



United Way  
Niagara



Our  
**UNITED**  
Impact

2024 Impact Report



United Way Niagara acknowledges that Niagara is situated on lands and waters protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum covenant and by diverse treaties. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hatiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from across Turtle Island that live and work in Niagara today. United Way Niagara stands with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live, share, work and gather.

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# UNITED, we can make a change

Our goal has always been a Niagara where no one goes hungry, and everyone has a safe place to call home. Achieving this vision will take a united approach. With the help of our agency partner network and a strong supportive community, we have made a difference in the lives of thousands of people throughout the region. Your gifts have made a widespread impact and given individuals and families in Niagara a chance to thrive.

Achieving our ambitious vision for the community won't happen in just a single year, and each year, new challenges arise. Not everyone is afforded the same opportunities to become a contributor in their neighbourhood. By investing in local solutions to social problems, we can strengthen the safety net of social services that ensure no one is left behind.

The funds raised in 2024 will provide food, safe housing, income support, critical mental health services and more. Thanks to your united support – we have raised over \$5,000,000 for our campaign.

**These funds support a network of 92 programs and impact over 100,000 people in Niagara.**

We take great pride in our duty to invest these dollars into the areas of greatest need in our community, supported by a community investment process that is evidence-based and carried out by people that live right here in Niagara.

Our 2024 story has been one of changes and challenges, but nevertheless, it is still a year of success throughout our community. Local agencies are doing more impactful work than ever before, and when people are at their lowest, United Way is proud to support the people who help lift them up.

We look forward to continuing to make an impact with you - our network of supporters. Our UNITED impact will make a difference for thousands of people right here in Niagara.



*P. Lilley*

**Pam Lilley**  
Board Chair



*F. Hallworth*

**Frances Hallworth**  
CEO





Women United volunteers helping harvest vegetables for local fresh food markets at the Vineland Garden Hub.



GenNext members at the 'Networking for Success' event at the Course and the Clubhouse raising funds for the United Way Niagara campaign.



# Our Volunteers

## Board of Directors

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**Pam Lilley, Chair**  
MNP

**Akram Askoul, Vice-Chair**  
Niagara Regional Police Service

**Jeff Klassen, Past Chair**  
Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro

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**Sara Holmes**  
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**Maria Menechella**  
Niagara 21st Group Inc.

**Roderick McDowell**  
Deputy Judge/Deacon, Anglican Church  
of Canada

**Dorita Pentesco**  
Niagara College Canada

**Sean Simpson**  
Simpson's Pharmasave

## Campaign Cabinet

Brad Steeves, Chair  
John Belford  
Lindsay DiCosimo  
Pam Lilley  
Christine Manuel  
Caroline Sherk  
Kiara Taylor  
Sarah Wood

## Community Investment Volunteers

Sheila Bristo  
Beth Buckmaster  
Heidi Burgess  
Mike Clarke  
Phil Duncan  
Marie-Louise Goller  
Janice Jones  
Jeff Klassen  
JoAnne Krick  
Jennifer Laughher  
Michelle Leone  
Pam Lilley  
Kory Lippert  
Karen MacKay  
Patrick Maloney  
Christina Milloy  
Kristina Nickel  
Anna Oakes  
John Osczytko  
Ximena Paredes  
Jessica Potts  
Maureen Shantz  
Willow Shawanoo  
Kristen Smith  
Wendy Thompson  
Kirstin Webb

## Garden Hub Volunteers

Gerry Mann  
GenNext  
Suzanna Merriam  
Women United

## GenNext Cabinet

Kiara Taylor, Chair  
Katie Marino, Vice-Chair  
Alexa Moore, Treasurer  
Karina Armstrong  
Mike Britton  
André Chabot  
James Hall  
Sam Hoodless  
David Litt  
Alexa Moore  
Jenna Moorhead  
Shannon Nicol  
Cydney Nutbeem  
Kassy Sparks  
Desiree Streef

## Golf Committee

Heidi Burgess, Co-Chair  
Scott Heelis, Co-Chair  
Anthony Bilotta  
Brandon Boothroyd  
Mike Clarke  
Adam DiFruscia  
Travis Dolinski  
Dino Valentini

## Women United Committee

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Ellen Wodchis, Co-Chair  
Sheila Bristo  
Heidi Burgess  
Suzanne Curtin  
Nancy Francis  
Louise Goller  
Barbara Legg  
Shelley Marchand  
Jane Moon  
Jane Richardson  
Emily Rowe  
Heather Salter  
Tracey Schenck



# Campaign Results

"I am thrilled to announce that we raised over

**\$5,000,000**

during our 2024 fundraising campaign!

