

United Way Perth - Huron

For Immediate Release
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United Way of Perth-Huron soaring to new heights as campaigns in both counties together raised over 1 million for local agencies and programs.

What could you do with \$1 million dollars? United Way of Perth-Huron answers - We can improve lives and build strong local communities. This is our mission and we have the resources and knowledge to help bring lasting positive change to our large rural region. Poverty, crisis and risk look different in rural communities than for urban areas and The United Way in this region is positioned and mandated to take a local approach to understanding and meeting these local challenges. Youth, people at risk or who have a disability, older adults, families – simply put, United Way helps 1 in 3 people across the region.

United Way of Perth-Huron announces \$ 802,997 for their Perth County campaign and \$215,087 raised in Huron County. Additionally another \$22,437 was raised and donor designated to other United Ways.

The total represents 100.2% of the \$801,068 goal in Perth and 104% of the 207,001 goal for Huron. These 2009 goals were a mere \$1 increase from the 2008 campaign achievements reflecting an uncertain economy. Both campaigns benefited from an increase in media attention surrounding the rooftop event in Perth County and through the assistance of media outlets in Huron County helping us to keep local issues as a high priority for everyone and the strategy worked for the United Way team.

“I had faith in the people of our community and they proved me right.” Said Perth Campaign co-chair Diane Mitchell at the Perth campaign’s celebration dinner at the River Garden Inn last month in Stratford. Echoing this sentiment, Huron Campaign Chair Chuck Hall brought the crowd to their feet last week at the Clinton Slots celebration in recognition of the work of the United Way’s staff and volunteers in bringing a successful campaign and hope back to the Huron community after the merger with the Perth agency on January 1. At both events awards were presented to dozens of corporations, employee groups and individuals who gave generously and willingly to support their community through the United Way.

“This has been a year when so many in both regions have faced uncertainty yet volunteers mobilized the community to find it in their hearts to support their neighbours. This is truly what makes living in Perth and Huron counties so wonderful,” says Ellen Balmain Executive Director for the United Way of Perth-Huron.

United Way volunteers have also finalized the first phase of their allocations process of investing the money back into the community by announcing the qualifying agencies and programs for the coming year in Perth County. They are as follows:

Avon Co-Operative Nursery School
Big Brother & Big Sisters of Listowel & District
Big Brother & Big Sisters of Stratford & District
Canadian National Institute for the Blind
Community Outreach Services
Emily Murphy Centre
Epilepsy Huron-Perth-Bruce
Family Services Perth-Huron
Instrument Lenders
Partners In Employment
St. John Ambulance – Stratford & St. Marys
St. John's Co-Operative Pre-School
Stratford Meals on Wheels & Neighbourly Services
Shelterlink
Stratford-Perth YMCA
St. Marys Youth Centre
Perth County Social Research & Planning Council
211 Services
Volunteer Portal

Allocations to Huron's qualifying agencies will be announced at the end of the month as Huron volunteers are working intensely these next few weeks on finalizing that process.

For more information about this release, contact
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