

News Release

United Way Waterloo Region Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNITED WAY WATERLOO REGION COMMUNITIES INVESTS \$655,000 INTO LOCAL CHARITIES AND NON-PROFIT GROUPS AS PART OF QUARTERLY FUNDING

The generosity of our community continues to work through United Way WRC, and has provided new grants to 53 partner organizations this month

WATERLOO REGION (JULY 30, 2024): United Way Waterloo Region Communities (WRC) is proud to announce the allocation of \$655,000 into [53 local organizations](#), supporting programs and initiatives to reduce poverty in Waterloo Region.

It is difficult to share all the incredible things that will happen over the next three months for the people of Waterloo Region because of this funding; however, it is important to celebrate and share these stories. With the support of an engaged group of volunteers, grant applications are reviewed every three months to ensure a balanced injection of funds across the social services sector, helping the most vulnerable people and families in our community.

United Way asks applicants to choose a primary Issue area, and as such, investment is distributed in a way that ensures a balance across food insecurity, housing, mental health, children and youth, employment and education, social supports, and gender-based violence. Many programs support intersecting issues, and equity-deserving communities and application reviews include evaluations of collaborations, equity and diversity strategies, and overall community impact.

“As local discussions on housing and land use continue to make headlines, we remain focused on making improvements in all geographic and issue areas across our region, knowing that we are all in this together. By leveraging our expertise in our community's conditions, we can unite our agencies to provide critical support to those most in need,” shared Joan Fisk, United Way WRC CEO.

In this July - Sept 2024 funding round, first-time funding was offered to the Rohingya Centre of Canada (the Centre), based in Kitchener. The Centre was established in 2022 in our region and provides services and supports for the Rohingya people who have settled in Waterloo Region following genocide and persecution in their country of origin. The Centre serves as a safe space which assists in integration into the Canadian society with cultural, linguistic, emotional, social support. We are honoured to know and support this group of people. We take immense pride in our various programs, including cultural events, community engagement, exhibitions, and sports, all aimed at fostering a sense of identity and positive engagement.

Ongoing challenges for the community include the lack of affordable housing, long wait lists, and shelters that are frequently at or over capacity. We continue to hear about people, including seniors, experiencing homelessness for the first time. Organizations, particularly small ones serving equity-deserving communities, are struggling to serve their respective communities due to a lack of resources.

United Way WRC encourages new grant applicants each quarter. This has been an effective way to stay hyper-responsive to local needs and makes United Way funding accessible to new grass roots organizations. To see the full list of **Q2 Funding Recipients** please visit our website [Funding Recipients July – September 2024](#).

Applications are currently being adjudicated for United Way WRC's **Q3 Funding** cycle (October – December). Applications are open to any registered charity or qualified donee located and operating in Waterloo Region.

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About United Way Waterloo Region Communities

United Way Waterloo Region Communities is dedicated to helping people live better lives in every one of the seven communities we serve, and we focus on understanding issues and solutions unique to our community. Thanks to generous donors and partners, we are privileged to collaborate with people, non-profits, and businesses to empower multiple innovative, impactful and measurable solutions. We are fundraisers and local community builders that support a network of agencies whose programs and services are locally focused, informed, connected, and deeply invested in helping people reach their full potential. To ensure critical agencies, programs and services get the funding they need, and to ensure donors have a clear

line of site to the work we do, we have focused on cause-based giving which allows for donations to be directed in a way that aligns with selected priorities and goals. To learn more, connect with us at www.uwaywrc.ca

Digital Assets:

Please visit www.uwaywrc.ca/about-us/communications/ to download our digital assets and further information, including photos, CEO bio and photo, and other United Way materials.

For more information or for media interviews, please contact:

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