

# your community your impact

Winter 2018/19



## I'm impressed with you...

### Haldimand & Norfolk You Rock!

I've worked for non-profits before but this is my first experience working with a community-based non-profit and I'm impressed with you. We are a two-woman team here at United Way of Haldimand and Norfolk. Just the two of us but we are not alone because we have you.

People's lives are changed everyday because you gave, volunteered or showed up. I'm impressed with how you rally around us and our sponsored agencies. Individuals who give generously year after year, schools and local businesses who get involved in fundraising and volunteering for a chance to give hope to those in need. You breathe hope into lives who need it most.

I'm impressed with the schools who work hard to create innovative ways to contribute during our campaign. You arranged draws and special events, like the Halloween Dance or Hat Days and a Survivor pool to raise United Way funds. Some of you even pledged to give a portion of your pay cheque each month. These school events are great learning opportunities for students on how important and rewarding it is to give back.

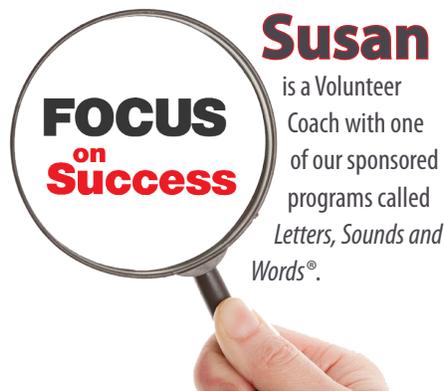
I've seen you, the local business, give of your valuable time to pull weeds, to paint outdoor furniture and put muscles to work tearing down the old to make room for the new. What an amazing bonding experience for your company to work together with staff to do good for others. I'm impressed.

I was privileged to witness a show of support to one of our local agencies when they fell victim to vandalism. I saw you gather on a cold day, during your busy schedule to take time to be there, to show solidarity and to lend a hand to fix what was broken. People helping people. I was impressed.

On a dismal rainy evening you joined a group of people and walked in support of suicide

prevention and awareness. The group was from young to old, in the rain, all wearing your yellow T-shirts. You honked as you drove by as a sign of support. I was impressed.

It's only been a short time since I started here and each week that passes brings new insight. I'm getting to know my community that I love more and more and the people like you behind its success. I'm proud to live here, to work here and to be a part of something so great. Together we can make great things happen! We couldn't do it without you.



"I have always been passionate about supporting children and inspiring them to be all they can be"

For nine years Susan has been working in various schools throughout the district helping children read.

She recalls with pride how one young boy who had only been speaking English for a year was very shy in the beginning but by the third session, he would smile and come running when he saw her at the classroom door. He really benefitted from the program, and by the end of the 10 weeks, he was much more confident.



It was amazing for her to see the impact in a learner's life within such a short time.

"When a child takes the lead in a game like 'Simon Says' or is the caller in 'Alphabet Bingo', they not only practice their literacy skills but also gain confidence and self-esteem. This helps encourage a child to say 'I can' when it comes to learning tasks."

She talks with enthusiasm about the difference she sees in a child within the 10-week program of literacy through fun and games! Susan encourages anyone who enjoys being with young learners to get involved.

"I keep thinking if one more child has the opportunity to be involved in this wonderful program, one more child has a chance to succeed."



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# Change 4 Change campaign

In November 2018 we approached local restaurants to present a new idea called "Change 4 Change". Five local restaurants agreed to partner with us in this campaign.

The Barrel, The Blue Elephant, Kaley's Restaurant, Ferrera, and Dominos Pizza in Simcoe. Naming a menu item of their choice they agreed to donate \$1 from the sale of that item for the month of November to United Way of Haldimand and Norfolk.

This year we were able to raise \$900. We hope to do this again next year, with more local restaurants coming on board. When local businesses get involved, everyone wins.

## Your United Way Dollars at Work

“I'm very grateful for the time and efforts the therapist took

to invest in my situation/crisis. She helped me unpack a lot of trauma and gave me some tools to take into the future. ... she demonstrated a level of insight I'd never experienced before. Thank you for giving me hope and for steering me in a new direction to deal with my trauma. I'm forever grateful”

- Family Services Counselling Program

“One of our matches that had a rough start is now celebrating 5 years together! These two have become inseparable friends doing everything from fishing and hiking to a building a tree fort together. The mentees grades and social attitudes have also improved dramatically. It's stories like this that really accent why we do what we do.”

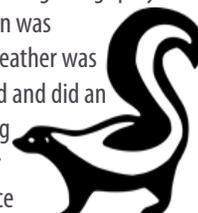
- In School Mentorship Program

## Expect the Unexpected

A group of volunteers from Imperial partnered with United Way to participate in two Day of Caring activities at Union House.

Union House provides residential support services to transitional age youth (16-17 years) from Haldimand and Norfolk Counties. While staying at Union House, youth receive life-skills training and supportive counselling in a safe and nurturing living environment. Individualized programming is created to assist youth in developing the skills necessary for independent living or a return to the family home, and successful integration into the work force.

In the backyard of Union House, there was a very large, old, rotting garden shed. On our first Day of Caring, we safely took down the old shed, discovering that there was a skunk living under the floorboards. Working carefully, we were able to remove the shed and its parts without anyone getting sprayed. On the second Day of Caring, a (skunk-proof) foundation was placed and a new garden shed was built. Though the weather was not in our favour, the volunteers from Imperial persisted and did an excellent job. Thanks to their hard work, the youth living at Union House will now have a safe place to store their bicycles, outdoor sporting goods, and lawn maintenance tools. Thank you to our friends at Imperial!



## Turkstra Lumber Gives Back

I'm not the one to BBQ in our family. My husband is the master at that but this year was a first for me. I stood before a BBQ at Turkstra Lumber and cooked hamburgers, hot dogs and sausages for all who showed up for lunch. Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? Now I don't think my husband is going to give up his role as the master BBQ chef at home just yet but he was impressed with my new skills.

I thoroughly enjoyed every other Friday in the Turkstra parking lot. What a great opportunity to meet community members. The team at Turkstra are amazing.

On top of the biweekly BBQs they hosted in their lot, Turkstra presented us with this cheque for \$800 from their customer appreciation event. We are so grateful for their giving spirit to this community.

Turkstra you rock!

- Judy Tomczak, editor  
UWHN Communications Assistant

