

United. Here.



## Welcome to United. Here. – your quarterly newsletter from United Way BC!

We know life can get busy, so we're trying something new. Our newsletters will be shorter but packed with inspiring stories and exciting updates from all corners of the province.

At the end of the newsletter, there's a quick poll to get your feedback on this change. Help us out by letting us know what you think!

In this issue:

- Full provincial amalgamation complete
- Fundraising update
- 211 Day
- Updates from the regions
- Volunteer spotlight

United Way British Columbia acknowledges the homelands of the Indigenous Peoples of this place we now call British Columbia, and honours the many territorial keepers of the Lands on which we work. [Read full territorial acknowledgement](#)

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## Our Collective Impact



More on amalgamation with  
Southern Vancouver Island

### Welcome Southern Vancouver Island

Join us in welcoming our newest United Way BC partners, donors, and supporters from Victoria and Southern Vancouver Island!

As a unified organization, we are in a stronger position to address challenges and make a difference – now in every corner of our province.

## Fundraising for food security

Our annual fall fundraising campaign at workplaces across BC helps drive our impact forward — thanks to the generosity of donors!

Times are tough for many BC residents, so we're continuing the fundraising this Spring to help ensure our neighbours can put food on the table. You can help combat the rising cost of food by donating to United Way BC's Food Security Fund.



[Donate to Food Security today](#)



[Learn more about 211 British Columbia](#)

## 211 lights up the night

If you saw a building lit up with red lights earlier this year, that was probably for 211 Day (Feb. 11)!

211 is a helpline and comprehensive database to help people access social, government, and community services. Last year, more than 50,000 British Columbians reached out for assistance.

Whether it's facing a major life challenge, or needing information for a specific service, 211 Resource Navigators are always ready to listen, understand, and connect callers to the right resources.

## Regional Updates

### Northern BC



[Check out the equipment upgrades](#)

#### Addressing food security in Prince George

The Critical Food Infrastructure Grant (CFIG) is helping communities in Prince George, especially during the harsh winter months.

For Positive Living North, this funding means essential equipment upgrades like a commercial refrigerator, food warmer, and dishwasher.

### Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley

#### DoorDash helps improve access to food hampers

22% of British Columbians lack consistent access to sufficient nutritious food. And for those who lack reliable transportation, our partnership with DoorDash ensures essential food items reach individuals and families in need.



[Learn more about this project](#)

### Central & Northern Vancouver Island



[Meet the people behind the scenes](#)

#### Learning and connection during ride-along

In rural and remote communities on North Vancouver Island, access to fresh food can be limited. Thanks to the Critical Food Infrastructure Grant (CFIG), Loaves & Fishes was able to purchase a refrigerated van and host three full food markets a week.

## Southern Interior

### Emergency food program becomes permanent

The 2023 Bush Creek wildfire displaced many residents, but with support from United Way BC's Wildfire Recovery Fund, the Eagle Valley Community Support Society launched an emergency food program. Today, it is a permanent fixture in the community, helping families recover and rebuild.



[Read more about this program](#)

## Thompson Nicola Cariboo



[Learn about The Mini Storage](#)

### Storage bins help keep belongings safe

The Mini Storage, run by the Aboriginal Friendship Society, offers a unique support service for those experiencing homelessness, providing storage bins for their belongings, along with access to showers, laundry, and essential services. During the coldest months of the year, warm clothing was provided with support from the Cold Weather Emergency Preparedness Grant.

## Southern Vancouver Island

### A legacy of giving

Dulce Eva Gould's life was a testament to the power of generosity, touching countless lives through her work as an educator, mentor, and community volunteer.

Even after her passing at age 100, Dulce's legacy continues through a transformative bequest to United Way, ensuring her spirit of giving will benefit future generations. We would like to wholeheartedly thank and remember Dulce: her lifetime of service has left a legacy of giving.



[Read Dulce's remarkable story](#)

## Spotlight: Volunteerism with iVolunteer



### Volunteering for a better tomorrow

United Way BC's iVolunteer program brings together over 400 agencies and 15,000 volunteers, offering opportunities to contribute to community projects.

Jyothsna, a recent graduate, has been volunteering to support the implementation of Salesforce software at United Way BC.

"It's helping me to gain hands on experience while making a meaningful impact on the community," she shares.

[Read about Jyothsna's volunteer experience](#)

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United Way British Columbia | 4543 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC | V5G 4T4 | Canada

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