Having the privilege to serve as the Campaign Chair over the last two years, I was able to witness first hand the hard work that has gone into raising these much needed funds for the region. While I am immensely proud of our team, I also want to thank our community for going above and beyond for individuals in need right here in our community. **Thank you Niagara!"**

## **Brad Steeves**

2024 Campaign Chair

President, Beatties Business Products

## Top 20 Employee Campaigns

Employee campaigns are critical to the success of the annual campaign. We thank all of the employee campaign donors for their support through one-time, payroll, retiree, corporate and event contributions.

Brock University  
General Motors St. Catharines Propulsion Plant  
Algoma Central Corporation  
Niagara Regional Police Service  
Niagara Region  
LCBO  
Niagara College Canada  
Niagara Health  
Niagara Casinos  
John Deere Canada ULC

RBC Dominion Securities  
TD Bank Group  
The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation  
City of Niagara Falls  
RBC Financial Group  
Costco Wholesale Canada Ltd.  
Canada Border Services Agency (GCWCC)  
Canadian Niagara Power Inc.  
BMO Financial Group  
Rankin Construction Inc.



# Special Awards

## ANITA ROBERTSON LEGACY AWARD

Brad Steeves

## NEW CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR

Town of Grimsby

## COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Empire Communities

## COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD

Niagara Parks

## LONGSTANDING PARTNER AWARD

John Deere Canada ULC

## LONGSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD

Jeff Klassen

## MUNICIPAL CHALLENGE

City of Port Colborne

## UNSUNG HERO AWARD

Ridley College



*Niagara Parks Charity BBQ*

"As a Campaign Ambassador for United Way Niagara, I'm honoured to work alongside my colleagues at Niagara Parks to raise funds that will directly benefit our community. By coming together as an organization, we can amplify our impact and support those who need it most. This experience has shown me the strength of unity, and how, when we all contribute, we can truly make a difference in the lives of our neighbours." - Emily DeGaust, Niagara Parks Campaign Ambassador



***"I have become comfortable sharing my grief and have developed friendships with other people in the group. These new friendships have also been a big comfort to me. Knowing that I have a place to share my grief helps to keep me sane in between our group sessions, and I know that I can reach out for support."***

***-Anonymous program beneficiary***

## **Our Impact at a Glance**

***United, we are addressing basic, urgent needs...***

- 12,055** emergency shelter nights provided, ensuring the safety of youth, adults and families experiencing homelessness.
- 24,747** crisis calls connecting people to local supports by phone help-line, providing the support and hope to people when and where it was needed most.
- 60,000+** hours of caseworker support provided to individuals in crisis or in need of preventative outreach.
- 796,033** nutritious meals provided through meal programs and emergency food supports serving people in all walks of life from children and families to seniors.

***...and investing in long-term solutions to Niagara's toughest issues.***

- 606** families and individuals at imminent risk of losing their housing, for various reasons, were given the necessary supports to remain housed.
- 2,269** youth accessed after-school programs that gave them opportunities to learn, grow and share memorable experiences with their peers.
- 9,411** individuals received emotional support and crisis assistance, helping them mitigate issues that could have otherwise led towards hardship.
- 10,000+** hours of preventative counselling and training provided to individuals, helping youth and adults remain housed, independent and mentally strong.

***Thanks to you!***



# Our Investments

## Community Fund Grantees

All That Kids  
Can Be

From Poverty  
to Possibility

Healthy People,  
Strong  
Communities

***In 2024, United Way provided funding to 44 community partners to help bring 92 programs and initiatives to life right here in Niagara.*** The Community Fund grants three-year funding to local programs, allowing partner agencies to plan and implement impactful programs for long-term sustainable solutions to Niagara's biggest social issues. Our partners rely on this sustainable funding to plan and execute the programs that change thousands of lives.

211 Ontario  
Autism Ontario - Niagara Region Chapter  
Bethlehem Housing and Support Services  
BGC Niagara  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara  
Birchway Niagara  
Bridges Community Health Centre  
Bridges Niagara (Formerly Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre)  
Canadian Mental Health Association, Niagara Branch  
Community Care of St. Catharines & Thorold  
Community Care of West Niagara  
Community Living Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln  
Community Living Port Colborne - Wainfleet  
Distress Centre Niagara  
Epilepsy Niagara  
Family Counselling Centre  
Family Mental Health Support Network of Niagara  
Fort Erie Multicultural Centre  
Foundation of Resources for Teens (FORT)  
Gillian's Place  
Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region  
Links for Greener Learning

Mainstream  
Meals on Wheels Niagara Falls  
Meals on Wheels Port Colborne  
Niagara Centre for Independent Living  
Niagara Sexual Assault Centre (CARSA Inc.)  
Niagara Regional Learning Centre  
Niagara Women's Enterprise Centre (Upskill Niagara)  
Port Cares  
Positive Living Niagara  
Quest Community Health Centre  
Southridge Church  
St. Vincent de Paul - St. Alfred's Conference  
Start Me Up Niagara  
Strive Niagara  
The Bridge  
The Hope Centre  
The RAFT (Niagara Resource Service for Youth)  
Victim Services Niagara  
West Niagara Palliative Care Services (Rose Cottage)  
Westview Centre4Women  
YMCA of Niagara  
YWCA Niagara Region



*"United Way funding ensures we have the dollars needed to implement our services and allows us to focus 100 per cent on what we need to do - delivering services to those in need within our community"*

*-Carolyn Askeland,  
Happy in my Home Community Support Services Niagara*



# Community Initiatives

In addition to our investments through the Community Fund and other grants to programs in Niagara, United Way Niagara funds and facilitates a number of community initiatives to address existing needs and fill current gaps in service for a multifaceted approach to community support.

