Here. For each other. In our communities. For our communities.
ANDREW CALLICUM
(caaqiyuuš)

Here. For Truth and Reconciliation.

Descended from the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation on Vancouver Island, Andrew Callicum (caaqiyuuš) recently joined United Way BC as our new Director, Indigenous Priorities to help us advance our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

Learn more about Andrew’s important work here:

Indigenous Priorities

United Way British Columbia (United Way BC) acknowledges the homelands of the Indigenous Peoples of this place we now call British Columbia and honours the many territorial keepers of the Lands on which we work.

We recognize the many communities in which we work here:

Territorial Acknowledgement
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Watch a summary of our work here: Strengthening Vital Connections
Every year brings unexpected challenges, and this past year, while we were still navigating the many repercussions of 2020 and 2021, was no exception. But with new challenges come new opportunities, and thanks to the generous support of donors and partners like you, we were able to fill in the gaps that widened for those in need.

Leading the way in food security, United Way British Columbia identified new and innovative ways to use your dollars to make a difference. We built and launched the Food Link App to address hunger and connect food that would otherwise go to waste with people in need, expanded our Food Hubs, funded community pantries, and more.

To welcome displaced Ukrainians and help them adjust to their new surroundings, we launched the United for Ukraine fund and were humbled to see how quickly and compassionately donors and volunteers like you came together to provide basic necessities for our new neighbours. Your generosity allowed us to help in the areas of housing, gathering spaces, goods and services, volunteering opportunities, welcome kits, and financial assistance. Along with expanding our programs (like iVolunteer, Schools Out, Urgent Response, Hi Neighbour, and more) throughout our regions, 2022 was the year that we really found our footing as a provincially amalgamated organization and solidified our move from “funder” to “direct service provider.”

Recognizing the increased need for British Columbians to be connected to resources and supports during uncertain economic times, we integrated with bc211 to become one entity with an even greater ability to understand and directly respond to crucial community needs.

Looking to the year ahead, it promises to be another busy one as we welcome Powell River and District to our United Way BC family; create greater stability through long term commitments to our work in Food Security and Healthy Aging; increase our emphasis on Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Truth and Reconciliation; ramp up our advocacy work for unique initiatives like Period Promise; and pursue greater modernization and support for the non-profit sector.

The world is changing quickly and so are we – as we recognize that the needs of our communities, the people who live in them, and the sector that serves them, need help in new, innovative, and complex ways. Thank you for being here with us, and for helping us create a healthier, more caring, and inclusive community for all.

Sincerely,

Michael McKnight
President & CEO
United Way British Columbia

Watch Mike’s message here: A Year in Review
We strengthen vital connections that support people in need here in our local communities.

**HERE.**
For brighter futures.
Helping children and youth get the support they need to succeed and thrive.

**HERE.**
For fuller plates and hearts.
Providing healthy, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food and support with dignity and respect.

**HERE.**
For each other.
Strengthening community networks to support neighbours in need.

**UNITED,**
we make our communities stronger, healthier, and more resilient.
Here. Because of you.

Thanks to your generous support, we bring individual, non-profit, government, and business partners together to collaborate and co-create solutions, and step in where gaps exist to help neighbours in need.

3.35 MILLION MEALS AND HAMPERS were delivered to over 81,500 BC families and individuals through dignified food access programming to help address Food Security.

6,755 CHILDREN received the support they needed to succeed in 54 United Way BC School’s Out programs.

ALMOST 500 FORMER YOUTH IN CARE were able to cover basic living expenses while pursuing post-secondary education in BC through the Youth Futures Education Fund.

OVER 81,000 HELP LINE REQUESTS WERE ANSWERED, and more than 165,000 referrals were made through our United Way BC Helpline Services.

400 DISPLACED UKRAINIANS were connected to housing, and many more were supported through our United for Ukraine urgent response initiative.

OVER 37,700 SENIORS received Healthy Aging support services to stay independent, active and engaged in their own communities.

ABOUT 9,000 NEIGHBOURS were brought closer together in 12 United Way BC Hi Neighbour Initiatives.

10,500 VOLUNTEERS signed up to help neighbours in need through iVolunteer.

