

## United Way of Saskatoon and the Government of Canada support Vulnerable Seniors in Saskatoon and Area

United Way of Saskatoon and Area is pleased to announce an investment of \$84,000.00, which was received from the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program. During these unprecedented times, these funds will be distributed to agencies and organizations that will help vulnerable seniors in Saskatoon and area. The New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) provides grants and contributions for projects that help improve the well-being of seniors, fostering their social inclusion. To deliver immediate essential services to seniors impacted by COVID-19, the Government of Canada is providing \$9 million under the NHSP to be distributed through United Way Canada network. These funds will help organizations providing support to seniors dealing with the impact of COVID-19.

"While physical distancing is essential to protecting seniors from COVID-19, it risks isolating them from their community. That is why the Government of Canada is proud to work with United Way Canada to help support the needs of seniors during this difficult time. By using local expertise, this funding will help provide support tailored to the unique, local needs of seniors across the country. As we work together to flatten the curve and slow the spread of the virus, the government is supporting Canadians every step of the way."

- The Honorable Deb Schulte, Minister of Seniors

"We are pleased to announce that the funds received from the Government of Canada's New Horizons Seniors Program are currently being invested in our community. We know that during this unprecedented time seniors in our community, especially those that are already vulnerable, are struggling with social isolation and food security. By working with community partners, we've identified local agencies and organizations that are able to provide supports to seniors in those areas. Together, we can flatten the curve, ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of our communities and its most vulnerable citizens."

- Sheri Benson, CEO, United Way of Saskatoon and Area

The funds will be used to tackle two #UNIGNORABLE issues: Hunger and Social Isolation, two of the most pressing issues affecting seniors in our community. The agencies receiving the funds are CHEP Good Food, Saskatoon Council on Aging, Jubilation Residential Centres Inc, and Central Urban Métis Federation Inc.

First, to respond to the food security needs of Saskatoon elders and seniors in general, CHEP is integrating their food needs into its Good Food Delivery program to distribute food boxes to seniors through no-contact deliveries. A Pay It Forward program is also being put in place to encourage donations to be used to provide food boxes free of charge to individuals and households facing food security challenges. The following amount will be allocated to CHEP Good Food: \$51,800.00.

Second, Saskatoon Council on Aging serves the approximately 80,000 older adults who are 55 and over in Saskatoon and area. SCOA will be a central intake agency to provide senior callers with information referrals and support relating to COVID-19. Callers will be provided information over the phone or directed to the SCOA website which has an extensive list of COVID-19 resources. Seniors experiencing isolation will be connected to friendly volunteers that will act as a “telephone buddy”. To support this work, SCOA will receive \$22,200.00.

Further, each year in Saskatoon Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. provides support for over 200 Métis Elders. Many Elders have a limited knowledge of English, and some speak solely Cree, Dené, or Michif. These funds will assist with supporting staff and volunteer Elders who will reach out to isolated Elders by phone or through video conference, providing social interaction, and helping ensure the health and well-being of Métis Elders in Saskatoon. To support this initiative, Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. will receive \$5,000.00

Finally, dedicated to providing information and advocacy for senior citizens facing challenges, The Prince Albert Seniors Advocacy Centre is an internal program of Jubilation Residential Centres Inc. Funding will assist with the Healthy Food Mini Hamper Program and the Personalized Hygiene Pack Program. Funds will also assist volunteers to come to meetings, and to prepare and deliver mini hampers and hygiene packs. In addition, as some volunteers are seniors on a fixed income, and need assistance with travel, Jubilation Residential Centres Inc. will receive \$5,000.00.

