



Current Environment

September 2012

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INTRODUCTION

Toronto is still trying to get back on track after one of the worst economic downturns in our history. Recovery has been slow and it's difficult to predict what the future holds. Economic indicators show that many people are still struggling and even more are vulnerable to falling behind.

Our member agencies are telling us that, from what they see on the ground, we still have more work to do before we fully recover. We are faced with concerns about limited employment opportunities and rising cost of living. And in the long term we are looking at growth and concentration of poverty. We need to continue supporting those who are still trying to get back on their feet by investing in the social services they need to change their lives.

But we can't do this alone. It takes everyone to build a strong and vibrant city where we all can thrive.

That is why United Way's Campaign is so important. It provides us with the means to ensure our city gets through this period of uncertainty. To direct investments to our network of about 200 health and social service agencies and help those in need when they need it the most. And support long term strategies that create lasting change — so that future challenges don't take such a heavy toll on individuals, families and communities.

Today, four years after the recession, we still have an uphill battle before everyone is back on their feet. And we need everyone's support to prepare and respond to today's hurdles and tomorrow's obstacles. Every gift matters. Because every gift helps build a stronger, healthier and more prosperous city for us all.

CAMPAIGN KEY MESSAGES

Our economic recovery is fragile

It's been four years since the economic downturn first began to hit our community. We are still facing great uncertainty. It's difficult to predict what's next. Economic indicators show that Ontario has not yet recovered the jobs lost in the recent recession and that Toronto's unemployment rate remains stubbornly high.

Many are still struggling

More and more people are vulnerable because of increasing costs for essential goods, increasing household debt, and rising housing prices. At the same time, wages aren't keeping up with cost of living. Many are feeling like we are still living in a recession.

Need for services is rising

Our member agencies are also telling us that, from what they see on the ground, we still have a long way to go. The number of people turning to United Way agencies for help and support has increased significantly. Many of our agencies are finding it hard to cope with rising demand and limited resources.

United Way provides stability in tough times

Our strategy is simple. To provide stability and support to the social services that people are turning to for help — and build the capacity of frontline agencies to respond to emerging needs over time.

United Way is working for long-term change

We are committed to moving forward with long-term efforts that will broaden economic opportunities, help move people out of poverty, and create lasting changes in those areas of our city most in need of support.

WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET — STATISTICS AND NEWS STORIES

It's been four years since the economic downturn first began to hit our community. We are still facing great uncertainty. It's difficult to predict what's next.

a) We are still at risk of recession.

Although our economy remains relatively strong, Canadians' rising debt loads coupled with global economic challenges could put our economy at risk.

<http://business.financialpost.com/2012/09/06/canadians-debt-loads-could-tip-economy-into-recession-moodys-warns/>

<http://business.financialpost.com/2012/09/06/canada-largely-shielded-from-europe-woes-but-risk-of-global-recession-remains-oecd/>

b) Economic growth is slowing to a crawl.

Figures from Statistics Canada show the economy grew at a 1.9-per-cent annual pace from January through March, much less than the Bank of Canada was expecting, as consumer spending and total domestic demand both grew at the slowest pace since 2009. The Bank of Canada continues to predict GDP growth at a slower pace than before the recession.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/growth/canadas-economic-growth-slows-to-a-crawl/article4224966/>

<http://business.financialpost.com/2012/09/05/bank-of-canada-holds-rates-steady/>

<http://m.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/with-no-rebound-in-sight-theres-never-been-a-slump-like-this/article4528610/?service=mobile>

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/120831/dq120831a-eng.htm>

c) Ontario is falling behind as an equitable province

Ontario has the largest increase in income inequality, the worst record on affordable housing and the poorest funding of public services among all provinces, according to an August 2012 report by the Ontario Common Front. The report notes that Ontario had the largest change in income inequality in the country between 1981 and 2010 and the second largest increase in poverty.

Ontario's poverty rate in 2009 was 13.1 per cent, or almost 1.7 million people.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/ontario-has-greatest-rise-in-rich-poor-gap-in-canada-report/article4508415/>

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/politics/article/1248577--ontario-worst-province-in-terms-of-inequality-poverty-and-funding-for-public-services>

<http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/article/1248847--ontario-is-falling-behind-as-an-equitable-society>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/top-business-stories/why-life-in-ontario-will-be-miserable-for-years-to-come/article2383771/>

<http://www.weareontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/OCF-RPT-FallingBehind-20120829.pdf>

d) Canadians concerned about the fragile economy.