OVER 81,000 HELP LINE REQUESTS WERE ANSWERED, and more than 165,000 referrals were made through our United Way BC Helpline Services.

As a newcomer, Zoltan understands how difficult arriving in a new country can be. That’s why he joined United for Ukraine where he welcomes those fleeing war with empathy and compassion.

Here. To volunteer.
United Way BC School's Out programs help kids develop skills for success.

“This morning I made pancakes for my mom all by myself - she didn’t even help me at all. I knew how to do it because I watched carefully how we made them last week in the School’s Out session. My mom told me ‘Wow you did them so good!’ I felt really proud,” beams 8-year-old Ali with newfound self-confidence.

United Way BC supports all children to grow up great and to reach their full potential. School’s Out programs offer educational support, physical activities, mentoring, social and emotional support, and help at-risk kids develop basic life skills, like cooking. But most important of all, they help kids develop positive relationships and become happier, healthier, and more resilient.

11-year-old Josh’s mom is thrilled with his progress: “At first, he was hesitant about School’s Out, but I asked him to give it a try. Now he loves and looks forward to it... plus he has made stronger connections with his classmates and has started spending time with them after school! He also let me know, he now wants to volunteer and work on a community project to help clean-up the neighbourhood which was something he refused to do in the past.”

Shellina adds, “The School’s Out program room is like the family room of the home and that its where you want to be. School’s Out means a place of belonging no matter where you’re from, what you’ve been through and who you are. It’s a place for everyone to be exactly who they are and constantly learn from one another on how to grow and challenge yourself.”

Thank you for being here for brighter futures and for kids like Ali, Josh, and Shellina! This vital connection for kids in need is a crucial investment in a better future for all of us.

See more stories like this here: Impact Stories

Note: Some names and images in this report have been altered to protect identities.
Every child and youth deserves the chance to achieve their full potential.

United Way BC School’s Out

School’s Out programs for children 6-12 years of age provide mental and physical wellness, healthy and nutritious food, and developmental support throughout the school year.

In 2022-23, School’s Out programming was expanded into our regions, including three new programs in the Southern Interior as well as Central and Northern Vancouver Island, and one new program in both the Thompson Nicola Cariboo and Trail regions.

In all, 6,755 children participated in 54 United Way BC’s School’s Out and School’s Out Summer programs at 159 sites across the province.

Learn more about School’s Out here.

Youth Futures Education Fund

By providing low-barrier access to funds, we help create equal educational opportunities for young adults who have been in government care.

In 2021-22 almost 500 former youth in care were able to cover basic living expenses while pursuing post-secondary education.

Through our ongoing advocacy and partnerships, we are excited that the Government of BC has recently announced that the age limit to access the Tuition Waiver Program will be lifted. All former youth in care, no matter what their age, will now have the opportunity to pursue post-secondary education. This, along with continued access to low-barriered financial support from the Youth Futures Education Fund, allows more former youth in care to follow their educational dreams and create a brighter future.

Read the 2021-22 Youth Futures Education Fund Report here.

Here. For former youth in care like Natasha.

Without Youth Futures Education Fund support I would have struggled to further my education, working towards establishing an impactful career and promising future. Funding from the fund helped to reduce the financial barriers I was facing as a full-time student, Natasha says.
With the shocking rise of inflation, many people in our communities became vulnerable in ways they had not experienced or anticipated previously. With the average grocery bill rising exponentially, many families were forced into making difficult decisions this past year – to pay for heat or electricity, or medication, or, most importantly, something to eat. The urgent need to ensure people had access to food became one of our foremost concerns at United Way BC.

Ensuring that everyone can access nourishing, healthy, and culturally appropriate food is not only vital to the overall health and well-being of our residents, but also of our communities at large. When an individual’s basic needs are met, they can begin to tackle other important challenges in their lives. When a family’s basic needs are met, parents can focus on paying their rent and bills, taking better care of themselves, and spending quality time with their children.

