

# Bringing Hope Home



**United Way**

## Nick Lovell Board Chair

It has been my honour and privilege to serve as the Chair of the Board of the United Way of Bruce Grey for the past two years. This experience has been one of the most fulfilling journeys of my life.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of my predecessors, we have focused on growing the organization, building new partnerships and creating new community supports. We are also pleased to be able to continue to support our partner agencies by increasing our allocations each year.

2017 saw the creation of Hope for Our Kids and a renewed partnership with Bruce Grey Child & Family Services. The United Way will now provide emergency support for our most vulnerable children and their families in Bruce-Grey. This new opportunity will allow us to leverage the success of our Backpack Campaign and provide access to emergency food, safety equipment, winter outerwear, camp fees and other required supports when and where they are needed. I believe this new partnership will help us understand the root causes of childhood poverty and set priorities to address them in our community.

Late 2017 also saw the expansion of the United Way's



Hope for Our Kids—Partnership with BGCFS

Bruce Grey United for Newcomers initiative. Spurred by the grassroots efforts of our community to assist new Canadians in their resettlement in Bruce-Grey, Bruce Grey United was established to support community-wide resettlement supports. This initiative has grown from a single donation from Bruce Power into a \$160,000 commitment from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration with a project called “Making Grey Bruce Home”. I believe that this project will help establish a province-wide model for rural settlement services and benefit the entirety of Bruce-Grey.

2017 also saw a renewed commitment from Bruce Power. It has been my pleasure to meet and work with the employees and management. Their support has created a solid foundation for our organization's growth.

I would like to thank the members of the Board of Directors for their support, passion and ideas through these past two years. I would like to thank our Executive Director, Francesca and our staff, Holly, Jill, Susan, Karen and Sandra for the hard work they do.

And, I would like to thank all of our donors, both individuals and organizations, for being so generous



Remax Land Exchange LTD. Hope for Our Kids Donation



Grey Bruce Labour Council Backpack Donation



## Hope for Our Kids

In the spring of 2017, the Bruce Grey Child and Family Services Foundation, commonly known as the Our Kids Bruce Grey Foundation, approached the United Way Bruce Grey to ask if our shared focus on vulnerable people could become the beginning of a new tradition.

There was already a strong partnership between our two organizations. The United Way of Bruce Grey had partnered with Bruce Grey Child and Family Services (BGCFS) for many years, providing funding to the BGCFS Foundation since its inception, and prior to that, to the Children's Aid Societies serving both Bruce and Grey Counties. Together, we helped the most vulnerable



children and their families in our region. We are thrilled to announce that our role in this existing partnership was expanded as the important work accomplished by the BGCFS Foundation will now be achieved under the United Way's leadership.

Donations will help families in Bruce and Grey live in safe places for children to grow up. Donations will also help purchase things like emergency food, cribs, car seats, snowsuits and spots in recreation programs and summer camps, as well as other urgently needed items.

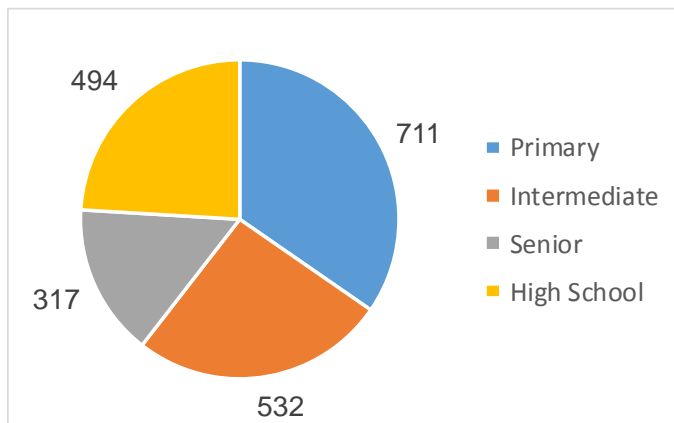
## Backpack Program

Arden Lawson joined the United Way team as our Backpack Student in May of 2017. By Labour Day weekend, Arden and the team of volunteers had assembled and distributed 2054 fully stocked backpacks.

