

● 2022-2023



●
●
●
●
●

Community Impact Report





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



Strategic Intent



By 2026, UWR will affect the cycle of intergenerational poverty by reducing inequities for young readers.

We will empower families to access supports needed and identify critical gaps in local services.

Our collective support of 12 local Community Schools will ensure greater equity in education during a critical transition period when young learners move from learning to read to reading to learn.

We meaningfully engage United Way Regina supporters by demonstrating the impact they have on their community.

We are community change leaders, demonstrating a commitment to Truth & Reconciliation and building an inclusive and equitable community.

We achieve our goals through collaboration, adaptability, and strong partnerships.

Strategic Plan



Establish United Way Regina as a partner of choice by developing strong relationships with donors and key partners to support engagement, continued growth, and retention.



Provide an accessible solution for families to find the services they need and to identify critical community service gaps.



Improve grade-level reading among young readers in disadvantaged communities.



Position United Way Regina for the future by preparing for digital transformation.

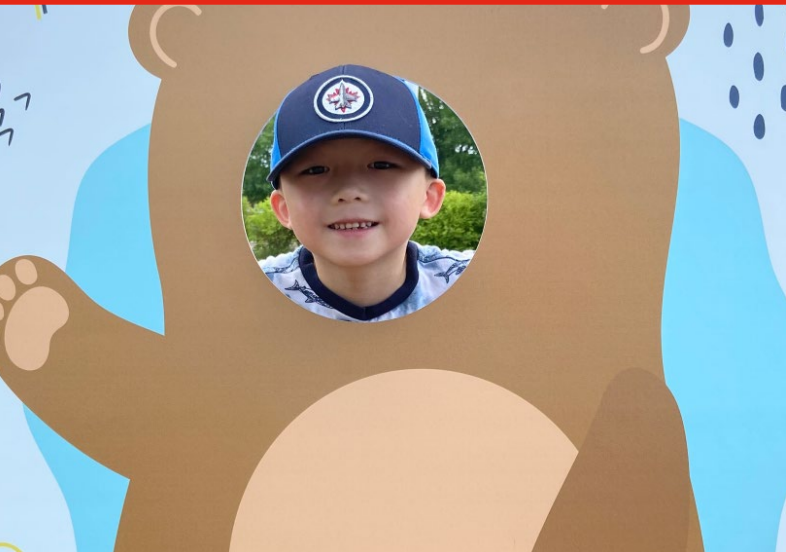


Build an engaged, diverse, inclusive, and equitable team of staff and volunteers that reflect our communities and demonstrate an understanding of their perspectives.



Be a leader of change for Truth & Reconciliation in our community.

CEO Message



What a year it has been! With the rapid onset of inflation, interest rate hikes and escalating costs, many children and families in our community have faced some tough times.

A growing number of people remain food insecure, lack affordable housing, and struggle to find mental health services. Through it all, United Way Regina has been there to support. Even when facing our own challenges with increasing operating costs, less volunteering, and a downward trend in donations. The allocation of resources, when there are so many competing priorities, has perhaps been the most challenging and disconcerting task of all.

Simply put, it's been a balancing act. This year, \$5,378,970 was invested back into local communities. 51% or \$2,793,399 was invested in the form of grants to agencies through the Community Services Recovery Fund, Partner Agency grants in Regina, Member Agency grants in Weyburn and donors directing their funds to other charities or non-profits. Net campaign revenue declined to \$2,379,091 so we opted to fulfill commitments by using our organizational reserves. Our reserves were used exactly as intended, helping to sustain our community investments during a significant economic downturn. We continue to be successful in securing other non-campaign revenue which has a restricted use for United Way signature initiatives like 211 Saskatchewan or the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.

