



**United Way**  
Central and Northern  
Vancouver Island  
Summer 2015

*Thank YOU for Changing Lives in Your Community • A Newsletter for United Way Donors, Volunteers & Supporters*

*"I have a safe place to hang out after school," says Tannis\**

## Kids learn to sew and cook at Kids 4 Kids because of YOU!

Nine year old Tannis\* loves hanging out at Kids 4 Kids. She loves the games in the gym where RCMP officers volunteer and students from Vancouver Island University keep everyone active and having fun. She loves learning how to sew but is not so big on the cooking lessons. However, the other kids make great snacks and she likes sampling their efforts.

Thanks to you, United Way is funding Kids 4 Kids this year.

"Because of our loyal donors, we are able to fund two Kids 4 Kids afterschool programs in schools where there is a lot of vulnerability and poverty," said Signy Madden, Executive Director of United Way CNVI.

"For a little bit of co-ordination and food money, the kids get access to caring, interested volunteers who

are keen to share their talents and to spend time with a group of kids."

Many of these children do not have grandparents in their lives and the parents are often working two or three part-time jobs to make ends meet. There is no one at home after school.

Thank you for caring!

*\*name has been changed*



Big grins on the Kids 4 Kids girls wearing the skirts they made!

Kids 4 Kids is looking for some extra funds to buy a new sewing machine. Their two machines came second hand and have seen better days. Contact Signy at [signy@uwcncvi.ca](mailto:signy@uwcncvi.ca) if you want to fund a sewing machine for the program.

## Thank you!

You may never meet the people that you help through United Way.

However, please be assured that your donations are saving and changing lives for people from Campbell River to Ladysmith.

***Together, We are Possibility!***

*If you have never been to a Kick Off, this is the year!*

### We'd love to see you at the United Way Kick Off breakfast!

Start the day right by eating, socializing and helping others through supporting United Way.

Last year we tried to be healthy with yogurt and muffins at the Kick Off events. Our supporters spoke loud and clear and said, "Give us back our eggs and bacon." We got the message! You can have your bacon and eggs (or a muffin and fruit) and feel good about helping others by attending the Comox or Nanaimo Kick Off Breakfasts.

Go to [www.uwcncvi.ca](http://www.uwcncvi.ca) to purchase your \$20.00 tickets today.

**Comox Valley: 7:00 am Thursday, September 17th at Crown Isle Golf Course**

**Central Island: 7:00am Friday, September 18th at Woodgrove Centre**

If you live in Campbell River or one of our other communities, we plan to do mid-campaign October events to share information about the important programs your donations support.

**Thank you Woodgrove Centre for sponsoring the Nanaimo Kick off Breakfast!**

Good ideas/effective solutions abound in 15 new programs you are funding.

**Because of you, 20,600 local people are receiving help!**

## Where Do Your Donations Go?

This year, your donations are funding 62 programs in Central Island, (Ladysmith, Nanaimo, Oceanside), Comox Valley, Campbell River and Port Alberni, solving problems and helping locally in three key areas:

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

This year, your donations are funding 15 new programs. Some programs were created because of new trends or issues that need addressing. Others existed but needed a boost from United Way to deal with long wait lists or because the need in the community for the services has grown. Some examples of your investment in new programs include:

- \* Gabriola Island Teen Peer Helping Program aimed at reducing school dropout rates and helping kids transition to high school in Nanaimo.
- \* Peer Support Program for people with spinal cord injuries helping them adjust to life in a wheelchair and ongoing challenges.

- \* Homeless people in Comox Valley to get off the streets into apartments and to stay housed.
- \* Adults suffering mental illness access a free meal and support services in Parksville.
- \* Women and children who are victims of abuse or violence have access to an emergency residence in Campbell River.

Your donations help so many! For a full list of our Community Partners visit our website [www.uwcnvi.ca](http://www.uwcnvi.ca).



Nanaimo Community Kitchens pleased as punch because of United Way support!

*See your donation in action.*

*Tour any of the local programs you are helping.*

*Just call us, and we will arrange a visit.*

**United Way**  
*Together,  
We Are Possibility*

*Sometimes life doesn't go as you planned.....*

## You are helping Ruth Raise her Granddaughter

Demand for programs for Grandparents raising Grandkids on the rise!

Ruth\* did not imagine that at 67 she would be single and raising a grandchild, let alone a child with ADHD.

Ruth's lifeline is a United Way funded program for grandparents raising grandchildren. The group gives Ruth the opportunity to spend time with people who "get it" and share suggestions on how to cope. The social events allow both Ruth and her granddaughter to be a "normal" family among peers.

Grandparents and other family members, aunts, uncles and extended family members are now raising grandkids more than ever. Sometimes it is the accidental death of the parents and other times the parents are incapable of caring for their children.

Because you care, these families get support and the chance to go to a summer camp together. Thank you for your generosity helping Ruth and Jenna\*.

*\*names have been changed*



**Grandma Ruth is raising Jenna the best she can with your help!**

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