In its 2012 budget, the Ontario government said it expects this challenging economic environment to persist over the foreseeable future. In June, the Conference Board of Canada reported that consumer confidence was down to 64 — a drop of 6.8 points. Before the recession, the main indicator was at 100.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/summer-of-dread-dashes-recovery-hopes/article4398661/?cmpid=rss1>

<http://www.thestar.com/business/article/1157816--canadian-economy-caution-ahead>

<http://business.financialpost.com/2012/06/26/canadians-faith-in-economy-and-job-creation-falls-sharply-survey/>

<http://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=4927>

IT'S TOUGH TO GET A JOB — STATISTICS AND NEWS STORIES

Unemployment numbers have yet to reach pre-recession levels. Employment for youth and newcomers continues to stall. Toronto and Ontario continue to lag behind.

1) WE ARE FALLING BEHIND THE REST OF CANADA

a) Toronto's unemployment rate remains high

In August 2012, Toronto's unemployment rate was at 9.6% — a full 2.3% higher than the national rate and 0.7% higher than in August 2011. This translates into just under 138,000 people who are unemployed and looking for work, which is almost 15,000 more people than last year.

http://www.toronto.ca/telmi/rd_lm_regional.html

b) Ontario has not yet recovered the jobs lost in the recent recession.

In August 2012, Ontario's unemployment rate was at 8% — 0.7% higher than the national rate, 1.5% higher than the province's average 2008 rate and higher than its rate in June 2011. This marked limited progress and growth. In August 2012, Ontario lost 25,000 jobs.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/120907/dq120907a-eng.htm>

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/120810/dq120810a-eng.htm>

<http://www.thestar.com/business/article/1208050--canada-s-jobless-rate-stays-at-7-3-as-7-700-jobs-added-in-may>

<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2012/02/08/scott-stinson-ontario-in-transition-as-cities-boom-but-manufacturing-withers/>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/jobs/anemic-hiring-gains-put-job-seekers-on-notice/article4393985/>

2) WEAK EMPLOYMENT

a) Slow employment growth is the new normal.

It will take another four years for the country's unemployment rate to return to pre-recession levels of 6 per cent, according to the Conference Board of Canada's long-term economic outlook. Several factors will hold back economic growth. Spending will be stymied by softer wage gains, heavy debt and rising interest rates.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/120907/dq120907a-eng.htm>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/economy-lab/daily-mix/slow-growth-the-new-normal-conference-board-says/article2406112/>

http://www.conferenceboard.ca/press/newsrelease/12-04-18/canada_s_labour_markets_to_tighten_after_2016.aspx

b) Canadian hiring outlook weakens.

According to a survey by Manpower, the October to December hiring outlook among Canadian employers is weaker than the previous quarter, with managers in Ontario the most cautious. The news comes as job creation has sputtered over the past four months, held back by a shaky global economy. In Toronto, about 13 per cent of employers plan to hire in the fourth quarter while 9 per cent anticipate cutbacks. The rest expect no staffing changes or remain unsure.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/jobs/hiring-outlook-weakens-as-shaky-economy-scares-off-employers/article4534817/>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/hiring-outlook-falls-to-two-year-low/article4254035/>

c) Unemployment rate is worse than numbers show.

The unemployment rate measures people who are actively seeking work. It doesn't take into account the number of people who have given up or opted to go on social assistance. In March 2012, 159,880 EI beneficiaries in Ontario were competing with unemployed people — about 7.4 % — for 74,000 vacant jobs.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/economy-lab/the-economists/unemployment-is-actually-worse-than-numbers-show/article2325252/>
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/economy-lab/why-unemployed-canadians-may-have-to-move-to-find-work/article4359586/>
<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/on/offices/2012/03-olmb-mar.shtml>

3) YOUTH AND NEWCOMERS IMPACTED

a) Job picture dim for Canada's young.

In June 2012, the unemployment rate for people aged 20 to 24 was 13% and 17.3 % for those aged 17 to 19. Overall, only 63.2% of youth aged 20 to 24 were employed in June 2012. That same month, nearly a million young Canadians were neither employed or in school.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/120706/dq120706a-eng.htm>
<http://www.thestar.com/business/article/1183097--nearly-one-million-young-canadians-not-at-school-or-work-statscan-says?bn=1>
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/economy-lab/jobs-picture-still-dim-for-canadas-young/article4394040/>

b) Unemployment stalling economic growth and development of youth.

