

## Helping Kids Be All They Can Be

### There's an issue

Children and youth are one of our country's greatest assets. But, too many young people are struggling. Poverty, food insecurity, mental illness and lack of early-years supports can have life-long effects on children. Youth are also struggling to connect with their communities, finish high school and find meaningful jobs.

**30%** of Canadian youth aged 15-24 report having issues with mental health or substance abuse.

**1 in 4** Canadian children are vulnerable in one or more areas of development—such as communication skills, social competency and language development—prior to entering Grade 1.

**11.5%:** The national unemployment rate for those aged 15-24—almost twice the rate of working-age adults.

### There's a way forward

United Way helps give children and youth the support they need to get a great start in life, do well in school, and reach their full potential. This includes vital early-years supports for kids and their families, and youth engagement and employment programs that set young people up for life-long success and economic security.

**\$70** provides nutritious snacks to 100 kids at an after-school program.

**\$130** provides three at-risk primary school children with the necessary school supplies to start the year off right.

**\$400** provides one week of work experience wages for a young person in an employment program.

**\$500** covers the cost of registration and books for two youth returning to high school.

**\$1,200** provides 10 families with a three-hour consultation to improve parent-child relationships and find solutions to the educational challenges their child is facing.

### But, there are barriers

Depending on where they live, or their family situation, many children and youth can't access the vital services and supports they need to build bright futures. This can have lasting impacts on our country's young people, creating barriers to opportunity and affecting their chances at building a good life.

**17%** of Canadians under 18 were living in a low-income household in 2015.

**Less than 1 in 4** Canadian children and youth in need of mental health support actually receive it.

At least **6,000** young people aged 13-24 are homeless on any given night in Canada.

### That's why your help matters

Your generous support fuels United Way's work in helping children and youth across Canada create a better tomorrow. Together, we are providing them with the support they need to succeed.

**\$103M+** is invested in child and youth programming across Canada.

**2,100+** programs and services support children and youth at every stage of their development.

**1.4M+** kids and youth are served across Canada, putting them on the path to a promising future.