

HELP MAKE LOCAL ISSUES

#UNIGNORABLE



United Way
Niagara

www.unitedwayniagara.org

ABOUT US

Physical distancing is challenging all of us in new ways, but for people experiencing homelessness, it's **impossible**. Staying home certainly isn't convenient, but for people experiencing domestic violence, it's **life threatening**. And for those experiencing food insecurity or mental illness, loss of contact with services and people is more than a frustration, it's a **crisis**.

United Way works to tackle some of the biggest social issues in Niagara. Issues like food security and poverty are easy to ignore when you can't see them. Unfortunately it took a pandemic to bring these critical social issues to the forefront.

United Way invests in solutions to poverty, food security, mental health and well-being, homelessness, domestic violence and social isolation. These are the issues we aim to make **#UNIGNORABLE**.

We work locally to raise funds and invest in programming that improves lives, providing solutions to real, local social problems. Learn more at www.unitedwayniagara.org.

HELP MAKE ISSUES **#UNIGNORABLE**

\$1/week can provide 25 healthy school meals for children.

\$2.50/week can provide crisis counselling to ten people in need.

\$5/week can provide a family with the supplies and tools to grow and harvest their own healthy food for a year.

\$10/week can provide emergency shelter and food for a family.

A gift of any amount means supporting a network of programs and over **120,000** people across the Niagara region.

[**A gift to United Way changes lives.**](#)

UNIGNORABLE

THE ISSUES:



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1 in 4 women are said to experience domestic violence in their lives. The trauma of family violence creates long-term repercussions for survivors and their children. Last year, United Way investments helped **5,449** women and their families break the cycle of violence.



SOCIAL ISOLATION

1 in 5 people in Niagara experience some form of social isolation. The absence of belonging and connection can have serious physical, mental and emotional consequences. Last year, United Way investments helped **64,695** individuals connect to their community.



HOMELESSNESS

The last point-in-time count showed **625** individuals homeless in Niagara, not including invisible homeless or those living in unsuitable or precarious housing situations. Housing plays a critical role in providing the stability individuals and families need to thrive. Last year, United Way investments helped **3,257** people secure and maintain housing.



"As a single mom and small business owner, I panicked when I was forced to close my shop in March. I didn't qualify for government benefits, how was I going to feed my boys? United Way was there for me with food, support and connected me with the best people. I am so thankful."



POVERTY

The most recent statistics state **1 in 7** people in Niagara live in poverty. Poverty refers to the lack of resources to provide necessities of life - food, water, shelter and clothing. The impacts of poverty on a community are far reaching and devastating. Last year, United Way investments helped **37,263** individuals living in poverty improve their situations.



FOOD SECURITY

Over **50,000** local people struggle to afford healthy food. The struggle to make ends meet is a source of tremendous stress and anxiety, often making it difficult to focus on anything else. Last year, United Way investments helped **37,159** people feed their families.



MENTAL HEALTH

Mental illness affects **1 in 5** people in Niagara. Social isolation, poverty and a lack of accessible services make it even more difficult for people to get the mental health support they need. More support is critically needed. United Way investments helped **43,511** individuals and families improve their mental health last year.

OUR IMPACT

The biggest issues facing our community today can be tough to see and even tougher to solve. United Way Niagara is able to work with a vast network of service providers to move the needle on critical social issues, thanks to the support of people like you.

Together, we help over 120,000 people live better lives.



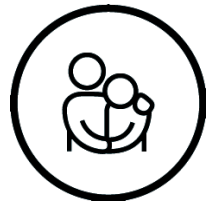
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Service Providers



150+

Programs, Collaboratives
& Initiatives



120,000+

Lives changed

Photo credit: Julie Jocsak
Standard Photojournalist



United Way stocks food bank shelves in April 2020 at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic.



United Way Special Initiatives



211- INCommunities
After School Matters
COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund
Hygiene Kits
Niagara Community Garden Network

Niagara Food Security Network
Period Promise
School Supplies Program
Welcome Home Kits

FUNDED PARTNERS:

Alzheimer Society of Niagara
Region
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
Society of Canada
Attachment and Trauma Centre
for Healing (ATTCH) Niagara
Autism Ontario - Niagara
Region Chapter
Bethlehem Housing and
Support Services
Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Niagara Falls
Big Brothers Big Sisters of
North & West Niagara
Big Brothers Big Sisters of
South Niagara
Boys & Girls Club of Niagara
Bridges Community Health
Centre
Canadian Mental Health
Association of Niagara
Canadian National Institute for
the Blind (CNIB)
Casa El Norte, Fort Erie
Centre de Santé
Communautaire
Community Care of St.
Catharines & Thorold
Community Care of West
Niagara
Community Living Grimsby,
Lincoln & West Lincoln
Community Living Port
Colborne/Wainfleet
Community Support Service of
Niagara Region
Cyber Seniors
Developmental Services Ontario
Client Support
Distress Centre Niagara

Epilepsy Niagara
Faith Welland Outreach
Family Counselling Centre
Niagara
Family Mental Health Support
Network of Niagara
Feeding Fort Erie
Folk Arts Council of St.
Catharines
Fort Erie Multicultural Centre
Gateway Residential Services
Gillian's Place
GROW Community Food
Literacy Centre
Heartland Forest Nature
Experience
Hospice Niagara
Ina Grafton Gage Village
Lincoln Humane Society -
Fido Niagara
Links for Greener Learning
Mainstream
March of Dimes Canada
Meals on Wheels
Niagara Centre for Independent
Living
Niagara College of Applied Arts
and Technology
Niagara Food Recovery
Movement
Niagara Nutrition Partners
Niagara Region Homeless
Outreach
Niagara Region Public Health
Niagara Region Seniors
Community Programs
Niagara Region Sexual Assault
Centre (CARSA Inc.)
Niagara Regional Learning
Centre

Niagara Women's Enterprise
Centre
Niagara Worship Center
Ontario Parents Advocating for
Children with Cancer
Open Arms Mission
Port Cares
Positive Living Niagara
Project Share
Saint Vincent de Paul- St. Alfred
Conference
Salvation Army Fort Erie
Segue Clinic
Silver Spire United Church
Southridge Community Church -
Port Colborne
St. James & St. Brendan
Anglican Church
Start Me Up Niagara
Strive Niagara
The Corporation of the City of
St. Catharines
The FORT
The Governing Council of
The Salvation Army
The Hope Centre
The RAFT
Victim Services Niagara
West Lincoln Community Care
West Niagara Palliative Care
Services (Rose Cottage)
Westview Centre4Women
Women's Place of South
Niagara
YMCA of Niagara
Young Carer's Initiative
YWCA Niagara Region