



Community & Social Supports

Belonging is a fundamental human need & lack of connection diminishes our quality of life.

A lack of opportunities for connection affects our ability to maintain a strong support system and can diminish our quality of life. Donations support opportunities for people to reduce isolation & loneliness through programs & services like neighbourhood community development, volunteering, and senior supports.



29.2% of the Waterloo Region population is comprised of immigrants and permanent residents and **26% of this group** have reported feeling isolated over the past twelve months.

In 2023, **71% of young people** [in Waterloo Region] said they have a strong sense of belonging - **up 7% from 2021.**

Words from a WRFN Parent



In Waterloo Region, an estimated 142,000 people live with a disability. A significant number and their families struggle in silence, are overlooked, and underserved. This gap in support isn't just a statistic – it's a daily reality for thousands who could thrive with the right assistance. Imagine hearing the words... "Your child has cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome, or a global developmental delay. We don't know what the future holds." Many families in our community don't have to imagine this. For them, this is their reality, and the words echo over and over in their minds every day.

"Today, I am no longer alone. WRFN has allowed me to meet other parents who are sharing the same journey – a journey that is sometimes difficult, often unpredictable, but always rewarding." ~ WRFN Parent



Local Solutions

Thanks to your support, United Way WRC was able to provide funding to the following organizations, that list 'Community & Social Supports' as their main cause area, over the past 12 months.

Programs Changing Lives

- Neighbourhood Associations/ Community Centers
- Organizations focused on accessibility
- Organizations building new social connections and enhancing the work of organizations that are already invested in community resiliency.



1. Stats Can <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1&STATISTIClist=1,4&DGUIDlist=2021A00033530&HEADERlist=,28,24,22,27,23,29,25,26&SearchText=Waterloo>
2. Immigration Waterloo Region https://www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca/en/resources/DOCS_ADMIN-4571323-v3-IS2023_Summary_.pdf
3. Children & Youth Planning Table (<https://childrenandyouthplanningtable.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/CYPT-YIS-AGE-SNAPSHOT.pdf>)