According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, when young people can't break into the labour market, the risks range from social unrest to mass migration to a wage gap that can persist for a decade, or even longer.

<http://www.thestar.com/business/article/1224564--youth-unemployment-s-ripple-effect-why-young-workers-fall-behind-for-a-decade-or-more>

c) Employment prospects for newcomers remain poor

In June 2012, the overall national unemployment rate was 7.3%. But the unemployment rate for recent immigrants — those who have been in Canada five years or less — was 12.1%. Immigrant unemployment rates have been consistently higher than Canadian-born rates since 2006 and that gap has continued to widen since the economic downturn started in 2008.

<http://www.yorku.ca/tiedi/lfsarchives.html>

IT'S TOUGH TO GET A JOB — EXAMPLES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

St. Stephen's Community House

- Since the recession, St. Stephen's has seen a 300% increase in older unemployed workers and a 40% increase in the number of unemployed people who aren't eligible for or have exhausted EI. They have also seen a 400% increase in the number of unemployed youth with post-secondary education seeking support.

Times Change Women's Employment Services

- Times Change Women's Employment Services saw an immediate 20% increase in their client base when the recession hit. That number doubled in 2009-2010 — taking them to full capacity. They continue to serve women seeking employment in record numbers, but are finding it challenging to keep up with the demand.

ACCES Employment

- ACCES Employment continues to serve a record number of clients, which has meant stretching the organization's capacity and resources. When the recession began, they helped about 11,700 unemployment people annually. In 2012, they estimate they will serve nearly 16,000.

Skills for change

- When the recession hit, Skills for Change — an agency specializing in employment and newcomer settlement services — was serving just over 10,000 people. In their 2010/2011 fiscal year, they served almost 17,000 people, representing a 68% increase. They continue to serve people in record numbers.

IT'S TOUGH TO GET A JOB — WHY GIVE TO UNITED WAY

We support the agencies that people turn to when they need help finding work

- **The Centre for Information and Community Services** has an Employment Resource Centre that offers job counseling, networking advice, resume writing and job matching
- **WoodGreen Community Services** offers a variety of employment services including one-on-one coaching, workshops, computer training, and access to fax machines, phones and computers

We support services that help people who are most vulnerable to unemployment

- Agencies like **Abrigo Centre** that works to connect newcomers to jobs and job training
- Agencies like **JVS Toronto** that helps youth find employment
- Programs like **Women Moving Forward**, at the **Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre**, help transition people out of social assistance and back into the workplace
- Each United Way Toronto Community Hub offers employment services

IT'S TOUGH TO GET A JOB — HOW UNITED WAY IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Wesley Pietraszek, client at COSTI

2011 Annual Report, page 7

<http://unitedwaytoronto.com/annualreport/makingdifference-poverty-story.php>

Speed mentoring at ACCES Employment

2012 Communications Framework, page 18 and 2011 Toronto Star campaign story

http://wayin/departments/communications/Documents/Key%20Messages/2012/Communications_Framework_k%20+%20C.I_soft_copy.pdf

<http://www.thestar.com/news/article/1108125--aces-employment-helps-skilled-immigrants-find-work>

Employment support for newcomer women at Rexdale Women's Centre

2012 Communications Framework, page 19

http://wayin/departments/communications/Documents/Key%20Messages/2012/Communications_Framework_k%20+%20C.I_soft_copy.pdf

Youth employment services at Flemingdon Neighbourhood Services

2012 Communications Framework, page 15

http://wayin/departments/communications/Documents/Key%20Messages/2012/Communications_Framework_k%20+%20C.I_soft_copy.pdf

Victoria Village Hub

2011 Toronto Star Special Section, page 5

<http://www.thestar.com/news/article/1070225--video-the-hub-at-victoria-park-and-eglinton>

Elizabeth Woods, client at Times Change

2011 Toronto Star Special Section, page 10

<http://www.thestar.com/news/article/1069864--as-times-change-there-s-help-for-women-in-toronto>

Sergio Ro, employee at Friends Catering

2011 Globe and Mail Special Section, page 5

<http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com/downloads/campaign/2011/Getting-to-know-United-Way.pdf>

Beyhan, client at Interval House

2010 Annual Report, page 9

<http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com/downloads/aboutUs/AR2010/2010UWTannualReport.PDF>

IT'S HARDER TO MAKE ENDS MEET — STATISTICS AND NEWS STORIES

The cost of living in Canada —specifically in Toronto — is now greater than ever. And while the cost of basic necessities has increased, wages have not experienced the same growth, particularly for newcomers and youth. The result is a rise in the number of working poor and soaring household debt levels.