We also celebrated our 20,000 backpack with the Great Backpack Challenge, a timed race to see who could pack a backpack the fastest. Jeff Fluney of the



Arden and Stuart Reid from the Community Foundation



Thanks to a grant from the Grey Bruce Community Foundation, we were able to add toothbrushes to the backpacks. If we are careful with this grant, we can have 3 years worth of toothbrushes for the Backpack Program.

# Restoring hope. Changing lives.

**Together, we are united in helping others and building a strong community where everyone matters.**

## Moving People From Poverty to Possibility



**By** supporting individuals and families living in poverty with programs that help meet basic needs and create opportunities for a better life.

- 6 Community Partner Agencies
- 8 Funded Programs
- 1 Guiding Community Committee

### Focus Area

- Financial Security
- Food Security
- Housing Security

## Building Strong and Inclusive Communities



**By** filling service gaps to ensure every individual and family across our region has the chance to participate and thrive in their community.

- 8 Community Partners Agencies
- 10 Funded Programs
- 1 Guiding Community Committee

### Focus Area

- Connecting to Supports
- Personal Well-being & Safety
- Community Engagement

## Helping Kids Be All They Can Be



**By** ensuring children and youth have the skills and opportunities they need to reach their full potential and become successful adults.

- 6 Community Partner Agencies
- 9 Funded Programs
- 1 Guiding Community Committee

### Focus Area

- Community Involvement
- Emotional & Physical Well-being
- Engagement in Learning

# What You Made Possible in 2017



Free Information Service – 24/7. Call 211 or [www.211ontario.ca](http://www.211ontario.ca).  
Helping people find the right community, social, health and



789 households  
received urgent utility  
assistance.



163 adults & 95 kids  
received monthly  
emergency food supplies.



15,600 healthy meals  
were served to hungry  
adults & children.

## You helped build strong communities



919 individuals in  
financial stress received  
objective advice.



55 women & 17 kids  
received safe shelter after  
experiencing abuse.



62 individuals received  
help from therapeutic  
horseback riding.

## You helped kids reach their full potential



13,300 kids received a  
nutritious meal or snack  
every school day.



2,054 kids received a  
backpack filled with  
school supplies.



30 kids received tutoring  
to improve their reading,  
writing & math skills.

## Francesca Dobbyn Executive Director



**Look at what you've done, what you've accomplished,  
at the change you've made.**

Without our donors, our volunteers and our partners, 2017 would not have been the year it was. We developed a new partnership with Bruce Grey Child and Family Services, which we hope to eventually broaden to the larger community, supporting all vulnerable children in the community.

And to truly prove how stubborn we are, and how much everyone matters, after 10 years of advocacy, we finally got a winter moratorium for electricity customers facing disconnection due to nonpayment.

We welcomed Sandra Holyer to the team, and had a wonderful summer with Backpack Program student Arden Lawson. Though there were difficult and grief stricken moments for our team this year, everyone leaned on each other and drew strength from the Board and the community. On behalf of all those you touched with your care

## The Disconnection Ban

In February of 2017, the Ontario government unanimously passed "The Protection of Vulnerable Energy Customers Act". This gave the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) jurisdiction over when electricity supply can be halted. Two days later the OEB issued

Decision and Order EB-2017-0101 Amending Electricity Distributor Licences to Prohibit the Disconnection of Residential Customers and Related Matters.

This order mandated that the electricity companies can no longer disconnect households for non-payment or install a load limiter and anyone who was disconnected had to be reconnected. The ban was in force until April 30<sup>th</sup>, one month longer than the standard practice for electricity companies that did not disconnect in winter.

After numerous consultations, meetings and advocacy work, the OEB, on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, made the disconnection ban permanent with Decision and Order EB-2017-0318 Amending Electricity Distributor Licences to Prohibit the Disconnection of Residential Customers and Related Matters.

A provincial committee has been established to reform the wholesale electricity market with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO). As it works to reform Ontario's power system, the committee will include the local voice of our own Executive Director, Francesca Dobbyn, as she has been appointed to the membership.

