



United Way
Oxford

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q.1 How much does United Way spend on fundraising and administration?

81 cents of every dollar goes directly into community support. We are proud that our fundraising (14.5%) and administration costs (3.7%) are well below the 35% threshold recognized by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). To learn more and to view our audited financial statements, visit www.unitedwayoxford.ca/reports/

Q.2 What does United Way do to keep its costs low?

We have found that our model of corporate and employee giving is the most efficient and effective way to fundraise, and we are lucky to have more than 240 fundraising volunteers that allow us to keep this number low. We are also grateful to our partners who generously donate or provide many goods and services — including advertising space, legal and financial services and office supplies — are provided at reduced rates or donated. Special event costs are offset by generous sponsorships and ticket sales.

Q.3 Why not donate directly to an agency?

Charitable giving is a personal and voluntary decision and you need to do what is most comfortable to you.

A gift to United Way Oxford is an investment that benefits the entire community, not just one program, issue, or population. There are many valuable non-profit organizations in the area that you may care about. United Way provides an opportunity for your one gift to support a variety of local needs.

If everyone only gave their gifts to their favourite agency, many programs that are less well-known but essential to those in need would not be available to the community. Through one gift to United Way, you can accomplish so much good!

You can also be assured that your gift to United Way Oxford goes directly to fund programs providing help where it's needed most. United Way conducts community conversations to ensure donor dollars are addressing the most pressing community needs. We also monitor funded programs and initiatives annually to make sure they are efficiently and effectively improving people's lives and making a positive impact.

Finally, contributing through United Way guarantees agencies stable funding they can rely on every month rather than depending on sporadic contributions.

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Q.4 What makes an organization eligible for United Way funding?

United Way invests in a strong, coordinated network of community agencies working together to address three key pillars: Poverty to Possibility, Strong Communities, and All That Kids Can Be. To qualify for United Way funding, organizations must be a registered Canadian Charity or a qualified donee as per the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) rules. Additionally, they must demonstrate impact in one of our three key pillars. United Way's investments in Oxford County prioritize the people and places where the need is the greatest.

Funding applications are reviewed by a committee of volunteers, staff, and community representatives who evaluate based on clear assessment areas. Agencies must demonstrate a strong governance and strategy, sustainable financial management and effective human resources. Once they receive funding, United Way's entire network undergoes ongoing, rigorous evaluation to ensure they are accountable and are creating and measuring positive change.

Q.5 How does a person in need find the best place to get help?

United Way funds 211 — a telephone helpline (2-1-1) and website 211Ontario.ca that connects people to the right information and services. It is available 24/7 and has an extensive list of local programs and services in communities across Canada.

Q.6 How does United Way address local issues?

We love where we live, but things like poverty, social isolation, and mental illness are hurting our communities. United Way's vision is local communities where everyone — regardless of their background and circumstance — can thrive.

We address local issues by investing in a strong, coordinated network of community agencies working together across Oxford County. United Way funded agencies meet immediate needs as well as create long-term change by addressing issues like homelessness, mental health and child poverty.

United Way research exposes the issues and informs solutions so we know where best to direct support within our network. Our investments prioritize the people and places where the need is the greatest and where there is a readiness and opportunity for change. As a convener, United Way brings a network of stakeholders together to advocate as one voice for what our community needs.

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Q.7 In addition to my donation, how can I engage with United Way?

Show your local love and:

- Get informed — follow us on social media, sign up for our e-newsletter and share our message.
- Get experience — participate in a Seeing Is Believing Tour, watch a Community Conversation, get involved with Day of Caring, join a United Way event.
- Participate — volunteer, join our Board of Directors, host an event, volunteer as a speaker.

Visit unitedwayoxford.ca to find out how you can get involved.

Q.8 In addition to running a workplace campaign, how can companies support United Way?

Get involved by making a corporate donation; participating in United Way events; sponsoring a United Way special event, donating to our Online Auction, consider launching a Sponsored Employee Program, work with us to organize a Seeing is Believing Tour for staff and more. We have opportunities available for workplaces large and small.

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