

From Poverty to Possibility

There's an issue

For too many people across our community, poverty is a daily—and difficult—struggle. It forces people and families to make impossible choices like whether to put food on the table or to pay the rent. It touches every aspect of a person's life, making it difficult to get ahead and realize a future full of possibility.

1 in 5 people in Toronto live in poverty. In Peel and York Region, it's 1 in 8.

Roughly 14% of Peel households suffer from food insecurity.

37% of workers in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area between the ages of 25-64 were working in some degree of precarious employment in 2017.

4,812 Torontonians used the emergency shelter system on any given night in May 2017—a 17.5% increase from the previous year.

There's a way forward

With your support, United Way is helping to meet the basic needs of our community's most vulnerable people and families, giving everyone the opportunity to build a better future. This includes providing the essential building blocks of a good life such as food, shelter and employment, while also helping to ensure fewer people are vulnerable in the first place.

\$5 provides one meal to someone who is homeless, giving them refuge in a safe environment.

\$50 provides a frost prevention kit for two homeless people, including a scarf, toque, gloves and pocket warmers.

\$250 provides a healthy lunch for a parent and child for five weeks.

\$600 covers a resumé writing workshop for women living in poverty.

\$1,200 provides important household items to six families, helping them make a life-changing move to secure housing.

But, there are barriers

Poverty isn't just about a paycheque. In fact, it touches almost every aspect of a person's life from food, shelter and employment to mental and physical well-being. It's a social and economic issue that also impacts entire communities—and the people who live there.

In Peel Region, children and youth experienced the largest growth in low-income prevalence, moving from 14.5% in 2005 to 18.1% in 2015.

36% of individuals experiencing homelessness in York Region identified a lack of housing as a contributing factor in 2015.

16% of all people experiencing homelessness in Toronto identify as Indigenous.

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

That's why your help matters

Your gift to United Way Greater Toronto helps give everyone the opportunity to build a better future by providing the foundational building blocks of a good life.

\$12M+ is invested in supporting people living in poverty by providing opportunities they need to build a better life.

195 programs and services are funded, including access to food, emergency shelters and employment counselling.

199,000+ people are served across Peel, Toronto and York Region, helping increase their economic security and overall well-being.