## Supporting families

**2,775** Backpacks for Kids  
supporting **100** schools and  
**10** agencies

## Providing basic needs

**4,000** Hygiene Kits  
**275** Welcome Home Kits  
Shared with **over 60** agencies

## Increasing access to healthy food

**10,840 lbs** of healthy food grown and distributed  
**1,401** individuals benefited from improved access  
to affordable, fresh food at **44** market locations

## Advocating for menstrual equity

**5,000** boxes of product distributed  
**50,000+** individual products collected  
**50+** community partners supported



# After School Matters

Engage. Enrich. Empower.

After School Matters is a network of free after-school programs delivering quality educational, recreational, and leisure activities. Available programs in neighbourhoods in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls, make an ongoing positive impact on youth and teens. These programs mitigate the negative effects of low income for hundreds of families every year.

## Supporting children and youth

589 youth accessed the program

## Providing healthy meals

1,940 after-school snacks and meals served

## Helping youth succeed in school

760 hours of homework help provided

10 programs, 2 days a week for an hour each day

### Community Initiatives and Other Investments

#### *Community Initiatives*

After School Matters  
Backpacks for Kids  
Growing Communities  
Hygiene Kits  
Living Wage Niagara  
Niagara Community Garden Network

Niagara Food Security Network  
Period Promise  
Welcome Home Kits

#### *Other Investments*

Rent Assistance Program  
Seniors Fund



# Building Positive Youth Relationships



Spotlight on:



"One of the misconceptions we hear a lot in the community is that all of our littles must come from single-family households," says Erin Graybiel, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters Niagara. "The reality is there is a multitude of reasons why a young person would benefit from an extra adult mentor." Big Brothers Big Sisters Niagara (BBBSN) serves individuals from all different backgrounds, age groups and lifestyles. The goal is to represent all kinds of youth in Niagara and ensure everyone who might benefit from a consistent adult relationship in their life can have access to a big brother or sister.

BBBSN responds to a variety of issues in the community from a children and youth perspective. We know that for youth to have success at home and in the classroom, children need stable and consistent adult relationships in their lives. Familial issues, parents working multiple jobs to make ends meet or mental health issues stemming from extra stress at home are all symptoms that could lead to a child needing an additional stable and consistent relationship.

Programs offered by BBBSN give youth the chance to reach their full potential. One such program is the In-School Mentorship program. Working alongside local schools, this program can help bridge learning gaps for students who are less engaged or are struggling with attendance. Results have shown that students who may have been dealing with poor attendance do start to show up and become more engaged when they know their mentor will be present. If youth can be supported throughout their early school-aged years, it can help better prepare them for post-secondary and employment.

Last year, close to a thousand young lives were impacted through mentorship with BBBSN and those relationships have helped them thrive and be all they can be. The youth support network of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara is made possible by multi-year United Way funding, which wouldn't be possible without our dedicated community of local donors.



# Creating Community Connections

“We have seen people’s lives become transformed just because they were able to sit down with us and receive immediate, vital support,” says Theresa Murphy of Strong Fort Erie Neighbourhoods. “Many of the people coming in for our meal programs or personal care products are working – sometimes multiple jobs – but with the current reality of the cost of living, people need our help.” Strong Fort Erie Neighbourhoods (SFEN) serves hundreds of individuals in south Niagara with hot nutritious meals, access to personal care products and community connections.

One of the most common symptoms of poverty is food insecurity, and local agencies like Strong Fort Erie Neighbourhoods that help provide basic needs to so many are a vital part of the social safety net in our community. It’s abundantly clear that improving one’s standard of living while deciding whether to buy food or pay an important bill is not possible. Knowing that while a person is struggling, there are community connections that can provide them with the essentials until they get back on their feet is an important comfort to many.

With the help of United Way funding, SFEN was able to expand their personal care product program to support over 120 households in need with personal care products. While helping someone who is trying to make ends meet with essential items like laundry soap, hygiene products or toilet paper might seem like only a minor impact – it can create a small ripple effect towards greater change in their lives. When people are able to live healthy and with dignity, they can contribute to their community and work towards reaching their potential.



