

Media Release

United Way Simcoe Muskoka
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 3, 2023

United Way of Simcoe Muskoka to present documentary “Four Feet Up”

When living below the poverty line is living

Midland, ON, October 3, 2023 – United Way Simcoe Muskoka's Real2Reel Film Festival presented by the RBC Foundation is wrapping up its season with a screening of the documentary "Four Feet UP". This moving Canadian made film, which focuses on childhood poverty, will be screening at the Orillia Opera House on October 24, 2023.

"15% of children and youth in our community are living in low-income households," says United Way Chief Executive and Philanthropy Officer Brian Shelley, "It is our hope that this film helps us all to understand how poverty is impacting kids here in our own community."

In this personal documentary, award-winning photographer and filmmaker Nance Ackerman invites us into the lives of a determined family for a profound experience of child poverty in one of the richest countries in the world. Eight-year-old Isaiah is trying hard to grow up healthy, smart and well adjusted despite the odds stacked against him. Isaiah knows he's been categorized as "less fortunate," and his short life has seen more than his share of social workers, food banks and police interventions. His parents struggle to overcome a legacy of stereotypes, abuse and dysfunction. More than anything, they want Isaiah and his siblings to have access to opportunities they never had. Ackerman spent 2 years with Isaiah and his family. As her portrait of the family unfolds with the help of Isaiah's creative input, curiosity and zest for life, so do Ackerman's own feelings about the responsibilities of Canadians to raise all children as our best investment in the nation's future.

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with local advocates and experts from local agencies to open a dialogue and shine a light on this complex local issue.

When: October 24, 2023 – 6:30-9:30pm

Where: Orillia Opera House, 20 Mississauga St W, Orillia, ON

Who: This event is open to the public. Tickets are \$5.00

Tickets: [Four Feet Up ticket purchasing](#)

More Information: <https://uwsimcoemuskoka.ca/four-feet-up/>

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About United Way Simcoe Muskoka

Poverty touches most aspects of a person's life from food, shelter, and employment, to mental and physical well-being. United Way Simcoe Muskoka seeks to improve lives and build communities by leveraging collective resources and mobilizing collective action to achieve the greatest impact. Through services such as the Urgent Needs Fund and by funding critical services throughout our communities, United Way Simcoe Muskoka is ensuring that residents have the resources and assistance they need to unlock their full potential.

Media Inquiries

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