



**United Way**  
of Peel Region

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## **United Way of Peel Region funding to strengthen neighbourhoods**

MISSISSAUGA — Several vulnerable neighbourhoods in Mississauga and Brampton have received a boost from United Way to assist them in creating opportunities for residents to work together to make their neighbourhoods stronger. United Way of Peel Region's new Neighbourhood Development Grants, totaling \$100,000, will help reduce isolation and exclusion while strengthening resident-led leadership and helping to revitalize local communities.

"The six projects that we are funding provide an excellent start to United Way's neighbourhood development strategy," says United Way CEO Shelley White. "Our goal is to engage and empower neighbourhoods, communities and key stakeholders in creating high-quality community-based solutions to local issues and challenges."

Funding under this initiative has been directed to several community agencies which will in turn develop and manage the neighbourhood development projects. The following projects have received funding:

**Malton Stewardship Day**, taking place on Saturday April 26 in recognition of Earth Day, will include a tour for local residents of Malton's major trail system, tree planting, and the creation of a canvas mural by event participants with the aid of a local artist. The mural will later be displayed at the Malton Community Centre. United Way is providing \$6,000 to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority for this event, which is expected to increase resident involvement and community pride.

**McHardy Court & Fair Oaks** is a high density neighbourhood in central Brampton. United Way is providing \$18,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Peel to develop projects to build connections and strong relationships among neighbourhood residents. Activities will include communication circles, family movie nights, and a community festival. The project will empower residents to make positive choices for themselves and their community, encourage inclusion and promote education throughout the broader community.

**Acorn Place** is a high density neighbourhood in Mississauga near Hurontario Street and Eglinton Avenue. United Way is providing \$21,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Peel to continue development of a community kitchen and garden, health and wellness activities for isolated seniors with physical limitations, as well as increasing involvement of youth in activities, facilitating parent support groups and a computer literacy program for adults.

**The Brampton Kennedy Road Strip**, north of Steeles and south of Queen Street is a community that is both culturally and economically diverse. United Way is providing the Brampton Neighbourhood Resource Centre with \$15,000 for project activities that build resident leadership and the development of a small community event such as a summer neighbourhood clean-up or a winter celebration to bring people together. Community residents will be empowered and enabled as they take pride and ownership of their community.

In the **Sheridan** apartment complex, which is north of the QEW, near Erin Mills Parkway and adjacent to Sheridan Mall, newcomer families face multiple social, economic and language challenges that make it difficult for them to integrate and connect with the community. There are no traditional recreation facilities in this area other than the library within the mall, which limits the opportunities for families to engage in regular social and recreational neighbourhood activities. United Way is providing \$21,000 to Boys and Girls Club of Peel to assist in the development of activities such as workshops, after-school programs, and community spirit events to engage residents and help them build positive relationships with one another.

**The Malton Community Festival**, taking place this year on July 5 and 6, has been bringing together a diverse combination of residents, associations and community organizations since 1976. United Way is providing \$19,000 to Malton Neighbourhood Services to support the festival. Residents who attend the festival will meet many community organizations, enjoy a free barbecue and live entertainment in a vast multicultural environment where all performances promote unity and diversity.

“The desired outcomes of the six projects are to create connections within neighbourhoods, build relationships between residents and social service providers and empower residents to be leaders in creating a thriving community for all,” said Anita Stellinga, United Way’s Director of Community Investment. “The bottom line is, a neighbourhood that works together is safer, healthier and more productive.”

The mission of United Way of Peel Region is to engage with our community, through partnerships, to ensure people are cared for, connected and included.