



United Way
Haliburton Kawartha Lakes

hkl.unitedway.ca



United Way Haliburton Kawartha Lakes

**Annual
Campaign
Report for
2025-2026**

Table of Contents

1

Who we are

2-3

Message from
Co-Executive Director

4

Message from Board Chair

5

United Way
Supported Agencies
and Programs

6-10

United Way Events
and Activities

11-12

Edwin Binney's
Community Farm &
Education Centre

13-16

Thank You to our
Supporters!

17-18

Meet the Team



Who We Are



United Way Haliburton Kawartha Lakes provides financial support for agencies and programming in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County.

Through our work we address our 3 Pillars: Poverty to Possibility, All that Kids Can Be and Healthy People, Strong Communities.

MISSION: To build a strong community and improve lives in the regions of Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes.

VISION: Everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential in our community.

VALUES STATEMENT:

In everything we do, we are guided by our core values of trust, integrity, respect, inclusivity, transparency, advocacy, equity and community.

Where to find us

Visit us

55 Mary St. W., Suite 212, Lindsay ON K9V 5Z6

Contact us

705-878-5081

emily@hkl.unitedway.ca

shantal@hkl.unitedway.ca

taryn@hkl.unitedway.ca

katelyn@hkl.unitedway.ca

brooklyn@hkl.unitedway.ca

Connect with us

www.hkl.unitedway.ca

Instagram: @unitedwayhkl

Facebook: @UWHKL

YouTube: @UWHKL

LinkedIn: United Way Haliburton Kawartha Lakes



Message from Shantal Ingram, Co-Executive Director



This year was a year of challenges and change, but also new relationships and opportunities. We started off with the news that Fleming College was ending the Sustainable Agriculture Co-op program. This was a big change for us as we have partnered with the college and this program since the beginning of Edwin Binney's Community Farm and Education Centre. We were fortunate to have one more cohort of Sustainable Ag co-op students, as well as the help of program staff to help us with the transition.

During this campaign we said hello, goodbye and see you soon to several staff. In August, Emily began her maternity leave, and welcomed a baby girl to her family. She will be off until early August 2026. Katelyn Graham joined us part time to cover Emily's maternity leave. We also hired Brooklyn Burdi on a contract through a program at Ampere, and we were lucky to be able to continue to find funding for this position. One of our Board Directors, Mike Giese joined us from September to December through the Ontario Public Service Campaign Representative Program. Mike helped us with the organization of several events, including Kickoffs in Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton, an online auction and provided support for Brooklyn when she took the lead in organizing Holiday Trivia, her first event. In January, our Farm Coordinator E Kelly moved on to new endeavours and we began a search for a new Farm Manager. We hired Raechel Woodrow for the position at the end of the 2025-2026 campaign.

We were excited to co-host a volunteer fair in Lindsay in the fall, bringing together 13 organizations to share volunteer opportunities with the public. Over 80 people came out to learn more about ways to volunteer in the community. We plan to hold this event again in 2026, with more community organizations involved.

Our Winter Warmth clothing drive in partnership with John Howard Society and CMHA HKPR was a success, helping individuals who struggle to afford sufficient warm clothing during the cold winter months. Thank you to everyone who donated new or gently used clothing to this initiative.

The Coldest Night of the Year continues to be a popular fundraiser for us, once again raising over \$20,000 for our programs tackling hurt, hunger and homelessness. This is a fun night for staff and board members alike, and we so appreciate all of the community members and businesses who enter teams in this event and fundraise with such enthusiasm to support their neighbours. While we don't want to rush the year away, we are already excited about the 2027 edition of CNOY!

A couple of years ago we partnered with Crayola for a Mystery Box Pop-Up Shop. This event provided low cost boxes full of Crayola products for purchase to people on fixed or limited incomes just in time for the Christmas season. This event was such a success that we ran it again in 2025. In spite of having more boxes available, we still sold out by noon on the last day of the sale. Proceeds went towards our work in the community and dozens of children had a fun present to open at Christmas.