While the path ahead may still have twists and turns, what is resoundingly clear is the need for change for a more sustainable future. To that end, grant funding decisions can no longer be made based on historical granting amounts when workplace campaigns remain tumultuous. Therefore, in 2024, we are making two substantial changes to our granting process. First, the timing of the grant application will move to later in the year, allowing community investments to be made based on actuals, not pledged amounts. Second,



United Way Regina has intentionally focused inward as well as outward. We are proud of the many accomplishments, celebrate the trailblazers and remain grateful to our dedicated supporters.



we will no longer exclusively fund a select group of agencies. Even as these amazing agencies continue to provide outstanding front-line services, it is important for United Way Regina to offer an open, inclusive granting process. Past partner agencies will be eligible to apply and could receive funding in the future if successful in our application process.

Crisis breeds innovation. For United Way, innovation comes in the form of 211 Saskatchewan. In partnership with United Way of Saskatoon & Area, 10% or \$542,471 of Community Investments targeted 211 Saskatchewan. We continue to engage and collaborate with the provincial government, finding opportunities to co-design solutions and use data to inform social policy. As we continue to grow our data capabilities, we envision how data can be used to illuminate large social disparities and identify underserved groups in the province. When we better understand the size and scope of community problems, we are in a much better position to develop informed strategies, forge new partnerships and inspire innovative solutions.

This past year, 21% or \$1,108,464 of Community Investments supported the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Initiative. We remained committed to supporting our education sector partners to advance positive educational outcomes for children and youth. With a concentrated focus on literacy, United Way Regina funded or led early childhood and family literacy efforts, third grade reading initiatives and supported youth to stay engaged in school. By investing in the next generation, we are giving more children and youth the support they need to succeed in school and remain on track to high school graduation. As an organization leading collective impact initiatives, this new way of working has substantial benefits and achieves measurable results.

United Way Regina has intentionally focused inward as well as outward. We are proud of the many accomplishments, celebrate the trailblazers and remain grateful to our dedicated supporters. But we are also reminded that we can always do better and adapt our practices to become more equitable and engaging of the community we aim to serve. As we look ahead to 2024, we know we are stronger together. United, we will build a community where everyone can thrive!

Robyn Edwards-Bentz
Chief Executive Officer
United Way Regina

Campaign for Grade-Level Reading



“We really made a big push on celebrating the reading successes we noticed during the year. This year our reading data story is showing a remarkable improvement, and we thank you and the United Way for the support you have provided to help us with that mission. We are looking forward to carrying the momentum we have into the next school year.” – Thomas Whitfield, Principal – Seven Stones School

REGINA CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE-LEVEL READING

3RD GRADE READING
SUCCESS MATTERS

In the fall of 2020, United Way Regina began a 3-year commitment towards improving early childhood literacy rates and educational outcomes in 12 of our community schools. This work has specifically focused on four key areas: **School Readiness, Chronic Attendance, Access to Books, and Summer Slide.**

Driven by pre-COVID data from the Ministry of Education, the 12 schools that were chosen as our priority for investment are those with the most significant achievement gaps, and higher numbers of families experiencing socioeconomic barriers. The effects of COVID-19 have further widened this achievement gap for these schools, and magnified the challenges experienced by these families who would have seen a reduction in community-based services and supports.

More affluent families are much more likely to invest in educational resources for their children such as books, private tutors, technology, extracurricular activities, and other enriching and engaging learning experiences such as trips and visiting museums. These opportunities offer a more positive learning environment and are correlated to higher levels of motivation and aspiration which ultimately lead to higher achievement levels.

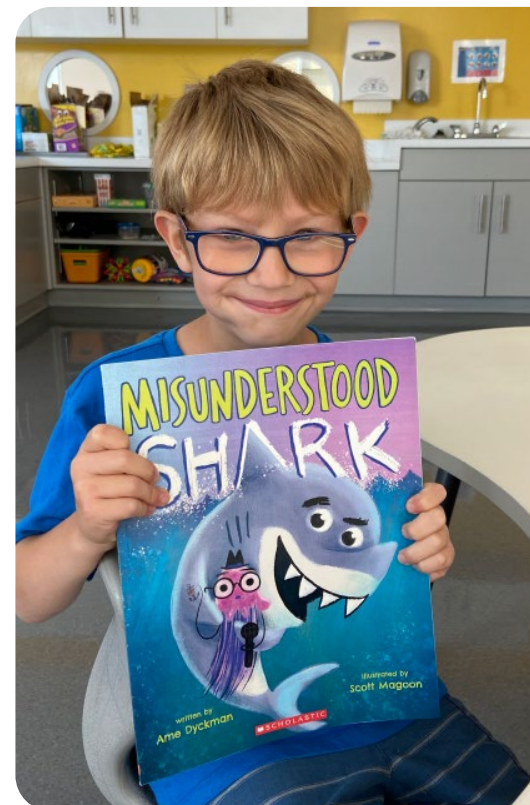
At home, children access whatever their parents can afford.