Spotlight on:



# Serving Kindness and Respect

Spotlight on:



"The heart of The Bridge is our everyday breakfast program, where people can have a warm, nutritious, no-cost breakfast," says Executive Director and Mission Pastor of The Bridge, Steve deBoer. For many, this meal is the first step toward stability. It ensures that no one has to start their day hungry.

Established in 2014 on Queen Street, The Bridge has become a vital resource in Niagara Falls, providing meals and support for people experiencing food insecurity and homelessness. The need has grown, and The Bridge has grown with it. Volunteers and staff work every day to make sure anyone who walks through the doors is met with food, kindness, and respect.

In 2023, The Bridge expanded its impact with the launch of the Food Recovery Program. This initiative, the first of its kind in the Niagara Region, works with local businesses to collect surplus prepared food and redistribute it to people in need. It reduces food waste and increases access to nutritious meals for those facing hardship.

Support from United Way Niagara has been critical in keeping these programs running. "United Way provided us with resources for our breakfast program, and the relationship we depend on to help continue on with the program," says deBoer. With this support, The Bridge has served more than 17,000 breakfasts, ensuring that people in the community have reliable access to food.

The Bridge continues to serve Niagara Falls with a commitment to dignity and inclusion. Every meal served is an effort to build a stronger, more supportive community where no one is forgotten.



# Happy, Healthy and Independent

Happy in My Home Community Support Services Niagara (CSSN) is a nonclinical community support agency helping to support older aged individuals stay in the home of their choice through a “basket” of services like meals, transportation or homemaking.

“We are a critical part of our overall healthcare system in Niagara,” says Carolyn Askeland, Executive Director with Community Support Services Niagara. “We work collaboratively and cooperatively with our healthcare system to ensure that other parts of the system have capacity. We want to help people avoid unnecessary trips to the emergency department and prevent longer admissions to hospital.”

The support and services of CSSN help foster a strong Niagara. There’s a fear among the elderly community that by receiving community services or extra help comes with a loss of independence. What clients of CSSN quickly realize is that these services allow them to remain in control of their life and most importantly stay in the home where they choose to be.

Client caregivers also feel the impact of CSSN services as they get a chance to enjoy the company of their parents or loved ones when they aren’t always the sole person their elderly loved one is depending on. Their relationship with their loved ones can remain strong and rewarding until the very end.

We know that the healthcare sector has been struggling to keep up with demand, and the support of United Way Niagara allows agencies like Community Support Services Niagara to ensure they have the dollars to implement their services and focus less on raising funds and more on the most important aspect of their agency – their clients. Just last year alone, Community Support Services Niagara was able to deliver over 50,000 meals to seniors right here in our community.

*Spotlight on:*





# A Safe and Stable Place to Call Home



Spotlight on:

**bethlehem**  
housing and support services

"At Bethlehem Housing and Support Services, we believe that everyone deserves a safe and stable place to call home," says Executive Director Lori Beech. "We are committed to doing everything we can to help individuals and families in Niagara build brighter futures."

Bethlehem Housing was founded to address the deep connection between poverty and housing insecurity. Today, it provides safe, affordable housing and essential support services for individuals and families facing hardships such as homelessness, domestic violence, and financial instability. The organization not only offers a roof over people's heads but also walks beside them on their journey to stability, independence, and hope.

For children, a stable home is life-changing. Bethlehem's after-school program, funded by United Way, offers a safe and welcoming space for students from early learning to grade eight. Here, they enjoy healthy snacks, crafts, and outdoor fun while developing vital life skills like teamwork, conflict resolution, and creativity.

"I like to come to the after-school program because of the great people," says Christopher, a young participant. "Coming helps me be around other kids, and I love talking to them. I feel safe here."

With United Way's support, Bethlehem Housing is able to host the after-school program, and also host 40 fresh food markets annually, ensuring families have access to nutritious food. Their housing and support programs continue to transform lives, creating a Niagara where everyone has the opportunity to live with dignity, security, and hope.



# Thanking our 2024 Donor Match Sponsors

## ROOT BISSONNETTE WALKER LLP 2024 NEW DONOR MATCH



Thanks to the supporters of the **RBW New Donor Match**, new donations had twice the community impact in 2024.

We are grateful for RBW's continued support!

**1015** new donors **\$208,052** raised in new donor giving!

## THE JASMINE AND KEVIN PATTERSON FAMILY FOUNDATION MAJOR GIFT MATCH SPONSORS



Painting by Jasmine Patterson

**\$477,620** additional funds raised to support the critical work of Niagara's social safety net through the help of **109** major donors!