“I’m a low-income single mom of 7-year-old twins and honestly, we would have gone hungry this year without our box. We love planning our different meals to make. The kids eat way more fruits and veggies, and I believe it has helped set positive eating habits that will follow them in life. We celebrate the day it arrives and I love how it’s brought us closer together. I sometimes joke to others that “this box saved my life” but I’m not really kidding, it truly has.” – Anna

Every one of our 20 United Way Regional Community Food Hub provides food access and support for those who are most affected by food insecurity including: low income individuals and families; youth and children; newcomers to Canada; members of minority groups; Indigenous communities; women; seniors; and vulnerable workers. 80% of our Food Hubs also provide food access and support for members of LGBTQ2S+ or Non-Binary Communities.

Thank you for helping us deliver over 3.1 million meals and 215,000 food hampers, as well as provide almost 1,500 food security education and workshops, to more than 81,500 BC individuals and families in need last year. We couldn’t have done this without you.

Watch a video about our food security work here:

Food Security Initiatives
Regional Community Food Hubs

United Way Regional Community Food Hubs provide access to food, food literacy and wellness programming, as well as wrap-around services such as mental health support, employment services, childcare and more. By respecting individual and community needs, Food Hubs strengthen bonds between members and help to create vital connections between cultures and traditions of all kinds while improving the quality of life for those in need.

In the past year, four new Food Hubs were added including Hastings-Sunrise Community Food Network, Lower Similkameen, Mt. Waddington, and Surrey Guildford/Whalley, bringing our total number of Regional Community Food Hubs to 20.

Learn more about our Food Security Initiatives here.

NEW Food Link Mobile App

In March 2023, after more than a year of development, we launched our new, innovative Food Link Mobile App to connect the food needs of nonprofit partners and their clients with local, regional, and small-scale food organizations and suppliers, while mobilizing volunteers to transport food efficiently and cost-effectively between locations.

This app is currently being piloted in three locations (Upper Fraser Valley, Surrey, and North Okanagan) and will roll out in select areas across the province in the year ahead.

Learn more about Food Link and how you can get involved here: Food Link by United Way BC

Here. In Surrey’s Guildford Whalley Neighbourhood

Our newest Regional Community Food Hub marks our 20th in the province and the fifth one that is stewarded by our local community partner, CityReach Care Society. Along with improving access to healthy, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food, this hub also offers wrap-around services, volunteer opportunities and more. Together, with our partners, we are strengthening vital connections that support people in need in our local communities.
Thais and her family moved to Canada four years ago. They came from Brazil to build a better life in a safer place to raise their two daughters and son. While the close-knit family has lived here for a few years, they still remember what it’s like to be newcomers and the insecurity of being so far from the place they had always called home. It’s these memories and experiences that led to the decision to host a displaced Ukrainian through the United for Ukraine initiative.

During a family meeting Thais’ son, Pedro, offered up his room. He was willing to sleep on the floor in his sisters’ shared room. Nina, Thais’ eldest daughter also remembers the meeting. “I was kind of OK with it, but I was hesitant about it because of having my brother in my room for two months. But when (Anastasia) came, I was like, ‘She is really nice!’”

Before Anastasia arrived, Thais spoke to her kids about what they might expect. “I said, we don’t know how she will be. She’s coming from Bucha and left everything behind, and we need to be kind, gentle, and understand her moment.”

Anastasia, or Natya to the family, spent seven weeks with the family before finding her own place. During that time, they all bonded and learned about each other’s experiences and cultures. While Anastasia has moved into her own place now, she still visits with the family for dinners and other occasions. Meanwhile, the family are considering welcoming another displaced Ukrainian into their home and all seem quite excited about the prospect. As Nina says, “Making new friends is cool. And when you help someone, I feel like the connection is way stronger.”

Read the full story here: [Here. To welcome Ukrainians into their home.](#)
Here. For each other.

211 British Columbia:
Here to help. 24/7.

211 British Columbia provides free and confidential referrals to a broad range of programs and services that can assist people with basic needs like food and shelter, mental health and addictions support, legal and financial assistance, support for seniors, newcomers, and much more. Help is available 24/7, 365 days a year, by phoning or texting 2-1-1, or by searching the online directory at bc.211.ca. Interpretation is available in 240+ languages and dialects for people who call: 2-1-1.

In 2022, United Way BC Helpline Services (which includes 211 British Columbia) answered over 81,000 help line requests, made more than 165,000 referrals, and enabled almost 100,000 database searches for available community supports. Through this vital service, United Way BC gathers data that helps us and our partners identify and respond to emerging needs and social service gaps, and allows us to work better together to strengthen our community networks to help those in need.

