



United Way Centraide

Stormont, Dundas
& Glengarry

SHOW
YOUR
LOCAL
LOVE



LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

In the past week, we have received phone calls from two individuals who, for the first time, had to ask for help. When we asked how we could support them, they said with **anything and everything**. Their work hours had decreased while the cost of living has increased. They've been doing the best they can to weather this storm for months hoping it would get better, but it hasn't.

It's hard to ask for help. No one ever wants to make that call.

These aren't two isolated cases. We've received hundreds of similar calls over the past 18 months from individuals struggling to make ends meet. They need help with bills, rent, food, childcare, mental health, and specialized services for an aging parent.

When we talk about recovery from this pandemic, too often we do so with the hope that one day a magic switch will go off and life will get easier again; opportunities will return, and those who have been pushed to the ground will finally be able to pull themselves back up. We want to be idealists and believe in that dream, but we've been talking about these issues for nearly 80 years. None of this is new or surprising. The pandemic has made them **#UNIGNORABLE**.

So, what do we do?

At the United Way, we're working hard to ensure that the programs we invest in are going to help the thousands of individuals and families facing increased challenges since the start of the pandemic. We chair working groups on poverty, lead discussion tables on housing and homelessness, and collaborate with agencies working to make sure everyone knows how to access mental health resources.

We are investing in 16 local agencies and 19 programs that are offering services such as essential skills training, mental health awareness, counseling, sexual assault support, and youth development.

We can't invest in this work without you. We do believe it can get better, but it will take our community coming together again, as it always does during these challenging times.

Whatever you can give – however you can help – thank you for working with us to support our communities. United we stand together.

Most Sincerely,

Juliette Labossière,
Executive Director

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