cloths, masks for 3 months period.

## Thank You for Your Generosity:

- **St. Stephen The Martyr Anglican Church: \$9,710**
- **Kiwanis Club of Swift Current: \$3,250**
- **W.W. Smith: \$2,000**
- **Craig Menzies: \$1,500**
- **Swift Current Individual Donations: \$6,113**



## Building Capacity

Over the past twelve months, food security has been the main request for relief funding in Swift Current area. We want to commend The Center, CMHA, Salvation Army, Family Resource Centre and other community agencies for continuing services and providing food security to families across Swift Current and area.

“On behalf of the SCCYI, we would like to thank the United Way for everything. Your ability to provide us with the funds to run the “Meals with Heart” program enabled many families in Swift Current to have a small form of stability during this pandemic. We have had the opportunity to encourage and walk with many new people during this time as well and we will continue to see how we can continue to make a difference as we continue to navigate through this unprecedented time.” ~ Nathan Wiebe, Executive Director, The Center - SCCYI

“At CMHA we are very grateful for the support given to us by United Way through the Local Love in a Global Crisis Fund. Our community’s generosity, has ensured that our Meal Program was able to continue during the last year. With the pandemic restrictions in place, it was difficult to ensure the support of our members. The Meal Program permitted us to not only feed our members, but also to maintain contact and be available for support during this difficult time.” ~ Jacqui Williams, Executive Director, CMH

**LEADING**  
♥ with love ♥





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## Emergency Community Support Fund

**Funded by the Government of Canada and distributed through the United Way Canada network.**

“We greatly appreciate the opportunity to work with the Federal Government to support our community agencies who serve those in Swift Current & Southwest Saskatchewan. Our local team is dedicated to supporting those who are working the front-line, supporting all individuals within our communities most affected by COVID-19. We want to extend our gratitude to all agencies in our area, both urban and rural. On behalf of United Way and our local team, we want thank you for your innovation and dedication to create and expand essential programs in order to support those in need.” ~ Stacey Schwartz, Community Advancement, United Way Regina

### **\$237,419.00 Invested in Swift Current and area**

This funding is intended to assist community agencies and organizations to support vulnerable populations in all parts of Canada including rural and remote communities. The following agencies and organizations received funding in round 1 & 2 for the July 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021 timeframe:

#### **ROUND 1**

- **\$15,000 – Canadian Mental Health Association**

To provide social recreation programming for a reduced number of participants at a time while ensuring that safety restrictions are followed to protect against COVID-19 transmission. Calls will be made focusing on wellness checks to assist with mental health and wellbeing.

- **\$4,500 - Dr Noble Irwin Regional Healthcare Foundation Inc.**

To provide the Mental Health Unit of the Cypress Regional Hospital an additional medication cart to enhance delivery of medication due to influx of additional patients during COVID-19.

- **\$40,000 – Great Plains College**

To deliver Adult 10, GED and Adult 12 programming via a blended format that has a substantial distance delivery component to students in vulnerable sectors, including technology support in Swift Current and Maple Creek.

- **\$5,000 - Southwest Cultural Development Group Inc.**

To provide the technology required to adapt the programming to develop regularly scheduled online video presentations of Lyric Theatre core performing arts programming giving creative outlet to youth and others isolated by COVID-19 restrictions.

- **\$3,000 - West Bank Bible Camp**

To provide an online virtual camp experience for children and youth who are not able to attend camp due to COVID-19.

- **\$14,500 - Saskatchewan Health Authority (Swift Current Area)**

To provide residents of Long-Term Care who are isolated from friends and family and experiencing increasing loneliness, depression and anxiety, the opportunity to reduce these symptoms through all the benefits of biking outdoors in summer and indoors in winter.

- **\$20,000 – Family Resource Centre Swift Current Inc.**

To provide innovative methods of service delivery to effectively reduce isolation and minimize barriers and challenges in providing supports to isolated and vulnerable families affected by COVID-19.

