



Simcoe Muskoka is known far and wide for its beauty and bounty, but for many who live here, poverty is a daily struggle that goes beyond income. It's at our farmers' markets and beaches, in our city streets and along our rural routes—and it's not somebody else's problem.

Community challenges belong to all of us. We need your help to make local poverty #UNIGNORABLE

IN ITS FIRST THREE YEARS, UWSM'S

Women's Leadership Council grants \$83K to boost local programs

Now entering its third year, the Women's Leadership Council (WLC) offers a hands-on approach to local philanthropy. To date, \$38,000 has been invested in high-impact youth programming across Simcoe Muskoka. Members are now gearing up to award an additional \$45,000 to address issues impacting local girls and women.

Our CEO Dale Biddell will explain what membership means over a coffee—she's buying.
702-726-2301, x2033 / DBiddell@UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca

An interim report: All About Youth — a walk-in counselling program (ages 12-24)

WLC has awarded a grant to John Howard Society of Simcoe Muskoka to expand the delivery of their youth mental-health program from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

\$20K

A one-year expansion grant

6

Months reported

35

Youth served

2

Enhanced services (Barrie & Orillia)

1

New location (Stayner)

➔ See what drives WLC members: UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/womens-leadership-council

POWERING CHANGE

How can we create a lasting difference in our region? By unleashing our local love, one generous act at a time.

AJ was diagnosed with multiple mental-health issues as a child. As a teen, his challenges led to leaving school, work and home, but United Way-funded programs were there to help. Now he's reconnected with his family, thinking about school, and helping other young people.



Your donation powers United Way's critical work in our local communities, allowing us to target funding and mobilize on-the-ground efforts to tackle poverty-related issues where they start. That's how we change lives today, and for years to come.

 Read AJ's story: UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/news



Our 60th anniversary is almost here!

Proud history, exciting future – stay tuned on social!



This is such rewarding work: award-winning youth worker

Tracy Wood, Senior Coordinator of Community Programs
Elizabeth Fry Society of Simcoe County.



By Tracy Wood

I work with youth who are at risk of homelessness and are homeless in Muskoka.

Elizabeth Fry Society has been providing the Muskoka Youth Trustee Program to vulnerable, at-risk Muskoka youth since April 2017. Over the last 18 months, we have assisted 33 youth across the District and it has been a pleasure to work with every one of them.

Providing youth with the support they need to stay enrolled in school and succeed in their educational goals; assisting them in securing employment; and providing interventions to secure them safe,

affordable and stable housing, have been instrumental in their successful transition to adulthood.

Our Muskoka Youth Trustee Program would not exist without the support of United Way Simcoe Muskoka (UWSM). We value their support and partnership in this innovative and critical program for the most vulnerable youth in Muskoka.



Read more:
UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/news

“WORKING TOGETHER”

Teagan, 18, is a Muskoka resident featured in a new documentary now playing on Cogeco TV Muskoka. Wanting to stay in her community after years in foster care, Teagan went it alone. When she realized couch surfing, drug use and cutting class were detrimental to her ambitions, she joined the UWSM-funded Youth Trustee Program where community supports showed her a healthier path to adulthood.



Watch the documentary:
yourtv.tv/muskoka

ELECTION 2018

POVERTY IS BAD FOR THE HEALTH of residents and communities

The votes are in, but the democratic process isn't over. Municipal leaders adopt policies that affect our daily life.

It's everyone's job to keep them informed about the needs and perspectives of ALL their constituents.

Did you know? In Simcoe Muskoka,

- 15% of our children live in low income.
- 3,579 households are on social housing wait lists
- 1 in 8 households are food insecure

Think it doesn't affect you? Think again.

#UNIGNORABLE issues



Get the facts:
<https://bit.ly/2R6rkLV>



4 myths busted about local homeless youth

Click for Q&A:
UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/news



Photo courtesy of Don Wright

This year marked the first time we opened an event with a Land Acknowledgement Statement. It felt awkward...and then, it was awesome.



Read the blog at: UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/news

UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca

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