

**be change
make change
see change**



www.uwaykw.org

519-888-6100

info@uwaykw.org

All People are Economically Secure



Income discrepancies impact not only individuals but the entire community. Financial strain can have negative effects on both physical and mental health. Breaking the cycle of poverty for future generations is important to this community. By targeting the root causes of financial difficulties, we may improve economic security for the people of Waterloo Region.

the facts: meeting basic needs

United Way has identified three long term outcomes within this priority: people's basic needs are met, people have affordable and accessible education, training, and learning opportunities, and people have sufficient and stable employment. Through a combination of funds, research, and skilled staff and volunteers, United Way supports local programs and initiatives that focus on breaking the cycle of poverty.

People's basic needs are met

Basic needs such as food and shelter are a key priority for the community. In Canada, 25% of people have reported spending less time, money, and energy maintaining their health. In 2007, approximately 60,000 food hampers were distributed across Waterloo Region, of which 21.3% were allocated to employed residents. United Way invests in food distribution and shelter programs as well as physical and mental health programs for people in need in our community.

People have affordable and accessible education, training, and learning opportunities

Programs that help people develop new skills, create opportunities for themselves, and become self-sufficient are necessary in our community. In Waterloo Region, 27.6% of people aged 20+ years do not have a high school diploma and 57% of adults fall into the two lowest levels of literacy. United Way supports a variety of education-related programs that help people develop new skills, including, language skills training, computer instruction, coping skills training, and personal growth opportunities. Such programs are essential for people to develop the skills necessary to compete in today's workplace.

People have sufficient and stable employment

Steady, reliable employment is a key factor for economic security. In Waterloo Region, 19% of households earn incomes less than \$20,000. Not only do low income earners struggle to meet their basic needs, they often lack job security. United Way supports programs and services that help people develop new job skills and find stable employment. These initiatives include interview coaching, resume writing, and on-the-job training and support.

