Investing for Change

People from across Oxford County participated in our Community Conversations, sharing their aspirations, hopes, the challenges they face, and the barriers that are preventing them from getting the supports needed to reach their full potential. We talked about the genuine need for change – one that is required to support the social fabric of our community – in order to create opportunities.

This change challenges us but also provides the opportunity to focus our efforts and investments. It allows us to move from a responsive role to one with the flexibility needed to address the complex social issues that we see in our community. Leveraging key partnerships, building new relationships and encouraging collaboration is where opportunity exists.

Our community has told us what they need. Local experts have shared their knowledge. Volunteers have guided the process. This combined wealth of expertise provides us with a deeper understanding of not only what matters, but where there is a readiness to see change and where we have the chance to measure collective impact.

We are excited to share the goals and strategies of our new investment framework (effective April 2016) and how we are going to support people as they move from poverty to possibility, help to build strong communities and support children and youth on their path to be all they can be. We encourage you to visit www.unitedwayoxford.ca to learn more about our journey to community impact.

Together, we are possibility!

Thank you,

Cheryl Micacchi
United Way Oxford, Board Member

Kelly Gilson
United Way Oxford, Executive Director
Help Meet Basic Needs

We aspire to provide hope and opportunities for those living with limited income by meeting basic needs in a dignified manner. These basic needs include: nutritious food, stable housing, access to basic health and wellness resources and social, recreational and transit services.

United Way Oxford’s investment strategies will:

- increase access to affordable, healthy, fresh food
- provide supports and options to obtain and maintain affordable, safe and stable housing
- create awareness and the supports to obtain resources for improved health and well-being
- educate the community about the reality of living in poverty

Strengthen Employment Readiness

We aspire to provide access to practical opportunities and life skills development that assist people to obtain meaningful, stable employment leading to financial stability.

United Way Oxford’s investment strategies will:

- increase access to supports that will provide education resources, strengthen employment readiness and relevant life skills
- recognize, reduce and eliminate barriers to obtaining and maintaining a job

By listening to people in our community, we heard that limited income results in having less control over personal options because of the difficult choices that must be made every day. We heard that there is a lack of understanding of what it is like to live in these conditions. There is a stigma, indignity and lack of hope that consumes daily living.
Support Mental Health and Reduce Addictions

We aspire to be a community where all people facing mental health and/or addiction challenges have access to timely, community-based, coordinated and personalized supports and treatments.

United Way Oxford’s investment strategies will:

• ensure timely, client-centered, relationship-based, accessible, and local support services for those struggling with addictions and/or mental health issues

• provide focused efforts towards programs and initiatives that strengthen individuals’ resiliency, self-esteem, sense of belonging, and ability to cope

• educate the community to increase understanding and reduce stigma

Empower People

We aspire to have a community where all citizens feel that they belong and are accepted for who they are.

United Way Oxford’s investment strategies will:

• create safe and inviting places for community members

• equip people with the skills, tools and opportunities to share their experiences and opinions to effectively impact community discussions and decisions

By listening to people in our community, we heard

that there is a desire to live in an engaged community where people have the opportunity to speak and be heard in welcoming spaces. They want a community where there is understanding, acceptance and the desire to reduce stigma and stereotypes for those living with mental illness or addictions. They want local, accessible resources and supports that focus on education, root causes, early interventions and prevention.
All That Kids Can Be

Nurture Children and Youth

We aspire to make resources and supports available to help children thrive as they transition from early childhood to adulthood. The entire community, including parents, neighbours, volunteers and service providers must play a role in helping kids be all that they can be. We need to provide effective, efficient and coordinated services that are local, available and easy to access.

United Way Oxford’s investment strategies will:

• empower children and youth to strengthen their resiliency, self-esteem, sense of belonging, self-regulation and ability to cope with day to day challenges
• leverage children and youth’s education, leadership, mentorship, recreation and social opportunities
• enhance the capacity of parents, service partners and the community to support children through their developmental stages

By listening to people in our community, we heard

that Oxford should be a great place for all kids to grow up. Their healthy development needs to become a civic priority. The entire community needs to ensure that the supports necessary for school readiness and success are available. People want opportunities for youth that match individual interests, allowing them to achieve their social, recreational, education and employment goals.

Together, we are possibility.
Please donate.
“Collective impact brings people together, in a structured way, to achieve social change. Collective impact takes us from common goals to uncommon results.”

— Rich Harwood, The Harwood Institute