



United Way  
Oxford

# COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT 2021-2022

## THE DIFFERENCE YOU ARE MAKING 100% Local, ALWAYS

By helping one person at a time, we can create ripples of positive impact throughout our community. When you give to United Way, you are changing local lives. Your donation is supporting local charities, networks and programs that are working on the front lines and behind the scenes every day to change lives in our community.

### Vision

A caring, inclusive and resilient community where everyone lives with dignity, belonging, opportunity and hope.

### Mission

Addressing Oxford County's social needs today and reducing the needs of tomorrow.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY



Invested in and partnered with  
**28 organizations**  
and **41 programs.**

**21,533**

individuals in Oxford County who were struggling, received supports through a United Way funded program (1 in 5).



**TAMPON TUESDAY:**  
**1,123 boxes** of menstrual hygiene products were donated, helping support dozens of local organizations throughout the year.



**OXFORD SUPPLIES4STUDENTS:**  
United Way Oxford and Community Partners supported **955 students** from across Oxford County last year.

**LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE GRANT**  
**86 Leadership Donors**  
**New \$1,200+ donations** were matched by the Dr. Leonard Reeves Foundation and Friends of United Way. Doubling the impact for a total of **\$209,954.**



**317 individuals and youth** received access to timely, client focused mental health support when they needed it most.



**192 people facing homelessness** were provided with housing supports.

**629,986 meals and snacks** were provided to students at **37 schools.**



**13,690 children and youth** received support through a United Way funded program, helping them reach their full potential.



We **♥** **volunteers**  
**249 volunteers**  
**4085 volunteer hours**

**173 workplaces** across Oxford County united in showing their Local Love.

# IMPROVING LOCAL LIVES

**Better, together** - The COVID-19 pandemic proved our ability to respond quickly, assess local community needs, and ultimately help ensure that no one was left behind. Throughout it all, we have been able to do what we do best: work with partnering organizations to overcome challenges and look ahead to recovery, build community capacity, understand the immediate and long term needs of our local community, and invest to fill the developing gaps in programming and services.

## Moving People From a Life of Poverty to one of Possibility.

**United Way is helping to meet the basic needs of our community's most vulnerable people, giving every member of Oxford County the opportunity to realize a better future.** We invest to help people access affordable and safe housing and strive to provide everyone with access to nutritious and affordable food. We work to meet basic needs and strengthen employment readiness by removing barriers and addressing root causes to change social conditions.

### 2022/23 UNITED WAY FUNDED PROGRAMS - POVERTY TO POSSIBILITY

- **Food Forward Oxford** - Women's Employment Resource Centre
- **Housing Stability Program** - Oxford County Community Health Centre

"We started to see that every agency in Oxford County was looking for ways to provide more food to their clients. Their resources dwindled throughout the pandemic, while the community needs increased with the rising cost of living. Food insecurity takes a serious toll on people's physical, mental and social health, both immediately and for years to come. The Food Forward Oxford Program is addressing the issue of food insecurity while reducing the amount of waste sent to our local landfills by facilitating the transfer of large quantities of food between suppliers and local organizations in need. This program was made possible thanks to United Way funding, and so we are appreciative for this partnership and opportunity."

- **HEATHER BREE-DAVIES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT RESOURCE CENTRE**



"After finding myself homeless, I was connected with Jade. The support that I've received from her at the Transitional House has helped me take the first steps in building a better life for myself. I'm working on finding my own place, getting a job and getting back on my feet. I now have a plan for what I need to do next to reach those goals, and someone to talk to and support me along the way."

- **KEITH, UNITED WAY FUNDED PROGRAM PARTICIPANT,  
OXFORD COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE**

"I'm proud to support United Way Oxford at a Leadership Level because they are all about local community. Meeting the people whose lives have been changed, really hits home for me and shows me the significant impact that my donation is making in peoples' lives."

- **LESLIE FARRELL  
UNITED WAY DONOR, WOMEN UNITED  
CO-CHAIR AND PAST BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS VOLUNTEER**



"THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for the generous donation to our family for the start of school! The gift cards were really appreciated and useful for our three girls to fill their backpacks with the specific supplies they needed for school. It warmed our hearts to know people care and it helped our family out so much. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU to all involved!"

- **SUPPLIES4STUDENTS PROGRAM  
PARTICIPANT**



## Building Strong and Healthy Communities.

United Way Oxford is working to create vibrant neighbourhoods and communities, where everyone can experience a sense of belonging and connection to one another. We invest in timely, accessible, free counselling for individuals and families struggling with mental health, trauma and addiction, while helping them navigate local resources in their community.