In November, we partnered with The Barder Shop to put on a Seniors Appreciation Potluck at 19 Hamilton Street in Lindsay. Twenty-three businesses contributed to the success of this event and were thrilled to be a part of this opportunity to show appreciation to some of the seniors in our community.

One of the most rewarding experiences for staff this year was to attend the launch of the Coming Full Circle Program in Haliburton. This endeavour is a joint program with Point in Time and CMHA that provides individuals experiencing mental health and substance use struggles with counselling from peers with lived experience. United Way's Community Capacity grant helped Point in Time launch this program, and they were able to leverage that funding to obtain a federal government grant to expand the program.

In early 2026 we started the process of moving to a new office location, across the street from our current office. This space will better suit our needs as an organization. We look forward to getting established in our new space and seeing what new opportunities the coming campaign will bring.

Thank you to everyone who donates their time, talents and funds to help us continue to provide valuable programs and support in Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton.

Message from Paul Murphy, Board Chair



As the Board Chair of United Way Haliburton Kawartha Lakes, I continue to be incredibly proud of our team and the work we've accomplished together.

This past year has been one of both growth and resilience. We embraced a significant milestone with our name change—from United Way for the City of Kawartha Lakes to United Way Haliburton Kawartha Lakes—better reflecting the full region we serve and our commitment to inclusivity across both communities.

Our team remained steadfast in their dedication, supporting a wide range of local organizations and initiatives. From the continued success of Edwin Binney's Community Farm and Education Centre to the expansion of our outreach through events like Coldest Night of the Year, we've seen both impact and engagement grow. Despite challenges like crop reductions and the suspension of a key educational partnership, our team has responded with creativity and determination—seeking new collaborations and funding opportunities to sustain and evolve our work.

I am continually inspired by the generosity and resilience of our donors, volunteers, partners, and supporters. Your contributions make a real difference in the lives of those we serve. I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to my fellow board members for their unwavering dedication and leadership.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the possibilities that lie before us. With your continued support and our shared commitment to equity and inclusion, I believe we can build an even stronger community—one where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

United Way supported the following agencies and programs:

VCCS Employment Services - Food for Work program

Pinnguaq Foundation (Ampere) - Accessible Community Freezer

Kawartha- Haliburton Children's Foundation - Child Safety Equipment Program

New Canadians Centre - Community Connections Kawartha Lakes

Big Brothers Big Sisters KLH - Local Emergency Needs Fund support for families

John Howard Society - Nourish Together

Central Food Network - Community Volunteer Income Tax Clinic Program

SIRCH - Community Meal Program, Food security support

EarlyON - Food security support

BGC Kawarthas - Food security support

Salvation Army Lindsay - Food security support

Salvation Army Fenelon Falls - Food security support

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (Community Services) - Food security support

Community Care CKL - Food security support

Kawartha Lakes Food Source - Food security support

Kawartha Lakes Housing Corporation - Food security support

Centre of Hope - Food security support

Campaign Kickoff

We kicked off our 2025–2026 fundraising campaign by gathering at The Barder Shop, where people had a chance to connect and learn more about United Way. The Barder Shop also created a signature United Way themed Italian soda for the event, with \$1 from each drink supporting our campaign.

During the kickoff, we heard from Kristal Jones-Craighead, the Community Integrated Care Hub Coordinator at John Howard Society of the Kawarthas, who shared her lived experience and spoke about the real impact of United Way supported programs in our community.



Volunteer Fair

We hosted our first Volunteer Fair at the LEX, bringing together a wide variety of organizations that rely on volunteer support in our community. The event had a strong turnout and sparked many conversations and opportunities for engagement from students to seniors. Due to its success, we are excited to host the fair again next year.

Online Auction

We ran an online auction featuring some amazing items and experiences donated by local businesses. Items included \$1000 voucher to Muse Laser Clinic, Icicle Diamond Earrings from Griffin Jewelry and much more. It raised \$2,130, with plenty of exciting bidding wars right at the end!

Thank you to all the businesses who donated and bidders that helped make the auction such a success in support of our campaign.