Too many children from low-income families begin school already far behind. The research also shows that these children are less likely to be read or spoken to regularly, or to have access to books, literacy-rich environments, high-quality early care, and prekindergarten programs. Consequently, these children may hear as many as 30 million fewer words than their middle-income peers before reaching kindergarten.

We know poverty affects education. Not every individual with low levels of education lives in extreme poverty, but for those adults who are living in poverty today they are likely to have missed out on quality education; this means their children will also be impacted.

Education is a basic human right that provides the opportunity for individuals to live healthy, productive, and independent lives. A lack of access to education increases the chance that poverty will be passed from one generation to the next.

Providing equal access to high-quality primary education while simultaneously supporting children's well-being is recognized globally as a solution to the cycle of poverty. Through United Way Regina's Campaign for Grade-Level Reading commitment, our goal is to reduce education inequalities, remove barriers to learning, and improve educational outcomes for low-income students.



Community Investments

All that Kids Can Be - \$495,870



Providing support to programs and initiatives that aim to ensure children and youth reach their full potential by providing them with access to quality education, mentoring, healthcare, and other essential resources. The initiative recognizes that every child has the potential to thrive, and it seeks to eliminate barriers that may hinder their growth and development.

From Poverty to Possibility - \$96,870



Recognizing that poverty is a complex issue that requires a comprehensive approach by not only providing immediate relief, but also addressing the underlying factors that perpetuate poverty, front line agencies and programs are working towards removing barriers for those they serve.

Healthy People, Strong Communities - \$485,110

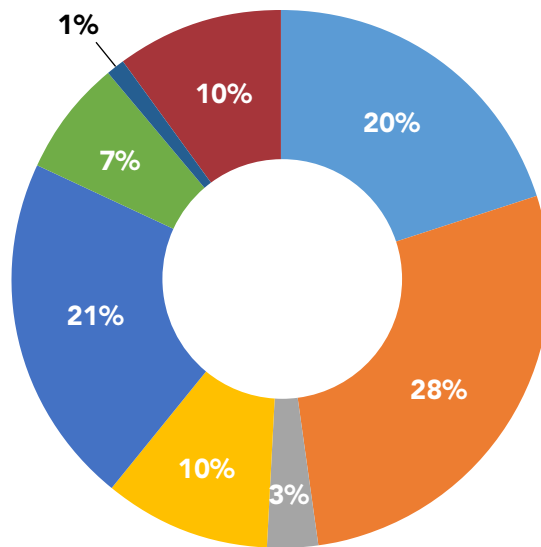


Health encompasses not only physical wellness but also mental, emotional, and social well-being. It envisions communities where access to healthcare, education, and supportive services is not a privilege but a basic right for all.

Community Services Recovery Fund - \$1,531,773

We are proud to have worked with United Way Centraide Canada as part of the Community Services Recovery Fund. This fund is a collaboration between the Canadian Red Cross, Community Foundations of Canada, and United Way Centraide Canada to provide funding to Community Service Organizations, including non-profit organizations, Indigenous Governing Bodies, and Registered Charities located in Canada. The Community Services Recovery Fund, a \$400 million investment from the Government of Canada, responds to the urgent needs of community service organizations, providing them support to adapt to the pandemic's long-term effects.

