



Media Advisory

For immediate release – August 13, 2009

United Way disburses nearly \$450,000 to community groups.

St. John's, NL, August 13, 2009 - United Way of Newfoundland and Labrador announced today nearly \$450,000 in funding grants to 36 organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador.

At an event held Wednesday, August 12, United Way volunteers and staff joined together with representatives from the thirty six agencies and Honorable Dave Denine, Minister Responsible for the Volunteer and Non Profit Sector to celebrate the investment in community organizations.

Thanks to the success of the 2008 campaign, United Way's Community Fund is able to invest their largest amount ever to registered charities. The funding is based on an application process, and is allocated based on priorities set by United Way; including strengthening neighbourhoods, children and youth and supporting seniors.

The funding has benefitted many groups, one of which is The Gathering Place. The Gathering Place serves up to 120 people a day who may otherwise be without a hot meal, social interaction, or a welcoming place to visit.

Sister Sharon Basha, Co-Director of The Gathering Place, knows that without the wide support of the community, their work would be impossible. "The Community Fund support we receive at The Gathering Place, and that other Charities in our province have been fortunate to receive, allow us to focus our time on serving our clients. We have been able to upgrade our kitchen facilities, making our volunteer's jobs much easier and less time consuming. We are grateful for the support that the community, through United Way gives to organizations like ours."

RNC Inspector Bill Janes chairs United Way of Newfoundland and Labrador's Community Investment Committee. "The volunteers that meet to review applications for funding are thorough and knowledgeable about the needs of the community. We receive many worthwhile applications and the Committee was pleased this year to have the largest amount in our history to support the programs and services that help those in our province most vulnerable. With these grants, we know United Way has a direct impact on thousands of individuals and that ultimately we can have a role in making our province a truly great place for everyone."

Since 2005, United Way has raised over \$2.5 million dollars through its workplace campaign activities. These funds are raised through individual donations; special events held in workplaces; and corporate donations that match all or a portion of their employee contributions. Donors are given the choice to invest in the United Way Community Fund (which is then distributed to Registered Charities through an annual application process) or to the charity of their choice.

Through partnerships with business, labour and individuals in the community, the 2008 United Way of Newfoundland and Labrador workplace campaign raised over \$750,000 and the Community Fund proceeds have been allocated in support of 42 varying programs and services. These services (listed below) are operated by 36 wide ranging community groups, and are a reflection of United Way's on-going commitment to strategically invest in the province.

Funded Agency	Program Funded	Amount
The Arthritis Society, NL Division	Chronic Pain Management Program	\$12,000
Autism Society of Newfoundland & Labrador	Life Skills Program & Aspire Employment Skills Training Program	\$9,742
Avalon Sledge Hockey Association (Inc)	Hockey Equipment & Ice-Time Fund	\$9,800
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Newfoundland	One Year 100 Men	\$10,000
Bridges to Hope, Inc.	Community Kitchen	\$25,000
Cabot Habitat for Humanity Inc.	2009 Build	\$10,000
Choices For Youth Inc.	Jump Start	\$13,200
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada, NL	Michael J. Howarth GEM Project (research study)	\$5,000
Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Care Foundation NL	Kids with Cancer Travel Fund	\$5,000
Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador	Easter Seals After School Program	\$9,080
	Music & Art Therapy	\$6,000
Family Life Bureau	Individual and Group Counselling Services	\$20,000
Festival 500 Corporation	Festival 500 Massed Youth Choir Project	\$9,999
The Gathering Place Incorporated	Capital Works Project - Hobart Dishwasher	\$9,500
Junior Achievement of NL	Junior Achievement Business Education Programs for Youth	\$5,000
Kids Help Phone	Awareness and Counselling Service Delivery Program	\$10,000
Learning Disabilities Association of NL Inc.	Assistive Technology Training Initiative	\$9,750
The Longside Club	Longside Recreational Program	\$9,500
NL Sexual Assault Crisis and Prevention Centre	Centre on Sexual Violence Capital Campaign	\$15,000
Newfoundland & Labrador Special Olympics Inc.	SONL Young Athlete's Program	\$12,000
Newfoundland and Labrador Lung Association	Smokers Helpline - Workplace Quit & Win Project	\$10,000
Parkinson Society Newfoundland & Labrador	Speech Education Program for the St. John's Metropolitan Area	\$3,312
Planned Parenthood: NL Sexual Health Centre	Volunteer Program	\$9,000

Inc.	Multicultural Sexual Health Program	\$10,000
	LGBTQ Camp	\$9,000
The Pottle Centre	Free Lunch Program	\$5,000
Quidi Vidi/Rennies River Development Foundation	Nature Camp 2009	\$2,400
Rabbittown Community Centre	Health Nuts for Youth	\$10,000
Roots of Empathy	Mentor and Instructor Training for New Areas	\$10,000
Rotary Foundation, St. John's East	Rotary Read-A-Long Program	\$8,000
School Lunch Association, Inc.	Goulds & MacDonald Drive Lunch Program	\$10,000
Seniors Resource Centre Association of NL Inc.	Seniors and Youth Speak out on Elder Abuse, Frauds and Scams	\$9,994
St. John's Native Friendship Centre Association	Suicide Intervention, Detrimental Lifestyles and Wellness Program for Urban Aboriginal Women & Children	\$25,000
St. John's Women's Centre Inc.	Marguerite's Place Capital Campaign	\$25,000
Stella Burry Foundation Inc.	CanDo! Employment Now	\$20,000
Vera Perlin Society	Graphic Artist/Web Designer	\$6,000
	Career Education & Exploration Program	\$7,118
Vibrant Communities (VC) St. John's	YES! (Youth Educational Support) Through the Vibrant Communities - St. John's Initiative EASY-E: Enhancing & Supporting Youth Education	\$9,900
	VON Meals on Wheels	\$5,200
Victorian Order of Nurses, St. John's Branch	VON Palliative Care Volunteer Program (PCVP)	\$9,750
	VON Footcare	\$8,750
YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon	Y Strong Families Campaign - New St. John's Family Y	\$20,000

*The United Way of Canada - Centraide Canada Movement is made up of 118 volunteer-based **United Ways – Centraides** (UWs-Cs) located in ten provinces and two territories and a national organization, **United Way of Canada - Centraide Canada**. Our mission is “to improve lives and build community by engaging individuals and mobilizing collective action”.*

Next to governments, the UW-C Movement is the largest funder of the voluntary sector and social services in Canada. Each year, UWs-Cs raise upwards of \$440 million, the vast majority of which is reinvested in local communities to support programs and services directed at improving the social conditions of Canadians.

During its 2008 campaign, United Way of Avalon raised over \$750,000 which is directed to charities of the donor’s choice and to fund programs and services in our community. The \$450,000 being disbursed on August 12, 2009 is the portion of campaign proceeds allocated directly to the United Way Community Fund. A public call for proposals was issued in Spring 2009 and applications were reviewed by a Committee of volunteers, Chaired by RNC Inspector William Janes.

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