



Community Connections

Identify • Engage • Deliver
United Way
 OF GUELPH & WELLINGTON

August 2009

United Way Campaign Kicks-Off September 16th

Join us as we kick-off our annual fundraising campaign in support of the 80 local programs funded by United Way. We will unveil our 2009 campaign goal and celebrate the launch of [Immigrant Services Guelph-Wellington's](#) new community development program, Be the Change.

The kick-off will take place Wednesday, September 16, 11:00 am, at Immigrant Services, 926 Paisley Rd., Guelph. Please RSVP before September 11th to Heather Kepran (heatherk@unitedwayguelph.com).

It isn't too late – Join the United Way Campaign

Want to help thousands in your community and have fun too? Start a workplace United Way campaign! In 2008, over 90% of all dollars raised for the United Way came from workplace donations. Workplace campaigns are proven to boost morale and create a sense of community and commitment among staff, all while raising funds for important local programs. To find out about starting a workplace campaign, contact Grace Correia (grace@unitedwayguelph.com or 519-821-0571 x 33).

General Rick Hillier to Speak to United Way Leadership Donors



General Rick Hillier, former Chief of the Defence Staff for the Canadian Forces, will speak to United Way leadership donors (those giving at the \$1,000 per year level) on October 1 at the new Linamar Training Centre. General Hillier will speak on how leadership made a difference in his real life experiences in the military, and the importance of being leaders in our community.

For more information about the event contact Grace Correia (grace@unitedwayguelph.com or 519-821-0571 x 33).

Linamar Bike Ride Raises \$3,400 for United Way

On June 18, fourteen riders from Linamar's Autocom, Transgear and Vehcom facilities set out on a 250 km bike ride to raise funds for the United Way. Together the participants raised \$3,400.

Barry Grime, an avid cyclist and general manager of Autocom and Transgear, started this annual fundraising event five years ago. Riders typically travel two days, from Guelph to Bayfield and back. Thanks to all the riders!



Task Force Tackles Local Poverty Issues

How can we as a community reduce the numbers of people living in poverty?

! POVERTY
GUELPH & WELLINGTON TASK FORCE FOR
ELIMINATION

The Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination is a community initiative supported by individual residents, local businesses, non-profit agencies and all levels of government. The Task Force is taking a new approach to eliminating poverty in Guelph and Wellington County, one that looks at the root causes of poverty, and incorporates all voices in the community.

Information on the Task Force, including how you or your group can help, is available at www.gwpoverty.ca.

Research Reports Examine Seniors' Housing; Vision & Independent Living

The United Way Social Planning Department has released two new research reports:

- **Seniors' Housing and Supports** examines options for seniors' housing in Guelph and Wellington. The report finds that while there are many choices for seniors looking for housing, limited space and long waitlists are often barriers to access. This effect becomes more pronounced when looking at subsidized housing, which can see people waiting for housing for 3 to 9 years in the City of Guelph and 2 to 5 years in Wellington County. Long-term care facilities are at capacity, with individuals waiting, on average, 84 days to get a bed from the time of applying ([see the full report](#)).

This is the second in a series of reports on seniors living in Guelph and Wellington. The first, **Seniors' Poverty and Economic Status**, was released in February 2009 ([see the full report](#)).

- **Barriers to Independent Living - Vision** provides a quick overview of the data available on the effects of vision impairments on independent living ([see the full report](#)).

New Faces at the United Way

The United Way has recently welcomed two new staff.

- **Grace Correia** has joined the United Way of Guelph and Wellington as Campaign Director. In her new role, Grace is directly responsible for overseeing the United Way's 2009 fundraising campaign. She can be reached at grace@unitedwayguelph.com or 519-821-0571 x 33.
- **James Kennedy** joined the United Way as Director of Administration on August 19. Jim can be reached at jim@unitedwayguelph.com or 519-821-0571 x 24.



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