Community Impact Investments



- Community Fund Grants
- Community Services Recovery Fund (CSRF) Grants
- Donor Designations (Other registered charities and United Ways)
- 211 Saskatchewan
- Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
- Community Engagement & Capacity Building
- Literacy Initiatives in Other Communities
- Non-Profit Support & Other Initiatives

This year's funding recipients:

- Al Ritchie Community Association
- Amakon Women Empowerment
- Autism Resource Centre
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Regina & Area
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Weyburn
- Calvary Baptist Church
- Canadian Mental Health Association - Weyburn
- Canadian Mental Health Association - Regina Branch
- Canadian Mental Health Association - Swift Current
- Catholic Family Services Regina
- Circle Project
- CNIB - Weyburn
- Community Low Income Center
- Cornwall Alternative School
- Early Childhood Intervention Program, Regina Region
- Envision Counseling and Support Centre - Weyburn
- Family Service Regina
- Ignite Adult Learning Corporation
- Inclusion Weyburn
- Metis Nation - Saskatchewan Queen City Local 34 Incorporated
- Mobile Crisis Services
- Moose Jaw Family Services
- Munch Cafe and Catering
- Phoenix Residential Society
- Planned Parenthood Regina
- Rainbow Youth Centre
- Regina Early Learning Centre
- Regina Education and Action on Child Hunger (REACH)
- Regina Open Door Society
- Regina Transition House
- Regina Work Preparation Centre
- SCEP Centre Society (Regina)
- SOFIA House
- Southeast Advocates for Employment
- Southwest Homes
- Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan - Weyburn
- Street Worker's Advocacy Project Regina
- Swift Current Community Youth Initiative
- Weyburn Care-A-Van
- Weyburn Group Home Society
- Weyburn Youth Centre
- YMCA of Regina
- YWCA Regina

211 Saskatchewan



Saskatchewan

In today's interconnected world, access to essential services and resources is a cornerstone of a thriving province. One of these key systems aiding this accessibility is 211 Saskatchewan—a vital helpline that bridges the gap between individuals in need and the wide array of human services available to them.



This invaluable service plays a pivotal role in enhancing the well-being of Saskatchewan residents by connecting them to crucial resources, fostering community collaboration, and simplifying the process of seeking assistance.

Saskatchewan, known for its vast landscapes and tight-knit communities, is also home to diverse challenges that its residents face on a daily basis. Whether it's accessing healthcare, mental health support, housing, food assistance, or employment services, navigating the complex web of available resources can be overwhelming. Here is where 211 Saskatchewan plays a pivotal role, providing a single point of contact for individuals seeking help and guidance.

211 Saskatchewan serves as a connection for individuals in need of support. Whether a person is experiencing mental health challenges, domestic violence, or requires immediate assistance due to unforeseen circumstances, 211 Saskatchewan is there to offer a compassionate ear and connect them with the appropriate resources. This helpline ensures that no one is left feeling alone or unsupported in their time of need, acting as a safety net that reinforces the province's commitment to the well-being of its residents.

The significance of 211 Saskatchewan extends beyond immediate crises, addressing everyday challenges that can significantly impact the lives of individuals and families. By centralizing information about available services, 211 Saskatchewan simplifies the process of seeking help. Instead of spending hours searching for different organizations and contact information, individuals gain access through 211 Saskatchewan to a comprehensive directory of services tailored to their specific needs. This not only saves time but also eliminates the frustration often associated with navigating a complex and fragmented system.