Haliburton Campaign Launch

Our Haliburton Campaign Launch was held at the Carnarvon Family Golf Club in August. The event highlighted our funding support in Haliburton County, with local organizations sharing how these programs are making a difference in the community.

United in Warmth Clothing Drive



We hosted our Winter Warmth drive in Lindsay in partnership with the John Howard Society of the Kawarthas and CMHA Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge. As temperatures dropped, these local agencies shared that more individuals were reaching out for winter essentials, with supplies becoming increasingly limited. In response, we collected donated items, which were then distributed through our partner agencies. Throughout the drive, community members generously donated clean, gently used winter clothing and essential items such as jackets, hats, gloves, and scarves to help individuals and families stay warm throughout the colder months.

Alongside the drive day, we also promoted our United in Warmth campaign, where we continued to accept donations throughout the winter season to further support warmth in our community





Coldest Night of the Year

On February 28, we hosted our third Coldest Night of the Year walk in Lindsay. Nearly 100 participants joined us for either the 2 km or 5 km route, raising just over \$20,000. It was wonderful to see the community come together with such enthusiasm and support. A big thank you to our walkers, donors, sponsors, and volunteers who helped make the event possible. We reached 82% of our \$25,000 goal this year and are excited to build on that momentum to hit 100% next year.

We're already looking forward to next year on February 27, 2027!





Seniors Appreciation Day Potluck at 19 Hamilton St.

In collaboration with Andy from The Barder Shop, we helped bring this wonderful idea to life and co-hosted a Seniors Appreciation Potluck to celebrate our seniors after all they have given and done for our communities. Thanks to the help of 25 local businesses that donated food and goods, as well as volunteers, we were able to make this potluck a lasting memory for those who are part of our senior community.

You could tell from the smiles and conversations how much the residents appreciated the food and thought of the event. We are happy to show our seniors that we care.

Together, we served food to residents in the building and provided warm meals on a cold day. Leftovers were also packaged and delivered throughout the building to 60 units, providing extra meals and snacks for everyone.



Edwin Binney's Community Farm and Education Centre

At Edwin Binney's Community Farm and Education Centre, the 2025–2026 year brought change and an opportunity to refocus our work. The loss of support from Fleming College's Sustainable Agriculture Program presented some challenges for the farm, and we've been adapting as we move forward. Despite this, the farm continued to support food security in the community by donating approximately 8,000 pounds of fresh produce, valued at \$19,751.28, to local agencies.

To better serve the community, we also ran our Tuesday Farm Stand, providing low-cost fresh produce to the community. Through this, we raised \$1,672.75 to help support our grants and the farm while making fresh food more accessible.

Education continues to be a key part of what we do. We welcomed summer camps and schools to the farm this year, providing students with hands-on learning experiences and a chance to connect with local food and agriculture in a meaningful way. Connecting people to food and agriculture in a practical, engaging way remains at the heart of our mission.



Edwin Binney's Community Farm and Education Centre

To better understand how we can support food security efforts, we surveyed the agencies receiving produce from the farm. Their feedback highlighted their clients needs, and where we can improve, which will help guide our planning for the upcoming seasons.

We have hired a new Farm Manager to help lead the next phase of the farm's work. We are grateful to have received an Ontario Trillium Foundation Seed Grant to fund interns and enhance educational opportunities at the farm. Through this grant we will partner with Ampere to provide our interns with STEAM training.

While this has been a year of adapting, we are optimistic for the years ahead and looking forward to the upcoming growing season.



We are grateful for the support of local organizations and businesses!



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEREROUS SPONSORS!

Event sponsors help make our fundraising endeavours a success.



