

2026-2027 Campaign Newsletter

MEET OUR CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS: United Way HKL is pleased to announce that the Mabee family, including Jennifer, Chris, Jaxon, Caden, Cavan, and Jayce, are our Campaign Co-Chairs for our 2026-2027 Campaign. A message from the Mabee Family:

"Our family is honoured to step into the role of co-chairs for this year's campaign for United Way Haliburton Kawartha Lakes. Community has always been at the heart of everything we do, and partnering with United Way is a natural extension of those values. United Way supports an incredible network of local agencies, creating a massive, tangible impact where it matters most. Our company IG Wealth Management proudly aligns itself with United Way's mission across the country, making this opportunity deeply meaningful to both our personal and professional lives."

- The Mabee Family



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Local artist Takyah Smith has brought a beautiful mural to life at our new office, reflecting United Way's three pillars: From Poverty to Possibility, All That Kids Can Be, and Healthy People, Strong Communities. The artwork celebrates the community partners, programs, and initiatives we support that are making a lasting impact across Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes.



A huge thank you to Takyah for generously sharing her time and creativity to design and paint this mural. It has brought so much joy and inspiration to our space.

The mural looks even better in person so we encourage you to stop by our new office and check it out!

We're also grateful and would like to thank Kawartha Art Gallery for making this project possible through their generous sponsorship.



Upcoming Events

- Kawartha Lakes Volunteer Fair - October 14, 2026
- Rotary Fest Lindsay (50/50 & Silent Auction) - Oct 18, 2026
- Seniors Appreciation Day - November 14, 2026
- Coldest Night of the Year - February 27, 2027 in Lindsay
- Nexicom United Way Curl for Community Funspiel - March 6th, 2027



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Farm News

This year, we welcomed our new Farm Manager, Raechel Woodrow, to the team! Raechel brings experience in horticulture, urban agriculture, and farm operations, along with a wealth of knowledge and hands-on experience to Edwin Binney's Community Farm and Education Centre.

She is passionate about sustainability, education, and community collaboration, and is excited to support initiatives that strengthen the connection between farming, learning, and our community. We are so glad to have Raechel join our team!

We also received an Ontario Trillium Foundation Seed Grant in collaboration with Ampere, which allowed us to hire interns and provide them with skills training while they worked and learned on the farm. This funding helped provided much needed additional staffing for the season and valuable support for the daily operations of the farm.

Due to several changes this past year, we had a lot of adaptation at the farm, and are looking ahead to next year to prepare for and produce a better harvest season. We are also excited to bring the farm stand back next year at a new location.



Funded Program Spotlight

Every year our women's group, United Women Helping Others, provides a small grant to one organization in our jurisdiction. Last fall, the recipient was Central Food Network's Community Volunteer Income Tax Clinic Program.

The grant supported 15 tax clinics across Haliburton County. These clinics helped 339 individuals file their income taxes, unlocking an incredible \$1,474,045 in tax benefits for local residents. Staff also identified 17 families eligible for OESP hydro credits they were not receiving, helping unlock an additional \$11,076 annually. They also provided information about the Canada Disability Benefit to 72 individuals living with disabilities, a benefit that could provide up to \$2,400 in additional annual income.

Executive Director Tina Jackson shared, "Your generosity through United Women Helping Others had a direct and measurable impact in our community. We hope you take a moment to celebrate that you helped unlock critical income supports across Haliburton County."

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The Impact of Your Donation: Programs Supported in 2025-2026

VCCS Employment Services - Food for Work program: Provided grocery gift cards for job seekers who are struggling to put food on the table while they look for work.

Pinnguaq Foundation (Ampere) - Accessible Community Freezer: Purchased a freezer and building materials for a freezer shed to be located at their Makerspace in downtown Lindsay. The freezer will operate 24/7, allowing community members to take what they need and give what they can, without stigma or barriers.

Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Foundation - Child Safety Equipment Program: Child Safety Equipment Fund: Provided cribs and safety items to low income families involved with Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society who do not have the financial means to purchase these vital child safety items.

New Canadians Centre - Community Connections Kawartha Lakes: Helped newcomers feel at home in their community through social activities, exploring the region, and learning about local resources. This program helps to foster newcomers' sense of belonging and community engagement for the benefit of the whole community.

John Howard Society - Nourish Together: Distributed nutritious, pre-made meals to individuals and families in need in Kawartha Lakes, Minden and Haliburton. The project aims to reduce hunger, support community health, and improve quality of life through consistent access to wholesome, ready-to-eat meals.

Central Food Network - Community Volunteer Income Tax Clinic Program: Provided funding support to help address the financial and access barriers faced by residents of Haliburton County who have low & modest incomes and limited resources. Filing income taxes is essential to accessing government benefits and credits and often acts as a gateway to social programs, including subsidized housing, childcare benefits and government health supports.

Big Brothers Big Sisters KLH: A sole caregiver supporting two youth had been without a reliable vehicle for nearly a year due to an unresolved car repair. Living on a limited income, the family could not afford to fix the issue and were left without a functioning vehicle. This funding went directly toward essential repairs to restore their access to transportation.

The primary caregiver of a family recently lost their job and thus, stable and consistent income. As a result, they struggled to provide food while supporting a child with mental health challenges. These mental challenges also impacted the caregiver's ability to maintain employment. This funding provided grocery gift cards, helping ensure the family had access to food during this time.

SIRCH Community Services - Community Meal Program: This program supports individuals experiencing food insecurity and is a vital resource in the community. This funding helped bridge the gap, ensuring meals could continue without interruption and that individuals maintained access to reliable, nutritious food.



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