



UNITED WAY WRC
CAUSE AREA



Supporting this cause area will help meet the complex needs of our community by solving problems through technology, building capacity, and bringing new programs and partnerships to life to move our community forward.

Driving Innovation

Investing in innovative solutions to drive change in our community.

Government funding for organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic has mostly ended and **fewer donors** are contributing to what is becoming a **growing crisis.** ¹

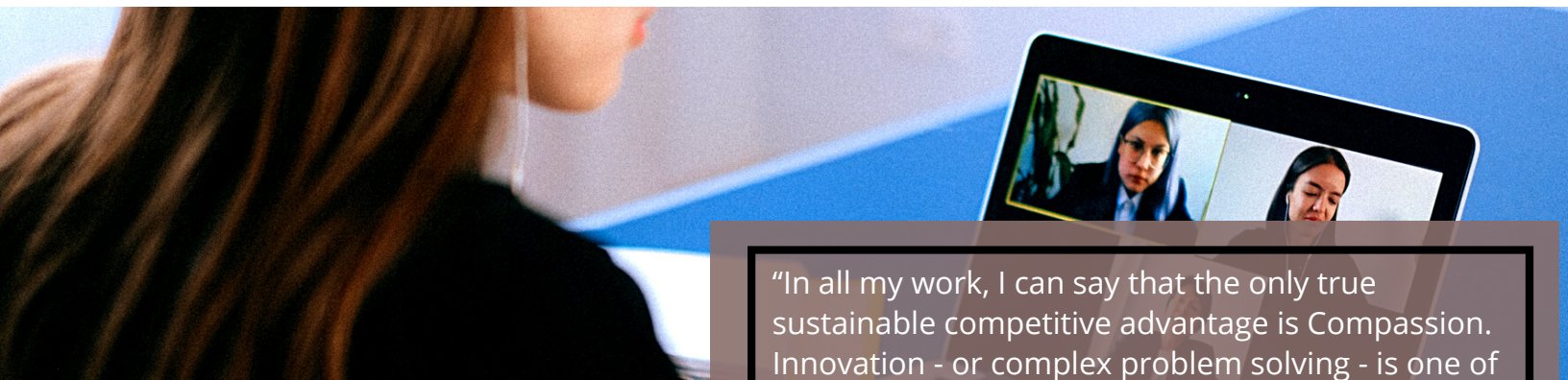


A recent survey had found that **74 %** of organizations reported an increase in demand for services in 2022, an 11 point **increase** from the previous year. ²



YMCA of Three Rivers

In 2022, United Way WRC was thrilled to dedicate funds from The Tomorrow Fund to pilot a 2SLGBTQ+ youth drop-in program with the YMCA of Three Rivers. This program, identified as a community need to foster inclusion and connection in recovery from COVID-19, provided a safe space for vulnerable teens to develop leadership skills and healthy routines, as well as strategies for both physical and mental health and to find a sense of belonging in their community. Youth were able to participate in creating healthy meals on a budget, art, and recreation; develop a strong sense of self-esteem; and share their experiences with peers. This program is continuing to run in the Cambridge community and is now expanding to Kitchener-Waterloo to meet the needs of youth. The YMCA of Three Rivers is known for their teen drop in space, and this new pilot project expanded their programming to a group of teens facing social stigma and discrimination. This pilot program truly represents how valuable donations can support the creation of new and exciting initiatives to build compassionate leaders of tomorrow.



Local Solutions

Join us in supporting the frontline agencies doing innovative work in the local nonprofit sector.

"In all my work, I can say that the only true sustainable competitive advantage is Compassion. Innovation - or complex problem solving - is one of the most efficient mediums I know of to unlock the Compassion-state in all of us. If we want a better world, we need to raise and empower more Compassionate Children & Youth and unlock and enhance their natural ability to be innovative and compassionate." – Grayson Bass, Smart Waterloo Region Innovation Lab Manager

Exciting New Initiatives



Programs Changing Lives



- Youth entrepreneurship
- Nonprofit sector innovation projects
- Equitable program evaluation for equity-seeking groups
- Better data and digital infrastructure
- Pilot programs

¹ <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/the-giving-report/meet-the-sector/>

² <https://theonnc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Survey-2022-Policy-Report.pdf>

Without you,
there is no way.

519-888-6100 | www.uwaywrc.ca



United Way
Waterloo Region
Communities