1) BASIC NECESSITIES ARE INCREASINGLY EXPENSIVE

a) People are using food banks more because they can't afford groceries.

A report from the Ontario Association of Food Banks said 395,000 Ontarians turned to food banks in March 2011 — 26 per cent above pre-recession levels. Nearly 100,000 were first-time users and one fifth had a job or had recently been employed. More than one tenth were immigrants.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/stretched-food-banks-a-measure-of-canadas-frail-recovery/article2220521/>
<http://www.oafb.ca/publications>

b) The price of basic necessities continues to climb.

The cost of food, shelter, gas and energy has risen steadily since the recession. The consumer price index went up 1.5% from June 2011 to June 2012. Drought conditions this summer have pushed up the cost of food. By August 2012, the cost of wheat was up 37.6 per cent over the month before and global food prices had climbed 6.2 per cent from last year. A new report says inflation may be higher than the consumer price index indicates.

<http://business.financialpost.com/2012/09/12/retirees-most-at-risk-from-understated-inflation/>
<http://www.thestar.com/business/article/1237773--drought-to-push-food-prices-up-3-to-4-rbc>
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/us-dry-spell-hits-the-grill-and-the-plate/article4477883/>
<http://www.thestar.com/business/article/1150776--rising-food-and-gas-prices-pump-inflation-higher-in-february>
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/62-001-x/2012006/part-partie1-eng.htm>
<http://www.thestar.com/living/food/article/1091046--the-case-of-the-shrinking-groceries-where-price-is-the-same-but-you-get-less>

2) COST OF LIVING A GROWING CHALLENGE

a) Toronto is ranked as the most expensive city in Canada.

The new Mercer cost of living survey, measuring costs of over 200 items including housing, transport, food and clothing, put Toronto above Vancouver as Canada's most expensive city.

<http://www.thestar.com/business/article/1213665--toronto-ranked-most-expensive-city-in-canada-but-only-61st-in-the-world>

b) The waiting list for affordable housing in Toronto is growing.

According to the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association, 156,358 households in this province are waiting for affordable housing, an increase of over 20% from 2009. Of those households, 66,460 are in Toronto, up from 49,468 in 2008. The wait time for Toronto families is 76.8 months.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/article/1243828--toronto-social-housing-wait-lists-growing>
<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/1003238--wait-lists-for-affordable-housing-continue-to-grow?bn=1>
http://www.onpha.on.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Waiting_Lists_2011

c) Priority Neighbourhood residents being particularly hard hit

Inner-suburban communities have been particularly hard hit by the growing cost of rent, wage deceleration and rising cost of living. Almost a quarter of people surveyed for Vertical Poverty were forced to choose between paying rent and other necessities every single month.

Ex. In East York, the average annual rent went up by over \$3,500 from 1981 to 2006. During that same period, the average annual income for people in that community decreased by almost \$11,000

d) Canadians facing slow income growth

Median after-tax income for Canadian families of two or more people amounted to \$65,500 in 2010, virtually unchanged from 2009. This was the third consecutive year without significant change in after-tax income.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/120627/dq120627b-eng.htm>

3) THE NUMBER OF WORKING POOR CONTINUES TO GROW

a) Working poor numbers are way up in Toronto.

According to a Metcalf Foundation study, even during times of economic prosperity — from 2000 to 2005 — the number of working people unable to make ends meet grew by 42 per cent in the Toronto area. In 2005, they accounted for 8.2 per cent of the workforce, or 70,700 people. The working poor are more apt to be young or new to Canada.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/article/1129631--metcalfe-foundation-study-working-poor-numbers-way-up-in-toronto>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/globe-to/the-poor-in-toronto-theyre-working-but-not-getting-any-richer/article2334814/>

<http://metcalfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Working-Poor-in-Toronto-Region-Summary-Report.pdf>

b) Quality of Jobs has declined

The quality of jobs created since the recession has declined. Unemployed people are being forced into the lower-paying services sector, self-employment and part-time work. In addition, the largest drop in employment quality was observed in Ontario.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/120628/dq120628a-eng.htm>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/careers/high-paying-jobs-lead-employment-growth-in-first-half-survey/article4411189/>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/globe-to/the-poor-in-toronto-theyre-working-but-not-getting-any-richer/article2334814/>

4) NEWCOMERS, YOUTH AND SENIORS FACING CHALLENGES

a) Immigrants face steep climb to success.