Proudly Sponsored By

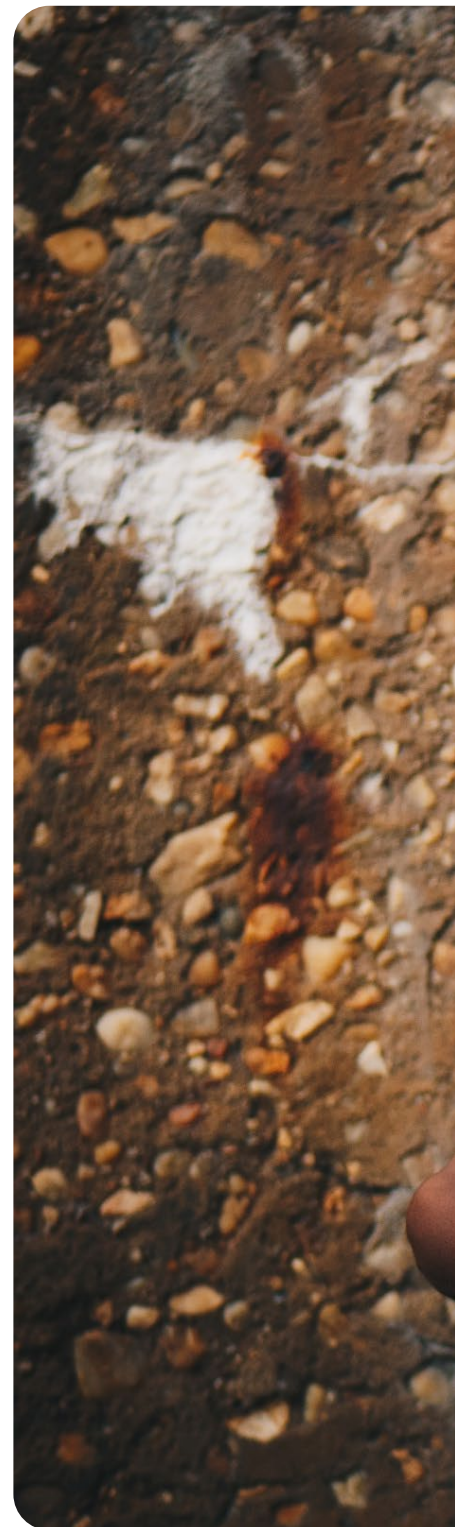


211 Saskatchewan also acts as a hub that brings together government agencies, nonprofits, charities, and other service providers under one umbrella. This integration of resources fosters efficient allocation of assistance, prevents duplication of efforts, and ensures that the limited resources available are maximally utilized. By using data gained from 211 contacts, it will empower service providers to better understand the needs of their community and adapt their offerings accordingly, leading to a more responsive and effective support network.

Education and empowerment are also integral components of 211 Saskatchewan's impact. By providing individuals with the knowledge of available resources, the helpline empowers them to make informed decisions that positively influence their lives. Informed citizens are better equipped to overcome challenges, achieve personal goals, and contribute positively to their communities. 211 Saskatchewan doesn't just offer a band-aid solution; it equips individuals with the tools they need to build a sustainable and prosperous future.

The success of 211 Saskatchewan hinges on its commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. The service is available 24/7/365, ensuring that help is never out of reach, regardless of the time of day. Accessible via phone, text, and online chat, as well as a searchable website, and also catering to diverse communication preferences, this commitment to accessibility ensures that barriers such as language, technology, or disabilities do not hinder individuals from seeking the help they need. Over the phone, 211 Saskatchewan services are available in over 175 languages, including 17 Indigenous languages.

The importance of 211 Saskatchewan to the province cannot be overstated. It transcends being a simple helpline; it is a lifeline that strengthens communities, empowers individuals, and enhances the overall well-being of Saskatchewan residents. By providing a centralized platform for accessing services, fostering collaboration, and promoting education, 211 Saskatchewan exemplifies the spirit of community support that lies at the heart of Saskatchewan's identity. In a world that can often be overwhelming, 211 Saskatchewan stands as a beacon of hope, demonstrating the profound impact that a unified system of assistance can have on the lives of individuals and the prosperity of an entire province.





"I reached out to 211 Saskatchewan to seek help for my teenager's mental health challenges. I was amazed by the support I received. They took the time to listen to my concerns and promptly connected us with a local mental health organization tailored to youth.

Additionally, they provided information about an over-the-phone support and counseling service, ensuring my child could access help safely from home. Thanks to 211 SK, we found the resources and assistance we needed during a challenging time."

Communities Building Youth Futures Regina



“Being a part of Communities Building Youth Futures Regina has truly been a life-changing experience for me. As a young person growing up facing barriers, I often felt limited in my opportunities and unsure about my future. However, the Discover Your Path workshop series has completely transformed my outlook and given me the tools to shape my own destiny.”