✧ Coldest Night of the Year ✧



Mark L. Craighead and Kristal Jones-Craighead

Thank you to the 28 businesses and individuals who helped make the Seniors Appreciation Day Potluck with The Barder Shop a success.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our 2025-2026
Corporate, Foundation and Workplace Donors

Guardian: \$25,000+

Crayola Canada
Otto and Marie Pick Foundation

Innovator: \$10,000 - \$24,999

City of Kawartha Lakes
Province of Ontario

Benefactor: \$5,000 - \$9,999

CIBC
Ontario Lottery and Gaming
Corporation
TD Bank Group

Visionary: \$2,500 - \$4,999

BMO Financial Group
Community Living Trent Highlands
LCBO
Nexicom
PVNC Catholic District School Board
RBC
RBC Foundation
Scotiabank
1 Anonymous Organization

Pillar: \$1,000 - \$2,499

Canada Life
Canadian Tire Minden - In Kind
Enbridge Gas Inc.
Fairstone Financial
IG Wealth Management
Kinsmen Club of Lindsay
Mouvement Desjardins
Ontario Public Service (Retirees)
Peter and Kathy Anderson Family Fund
Woodville & District Lions Club
1 Anonymous Organization

Builder: \$366 - \$999

Burns Bulk Food
General Motors Canada
Government of Canada
John Howard Society of KLH
Ontario Creates
OPP - CKL Detachment
OPP - Haliburton Highlands Detachment
OPSEU Local 352 - Fleming College
Royal Canadian Legion #519 - Coboconk
St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School
United Way HKL
4 Anonymous Organizations

Plus 15 additional corporate, foundation
and workplace donors!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our 2025-2026 Individual Donors

Guardian: \$25,000+

Estate of Joseph Patrick McGee

Benefactor: \$5,000 - \$9,999

Douglas Brenner
Joel Watts

Visionary: \$2,500 - \$4,999

James Watts
2 Anonymous Visionaries

Pillar: \$1,000 - \$2,499

Lorna Jane Abray
Roberta Allen
Jody Clements
Bruce Glass
Estate of Sandra Jack
John Kinghorn
Kristy Lindsay
Amanda Lui
Jerome Morrissey
Paul Murphy
Maja Saletto
Steven Trevisan
Anne Stark
Larry Todd
Mark Wilson
Paul Wylie
1 Anonymous Pillar

Builder: \$366 - \$999

Deanna Allen
Chris Borycheski
David R. Brien
Margaret Cosh
Francis Currer
Scott Currie
Frank Denton
Elaine D'Souza
Danielle Hebert
Robert Hewitt
Mary Hill
James B. Hunter
Shantal Ingram
John & Lynne Irwin
James Lindsay
Mary Kay McGuinness
Sheila O'Connell
Brian & Bernice O'Neill
Audrey Quibell
Sandy & Barry Reynolds
Larry Skelton
Mike Soehner
Kimberly Stainsby
Ron Taylor
Karen White
Sundee Wickline
3 Anonymous Builders

Everyday Hero: \$365

William Cuthburt
John Murray

Plus 190 additional individual donors!

Leadership Donors - \$1,200+

Lorna Jane Abray
Jody Clements
Amanda Lui
Joel Watts

Roberta Allen
Bruce Glass
Paul Murphy
Paul Wylie

Douglas Brenner
Kristy Lindsay
James Watts
1 Anonymous Donor

STUDENT POWER!



Hiralben Bhoi

Fleming College Sustainable Agriculture
Program Co-Op Student



Guru Sundar Saravanan

Fleming College Sustainable Agriculture
Program Co-Op Student



Alyssa Schlieker

Summer Projects Assistant and
High School Co-op Student



Dean Meulemeester

High School Co-op Student

MEET THE UNITED WAY HKL TEAM!



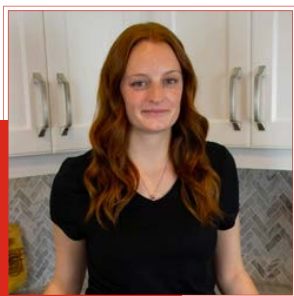
Emily Beall
Co-Executive Director (on leave)



Shantal Ingram
Co-Executive Director



Taryn Zylstra
Bookkeeper



Katelyn Graham
Community Engagement and
Campaign Coordinator - Started
August 2025



Brooklyn Burdi
Community Outreach Assistant -
Started September 2025

E Kelly
Farm and Project Coordinator - until January 2026



Thank you!