Immigrants make just over 60 cents for every dollar made by Canadian-born workers. This is despite the fact that two-thirds of newcomers have post-secondary education. Nearly half of people who immigrated to Canada from 2001-2006 are overqualified for the jobs they occupy.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/the-poor-in-toronto-theyre-working-but-not-getting-any-richer/article4171459/?page=2>

<http://business.financialpost.com/2012/07/24/immigrants-face-steep-climb-to-success/>

<http://www.yorku.ca/tiedi/pubreports29.html>

b) Young workers experiencing far slower wage growth.

From 1981 to 2011, average hourly wages increased by 17% among men aged 45 to 54, but increased by only 1% among men aged 25 to 34. Hourly wages of women aged 45 to 54 grew by 33%, more than twice the 14% rate observed for younger women.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-626-x/11-626-x2012008-eng.htm>

c) Seniors working longer because they can't afford to retire.

From mid-2009 to January 2012, people 60 or older accounted for about one-third of all net new job gains. Seniors are also experiencing the greatest rate of growth in poverty as a result of the recent downturn. In 2008, the number of seniors living in poverty rose to 250,000 people, an increase of 25 per cent from 204,000 in 2007.

http://www.td.com/document/PDF/economics/special/ff0212_older_workers.pdf

<http://www.thestar.com/business/article/1135742--older-workers-age-60-plus-represent-8-per-cent-of-the-workforce-but-account-for-30-per-cent-of-new-job-gains>

http://www.trilliumfoundation.org/en/knowledgeSharingCentre/resources/aging_population.pdf

5) HIGH DEBT LOADS ARE ON THE RISE

Statistics Canada data shows that the ratio of debt to personal disposable income rose to 152 per cent last quarter, up from 150.6 at the end of 2011. TransUnion also recently reported that average Canadians total debt load excluding mortgages rose to an eight year record of \$26,221.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/debt-growth-slows-but-income-growth-slows-even-more/article4272374/>

<http://www.thestar.com/business/article/1211760--canada-s-household-debt-burden-rises-to-record-high?bn=1>

<http://www.thestar.com/business/article/1245808--canadian-debt-loads-rise-to-highest-level-in-eight-years>

<http://business.financialpost.com/2012/09/06/canadians-debt-loads-could-tip-economy-into-recession-moodys-warns/>

IT'S HARDER TO MAKE ENDS MEET — EXAMPLES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Northwood Neighbourhood Services

- Northwood is stretching its resources to feed whole families who are now coming to their child/parent programs hungry. Over 70% of parents report they rely on this breakfast because they can't afford it.

St. Stephen's Community House

- More and more of St. Stephen's clients are people who are working multiple jobs to support their families and pay the rent. The number of their housing clients in crisis is up 26% since 2008. They have also committed more time and resources to keep twice as many people from being evicted.

Syme-Woolner Neighbourhood and Family Centre

- The face of hunger at Syme-Woolner Neighbourhood and Family Centre is changing. About 80% of their clients were single adult individuals, now over 47% are families. And that number continues to grow. Many of the people accessing their food bank are working but just can't make ends meet.

Sistering

- Sistering has noticed several people who are visiting their agency for the first time this year. Some of them are younger women with mental health issues and some of them are older women who have lost their jobs. Over the last two years, their harm reduction clients have gone from 10 to 100.

IT'S HARDER TO MAKE ENDS MEET — WHY GIVE TO UNITED WAY

We support agencies and programs that help people make ends meet

- Agencies like **Agincourt Community Services Association** and **Braeburn Neighbourhood Place** who run food banks
- Agencies like **Dixon Hall** and **the YWCA** who offer housing to people in vulnerable situations
- Agencies like **Native Child and Family Services** and **Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities** who run clothing banks

We help guide people towards a path of long-term stability

- Through our financial literacy program, we continue to bring financial workshops and one-on-one counseling to people in priority neighbourhoods
- Agencies like **Opportunity for Advancement** that helps to transition young mothers from social assistance to financial independence
- Agencies like **FoodShare** and initiatives like **Action for Neighbourhood Change** improve food security in priority neighbourhoods over the long term

IT'S HARDER TO MAKE ENDS MEET — HOW UNITED WAY IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Syme-Woolner helps working family make ends meet