The future of any society rests upon the shoulders of its youth—the next generation of leaders, innovators, and change-makers. Communities Building Youth Futures emerges as a powerful strategy for harnessing the potential of young individuals and guiding them towards meaningful and impactful contributions into the communities they live.

By providing the necessary support, resources, and opportunities, community building empowers youth to envision and create a future that is key to the youth's future success by identifying and removing barriers.

Tamarack Institute and the Government of Canada, through the Goal Getters program, committed to a five-year pan-Canadian project to develop collective impact and system-wide solutions for youth as they build and act upon plans for their future. Communities Building Youth Futures (CBYF) is committed to improving outcomes for youth who face barriers as they pursue their education and transition to employment. This work requires collaborative, community-championed solutions with youth leadership and youth engagement throughout.

Initially 13 communities across Canada were selected to join the first cohort of CBYF. Following a successful first phase, Tamarack then looked to scale out CBYF to an additional 7 communities which included Regina. CBYF takes a collective impact approach and it is through combined leadership across all sectors that we will improve outcomes for youth in Regina.

At the heart of CBYF is the recognition that young people are not just passive recipients of knowledge and guidance; they are active agents of change with unique perspectives, ideas, and energy. Empowering youth requires creating an environment where their voices are heard, their opinions are valued, and their aspirations are taken seriously. This inclusivity fosters a sense of ownership and belonging, motivating youth to invest in the well-being and development of their communities.

Effective community building involves providing youth with platforms for skill development and capacity-building. Workshops, training programs, mentorship initiatives, and educational resources equip young individuals with the tools they need to thrive. These skills not only enable personal growth but also contribute to the collective progress of the community. Whether it's honing leadership skills, cultivating critical thinking, or acquiring practical vocational knowledge, these opportunities help youth unlock their full potential. When young people are empowered to address societal challenges, they become invested stakeholders in shaping the future they want to see.



Community Impact

Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

18

Classroom Libraries launched containing **11,478 books** helping students engage in reading more often



4 New Inchy Book Vending Machines arrived and were loaded with more than 2,500 titles waiting to be chosen by students who earned a golden token



350 Read Across Regina Kits were delivered to classrooms across 12 Community Schools who showed improvement in their attendance levels. Together, they saw a total increase of 73%



23,403 Books were read by **11 grade 2 classrooms** through Raz-Plus, totaling 315 completed reading levels



24 Summer Literacy Camps hosted **317 campers** to help build critical literacy skills and confidence

211 Saskatchewan

220,729
unique visits
to the 211 SK
website

an increase of
11%
over the previous
year.

Top reported needs were:

22%
Health Care



21%
Basic Needs



15%
Mental
Health and
Substance Use



13%
Income Support
and Employment



In 2022, contacts came in through 211 SK service navigators from over 270 different communities in Saskatchewan.

Healthy People, Strong Communities

9

Organizations were able to provide services to support mental health



7,387
counselling
sessions



Over 30,000
people were able
to access support
services

All that Kids Can Be

8

Organizations

were able to help children and youth grow and thrive



1,087 children and youth were provided access to services



497 assessments



1,723

home visits/
homework drop off/
school attendance
check ins



591
service
referrals



51
field trips
provided



32 housing
planning support
sessions with
students



268 interventions
provided during
crisis and referrals
for essential needs

From Poverty to Possibility

15

Organizations

helped our friends
and neighbours meet
their basic needs like
food and shelter



38,784 people
received support
services



1,453,682
meals/food
hampers/food
cards/snacks
provided



8,368
food baskets and
boxes provided



5,349 shelter
spaces provided
and **8,266**
children, youth
and families
sheltered



26,120
transports
provided

Communities Building Youth Futures



100

Youth Participants
from across the
community



16-25

Age of youth
participants



95%
attendance for
all workshops



85%

of youth felt more
optimistic about
their future after
participation



9

Workshops delivered supporting youth focused on
education, employment readiness, life skills, mental
health and reconciliation



United Way Regina,
1440 Scarth Street,
Regina, SK., S4R 2E9
Phone: 306-757-5671
www.unitedwayregina.ca



United Way
Regina



Find us on: Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube

