



# 2017 Impact Report

PROVING CHANGE IS POSSIBLE.



**United Way**  
Saskatoon & Area

# 211 Saskatchewan

## COULD HAVE CHANGED DICK STRAYER'S LIFE

*Dick Strayer is in his late 80's; he grew up on a farm and spent most of his career as a professor of engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. As a founding member of the Saskatchewan Council on Aging's Caregiver Information and Support Program, Dick is passionate about providing support and advocating for caregivers.*

This is Dick's story...

In 1975, my late wife Doreen was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Over a 15 year period, she went from having a very slight limp to being totally disabled. As her health deteriorated, my caregiving duties increased.

The first time I sought outside support was when Doreen needed a wheelchair. I went to purchase one at a local store and the sales person said, "Dick, I'd love to sell you a wheelchair but why would you buy one when you can get one for free?"

He then explained how I could access a wheelchair for my wife at no cost to me. Once I was able to track down all the services and fill out all the paper work, I received a wheelchair that same day.

### **This was the first time I had to navigate community supports.**

In the late 1990's Doreen had a stroke. As the nurse was getting ready to transfer Doreen out of bed she said, "How do you transfer her at home?" I replied, "The hard way. The only way I know is to lift her myself."

The nurse replied, "You know you'll ruin your back lifting her yourself and then what's going to happen? You're not going home until we get a lift." She phoned the Saskatchewan Abilities Council who delivered a lift and told me how to set it up.

This is when I got involved with the Saskatoon Council on Aging Caregiver Program.

**Over the next several years I had a lot of opportunities to talk to other caregivers and found out that I wasn't alone; I wasn't the only one who didn't know that these services existed or how to find them.**

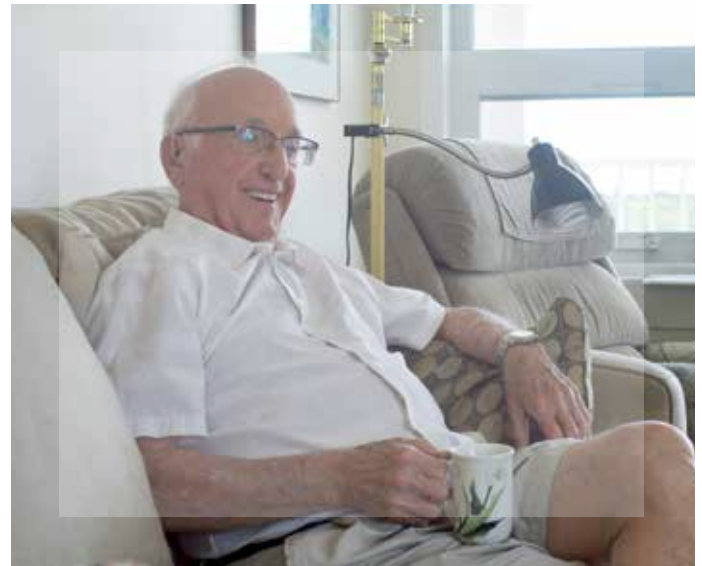
When I heard about 211, I was amazed. There are 5,000 programs and services listed. It would have been a godsend to me or anyone in my same situation to know

that you can easily access information with this service. I can't even describe what a blessing knowing about 211 Saskatchewan would have been to me or any caregiver in the community.

A 211 Saskatchewan phone service would be a real help. There are still a lot of seniors who don't have a computer, don't have access to one, or don't know how to use it if they do.

**To just be able to dial 211 - It would be wonderful.**

There are some people who are still inclined to pick up the phone for information.



A significant barrier for individuals and families to accessing the services they need is the complexity of finding the information they are looking for. Whether it is finding assistance with basic needs such as food, shelter and employment, looking for support for an aging parent, or trying to find childcare, navigating through all of the information out there can be overwhelming, confusing and ultimately a roadblock to finding support. 211 Saskatchewan can help.

Currently, 211 is only available as an on-line tool but that is about to change!

United Way of Saskatoon and Area along with United Way Regina, are pleased to announce our recent joint decision to take 211 Saskatchewan to full implementation by adding the phone line in 2018.

Once the phone line is activated, people across the province will be able to dial 2-1-1 and get help from certified information and referral specialists with their service needs and navigation.

United Way works to change the lives of vulnerable children, youth and their families so they have the means to thrive as strong citizens in our community.

# HELPING KIDS BE ALL THAT THEY CAN BE

Total investment \$998,479

## IMPACT

### Connectedness and community involvement

838 children and youth took part in recreational after school programming giving them a sense of community and physical well-being.

### Emotional and physical well-being

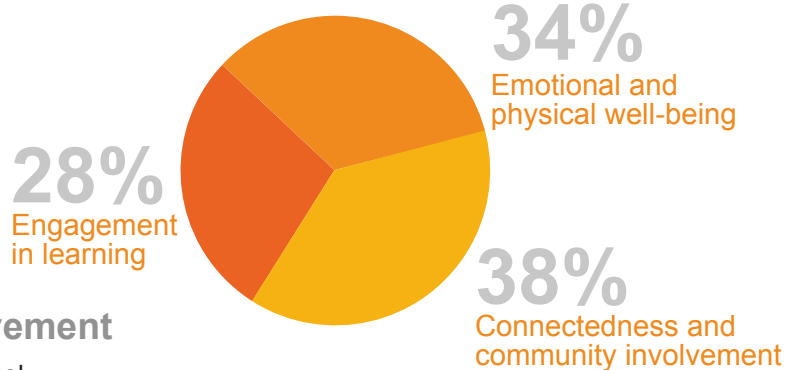
150 children were provided with programming focused on increasing their self-esteem during their stay at a local shelter.

“If it wasn't for this place I don't know what my family would have done, where we could have gone or even where we would be now.”  
- Women's Shelter Client

### Engagement in learning

74 performing arts activities were offered to youth which empowered them to strengthen their cultural identity and build self-confidence.

“This has been an amazing experience that I'll always cherish, a bond I'll never forget, and a crazy beautiful ride I'll always adore.”  
- Performing arts program participant (GTNT)



## SUMMER SUCCESS

In the summer of 2016, United Way, in partnership with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools and Saskatoon Public Schools, launched five Summer Success camps with **54 children**.

In both the literacy and language camps the children were excited to learn. The final testing showed that **92.5% of the students in the literacy camp maintained or improved their pre-program reading skills** and on average the **language camp students overall vocabulary grew by 22 words!**

# In 2016, we invested time, knowledge and financial resources of over \$5.1 million into our community!

\* United Way of Saskatoon and Area received over \$800,000 in designated donations which were distributed to other registered charities.

# MOVING PEOPLE FROM POVERTY TO POSSIBILITY

Total investment \$1,562,527

## IMPACT

### Employment and financial security

220 hours of skills building programming was provided to ex-gang members, helping them to improve their ability to access employment and manage their finances.

100% of these participants demonstrated improved financial literacy skills.

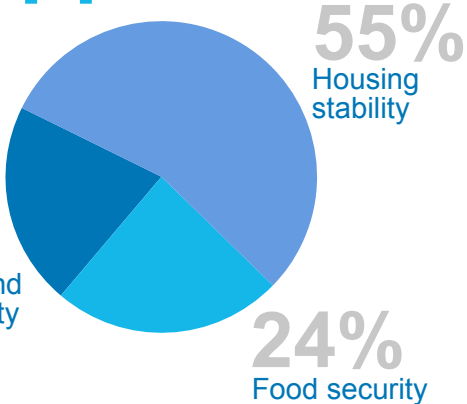
### Housing stability

171 individuals with complex mental health issues were assisted with finding housing and provided with the support needed to maintain their home and well-being.

100% of them experienced improved quality of housing including safety, security and cleanliness.

### Food security

278,670 meals were consumed by families and individual who may have gone without.



“ He is now a family man and understands the need for financial freedom to reduce stress in his life as well as in his family’s. ”  
- Financial Support Worker

“ This place has given me my life back. Every day I come here to my friends and my new family. ”  
- Food Program Client



## JOURNEY HOME

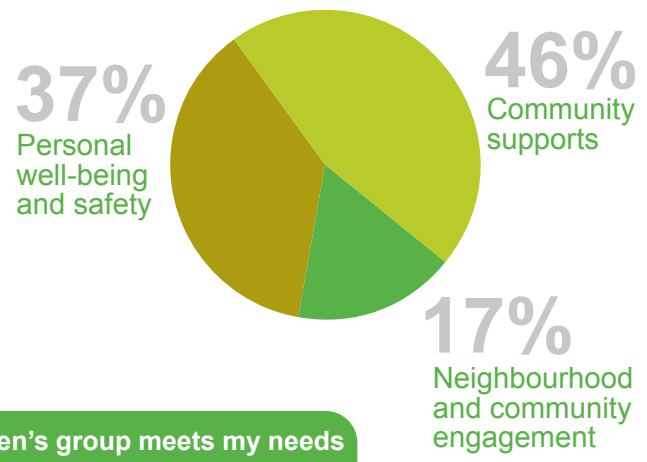
United Way of Saskatoon and Area invested over \$580,000 into Journey Home.