2011 Toronto Star Campaign Story

<http://www.thestar.com/news/article/1107123--syme-woolner-centre-helps-city-s-most-vulnerable>

Furniture Bank helps refugees furnish their first Canadian apartment

2010 Toronto Star Campaign Story

<http://www.thestar.com/specialsections/unitedway/article/869281--fund-boosts-unique-furniture-bank>

ANC Malvern helps create a children's vegetable garden

2011 Toronto Star campaign story

<http://www.thestar.com/news/article/1059502--children-s-garden-cultivates-veggies-and-friendship>

Good Food Markets in priority neighbourhoods

United Way Toronto website under "In the Community"

<http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com/stories/archiveStories/goodFood.php>

Tammy Clarke, resident of Steeles L'Amoreaux

Community Matters, First issue of 2011, page 4 and 5

Vertical Poverty website <http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com/verticalpoverty/stories/>

Andrew Krupowicz, volunteer with UWT's financial literacy program

2009 Annual Report, page 22

<http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com/downloads/aboutUs/AR2009/2009UWTAnnualReport.PDF>

Maria, financial literacy program participant

United Way Toronto website under "In the Community"

http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com/downloads/campaign/2011/Stories_Maria_v2.pdf

GROWTH AND CONCENTRATION OF POVERTY — STATISTICS AND NEWS STORIES

There are also several long-term trends that continue to put our economy, our sector and our city at risk. For United Way, the most worrying trend is deepening poverty, particularly in the inner-suburbs.

1) Poverty in Toronto is increasingly concentrated.

According to United Way Research (Poverty by Postal Code and Vertical Poverty), poverty in Toronto is increasingly concentrated in the inner-suburbs and in high-rise rental towers. In 1981, less than one fifth of Toronto's low-income families lived in high-poverty neighbourhoods. Today, nearly half of them do. In 1981, one out of every three low-income families in Toronto rented a high-rise unit. In 2006, that number reached 43%.

<http://www.uwgt.org/whatWeDo/reports/povertyByPostalCode.php>

<http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com/verticalpoverty/report/introduction/>

<http://metcalfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Working-Poor-in-Toronto-Region-Summary-Report.pdf>

2) Nearly a quarter of Toronto residents live in poverty.

Recent statistics, prepared by Social Planning Toronto, provide other examples of huge disparities in Canada's largest and richest city. Of the 2,615,060 people living in Toronto, 604,050 — almost a quarter of them — are living in poverty. In fact, Toronto's poverty rates are higher than the provincial and national average. Housing costs are a big driver, with almost 47 per cent of all tenants paying more than 30 per cent of their income on rent. Another 23 per cent pay an astonishing 50 per cent or more on rent.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/article/1209687--nearly-a-quarter-of-toronto-residents-live-in-poverty-james>

Action on poverty profiles: <http://www.socialplanningtoronto.org/news/action-on-poverty-ward-profiles/>

<http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com/downloads/whatWeDo/reports/LosingGround-execSummary.pdf>

3) The middle class in Toronto is disappearing

Toronto's middle-class suburbs of the 1970s have turned into "urban desserts" of growing poverty while the city centre has become a haven for the ultra-rich. The middle class is shrinking. Income inequality is worsening.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/article/1223391--tackling-the-income-gap-in-canadian-cities>

<http://diasporadialogues.com/articles/events/2012/02/08/residents-panel-report.pdf>

GROWTH AND CONCENTRATION OF POVERTY — EXAMPLES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Lack of resident engagement in Bathurst-Finch

- The streets in Bathurst-Finch are not meant for pedestrians, and for many years, residents weren't connected enough with each other to do anything about it.

Social barriers in Kingston-Galloway

- Kingston-Galloway, recently in the news for incidents of gang violence, long-standing social barriers between the students and staff at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus and local residents prevented social cohesion for many years.

Poor housing conditions in Rexdale

- In the high-rise rental towers at Kipling, there are many low income families living in poor housing conditions. These neighbourhoods lack safe spaces for children to play and people to meet.

People and businesses leaving Weston-Mt. Dennis

- When the Kodak plant moved from Weston-Mt. Dennis, people lost good jobs. Many other businesses followed suit.

Lack of services and public infrastructure in Dorset Park

- For many years, Dorset Park has suffered from a lack of community space and services. The need was so great that even while the Dorset Park Community Hub was under construction, it served as a boarding house.

