

UNITED WAY LAUNCHES NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN YORK REGION

\$400,000 investment will help residents tackle local issues and make the change they want to see in their communities

December 18, 2018 – Today, United Way announces an investment of \$400,000 over two years as it launches two Neighbourhood Development Grants in York Region. These grants mark an expansion of the Building Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy — United Way’s place-based approach to the fight against local poverty in all its forms — into the 905, and a significant increase in neighbourhood investments in York Region. This investment will support two agency-led coalitions to help residents in York Region make the change they want to see in their neighbourhoods.

For the past decade, United Way has worked to close the gaps between neighbourhoods that are doing well and those that are falling behind. In York Region, United Way’s *Strength Investments* provided initial funding for innovative, community-led solutions in municipalities across the region. This new investment builds on that work, and catalyses community networks in a part of the GTA where deepening poverty is being met with a lack of social infrastructure.

The York Region Neighbourhood Development Grants are invested in:

- **Markham, *Building a Better Milliken*.** Agincourt Community Services Association will work with Social Services Network, Ebenezer United Church, Family Services York Region and Centre for Immigrant & Community Services to engage local residents and identify opportunities for partnership and collaboration. Together, these organizations will enable residents to continue problem-solving pressing social issues —such as how to better support newcomers, and other community priorities.
- **Georgina, *A Closer Look*.** Jericho Youth Services, Routes Connecting Communities and the Georgina Food Pantry will work with residents on community-led initiatives that will support people living in poverty, young people struggling to get ahead, and other community priorities impacting people in Georgina.

Quotes:

Daniele Zanotti, President and CEO, United Way Greater Toronto: *We’re so happy to be continuing this resident-led work in York Region. We know that people want to be heard and be part of the change that’s needed, and together with community partners, faith groups and government, we can work to build infrastructure and combat poverty in all its forms.”*

Wayne Emmerson, Chairman and CEO of The Regional Municipality of York: *Together, United Way Greater Toronto and The Regional Municipality of York are working to create strong, caring and safe communities by investing in initiatives that connect residents to their communities and make a positive difference in people’s lives.*

BMO Financial Group.

About United Way: United Way Greater Toronto is dedicated to fighting local poverty in all its forms, working with communities in Peel, Toronto, and York Region. Together with our partners, we create opportunities for a better life for everyone across our region. As the largest non-governmental funder of social services in our region, United Way Greater Toronto mobilizes people and resources to support a network of agencies that help people when and where they need it most. Join United Way's #UprisingofCare and help us build a region where poverty has no power. unitedwaygt.org

Media contact:

Adriana Suppa, Senior Manager, Communications, United Way Greater Toronto
Mobile: 416-274-6004 | Email: asuppa@uwgt.org