# Our Donors

## CORPORATE SUPPORT & FOUNDATION GIFTS

### \$100,000 +

Niagara Region through the Niagara Prosperity Initiative



The Jasmine & Kevin Patterson Family Foundation

### \$50,000 - \$99,999

General Motors St. Catharines Propulsion Plant  
Algoma Central Corporation

### \$25,000 - \$49,999

Niagara Casinos  
MakeWay Charitable Society - Innoweave Launch Funding Program  
RBC Foundation  
TD Bank Group  
Root Bissonnette Walker LLP

### \$10,000 - \$24,999

Alectra Utilities  
BMO Financial Group  
CIBC  
Costco Business Centre  
Costco Wholesale Canada Ltd.  
Dave Wiens Construction  
Desjardins  
Equipment Corps Inc.  
FortisOntario Inc.  
George Darte Funeral Chapel Inc.  
John Deere Canada ULC  
John Deere Foundation of Canada  
Kiwanis Club of St. Catharines  
LKQ  
MAZON Canada  
Niagara SkyWheel  
Performance Auto Group  
Rankin Construction Inc.  
Scotiabank  
Stolk Construction Ltd.  
The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation  
THK Canada Limited - Employees' Community Fund

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

555 Canal Bank Developments GP Inc.  
Beatties Business Products

Brandt Tractor Ltd.  
Canada Life  
Carlomusto Investment Team - CIBC  
Wood Gundy  
Cooper Wealth Management  
Court Holdings Limited  
E.S. Fox Limited  
ECRM Lundy's Homes Ltd.  
Enbridge Gas Inc.  
FYidoctors I Visique Enhancing Life Foundation Flow Through Fund at Calgary Foundation  
GSK  
Hummel Properties Inc.  
Legacy Communities (Thorold) Inc.  
Meridian Credit Union  
Meyers Fruit Farms  
MNP LLP  
NEOB Lavender Boutique  
Niagara College Canada  
Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro  
Springbank House  
Stanmore Equipment Ltd.  
The Charles & Florence Martin Foundation  
The Ontario Paper Thorold Foundation  
The Verge Insurance Group including Reimer-Verge Insurance in Virgil and Milmine Insurance in Stoney Creek

### \$1,000 - \$4,999

13th Street Winery  
Bell Marine & Mill Supply Ltd.  
Brian Cullen Motors Ltd.  
Brock Ford Sales Ltd.  
Brock University  
CAA Niagara  
Caisse Desjardins Ontario  
California Closet Company  
Caljen Investments Ltd.  
Canadian Federation of University Women St. Catharines  
City of Port Colborne  
City of St. Catharines  
Dekker Family Foundation  
Durward Jones Barkwell & Company LLP  
ETFO Niagara Occasional Teachers' Local  
Fairview Animal Clinic  
Falls Chevrolet Cadillac Ltd.  
Hatch Ltd.  
Intact Financial Corporation  
John Bear Buick GMC  
Jungbunzlauer Canada Inc.  
Kavar Jewellers  
Konzelmann Estate Winery  
Lakeview Vineyard Equipment  
Lions Club of Merriton

Michael M. DelGobbo, Barrister and Solicitor  
Newman Bros. Limited  
Niagara McDonald's Restaurants  
Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc.  
Niagara Region  
Niagara Regional Labour Council  
Niagara Regional Police Service  
Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association - Niagara Elementary Unit  
Ontario Shipyards  
Planet Biogas Solutions Inc.  
R.V. Anderson Associates Limited  
Ratkovsky Wealth Management  
Ridley College  
Rotary Club of Niagara Falls Sunrise  
ServiceMASTER Restore of Niagara  
Sullivan Mahoney LLP  
The Post Office by Shannon Passero  
UNIFOR Local 199  
UNIFOR Social Justice Fund  
Veronics Instruments Inc.  
Wills Family Foundation  
WNHL - Welland  
Ziraldo Estate Winery

### \$500 - \$999

Bell Canada  
Bertie and Clinton Mutual Insurance  
Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 151  
Environmental 360 Solutions Ltd.  
Fakhruddin & Munira Sadikali  
Fleet Canada Inc.  
Green Benefits Group Inc.  
Harmon Engineering  
Hughes and Co.  
IG Wealth Management  
JBM Office Systems Ltd.  
Kinsmen Club of Fort Erie  
Klein Developments Ltd.  
Liberty Removal Services Inc.  
Manulife Financial  
Many Seeds  
Mike Bolus - Secret Garden Restaurant  
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation District 22  
Peninsula Plastics Ltd.  
R.H. Johnston Insurance Brokers Ltd.  
Riley Family Dentistry  
Sadikali Foundation  
St. David's Veterinary Clinic  
The Canadian Medical Foundation  
UNIFOR Local 4211  
UNIFOR Local 4212  
V. Singh Professional Corporation  
Vine and Partners LLP  
WSP Canada



# Making an impact takes **everyone.**

Support Niagara's most vulnerable.  
Today. Tomorrow. **Forever.**

Discover the many ways you can help build a great community and change lives locally on our website at [unitedwayniagara.org](http://unitedwayniagara.org)

