



United Way
Central and Northern
Vancouver Island

UNITE TO CHANGE

**When we are inspired
to come together,
we can create
lasting change
in our community.**



A United Way 101

A better life for everyone in our community

Because a strong, supported, resilient community benefits all of us.

Every day, United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island (UWCNVI) has a profound impact on Island communities by ensuring an essential network of programs and services that work together to achieve lasting, positive change.

United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island

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Today's United Way

More Than a Fundraiser

Up until 2000, United Way primarily raised and distributed funds to local agencies whose programs and services worked to improve social conditions. As our community and its needs grew and became more complex, we recognized a need to develop innovative ways to achieve longer-term results.

Today, United Way is a community impact organization and a convener for collaborative action aimed at improving lives and building extraordinary communities.

Adding Value to Your Donation

To achieve long-term, sustainable change we rely on four strategies:

1. Focus on underlying causes and solutions
2. Influence policy, practice and systems
3. Collaborate and coordinate with all community sectors
4. Engage community resources in new and innovative ways

How We Invest Your Funds

All that kids can be

- Supporting early childhood learning and development
- Helping kids succeed and stay in school until graduation

From poverty to possibility

- Meeting basic needs (food, shelter, employment)
- Helping families and individuals achieve income and financial stability

Healthy people, strong communities

- Improving access to social and health-related support services
- Promoting resident and community engagement

DID YOU KNOW?

Next to government, United Way is the largest funder of the voluntary sector and social services in Canada, raising upwards of \$480 million each year to improve the social conditions of Canadians.

All of your donations are invested locally – in your community.

How Investment Decisions Are Made

Members of our **Community Impact Councils** are professionals from non-funded agencies with knowledge of local social conditions and the social services sector.

Members of the Councils, who remain anonymous, review funding applications and make recommendations to the Investment Committee of the Board of Directors. The Board then reviews applications and the Impact Councils' recommendations.

UWCNVI in a Nutshell...



ALL THAT KIDS CAN BE

Children and youth are the future of our community... and active citizens today.

Children and youth need to live and grow in a supportive, inclusive and nurturing environment. They require the resources and opportunities to grow socially and emotionally, and they should feel included in our community.



To become successful, independent adults, children and youth need a good start in life, access to early literacy and development programs, positive school experiences and graduation from high school. They also benefit from recreational activities, mentor relationships with adult role models and opportunities to discover and develop their talents and interests.

Your Community Fund investment = 7,860 lives changed

Central Island – 5,831
Comox Valley – 1,316
Campbell River – 713



- 1,457 children and youth deal with the loss of a loved one or the impact of abuse
- 1,262 children at-risk participate in early years, after school and mentoring programs
- 3,589 kids learn anti-bullying techniques and skills for suicide prevention
- 1,326 teens access programs to promote healthy sexual relationships, and to prevent violence and unplanned pregnancies
- 226 parents and grandparents raising children connect, learn effective parenting skills, and increase their understanding of child and youth development

FROM POVERTY TO POSSIBILITY

Poverty is a far-reaching, complex issue. Once in the cycle of poverty, it is extremely difficult to overcome.

People come to Vancouver Island for the scenery and the quality of life we enjoy. But not everyone benefits.

Many live in poverty, trying to make ends meet with low-paying work or multiple part-time jobs. Many of our communities' most vulnerable are families and individuals who simply can't make ends meet.

United Way is working with community partners to address the roots of economic challenges. The goal is to break the cycle of poverty for future generations while supporting fellow community members who need help now.



Your Community Fund investment = 2,711 lives changed

Central Island – 1,881
Comox Valley – 210
Campbell River – 610

- 1,710 adults and children access emergency or transitional shelter, crisis support, mental health or addictions counselling, and emergency dental services
- 235 families, adults and seniors with low incomes receive regular, healthy meals
- 395 adults with low income improve their reading, financial literacy and parenting skills, or learn how to prepare healthy meals
- 371 adults with physical, emotional or mental health issues recover through recreation programs, encouragement to reconnect in the community, and help finding work and housing



HEALTHY PEOPLE, STRONG COMMUNITIES

Our families and neighbourhoods are two of the most basic units of our lives.

Healthy people and strong communities are characterized by resilience, low incidence of violence, high economic security, connection with neighbours, and high involvement with community affairs.

We are working together to ensure individuals, families, and neighbours have the resources to care for one another and to solve local problems.

United Way invests in programs that increase resiliency and support networks and that connect residents to needed services and the community in general.



Your Community Fund investment = 6,012 lives changed

Central Island – 3,606
Comox Valley – 1,869
Campbell River – 537



- 1,834 people get comfort and support as they deal with caregiving, grieving and dying
- 1,660 men and women recover from abuse, neglect and addictions
- 295 people with brain injuries, special needs or health challenges improve their quality of life
- 491 isolated seniors engage in community activities to combat loneliness
- 940 families receive support and create positive connections in their community