Journey Home is changing lives. As of February 2017, 50 of our city’s most chronically homeless citizens have been given housing and offered supportive services through Journey Home; the majority of whom have been homeless for 3 to 5 years prior. Without a place to call home, these individuals were living rough on the streets, couch surfing, staying in emergency shelters or motels, or in hospitals receiving acute psychiatric care/treatment. With the safety of shelter and support provided by trained and highly skilled social workers, Journey Home participants have been able to better and more appropriately utilize public services.

“For more than 50 years, United Way has been a trusted leader in our community in addressing social issues and making informed community investments that promote long-term well-being and possibility for our most vulnerable.” - Shaun Dyer, United Way of Saskatoon and Area CEO

# BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES

Total investment **\$1,743,389**



## IMPACT

### Connected to supports

**311** individuals with spinal cord injuries were able to access rehabilitation and peer support services, helping them gain back independence and grow new friendships.

“The women’s group meets my needs now. It’s nice to spend time with women in similar situations. I love my friends but they don’t have the same injury or accessibility issues as me.”  
- Peer Group Participant

### Community engagement

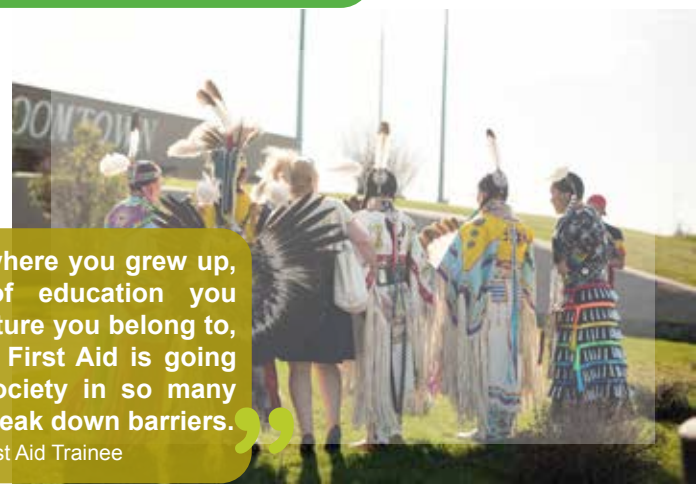
Over **5,180** volunteer hours helped 383 individuals with intellectual disabilities engage in community outings and activities.

### Personal well-being and safety

**457** individuals participated in Mental Health First Aid training.

88% of participants surveyed reported an increased knowledge of signs, symptoms and risk factors of mental illness.

“No matter where you grew up, what level of education you earned, or culture you belong to, Mental Health First Aid is going to improve society in so many ways. It will break down barriers.”  
- Mental Health First Aid Trainee



## 211 SASKATCHEWAN

United Way of Saskatoon and Area invested \$79,041 into 211 Saskatchewan an online service connecting people to community supports in Saskatchewan.

Since 2014, there have been over 210,000 unique visits and searches on [www.sk.211.ca](http://www.sk.211.ca) with the top 3 searches being child/family services, mental health and shelters.

# YOUR IMPACT CHANGES LIVES



## Encourage others

You can ignite change by using your voice, getting informed, and educating your friends, family and co-workers about the growing needs in our community.



## Volunteer

Whether you are passionate about improving social conditions or are new to the community and looking for an opportunity to connect, you can ignite possibility by giving your time and getting involved.



## Donate

By donating to United Way, you move families and individuals out of poverty into healthy and sustainable situations; you create opportunities for participation in community initiatives; and you provide children and youth with the means to become successful young adults. Your support makes everything possible.

100 - 506 25th Street East  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 4A7  
P | 306-975-7700  
F | 306-244-0583  
E | [office@unitedwaysaskatoon.ca](mailto:office@unitedwaysaskatoon.ca)  
[unitedwaysaskatoon.ca](http://unitedwaysaskatoon.ca)



**United Way**  
Saskatoon & Area