Watch a short video about 211 British Columbia here.

Urgent Response:
Here. When you need us.

In times of crisis, we’re here to lend a hand. Utilizing our extensive network of volunteers, partners, donors, and supporting agencies, we have organized strategic, rapid responses for the substantial challenges that have affected our communities and are working towards long-term recovery efforts.

In 2022, we continued to assist with recovery efforts connected to wildfires and flooding that swept the province in 2021, welcomed and assisted displaced Ukrainians, and developed a playbook to guide us in future emergency situations.

Learn more about our Urgent Response initiatives here: Our Work

Read our Final Flood Report here: 2022-FLOOD-REPORT.pdf

HERE. THANKS TO 211.

A YEAR AGO, I WAS HOMELESS AND THINGS WERE ROUGH. I CALLED 211 AND GOT INTO A SHELTER. THEN I GOT INTO TREATMENT AND MY LIFE IS BACK TOGETHER. I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU. WITHOUT 211 I WOULDN’T BE HERE.

211 SAVED ME.
Hi Neighbour: Here. For our neighbours.

United Way BC’s Hi Neighbour initiative connects neighbours with neighbours to help curb social isolation and loneliness, make neighbourhoods safer, and create healthier communities.

Last year, 164 Local Love Projects mobilized over 3,000 volunteers and connected over 13,000 community members in 12 Neighbourhoods.

In April 2023, after almost five years, our pilot neighbourhood, Clayton Heights (Surrey), is evolving. As United Way BC steps back, local residents are continuing positive community impact by leading initiatives and projects. Many have joined the Cloverdale Community Association, and initiatives like the Hi Neighbour Seniors Social have been embedded into the Clayton Community Centre.

In the year ahead, we look forward to identifying a new Surrey neighbourhood, and building out local strategies centering on justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Learn more about our Hi Neighbour initiative and communities here: Hi Neighbour

Healthy Aging: Here. For our seniors.

Staying active, connected, and engaged are the keys to health, especially as we age. Our Healthy Aging initiatives, which include Better at Home, support a range of programs and activities that enhance the healthy aging process for older adults, improves their quality of life, and allows them to live independently at home for as long as possible.

Last year, over 605,000 services were provided by 331 United Way BC’s Healthy Aging Programs to help keep over 37,700 seniors independent, active, and engaged throughout the province.

See more information about our seniors programs here: Seniors

Read our 2021-22 Healthy Aging Report here: Healthy Aging Year in Review 2021-22

(Please note that our 2022-23 Healthy Aging Year in Review will be available soon.)
Here. For you.

Accountability

AT LEAST 85 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR DONATED BY YOU goes directly to supporting vulnerable kids, youth, families, individuals, and seniors in our communities.

MONICA

Here. To give.

I HAVE BEEN A SUPPORTER OF UNITED WAY FOR MANY YEARS. IT FILLS MY HEART TO BE ABLE TO IMPACT THE LIVES OF OTHERS IN MY COMMUNITY. UNITED WAY OFFERS SO MUCH TO SO MANY. IF YOU ARE AS FORTUNATE AS I AM AND DON’T NEED THEIR SERVICES, SAY THANK YOU THE SAME WAY I DO, BY GIVING.

We want you to feel good about how we put your dollars to work. Your gifts to United Way are leveraged through our connections and partnerships with community service agencies, businesses, unions, universities, government, and more to amplify our collective impact. And on our end, we work hard to keep administrative and fundraising costs low. United Way continually meets standards for excellence for charitable administration.
Your dollars at work

YOUR CONTRIBUTION HELPS US BUILD A STRONG SOCIAL SUPPORT NETWORK PROVIDING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES IN NEED. YOUR GENEROSITY ALLOWED US TO BE RESPONSIVE AND HELPED TO ENSURE OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS WERE CARED FOR AND CONNECTED.

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<td>Community</td>
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How the money came in

WE USE OUR COLLECTIVE STRENGTH TO DIVERSIFY AND MULTIPLY OUR REVENUE STREAMS SO THAT WE CAN MAXIMIZE OUR DONORS’ DOLLARS TO AMPLIFY OUR IMPACT AND HELP MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES STRONGER, HEALTHIER AND MORE RESILIENT.

