



United Way of Greater Simcoe County

Frequently Asked Questions

What exactly does United Way of Greater Simcoe County do?

United Way of Greater Simcoe County (UWGSC) is a locally controlled charitable organization dedicated to helping build a stronger community by improving lives and providing lasting change. United Way partners with approximately 35 local non-profit agencies to address five impact areas:

- safe, supportive and inclusive communities
- healthy thriving children and youth
- strong, nurturing families
- living with independence and dignity
- reducing the cycles associated with poverty and abuse.

Funding 45 local programs and multiple grant-funded initiatives address these issues.

Why give to United Way?

United Way is the only local charity that does all of the following.

- Identifies and tracks social service needs of the entire community in order to understand the root causes of issues that keep people from succeeding;
- Helps set community-wide social service goals;
- Addresses both long-term and short-term needs;
- Brings organizations together to coordinate services, create efficiencies and develop innovative solutions to issues;
- Provides oversight of agency operations and program results on behalf of donors; and
- Provides essential support for a wide range of local non-profits through workplace fundraising efforts, payroll deduction and grants from organizations outside Allen County.

Who makes decisions for United Way of Greater Simcoe County?

UWGSC is a volunteer-driven organization. Its board of directors is composed of knowledgeable community leaders, all of whom live and/or work in Simcoe County. The board establishes policy and allocates resources to ensure that UWGSC is properly managed. Audited financial statements are available online at unitedwaysimcoecounty.on.ca.

Is United Way of Greater Simcoe County controlled by its national organization, United Way of Canada - Centraide?

No. United Way of Greater Simcoe County is an autonomous local organization. Local volunteers make all funding policies and decisions. The organization receives services from United Way of Canada - Centraide, an organization that assists more than 120 local United Ways with market research information, provides training opportunities, licenses use of the United Way logo, and helps cultivate relationships with major national employers.

Does money UWGSC raise stay in Simcoe County?

After dues are paid to United Way of Canada – Centraide and designations made on behalf of donors, *all the funds raised for Simcoe County stay here.*

Does United Way provide the services it funds?

Generally not, although it does provide training and consulting services which are available to all non-profits in Simcoe County. Our 35 agency partners primarily carry out the services UWGSC funds.

I believe that everyone deserves respect

Who decides how much money goes to each service?

People just like you! Trained volunteers work on Investment Teams, which study community problems and the best ways to address them. The volunteer groups conduct due diligence on the agencies' files and then make recommendations to the Board of Directors. United Way's board of directors makes final funding decisions.



How can I become a volunteer?

People can inquire about openings on United Way's board and committees, assist with Days of Caring or help run a company fundraising campaign. Volunteers are also needed to work with many local agencies. Give us a call and together we will explore your interests.

I don't like feeling pressured to give.

We believe strongly that giving is a personal choice. In fact, we encourage peer solicitation and employee meetings specifically to avoid the possibility of coercion and to give interested individuals the opportunity to be both informed about, and involved in, our mission. Any pressure is contradictory to our operating principles. If you feel pressured to give, we recommend you discuss your discomfort with your campaign coordinator.

I never use United Way-supported services. Why should I give?

Your financial and volunteer support ensures that help is available to people in need. In the end, our community is only strong if we work together to provide all residents with opportunities to build a better life.

I don't live in Simcoe County. Why should I give?

United Way of Greater Simcoe County supports local services, and United Way services are available to people who live **OR** work in Simcoe County. If you like, you can choose to give to a United Way in another community. *But consider this:* some services are not available in smaller communities, so people in those areas depend on accessing them in Simcoe County.

UWGSC funds programs at an agency I don't approve of.

UWGSC's Community Fund supports more than 45 services and initiatives, all judged important by volunteers serving on allocation panels. These programs serve a wide range of human needs, such as emergency shelter, counseling, mentoring and literacy instruction. If you feel strongly about directing your gift, you can designate to services you most want to support. Your gift will be separated from the community allocation process, shrinking the pool of funds available for distribution by the volunteer panels.

If you have additional questions or want to learn more about United Way of Greater Simcoe County, please call our office at 705-726-2301 ex. 26 or e-mail ea@unitedwaysimcoecounty.on.ca.