- **\$20,000 - Southwest Homes Inc.**

To provide participants within the community and in group home/assisted living programs the ability to sustain basic needs and prevent risk of self-harm, decreased mental health challenges, suicide, increase self-worth, open and continued pathways to opportunity.

- **\$20,000 - Herbert Group Home Inc. (Herbert)**

To increase staff capacity to support the residents who are adults with intellectual disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## ROUND 2

- **\$20,000 – Family Resource Centre Swift Current Inc.**

To provide single parents and those isolated due to transportation barriers, pursue their license and meet the required testing necessary. This program was in collaboration with Great Plains College and Newcomer Welcome Centre.

- **\$20,000 – Prairie Wind Estate Inc. (Herbert)**

To provide additional space and supports for clients' mental health and wellness.

- **\$10,000 – Saskatchewan Abilities Council Inc.**

To provide participants within enhanced mental health support and coping skills during COVID-19

- **\$10,000 – Swift Current Community Youth Initiative - The Center**

To increase staff capacity to extend counselling services.

- **\$15,419 – The Kidney Foundation Of Canada (Southwest Saskatchewan)**

To provide isolated patients additional medical support.



## New Horizons for Seniors Program

**Funded by the Government of Canada and distributed through the United Way Canada network.**

The New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) provides grants and contributions for projects that help improve the well-being of seniors and foster their social inclusion. To provide immediate essential services to seniors impacted by COVID-19.

### **\$15,000.00 Invested in Swift Current and Area**

This funding is intended to assist community agencies' supports for isolated seniors in all parts of Canada including rural and remote communities. The following agencies are receiving funding available through an open call for proposals process, including:

- **\$1,978 – Canadian National Institute for the Blind (Swift Current Area)**

To provide regular virtual check-ins with clients and adapt programming to continue and reduce isolation and loneliness by clients who are blind and partially sighted.

- **\$3,370 – SOUTHWEST HOMES INC.**

To provide support services and transportation for medical treatments and appointments for individuals with an intellectual disability in the Swift Current community as community transportation is not an option due to the high risk associated individuals.

- **\$3,000 – Shaunavon Food Bank Inc.**

To increase food supply, which will allow the existing programming to meet the increased demand and better serve neighboring rural communities.

- **\$6,652 – SPINAL CORD INJURY OF SASKATCHEWAN (Swift Current Area)**

To help seniors navigate and combat isolation, mental fatigue and socialization reduction through telephone check-ins, technology support, etc. for seniors living with physical disabilities.

Funded in part by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program



# A Project About Dignity.

# TAMPON TUESDAY

EST 2009

## Menstrual hygiene product collection.



Tampon Tuesday is a United Way Centraide initiative in partnership with Labour Councils across the country, and Bell Media promoting a simultaneous collection drive for menstrual hygiene products.

Together, we raise awareness of period poverty and provide a tangible way for caring community members to contribute to the cause. "Period poverty" refers to being unable to afford products such as pads, tampons, or liners to manage menstrual bleeding. In lieu of sanitary products, many people are forced to use items like rags, paper towels, toilet paper, or cardboard. Others ration sanitary products which can have serious health consequences.

Thank you to our Collection Site Partner: Shoppers Drug Mart! All product raised in Swift Current

benefitted the following 4 community organizations, serving clients who menstruate:

- Southwest Homes
- Family Resource Centre
- Dorie's House
- Salvation Army

From March 15<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, our community donated 56 boxes of hygiene products and \$1,625 in cash donations. Because of your generosity, we were able to deliver **a total of 253 boxes to agencies** in our community. Thank you for your generosity and helping us raise awareness around **#periodpoverty**.





**United Way  
Regina**

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Since March 2020, we have brought together partners and supporters to help design innovative solutions, mobilize resources and address the unparalleled issues caused by COVID-19.

**YOUR DONATION  
IS IN GOOD HANDS.**

