

**be change  
make change  
see change**



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## All Neighbourhoods are Inclusive & Thriving



Increased trust and a high degree of organization are two characteristics of a thriving neighbourhood. Respect and appreciation create a neighbourhood that is not just a place to live, but a true community. Making our neighbourhoods places we are all proud to call home is important to this community. It is critical that we target the root cause of neighbourhood challenges in order to create inclusive and thriving neighbourhoods.

### the facts: making neighbourhoods work

United Way has identified three long term outcomes within this priority: safe and inclusive gathering places, strong and accessible supports and services, and diverse groups are connected and taking action. Through a combination of funds, research, and skilled staff and volunteers, United Way supports local programs and initiatives to help create thriving and inclusive neighbourhoods that people are happy to call home.

#### Safe and inclusive gathering places

Creating safe, inclusive places where all members of a neighbourhood can interact – including adults, youth, children, newcomers, families living in poverty, homeless people, and people with disabilities – increases unity, builds trust, and develops a strong sense of community. These places also provide a means through which training and learning opportunities can be offered and accessed. As a result, social cohesion within neighbourhoods increases.

#### Strong, accessible supports and services

Providing individuals with access to resources and necessary supports within their neighbourhood is a key priority for United Way. It is important to provide services and supports at the neighbourhood level because accessing services can be challenging due to child care or transportation issues. United Way supports and delivers training and learning opportunities at the neighbourhood level, often with transportation subsidies and on-site child care included. It is through these efforts that United Way hopes to increase the accessibility of supports and services throughout Waterloo Region.

#### Diverse groups are connected and taking action

Diversity is something to be embraced and respected in the community. When neighbourhood groups form new partnerships and collectively develop ideas, better solutions are possible. Among Canadians, 77% believe that the greater the diversity, the greater the innovation. Neighbourhoods in Waterloo Region are becoming more and more diverse. This is our chance to accept and welcome each others' differences while working collectively to address local challenges and build stronger neighbourhood communities.