## IN-KIND SUPPORT

13th Street Winery  
Absolute Change Management  
Audi Niagara  
Avondale Stores Ltd.  
Bayview Flowers Ltd.  
Beatties Business Products  
Bethesda Nurseries  
BHH Benefits  
Canadian National Exhibition  
Charlotte Abraham  
Cherry Hill Club  
City of St. Catharines  
City of St. Catharines Fire Services  
Counterpart Brewing  
D. Andrew Maloney  
Dennis Cahill Photography  
Desjardins  
Domaine Queylus  
Eagle Valley Golf Club  
Enercare  
Four Aces Traffic Control  
Genesis Niagara

Glenn & Heidi Burgess  
Grand Niagara Golf Course  
Grape Escape Wine Tours  
Grimsby Hyundai  
Healing Salt Cave Niagara  
Home Depot Niagara Falls  
Jasmine Patterson  
JVK Nurseries  
Kraun Electric Inc.  
Lock Street Brewing Company  
Locomotive Marketing Inc.  
Lookout Point Country Club  
Loretta Askeland  
Lost N Found Yoga  
Lululemon Pen Centre  
Malivoire Wine Company  
Metroland Media  
Mike Balsom  
Murray & Associates LLP  
NEOB Lavender Boutique  
Niagara Air Bus  
Niagara College Canada  
Niagara Golf Warehouse  
Niagara Helicopters

Niagara Ice Dogs  
Niagara Parks  
Niagara Regional Housing  
Niagara Regional Police Service  
Niagara River Lions  
Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club  
Old Dutch Foods  
Peninsula Press Ltd.  
Performance BMW  
Performance Lexus  
Performance Toyota  
Pitcher & Doyle  
Rankin Construction Inc.  
Scott Heelis  
St. Catharines Volkswagen Ltd.  
Stokes Seeds  
Sullivan Mahoney LLP  
The Rose Manor  
The Watering Can  
Vintage Hotels  
Walker Industries  
William Dam Seeds  
YourTV Niagara

## Sponsored Employees

The Sponsored Employee Program is one of the reasons we are able to raise funds efficiently and effectively. These organizations make a significant contribution to United Way each year, to our community and to the professional development of their employees. Interested in participating? Contact us!

