

## 2025-2026 Campaign Newsletter

**MEET OUR CAMPAIGN CHAIR:** United Way HKL is pleased to announce that Barbara Doyle is our Campaign Chair for our 2025-2026 Campaign. A message from Barbara:

I grew up in Lindsay, and I have a lifelong love for my community. Over the years, I have volunteered for a number of different organizations and have done a lot of advocacy work in both the political and grassroots levels for the domestic violence sector, for health care, labour, basic income support, and more.

I was one of the co-founders for the Kawartha Lakes Health Coalition and have served on several different Boards of Directors. My education includes the legal field, real estate, and museum studies.

My work with the Kawartha Lakes Museum & Archives, helping it grow while fostering deeper community roots, community collaborations, and partnerships, has helped me to understand my community in a deeper way. Historically, when this county was founded, there was a need for social supports, community members helping community members, just as much as what is needed today.

Having collaborated with the United Way through my work at the museum allowed me to have a great experience working with staff and learning more about the work that the United Way does in our local communities. I spoke with others that I know, who have also been involved, and that encouraged me to take part in this year's campaign.

United Way is a truly local organization. Funds raised here stay here, supporting agencies and programming in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County. Through my role as Campaign Chair, I hope to connect people to the United Way, either as recurring donors, or for the first time. Without the generous support of our donors, it would not be possible to support local projects to improve the well-being of community members.

In the last 40 years, over 10 million dollars has been invested into Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County through funding to agency programs and community projects that target the three pillars that guide the work of United Way: From Poverty to Possibility, All That Kids Can Be, and Healthy People, Strong Communities. I am so proud to be connected with the United Way and will work hard to promote this campaign as much as possible so that we can meet (or exceed!!!) our goals.



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What's in a name?

We've changed our name! United Way for the City of Kawartha Lakes is not United Way Haliburton Kawartha Lakes. While it's only a change of a few words, it's a change that allows us to more fully represent the whole region that we serve.

As an organization that has long provided services and supports in both regions, this change will better reflect both unique communities. Although we are operating under UWHKL, the full transition will take some time. Donations can now be made out to United Way Haliburton Kawartha Lakes.

During this transition, we are committed to continuing to be a voice for our communities, provide resources and supports, and deliver on our mission to build a strong community and improve lives in Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes.



- Kawartha Lakes Campaign Kickoff: - October 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Barder Shop in Lindsay
- Coldest Night of the Year - February 28, 2026 in Lindsay
- Nexicom United Way Curl for Community Funspiel - March 2026





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## Farm News

The rising cost of food means that our food security work through Edwin Binney's Farm and Education Centre is more important than ever. To add to this challenge, we received news in March 2025 that Fleming College would be suspending their Sustainable Agriculture Co-op program. We are approaching this change as an opportunity to seek out new partnerships and funding sources in the community and beyond. The support we have received from the community, who have become farm and farm steering committee volunteers, has been wonderful to see.

The impact of Edwin Binney's Community Farm and Education Centre continues to grow in spite of being faced with two years of crop reduction due to weather events. Last year, the farm produced over 14,000lbs of food. These produce donations to agency food programs were equivalent to over \$41,000 worth of food. Although we produced less in 2024 than we did in 2023, we increased our reach and donated to more locations. Programs for children and youth continue to be a central part of the farm, with groups attending workshops from schools, summer camps, and day cares.



Funded Program spotlight: VCCS Employment Services has created the Food For Work program with funding from United Way HKL's Community Capacity grant. One recipient of the Food For Work cards was a Refugee from Ukraine who arrived in Kawartha Lakes in the early days following the start of the war. Early on, this individual was able to secure housing and provide some stability for themselves. However, their employment situation changed, and they found themselves in a very precarious situation where they were at risk of losing their house and could not afford proper food. Through working with staff at VCCS to secure immediate employment, VCCS was also able to provide a resource for food so that they could commit their limited funds to housing, without having to forgo proper food. Happily, this person secured employment in an environment that fits their needs, and they will be well on their way to ensuring that they can meet their own basic needs.

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## The Impact of Your Donation: Programs Supported in 2024-2025

VCCS Employment Services | Food for Work: Provided grocery gift cards for job seekers who are struggling to put food on the table while they look for work.

A Place Called Home | Drop-In Food Resource Program: Provided grocery cards to households accessing shelter drop-in services. Drop-In Services support individuals at risk of homelessness or those who have recently left the shelter and need further assistance to stabilize their housing.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Kawartha Lakes Haliburton | Mentor Training: Provided Developmental Relationship Training for Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentors.

Community Counselling and Resource Centre | EMDR Training: Provided for a counsellor to be trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy.

Community Living Trent Highlands | CKL Situation Table: Assisted in providing urgent, essential resources to individuals, families or groups at Acutely Elevated Risk to reduce the risk of harmful incidents occurring.

Point In Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents | Coming Full Circle: Dedicated Spaces for People with Lived Experience in Haliburton County: Created a support space for People with Lived and Living Experience where they could feel like they 'fit in', gained comfort, took part in activities, and exposed them to referrals and built-in social supports in palatable ways.

John Howard Society of the Kawarthas | Women's Workshop Series: Provided workshops for women focused on topics such as Literacy and Basic Skills, Harm Reduction, Self Esteem, Self Care, and Healthy Boundaries. The grant provided purchase workshop materials, food, basic need supports and assisted with transportation costs, which can be a major barrier for women in rural communities.



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