



## WHAT DOES LOCAL LOVE LOOK LIKE?

### FACES OF IMPACT

These are the people we've been able to help and these are their stories. Real people who have been able to make a change for the better thanks to United Way programs—programs supported by donors like you.

These individuals are our sons and daughters, our coworkers and our friends. Together, we are changing their lives. Local giving. Local results. #LocalLove

### Paving the road from poverty to politics

*"When I'm at the program, they call me the Honourable Rose Tobacco-Olson or Prime Minister Rose. I feel like if I can change one life or inspire one student, then maybe they can inspire ten more."*

That's Rose, a United Way program participant. Growing up, Rose suffered from anxiety and depression, which were only made worse when her family of five became homeless and was forced to split up.

Rose attributes a United Way mentoring program for giving her the confidence and support she needed to pursue her dreams. Now in university, majoring in criminal justice and human rights, Rose has the world in front of her.

The inspiring student, who works as a parent support worker while in school, has aspirations to work with the United Nations or in human rights law, with a focus on Indigenous rights. "And one day," Rose says, "I want to be the first Indigenous female prime minister of Canada."

Thanks to United Way and its partners, that dream doesn't seem so far off.



Rose

➔ Read more at: [UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/meet-rose](https://UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/meet-rose)

Travis



### GIVING BACK TO BREAK THE STIGMA OF HOMELESSNESS

Imagine being only 15 years old when police remove you from a troubled household. With nowhere to go, no home to call your own, you end up spending nights outside when you can't even find a couch to sleep on. Then, with no family and no place to stay, you fall further into homelessness and drug abuse. That was Travis's reality.

*"When I was at my worst, I would walk down the street and people would pretend I wasn't there."*

But Travis decided to make a change. He wanted to get clean, and United Way was there to help. After getting accepted into a transitional program supported by United Way, Travis did everything he could to get off the streets and leave his past behind.

Now Travis is studying computer science in university and works part-time at a local homeless shelter. While he had some negative experiences with shelter staff in his past, Travis is able to connect with those who also suffer from homelessness and gets them to open up.

Now the university student is thinking about doing his master's degree and wants to get more involved with his local shelter system.



Get the facts on youth homelessness: [UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/4-myths-busted](https://UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/4-myths-busted)

## Former United Way recipient pays it forward

"I honestly don't know where my children and I would have been if it hadn't been for United Way. For the longest time, I never understood what the phrase "the working poor" meant. I had always felt that these were people who didn't want to work. After being placed in that situation, I realized that's not always the case."

Ken thought that he was doing everything right. He had a great job, was moving up the corporate ladder and had just welcomed his second child into the world. Then, in what seemed like the blink of an eye, he was a single parent and lost his job during the recession.

Luckily, Ken was introduced to a United Way-funded agency by a friend. The agency helped him feed his children and get clothes for them.

Now, after seeing the impact United Way has first-hand, Ken is a donor. He donates through his pay cheque and lends the services of his mobile entertainment company for United Way events.



Read more:

[UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/meet-ken](https://UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/meet-ken)

## #Unignorable



Over 150,000 children across Ontario rely on charitable services to provide healthy meals each year.

[UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/unignorable](https://UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/unignorable)

## DONOR PROFILE

### Let's help lift people out of poverty

A new member to United Way Simcoe Muskoka's Board of Directors, Deborah Burrows has been donating to UWSM for years. She wants to see the men, women and children in our area lifted out of poverty and knows United Way can help.

See why Deborah is supporting UWSM's 60 Years of #LocalLove!



Read her blog:

[UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/supportingsuccess](https://UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/supportingsuccess)

# GEN NEXT

SIMCOE MUSKOKA



United Way  
Centraide  
Simcoe Muskoka

## IT'S TIME TO GET INVOLVED!

Powered by members in their 20s and 30s, GenNext specializes in social events for social good. We will be hosting events throughout 2019, ranging from speed networking to dodgeball, all in the name of supporting our community.



Want to get involved?

[UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/gennext](https://UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca/gennext)

60 years  
of #LocalLove  
1959-2019



United Way  
Centraide  
Simcoe Muskoka

## Our 60th anniversary is here!

Proud history, exciting future – stay tuned on social!

[UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca](https://UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca)

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