

For Immediate Release



United Way
Central and Northern
Vancouver Island

United Way Announces 2015-16 Grant Funding Partners

Nanaimo, BC – September 1, 2015 – Thanks to the generosity of donors, United Way Central & Northern Vancouver Island (UWCNVI) is saving and changing local lives through funding 56 Community Partner non-profit organizations, supporting 61 programs throughout central and northern Vancouver Island for 2015-16.

United Way actively researches local social issues and trends to identify where to best invest donor's dollars to produce the optimum results. Grant applications are collected at the beginning of the year and for a program to qualify, it must come from a credible social service agency and have identified outcomes and targets that it will deliver through the granting cycle. Local granting decisions in each community are decided by the United Way Impact Councils made up of volunteer experts. UWCNVI invests donor's dollars through three impact areas:

- All That Kids Can Be
- From Poverty to Possibility
- Healthy People, Strong Communities

Thousands of local donors – corporate, labour, individuals and workplaces – giving to the United Way are helping local people this year by providing seniors' lunches, parenting skills training, caregiver support, in-school mentorship programs, a youth suicide prevention program, therapeutic riding, addictions counselling, violence prevention and restorative justice as well as housing the homeless. A full list of Community Partners and programs can be found on the UWCNVI website (uwcnavi.ca).

For organizations such as the Forward House Community Society in Parksville, one of the new programs to be funded, the support makes a huge difference. "We are thrilled with the funding we get from United Way", says Sharon Welch, Executive Director at the Forward House Community Society. "This means we do not have to raise the cost of meals this year. For vulnerable adults – many of who are on disability or have mental health issues - receiving a healthy meal at a low cost means that they have a meal, rather than not eat all. Proper nutrition and the opportunity to connect with supporters when they come in to eat means they get help in other areas such as education and recreation."

After studying the effectiveness of other United Way investment strategies from communities across the country and talking to long time funded Community Partners, UWCNVI introduced two new streams of funding this year. "We are thrilled to be funding 15 new programs this year under our one year, smaller grant stream giving us a chance to test out some new strategies and programs," says Signy Madden, Executive Director of UWCNVI. "We also want to give more stability for our long-time, effective agencies thus we have moved to funding them for two years with the same requirements to prove that they are delivering on their commitments in terms of quality of program and number of people helped through the two years."

United Way will open the next round of funding applications in February of 2016.

United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island (UWCNVI) has been at work for more than 57 years in our community. With a mission to improve lives and to build community by engaging individuals and mobilizing collective action, UWCNVI invests in strengthening people and

communities including Campbell River, Courtenay-Comox, Port Alberni, Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Nanaimo, Gabriola Island and Ladysmith. Funds donated annually by local businesses and individuals for United Way's Community Fund provide an essential network of social services in your community.

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