



United Way BC: Role and Mandate

- United Way British Columbia raises funds and distributes them to community organizations that deliver programs and services.
- This funding model has been used for nearly 100 years to address issues such as food security, seniors' services, wildfire recovery, and youth programs.
- In line with its charitable funding model, United Way BC does not provide direct financial compensation to individuals. Funds are distributed through charitable programs delivered by community organizations.
- Following the Lapu Lapu Day tragedy, direct financial assistance to individuals was provided through other mechanisms, including government programs, insurance, victim services, and other fundraising initiatives.
- United Way BC focused on supporting community-based services and longer-term recovery efforts intended to address needs not otherwise funded.

The Kapwa Strong Fund

- The Kapwa Strong Fund was established to support medium and long-term recovery following the Lapu Lapu Day tragedy.
- Approximately \$1.5 million was raised through United Way BC.
- An additional \$450,000 was directed by donors to Filipino BC.
- 100% of the funds UWBC raised were distributed to community organizations, with no administrative fees retained.
- Funds were allocated in line with United Way BC's charitable funding model, which delivers support through community-based programs and services.

Use of Funds

Funds were distributed to community organizations providing trauma-informed and culturally grounded services identified as priorities by Filipino community members, cultural leaders, and individuals affected by the tragedy. Supported services included:

- Counselling and mental health supports
- Healing circles and shared storytelling
- Art based and creative therapies
- Youth and family programming

- Navigation and advocacy services
- Other community-based recovery supports

These services operated alongside more traditional supports, including housing assistance, medical and dental services, counselling, and basic needs supports, delivered by agencies and organizations not funded by United Way BC.

Governance and Decision Making

- United Way BC's emergency response and recovery work adheres to sectoral best practices and follows established governance and grant making processes.
- In emergency contexts, United Way BC's role is to fund community-based services that address identified gaps, particularly where needs extend beyond government programs, insurance coverage, or short-term relief efforts.
- Funding decisions for the Kapwa Strong Fund were informed by a structured grant review process that included United Way BC staff and members of Vancouver's Filipino community.
- Input was gathered from community members, cultural leaders, and individuals affected by the tragedy, including through conversations at resiliency centres and through existing community networks.
- Grant applications were assessed based on alignment with the fund's purpose, demonstrated community need, cultural and trauma-informed approaches, feasibility, and reporting requirements.
- As with all grants, organizations receiving funding, organizations receiving funding are required to report on the use of funds and program activities.

Transparency and Public Reporting

- United Way BC has published public reports outlining funds raised, grants distributed, recipient organizations, and types of programs funded.
- United Way BC is committed to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in the design and communication of funding for communities' recovery and resiliency in future emergencies.