**We would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their invaluable contributions:**



Gema Kramer & Pamela Underhill  
Niagara Region

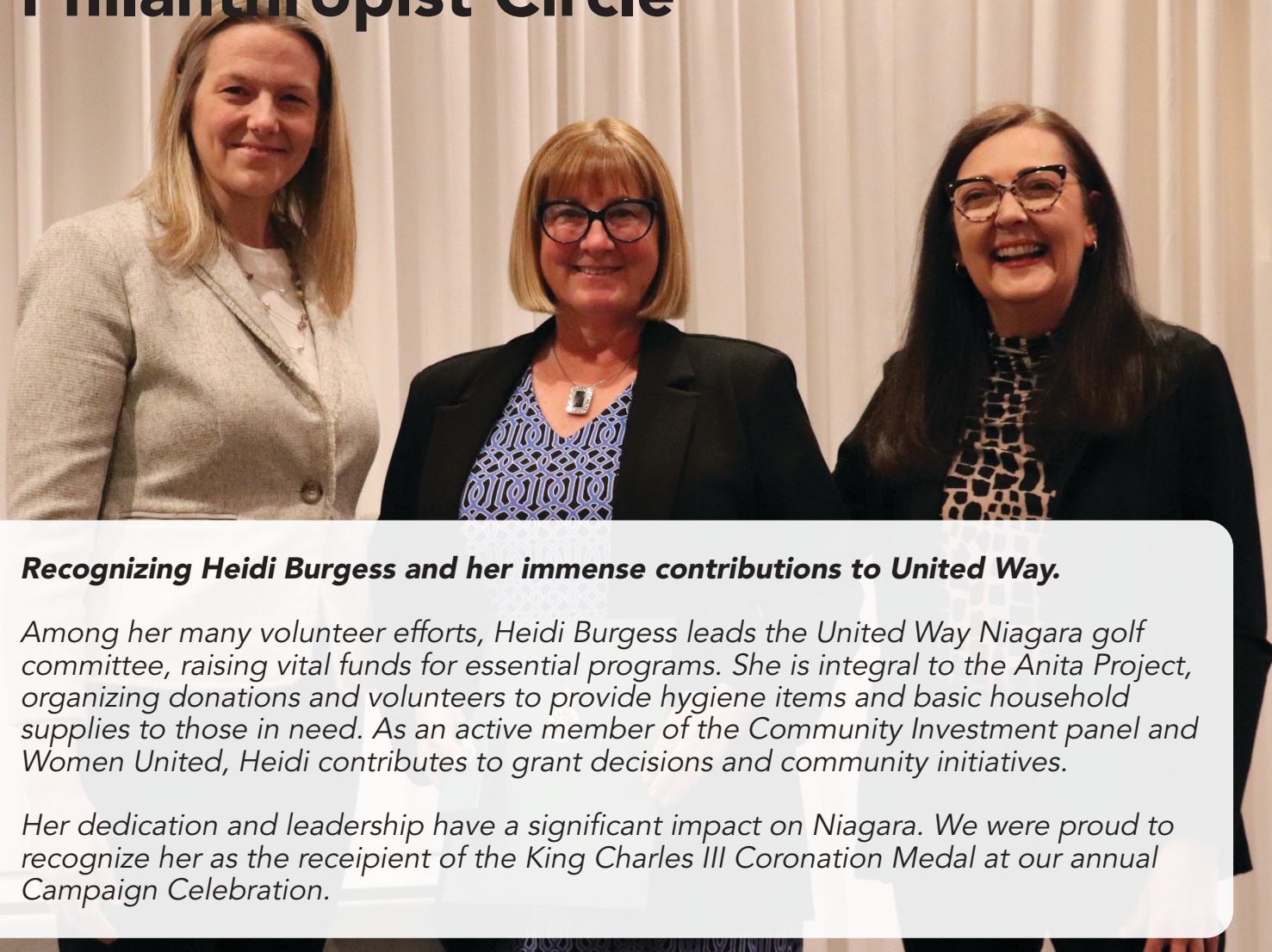


Pahuldeep Singh  
Canada Revenue Agency



Constable Joanne Carter  
Niagara Regional Police Service





## **Recognizing Heidi Burgess and her immense contributions to United Way.**

*Among her many volunteer efforts, Heidi Burgess leads the United Way Niagara golf committee, raising vital funds for essential programs. She is integral to the Anita Project, organizing donations and volunteers to provide hygiene items and basic household supplies to those in need. As an active member of the Community Investment panel and Women United, Heidi contributes to grant decisions and community initiatives.*

*Her dedication and leadership have a significant impact on Niagara. We were proud to recognize her as the recipient of the King Charles III Coronation Medal at our annual Campaign Celebration.*

**United Way Niagara's Philanthropist Circle** acknowledges individuals who have made cumulative gifts of \$25,000 or more to United Way over the last five years.

Carlos & Heather Antunes **WU**  
Akram Askoul

Roy & Janet Baldwin  
Peter & Fern Boldt

Glenn & Heidi Burgess **WU**

Adam & Gayle Burke  
David & Ruth Burtnik **WU**

John & Sue Bylhouwer  
Carol & Mike Clarke **WU**

Frank Cooper  
Dan & Donna Dargavel

George O. Darte III  
Paul & Joyce Eckel

Greg & Trish Finn **WU**

Dave & Judy George  
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Kurt F. Hagan  
Frances Hallworth & Dave  
Steiner **WU**

