



INSPIRE * BUILD * CHANGE
United Way of Greater Simcoe County
unitedwaysimcoecounty.on.ca

For Immediate Release

When: **Tuesday June 16, 2009**
Location: **A.N.A.F. Crystal Room, 7 George St., Barrie, ON**
Time: **8:30am – meet and greet; 9:00am to noon – forum and discussion**

Barrie, ON, June 4, 2009 - United Way of Greater Simcoe County in partnership with Simcoe County Child, Youth and Family Services Coalition invites community members to attend a Community Forum: **Ontario Youth Matter!** on Tuesday June 16th 2009 to discuss the impact of the *Roots of Youth Violence Report* in our community.

In the discussion we will be addressing the following topics:

1. What are the most important issues for youth in our community?
2. What changes would we like to see for Ontario youth in the long term? What role might a provincial youth outcomes strategy play in helping to effect those changes, and contribute to improved outcomes for youth?
3. What collaborative actions can we take to improve youth outcomes?

The *Roots of Youth Violence Report*, authored by former cabinet minister Alvin Curling and former Ontario Chief Justice Roy McMurtry, was ordered by Premier Dalton McGuinty following the May 2007 shooting death of 15 year-old Jordan Manners. To view the whole report visit:

<http://www.rootsofyouthviolence.on.ca/english/reports.asp>

The Report calls for the Government of Ontario to create a Youth Outcomes Strategy that will encourage better coordination of programs, services and investments aimed at improving the lives of young people. A Youth Outcomes Strategy will help to ensure that youth in all communities and from all backgrounds in Ontario will have opportunities for growth and development, a supportive community in which to belong, and access to help when they need it. Over 22 MPP signed a letter of support for Ontario Youth Matter, including Minister Matthews - Minister of Children & Youth Services and Minister Wynn, Minister of Education.

Young people and agencies supporting youth are strongly encouraged to attend and lend their voice!

Please RSVP your attendance before June 9th to Darlene Havers, at 726-2301 x 21 or e-mail ea@unitedwaysimcoecounty.on.ca. If you are unable to attend, please send a designate. If financial considerations are an impediment to attending, please contact Cathy Barlow at 726-2301 x 29

Additionally:

- Over 80% of funds donated to United Way of Greater Simcoe County are raised in the workplace, most through payroll deduction programs. More than 150 employers in Simcoe County support their community through United Way.
In 2008 United Way of Greater Simcoe County raised a record amount for local programs and services - \$1,400,000.

For further information please contact:

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News Release