



United Way helping seniors  
remain independent.



United Way  
Central & Northern  
Vancouver Island

For Immediate Release

## United Way's Better at Home Program Conducts Consultations in Parksville *Public Input is Needed at Community Consultation Forum on January 22*

**Nanaimo, BC – January 9, 2013** – The United Way Central & Northern Vancouver Island (UWCNVI) is consulting with the community on how best to deliver the new [Better at Home](#) program slated to commence in Parksville this spring. On Tuesday, January 22 from 1 – 3 p.m. there will be a Community Forum at the Quality Resort Bayside in Parksville located at 240 Dogwood Street. The public's input is requested at this forum on what services would be necessary in Parksville to support seniors to live independently.

*Better at Home* is program that offers simple services such as grocery shopping, friendly visits, light housework, yard work, home repair, snow removal and transportation to appointments. The services are non-medical in nature, and are supplemental to those services provided by community health workers, such as personal hygiene assistance and help with medical needs or moving around. The B.C. Government has provided \$15 million to United Way Lower Mainland to establish up to 60 Better at Home programs across the province as part of *Improving Care for B.C. Seniors: An Action Plan*.

UWCNVI has hired local consultant Tracy Smyth to synthesize information from the community and compile a report about it. The consultation report will help the community process as well as being the foundational document to help identify a local non-profit, which will be contracted to deliver *Better at Home* services in Parksville beginning in the Spring of 2013. Tracy Smyth has worked in community development in B.C. for over 17 years and has a background in public health.

UWCNVI *Change Starts Here* campaign is currently active and raising \$700,000 in the Central Island to fund 22 local organizations delivering 26 programs in 2012/13 to help kids be all they can be, support healthy communities and move people from poverty to possibility. In the Oceanside area funds the **Oceanside Hospice Society, the Errington Therapeutic Riding Association (ETRA) and District 69 of Organized Services (SOS)**. There are many ways to give to UWCNVI. Call the office at 250-729-7400 or email [info@uwcncvi.ca](mailto:info@uwcncvi.ca) or give online at [www.uwcncvi.ca](http://www.uwcncvi.ca).

### **About United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island**

Since 1958, United Way CNVI has invested in programs and services that help people to improve their lives and that strengthen our community. Due to the generosity of donors and volunteers, UWCNVI is funding grants in 2012 to 44 charities supporting 50 programs for children, youth and seniors in Central Island, the Comox Valley and Campbell River. UWCNVI is also a partner in the Success by 6 early childhood development programs throughout the Central and Northern Island and is the Community Entity for Nanaimo's Homelessness Partnering Strategy.

-30-

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### **United Way Central & Northern Vancouver Island**

#### **Change starts here**

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