## **TREASURER'S REPORT 2020**

Fiscal 2020 was a year for United Way Simcoe Muskoka (UWSM) to regroup and refocus our financial planning towards our six new Collaborative Projects that will roll out in our communities this fall. We started the year off completing a challenging financial accounting system conversion that has yielded better reporting while allowing more manageable, timely data entry. This enabled the UWSM finance team to provide more up-to-date information to help us navigate the waters ahead.

As UWSM refocused towards a new multi-year funding model, it meant scaling the budget down where possible to meet our goals. Our direct expenses, which included expenses for our Community Impact, were reduced by over \$250,000 in fiscal 2020 while our indirect expenses were reduced by almost \$50,000. These savings will be redirected towards our new funding model beginning this fall.

Although this has been a year for saving, UWSM's presence in the community continued to have an impact. While consulting with our community partners about the new multi-year funded projects, we identified a gap in existing services. The Urgent Needs Fund was piloted to help fill that gap by providing timely, modest grants where community resources had been exhausted. Following the success of this pilot, the Urgent Needs Fund has been continued to address the needs of individuals in low-income households who have been economically impacted by COVID-19. In fiscal 2020, the Urgent Needs Fund put \$60,000 back into our communities.

As much as we were successful in operating on a reduced budget, we were also successful in continuing our efforts for donor diversification. With workplace campaigns on the decline in recent years, our Resource Development team was put to task in discovering new sources of revenues and new ways to attract the next generation of donors. These efforts in fiscal 2020 resulted in an increase of \$75,000 in campaign gifts and \$18,000 in major gifts. Offset by the decline in workplace campaign pledges, UWSM saw a net increase of \$51,000 (3.4%) in campaign revenues.

The increased revenues combined with the decreased direct and indirect expenses resulted in an excess of revenue over expenditures of \$233,000 – an increase of \$260,000 over the previous fiscal year. These are funds which will be reinvested into our communities this fall.

Fiscal 2021 has already created its own challenges as we continue to navigate the new landscape that COVID-19 has brought upon us. We are thankful for government initiatives such as the Emergency Community Support Fund and the New Horizons for Seniors funding which we were able to disburse to community partners almost immediately, as well as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy which has and will continue to assist our organization keep staff employed through the pandemic.

With a new financial accounting system delivering timely reporting, another modest budget in place, and a continued focus on donor diversification and expansion, we are excited for the year ahead. We look forward to the launch of the new Collaborative Projects and the meaningful impact they will have in improving lives and building stronger communities.

Michael Blackburn, CPA, CA

Treasurer

United Way Simcoe Muskoka

<sup>\*</sup>Please note: Financial Statements are audited by Grant Thornton LLP and remain in draft form until approved by United Way Simcoe Muskoka members at the Annual Meeting September 16, 2020. Full financials with notes and schedules may be made available to the public after that time.