### 2022/23 UNITED WAY FUNDED PROGRAMS - BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES

- **Walk-In Counselling** - Canadian Mental Health Association, Thames Valley Addiction & Mental Health Services
- **Sexual Assault Therapeutic Counselling** - Domestic Abuse Services Oxford
- **Mental Health & Addictions Walk-In Counselling/Trans Health Care Program** - Ingersoll Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic
- **Supportive Mothering Program** - Ingamo Homes

"It's been a really incredible experience getting to start up this walk-in counseling clinic in Ingersoll. People have gone two years without having access to in-person walk-in during COVID and once we were up and running, we saw that the need for this service was high. A lot of them are coming in because they don't have access to other types of counselling services, either because of financial barriers or lack of transportation and availability in their community. After that first appointment, many clients leave feeling heard and less stressed, because they are able to walk in, get a quick response, and access some immediate coping tools that they can start using. I want to say thank you so much to United Way because without that funding, we wouldn't be able to implement this program and help so many people."

- **KARSYN BUCHNER-DUBY, WALK-IN COUNSELLOR,  
INGERSOLL NURSE PRACTITIONER-LED CLINIC**



"Domestic violence has been on the rise as a result of the pandemic, paired with the housing crisis and the increased isolation felt by women who stayed at home with their children. The Supportive Mothering Program offered through Ingamo Homes is designed to help women understand the trauma they've experienced through domestic violence to help them really connect and be the best parents they can be. United Way has been an instrumental part of keeping this program running and more accessible for women living in different situations. Our partnership with United Way has also provided menstrual hygiene products from Tampon Tuesday, food donations, and Christmas gifts through Day of Caring projects for the families we serve. It truly is a partnership between our organizations, working together to support local women and families in many different ways."

- **NANCY RIDDLE, CO-FACILITATOR OF THE SUPPORTIVE MOTHERING PROGRAM,  
INGAMO HOMES**



Today I helped someone find mental health support.

Dial 2-1-1 to connect with a 211 Navigator today.



HELP STARTS HERE



Teaming up with our partners to provide help 24/7

Knowing where to turn when you are faced with challenges in your life is not often simple. 211 helps people navigate the social service system and find support quickly and easily. When you don't know where to turn, call 211 or visit <https://211ontario.ca/>.



"The past two years have shone a light on how poverty and inequities undermine the well-being of our community. Our focus has been to ensure that we are there to support our community partners, to invest wisely in programs and services to meet the needs of our most vulnerable neighbours, and to strive towards collective impact. We've seen that we're stronger together and that everyone benefits when we help one another. Thank you for continuing to stand with us and with community, because we can't do this vital work without you."

- **KELLY GILSON,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNITED WAY OXFORD**

## Helping Kids be all They can be.

United Way Oxford is working with our partners to give children and youth the support they need to get a great start in life, do well in school and reach their full potential. We invest in programs that build resiliency, self-esteem and provide a sense of belonging.

### 2022/23 UNITED WAY FUNDED PROGRAMS - ALL THAT KIDS CAN BE

- **Mentoring Children & Youth** - Big Brothers Big Sisters Oxford County
- **Rapid Response Fund for Children and Youth in Crisis** - Children's Aid Society of Oxford
- **Education, Leadership, Recreation & Social Programs** - Fusion Youth Activity & Technology Centre
- **Navy League & Sea Cadets** - Navy League of Canada, Woodstock Branch

*"United Way is an integral partner in ensuring that kids reach their full potential. Since the pandemic, young people have been more vulnerable than ever, and we have seen families who had never sought support before, trying to find something that they could connect their children to, because they were suffering with the loss of routine, facing social isolation and were feeding off the stress in the home. United Way's support helped us focus on getting those kids connected in both group and one-on-one programs, without having to worry about the funding piece."*

- KRISTEN RALPH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OXFORD



*"The Navy League Program allows Cadets to spend time with friends, develop self-respect and respect for others, learn leadership skills, team work and discipline, and practice community mindedness. The youth are given a safe environment with positive leadership, allowing them to develop healthy self-esteem, a sense of belonging and lifelong skills. There is no cost for the program, so it removes the financial barrier for families who may be struggling to make ends meet. Without the support of United Way, we would be unable to carry on with this important, life changing program."*

- LORETTA WALTERS, VOLUNTEER, NAVY LEAGUE & SEA CADETS

## OUR PROGRAMS & COLLABORATIONS

United Way Oxford's direct programming and community services along with community collaborations focused on meeting local needs:

- Bridges Out of Poverty
- Community United Conversation Series
- Getting Ahead & Circles Programs
- Supplies4Students
- Women United
- Community Conversations & Research
- Day of Caring
- Marilyn Mann Youth in Crisis Fund
- Tampon Tuesday
- 211

### Want to learn more?

Explore our **2021/2022 Report to the Community** for more information, impact and to view our Audited Financial Statements: [unitedwayoxford.ca/21-22-report-to-the-community](https://unitedwayoxford.ca/21-22-report-to-the-community)

Check out our podcast:

'Let's Talk Local, Oxford' on your favourite streaming service.



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# GIVE. VOLUNTEER. ACT