

United. Here.



Welcome to United. Here.

Your quarterly newsletter from United Way BC dives into inspiring stories and exciting updates from across the province, highlighting our work to help those in need.

In this issue:

- Spring fundraising for kids and youth programs
- Big energy at the Big Banks Bus Pull
- Youth Futures Education Fund: 2024-25 Year in Review
- Celebrating 7 years of healthy aging
- Regional Update: Northern BC
- Spotlight: 211 - a vital resource during the connection crisis

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.

Our Collective Impact



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Spring fundraising for kids and youth programs

Join us this Spring as we ramp up our fundraising efforts to support kids and youth in communities across BC. For children ages 6 to 12, having a safe and supportive place to go once the school day ends is essential.

United Way BC's School's Out program helps fill this need by giving kids opportunities to learn, grow, and stay connected during after-school hours and throughout the summer. With more than 100 program sites across the province, these spaces ensure kids have access to healthy food, meaningful friendships and activities that support their overall well-being and development.

[Donate to School's Out](#)

WORKPLACE PARTNER UPDATE

Big energy at the Big Banks Bus Pull

Our partners brought incredible strength and team spirit to the United Way BC Big Banks Bus Pull, proudly hosted by Coast Mountain Bus Company earlier this month. Teams showed up with determination and heart – turning friendly competition into real, measurable community impact.

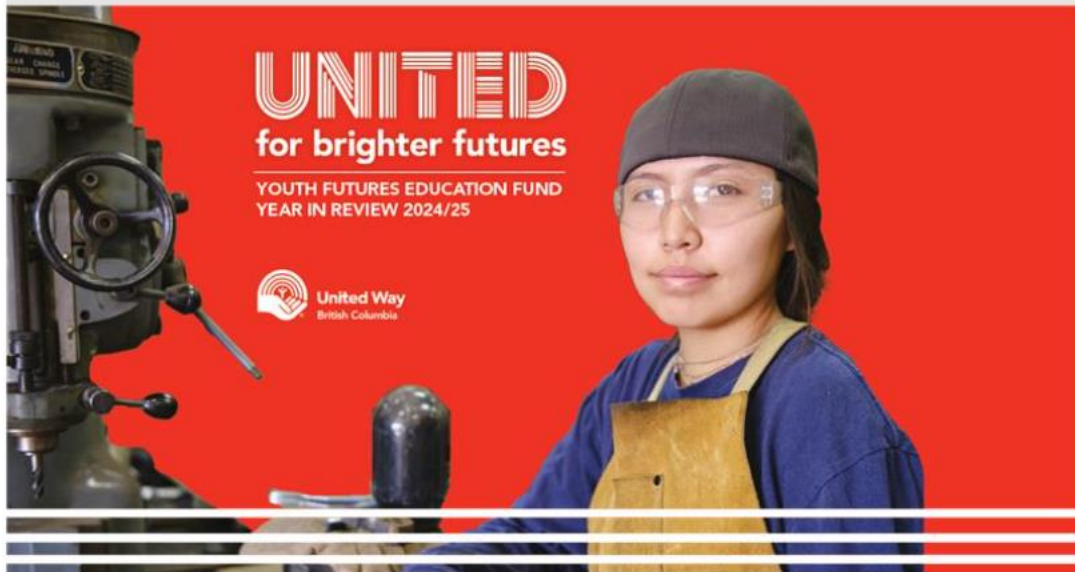
Together, they raised over an amazing \$65,000, helping families, strengthening neighbourhoods, and supporting vital programs in our community. Moments like this remind us why coming together matters: we are stronger when united with purpose and compassion.



A heartfelt thank you to Coast Mountain Bus Company, Unifor Local 111, TransLink, RBC, BMO Financial Group, CIBC, Scotiabank, and TD, for their generous support and for helping drive meaningful change for communities across our province.

YOUTH FUTURES EDUCATION FUND

2024-25 Year in Review



For young adults who have aged out of government care, pursuing higher education represents the promise of stability and a brighter future. But for many, it comes with impossible choices: rent or textbooks, food or focus.

In 2024/25, thanks to the direct generosity of donors like you, \$600,000 supported 663 students so they didn't have to choose. Through the Youth Futures Education Fund (YFEF), they receive essential living support that allows them to start or continue their educational journey with peace of mind.

And the impact is undeniable. Since 2021, graduation rates among students have more than doubled. YFEF is a transformative example of what becomes possible when we remove barriers to education. You can find more details on how your donations are changing futures across British Columbia in the report.

[Read the YFEF report here](#)

SENIORS UPDATE

Celebrating 7 years of healthy aging

As BC's population grows older and more diverse, the need for accessible, community-based supports continues to grow. Every older adult deserves to age with dignity, independence, and a strong sense of connection to their community.

Seven years ago, United Way BC launched Healthy Aging CORE BC, a first-of-its-kind online hub designed to improve services for older adults across the province. CORE BC offers training, webinars, communities of practice, shared learning and practical tools that support older adults to age well.



The journey of CORE BC

Regional Update: Northern BC



Reconnecting seniors to community, one ride at a time

A new 10-seat passenger van is transforming life for seniors in Terrace – reducing isolation, restoring independence, and opening the door to experiences many thought were out of reach. In remote northern communities, where distances are long and isolation hits hard, this support is nothing short of life-changing.

On its inaugural trip through the Nass Valley, senior participant Tom shared how the best part of the trip were the people beside him: “It helped me get to know some more people. It was a very pleasant day.”

Thanks to donors like you, those long stretches of highway are no longer barriers. They’re pathways to medical appointments, social outings, and essential services. Your generosity is helping seniors do more than travel from point A to point B. You’re helping them reconnect with one another, regain confidence, and feel part of their community again.

[Read the full story here](#)

Spotlight: 211

Looking for...



- 🔍 Looking for **Financial Aid**
- 🔍 Looking for **Food Programs**
- 🔍 Looking for **Employment Resources**
- 🔍 Looking for **Disability Supports**
- 🔍 Looking for **Supportive Housing**



A vital resource during the connection crisis

February 11 marked 211 Day – an annual reminder of the essential role 211 plays in helping people navigate life’s challenges.

That need continues to grow. In 2025, housing and homelessness were the top reasons people reached out, followed by income and financial assistance, then mental health supports.

“211 is not just about answering calls — it’s about connecting people to the help they need,” says Kevin Cao, Contact Centre Manager, United Way British Columbia. “In recent months, we’ve averaged nearly three referrals per caller, up from previous years. This growth shows that needs are becoming more complex, and 211 is stepping up to meet them.”

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.

If you or someone you know is struggling, dialing or texting 2-1-1 or using live chat at bc.211.ca connects individuals to a trained Resource Navigator in over 240 languages, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (excluding statutory holidays). You can also search our online database 24/7 at bc.211.ca to find services and supports across the province.

[Learn more about 211](#)

♥ United Way BC Trivia ♥

Through United Way BC’s Youth Futures Education Fund (YFEF), former youth-in-care receive flexible financial assistance to help them pursue post-secondary education. What expense category did students use most of their funds for?

Transportation

Living Expenses

Textbooks

Technology