GROWTH AND CONCENTRATION OF POVERTY – WHY GIVE TO UNITED WAY

We're targeting investments where we know they will have the greatest impact:

- Neighbourhoods where we know need is greatest
- Communities that are most vulnerable

We're increasing funding to agencies that work in priority neighbourhoods

- Expanding social services to under-served communities

We're working to address issues that stem from the growing concentration of poverty by:

- Working to renew tower neighbourhoods
- Offering residents the skills, funds and support they need to make their neighbourhoods better
- Partnering to build infrastructure where there was none

We're working with government partners towards systemic change

- *Poverty Reduction Strategy*
- *Ontario Youth Action Plan*

GROWTH AND CONCENTRATION OF POVERTY — HOW UNITED WAY IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Christina Fernandes, ANC Bathurst-Finch

2011 Toronto Star campaign story and 2011 Annual Report

<http://unitedwaytoronto.com/annualreport/rootcauses-community-story.php>

<http://www.thestar.com/news/article/1109327--volunteers-making-their-community-safe-for-pedestrians>

Edward Yu, ANC Kingston-Galloway

2011 Annual Report

<http://unitedwaytoronto.com/annualreport/bringtogether-kids-story.php>

Jamal Senior, ANC and Tower Neighbourhood Renewal, Rexdale

2011 Annual Report

<http://unitedwaytoronto.com/annualreport/rootcauses-poverty-story.php>

Bangladeshi couture, ANC Taylor Massey

2011 Toronto Star Special Section

<http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/article/1069927--shrewd-businesswomen-launch-bangladeshi-couture>

Granville Foger, ANC Rexdale

2011 Globe and Mail Special Section

<http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com/downloads/campaign/2011/Getting-to-know-United-Way.pdf>

Lotherton Neighbourhood Profile

2011 Toronto Star Special Section, page 3

<http://www.thestar.com/specialsections/unitedway/article/1070049--building-pride-and-a-sense-of-place>

Dorset Park Neighbourhood Profile

2011 Toronto Star Special Section, page 9

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/1070279--video-quick-start-projects-forge-connections-in-dorset-park>

Jean Boutot, ANC Weston-Mt. Dennis

2009 Annual Report, page 14

<http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com/downloads/aboutUs/AR2009/2009UWTAnnualReport.PDF>

Agincourt Community Services Association

2010 Annual Report, page 6

<http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com/downloads/aboutUs/AR2010/2010UWTAnnualReport.PDF>

Jamestown Neighbourhood Profile

2010 Honour Roll, page 23

<http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com/supporters/honourRoll.php>

MEETING INCREASED DEMAND FOR SERVICES

In 2012, thanks to the generosity of our donors United Way was able to increase our funding for each member agency by 2%. Because of our donors, member agencies are now better able to meet the rising demand for services in our community.

EXAMPLES OF HOW OUR DONORS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

1) Fostering a sense of community

- **Humber Community Seniors' Services** was able to partner with other community agencies to develop an intergenerational community project. They opened a gardening club which brought hundreds of youth and seniors together to learn how to develop and maintain a community garden. It's been so successful that local schools have also stepped in to help with programming costs.

2) Improving access to services for women

- **Women's Habitat of Etobicoke** was able to improve access to services for clients and participants by expanding their office space. The increased support meant the agency was able to relocate their counselling staff to the upper floor, freeing up space for a second program room which will facilitate multiple groups. It also allowed the agency to build three counselling offices, creating much needed privacy for clients receiving support for sensitive issues.

3) Providing a safe space for people to go

- **Bloor Information and Life Skills Centre** had recently experienced a major funding loss. This timely increase in funding meant the agency could remain in the same building, but in a smaller cost effective unit, ensuring clients have continued access to vital services.

WHAT AGENCIES ARE SAYING

"This is fabulous news and much appreciated. Indeed every dollar makes a huge difference as we try to stretch our resources to meet the every growing need for support. Thank you for your ongoing leadership. Please know that VHA's staff and Board are immensely proud of being a member of the United Way family."

Carol Annett, VHA Home HealthCare

"We certainly could not provide the exceptional services and programs we do without United Way. As a very proud member agency and United Way donors ourselves we are very aware of the work United Way Toronto is doing to insure that agencies like ours have the capacity to reach the most vulnerable members of our society and through our work let them know they have value and that we care what happens to them."

Sharlene Tygesen, Ernestine's Women's Shelter