Jacob Hildebrand  
Sean & Kerry Kennedy

Michael Krause

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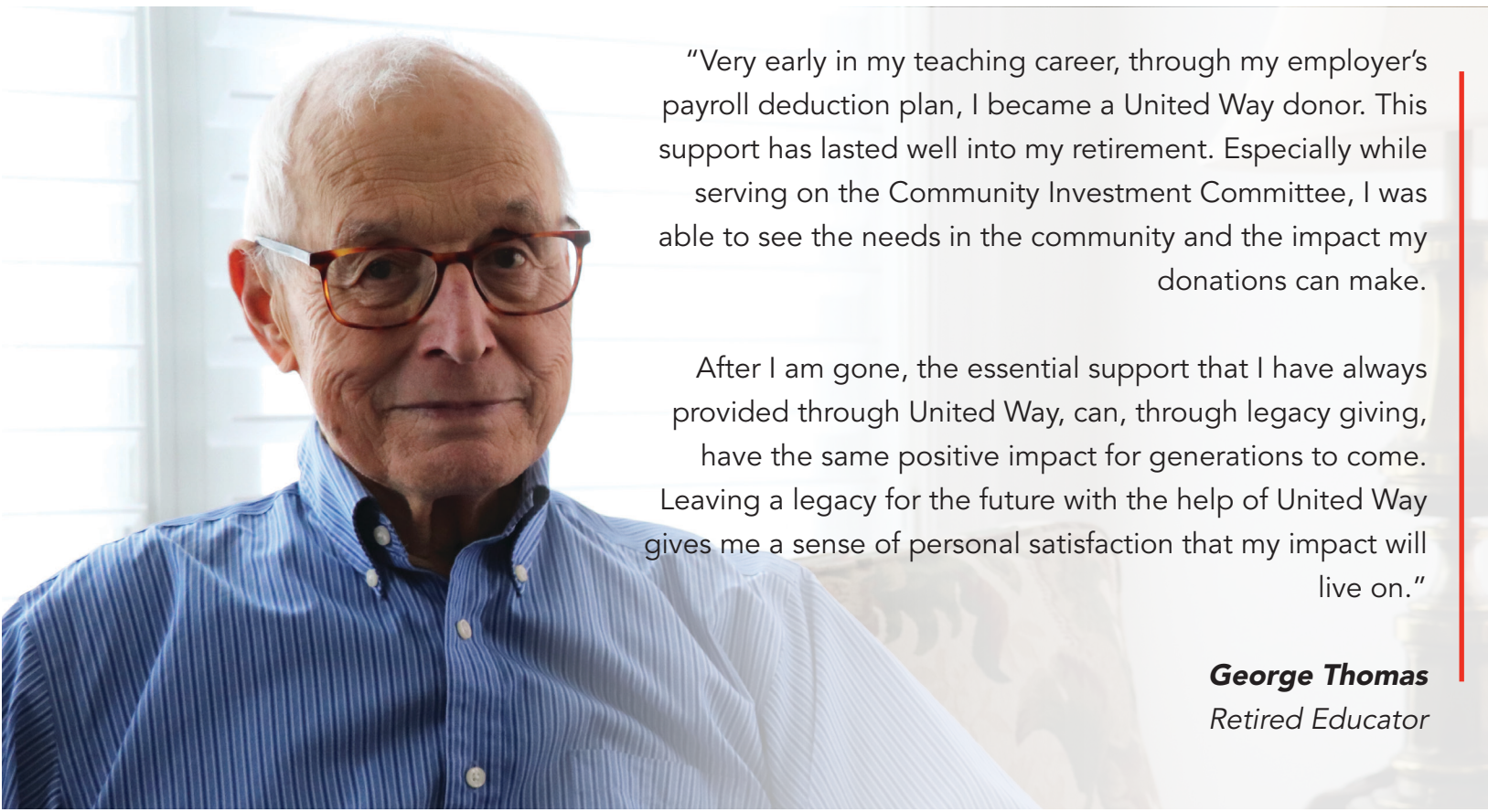
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"Very early in my teaching career, through my employer's payroll deduction plan, I became a United Way donor. This support has lasted well into my retirement. Especially while serving on the Community Investment Committee, I was able to see the needs in the community and the impact my donations can make.

After I am gone, the essential support that I have always provided through United Way, can, through legacy giving, have the same positive impact for generations to come. Leaving a legacy for the future with the help of United Way gives me a sense of personal satisfaction that my impact will live on."

**George Thomas**  
Retired Educator



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"After observing the good work of United Way Niagara from afar for years, and now seeing the ever growing need for these services, the time was right for me to do my part and contribute.

As a member of this year's Campaign Cabinet, and a personal donor, I have seen first hand that by endorsing innovation, partnerships and collective action, United Way Niagara can uniquely address the interconnected issues that poverty can cause.

As demand for the programs that United Way funds continues to increase, I hope that more local people are inspired to join the mission to improve lives and build community."

**- John Belford**

*John Belford Business Development*

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*"Two of my very first jobs were at agencies that received United Way funding. I got to see first-hand how important the programs were for people needing them and how important United Way is in funding those programs. Over the years I volunteered, organized campaign events, chaired campaign committees, bought raffle tickets, ate lots of yummy baked goods and made my donation through payroll deduction.*

*When I retired, I was as passionate as ever about United Way and just because I was retiring didn't mean I cared less about my community. No longer able to rely on payroll deduction, I contacted United Way and set it up so that I could continue to make regular donations, it was simple."*

#### **-Sheila Bristo**

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The donor names that appear with the **WU** symbol are members of **WOMEN UNITED™**. Women United is a vibrant community of visionaries and change makers brought together by a powerful sense of belonging: to one another, to our community, and to our mission of transforming the lives of women and their families. For more information or to join Women United, please contact us.

We extend our sincere thanks to all of our donors. Every effort is made to ensure our donor list is accurate and complete. If you discover an error or omission, or would like to update your recognition, please contact us.

**Contact: Manager of Individual Giving, 905-688-5050 ext. 2113.**

## DONOR BILL OF RIGHTS

Philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is primary to the quality of life. To assure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the not-for-profit organizations and causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

- I** To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.
- II** To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.
- III** To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements.
- IV** To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.
- V** To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.
- VI** To be assured that information about their donations is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.
- VII** To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.
- VIII** To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.
- IX** To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share.
- X** To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers.

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## Giving back to the community.

At Ridley College, our motto, *Terar Dum Prosim*, meaning "may I be consumed in service," is more than just words; it's ingrained in our student experience from JK to Grade 12. Our students actively support local organizations, like the Ridley Women In Leadership Club's Shoebox Project, demonstrating our positive impact in the Niagara region.

### RIDLEY COLLEGE

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