



For Immediate Release

From: The United Way of Perth County
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(Stratford, ON): The United Way “Listening for Change in Perth” Community Meetings!

The United Way of Perth County is launching Phase III of its fact-finding, priority setting initiative and is inviting citizens, community leaders, funders and decision makers to participate.

“We want to share with the broader community, other funders and decision makers what local residents think is important, discuss emerging needs and gaps in service, and collaborate to develop solutions”, commented United Way Board President Jane Kirkpatrick.

The Community Matters project is an extensive two-year consultative project funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation to identify the social service needs within Perth County. The consultation process is designed to promote civic engagement, facilitate community collaboration, identify innovative solutions to community challenges, enhance the impact of the United Way and help build stronger, healthier communities.

The project began last fall with consultations with community leaders and citizens across the County. The feedback from the consults was utilized to develop a countywide survey. Collecting and analyzing this data has been vital in identifying top priorities.

Volunteer facilitators Charlene Gordon and Dale Howatt will present the findings from our community discussions, countywide citizen survey and youth focus groups.

“Community participation is critical. We want to know what residents think. Does the report reflect their experience? That of their family, friends and neighbours? Have we missed something?” states Charlene Gordon.

Our first in a series of Community Meetings **has been scheduled for Monday, October 30th from 7pm – 9pm** at the Kiwanis Centre in Stratford.

Additional Meetings:

Perth East – Thursday, Nov 2 @ East Perth Municipal Building, Milverton 7-9 pm

St. Mary’s & Perth South - Monday Nov 6 @ St. Marys Friendship Centre 7-9 pm

West Perth - Tuesday Nov 7, 7-9pm @ Mitchell Town Hall Mtg Rm 3

North Perth – Thursday, Nov 9, 7-9 pm – Listowel Memorial Arena Auditorium

All media are invited.

For more information please call Ellen Balmain, at the United Way 519-271-7730

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