Here, for you.

Individual Giving and Direct Marketing 4,119,000
Workplace – Corporate 5,304,000
Workplace – Employee 8,637,000
Grants, Social Enterprise, Misc 108,411,000
Foundations, Bequests, Endowments, Other 3,447,000
Donor External Designation 3,135,000

Here. To help more of your gift reach your community.

SYBIL
Campaign Associate

Every year, local organizations and unions generously sponsor or loan us their employees for a 16-week term to help United Way BC keep our costs down and raise funds through our Workplace Campaigns.

This incredible generosity means that more of every dollar raised can be invested right back into our communities where it’s needed most, but the benefits of this program extend to our participating partners and the Campaign Associates themselves as well.

Read Sybil’s story.

Learn more about our Campaign Associate Program here: Campaign Associates – a vital connection for Workplace Campaigns.
Local giving, local results

As part of our commitment to our regions, dollars raised in a region, stay in the region.

Learn more about our work in your region here:

- **Central and Northern Vancouver Island** – Serving Central and Northern Vancouver Island

- **Lower Mainland & Fraser Valley** – Serving Metro Vancouver from the Sea to Sky corridor and the Sunshine Coast through to the Fraser Valley

- **Southern Interior** – Serving the Okanagan, Columbia, Shuswap, Similkameen Trail and District, and East Kootenays, we help cultivate local love in our communities

- **Thompson Nicola Cariboo** – Serving the Thompson Nicola Cariboo from the Rockies to Copper Desert

BERNADETE
Leadership Donor

UNITED WAY PROVIDES SUCH A BREADTH OF SERVICES TO OUR COMMUNITY – IT JUST MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF SO MANY.

I HAVE BEEN A PROUD SUPPORTER OF UNITED WAY FOR MANY YEARS (SINCE 2007) AND HOPE TO BECOME MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVED WHEN I RETIRE NEXT YEAR.
Special thanks and recognition go to everyone who makes our work possible, including: our Board of Directors; Regional Council Members; Campaign Cabinet; corporate, union, government, and community partners; and especially to our donors and volunteers like you.

Thank you for being here, with us, for our community!

2022–23 Board of Directors

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Lisa Kershaw
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Boyden Canada

Meet our Board Members here: Board of Directors
As a modern United Way, we have begun to deliver more direct programming in response to community needs, increased our ability to respond swiftly to crises, expanded our provincial influence, diversified our revenue sources, and worked to build more sophisticated business operations. Going forward, we will continue to:

Focus on unmet and emerging community needs
In consultation with local communities, we will continue to support children and youth, food security, and seniors. In regions outside the Lower Mainland, we will expand programming for child and youth mental health. New Regional Community Food Hubs are planned for Northern BC and Southern Vancouver Island, and our Food Link Mobile App will be expanded to four more communities this winter.

Work towards Truth and Reconciliation
We continue to embed the guiding principles of Truth and Reconciliation, and Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) into our organization and the work we do. We will be working even more closely with equity-deserving groups including Indigenous, racialized, multi-barriered, and low-income populations.

Strengthen our government partnerships
Our partnership with both federal and provincial governments to support seniors, food security and homelessness is growing as the demand for supports and services remains prevalent. We are also working in collaboration with our partners to distribute our allocation of almost $12 million from the Government of Canada’s Community Services Recovery Fund.

Build capacity in the sector
As a recognized neutral convener, advocate and champion of local issues, we aspire to help modernize the charitable sector in BC. We will continue to work on being a thought leader, an innovator in social enterprise and the digital space, and the go-to for critical community issues. We believe that this evolution is the most viable path to be sustainable, to grow, and to realize our vision and mission.

Future-proof to better serve our community
In the year ahead, we aim to improve our cyber security; become a more data-driven organization; better communicate with our donors and community partners; use technology to amplify our impact (i.e. Food Link Mobile App); and build greater transparency and accountability into our reporting approach.

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE WITH US AND MAKING THIS WORK POSSIBLE!
Here. For each other.
In our communities. For our communities.