

Helping Kids Be All They Can Be

There's an issue

Children and youth are one of our community's greatest assets. But, too many young people are struggling. Poverty, food insecurity, mental illness and lack of early-years supports can have life-long effects on children. Youth are also struggling to connect with their communities, finish high school and find meaningful jobs.

18% of children and youth live in poverty in Peel region, an increase from 14% in 2005.

12% of emergency housing clients in York Region are children under 16.

1 in 4 Canadian children is vulnerable in one or more areas of development—such as communication skills, social competency and language development—prior to entering Grade 1.

29% of Toronto food banks users were under the age of 18 in 2017.

There's a way forward

United Way helps give children and youth the support they need to get a great start in life, do well in school, and reach their full potential. This includes vital early-years supports for kids and their families, and youth engagement and employment programs that set young people up for life-long success and economic security.

\$70 provides nutritious snacks to 100 kids at an after-school program.

\$130 provides three at-risk primary school children with the necessary school supplies to start the year off right.

\$400 provides one week of work experience wages for a young person in an employment program.

\$500 covers the cost of registration and books for two youth returning to high school.

\$1,200 provides 10 families with a three-hour consultation to improve parent-child relationships and find solutions to the educational challenges their child is facing.

But, there are barriers

Depending on where they live, or their family situation, many children and youth can't access the vital services and supports they need to build bright futures. This can have lasting impacts on our community's young people, creating barriers to opportunity and affecting their chances at building a good life.

12% of those using emergency housing in York Region are under the age of 16.

4 in 10 youth have sought mental health services. Almost half were not able to get the help they needed.

21% of those staying in Toronto youth shelters identify as part of the LGBTQ2S community.

- In 2017, the unemployment rate for young people aged 20-24 in Peel was 12.7%, in Toronto was 11.7% and in York Region 10.0%, nearly double the rate of working aged adults as a whole.

That's why your help matters

Your generous support fuels United Way's work in helping children and youth across Peel, Toronto and York Region create a better tomorrow. Together, we are providing them with the support they need to succeed.

\$17M+ is invested in child and youth programming in communities across Peel, Toronto and York Region.

208 programs and services support children and youth at every stage of their development.

165,000+ children and youth are served across our region, putting them on the path to a promising future.