The IESO says it is "delighted" to have Dobbyn on the group, noting she has been "championing the needs of her community" through her role with the local United Way and working with policy makers to find solutions to high

## 2017 Fundraising

## United in Helping Others

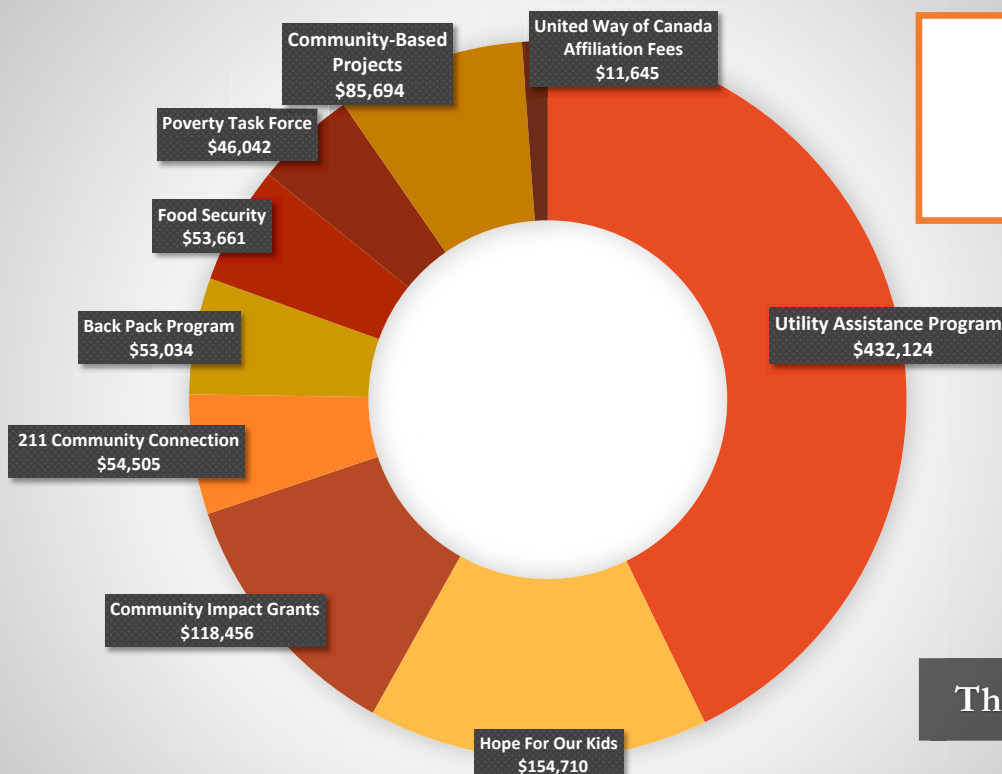
In 2017, **Bruce Power** made a 3-year pledge for the Bruce Power United Way Campaign of \$1.6 million. This allowed the United Way to double its Utility Assistance Program, enhance food security efforts in the region and make long term impact in its planning.

The Bruce Power Campaign, co-chaired by the company, the **Power Workers' Union** and the **Society of United Professionals**, recognized that it was important to provide the United Way an ongoing commitment it could count on to make a significant impact in the community.

2017 Financials	2017	2016
Total Revenue	\$1,161,183	\$766,928
Fundraising Expenditures	\$97,233	\$136,866
Net Revenue for Community Impact	\$1,063,950	\$630,062
Community Impact Expenditures	\$1,021,400	\$711,867
Excess Revenue over expenditures	\$42,550	(\$81,805)
Fund balances at beginning of year	\$111,082	\$192,887
Fund balances at end of year	\$153,632	\$111,082



Mike Rencheck and Francesca Dobbyn  
Bruce Power United Way Campaign Launch



## Community Impact

The cost of fundraising was 8.5%





Thank you for supporting  
your community through  
the United Way.

**Our Mission:** To meet unmet needs in Bruce and Grey Counties by mobilizing volunteer and financial resources in the common cause of caring.

**Our Mandate:** The United Way is an autonomous organization, which builds upon the strength of volunteers and voluntary action by engaging the whole community for the benefit of the whole community.

Governed by a local Board of Directors along with other volunteers and staff, we help to build caring communities and respond to a



Attack "Away Game Goal" Campaign  
in support of the Backpack Program



Trillium Mutual Insurance Company \$10,000 Donation



Bruce United Church Co-Operative  
Curl for Relief Bonspiel Donation



Hobart Food Equipment Partner Agency Trade Show



**United Way**  
**Bruce Grey**

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