



April 26, 2020

Community Update

Hello community partners and members,
Below is a local funding update from the United Way of Lunenburg County in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Atlantic Compassion Fund was setup to quickly distribute funds to registered charities and their clients who may be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding could help reduce isolation, provide meal support, safe transportation, medication, cleaning supplies, housing, social and mental health supports and other supports that are needed as a result of the pandemic.

Some programs have been funded by the
Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program.

If you would like to donate to the Atlantic Compassion Fund you can [do so here](#). Please choose Lunenburg County from the drop-down menu. Tax receipts are issued immediately.

Or you can donate directly to the [United Way of Lunenburg County](#). Tax receipts are issued immediately.

Below are the Atlantic Compassion Fund investments and the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program to date in Lunenburg County

Funding Distributed on April 22, 2020

Souls Harbour

\$1,550

Practicing safe social distancing makes it that much harder for some of our seniors and the disabled to get out into the food stores to stock up on needed supplies. The United Way of Lunenburg County has partnered with Souls Harbour and the Town of Bridgewater's Energize Bridgewater Team to deliver 20 free "Nutritious Brown Bag Meals" twice a week to seniors living in the Town of Bridgewater. Additional deliveries are possible based on the demand.

Funded by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program.

Senior's Safety Program serving seniors throughout Lunenburg County

\$500

The United Way has partnered with the Lunenburg County Senior Safety Program to produce 50+ Isolation Care Packages for seniors living in our community who are isolated. These packages will contain items such as sanitizing wipes, a facemask, pet treats, relevant pandemic information as provided by Public Health and other items deemed essential. While practicing safe social distancing the Senior Safety Staff will also be able to gauge the health and wellbeing of the seniors receiving the packages. Appropriate action can be taken based on a as needed basis. Packages will be delivered and are not available for pick-up. Anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to contact Chris Acomb, 902-521-1506. Other partners on this project include private tailors in the community, Fresh Cuts, Low Tide Treasures, South Shore Regional Library and Elder Dog.

Funded by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program.

Senior's Safety Program serving seniors throughout Lunenburg County

\$2,000

The Client Emergency Contingency Fund provides limited financial support to help seniors with time sensitive needs when other resources are unavailable. The goal is to reduce immediate risk and help address safety concerns for seniors. This fund is not meant to replace programs provided by Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, and Service Clubs etc. Funding considerations include what is the need, degree of risk, availability/access to other resources. Examples of support include a hot meal, emergency accommodations, a coat and boots, medicines, The United Way of Lunenburg County believes that addressing the immediate and critical needs of our seniors is important.

Funded by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program.

Funding distributed on April 09, 2020

Freeman House

\$5,000

As the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic intensifies, already vulnerable individuals and families will need support. The United Way of Lunenburg County is helping Freeman House and the Housing Support Workers help individuals and families cope in Lunenburg County. This investment will help staff assist vulnerable individuals and families to meet some of their basic needs.

Freeman House and our local #HousingFirst Homelessness Prevention Program at (902) 212-1055 and by email: donettegetson.fh@gmail.com

Big Brothers Big Sisters

\$1,500

Being disconnected from your "Big Brother" or "Big Sister" can be hard on vulnerable kids or "Littles". This investment in kids will provide numerous activities and telephone phone check ins with the "Littles" and will help to create opportunities for the "Bigs to connect with their "Littles"

Funding distributed on April 03, 2020

YMCA Youth Virtual Outreach

\$1,100

The United Way of Lunenburg County has invested in the YMCA of Southwest Nova Scotia Youth program by providing funding that will allow the YMCA to connect with up to 100 local youth every Wednesday evening via ZOOM. These meeting times will be structured and facilitated by YMCA Youth Program staff.

This virtual meeting space will provide up to 100 youth with the opportunity to communicate, check in, calm their fears, get the facts, reach out and continue to gain valuable leadership skill training at the same time.

These weekly Wednesday meetings will run from 7 - 9 pm until the end of July 2020. For more information please contact the YMCA Youth Coordinator at kim.whitman-mansfield@ns.ymca.ca

Harbour House

\$500

Family violence is wrong at any time, during a crisis like COVID-19 it puts extreme pressure on women, their families and staff at Transition Houses. Harbour House serves women and families facing family violence. In order to keep staff and clients safe during this pandemic crisis Harbour House needed medical supplies + cleaners and turned to the United Way for help.

Support for Low Income Kidney Dialysis Patients

\$2,000

The United Way of Lunenburg County has invested in assisting local kidney dialysis patients whose income is being affected by the pandemic. This investment will help supplement the dietary needs of lower income patients in Lunenburg County.

Proper diet plays a major role in the treatment of Kidney disease. Having kidney disease requires that a patient be on a modified diet that is specifically for them. It would ensure they receive adequate calories and protein but may limit sodium, potassium and phosphorus in their diet - which can cause complications.

Chester Community Wheels Operational Support

\$2,500

Isolation and poverty are extremely hard on seniors, its even harder during this COVID-19 crisis. The United Way of Lunenburg County is investing in Chester Community Wheels so that they can continue to provide a pre-order delivery service of food and medicine to the Municipality of Chester's most vulnerable people.

Faced with declining donation box revenue this funding will help keep one vehicle on the road to support Chester's most vulnerable residents in whichever way they can, as long as they are able to keep gas in the tank, the vehicle maintained, and most importantly their staff paid.

Souls Harbour Hot Meal Program

\$3,500

The COVID-19 virus has changed a much-needed drop-in meal service. The United Way of Lunenburg County is helping Souls Harbour cope with increased meal costs as they switch to a takeout meal service. This funding will help support the increased costs associated with the purchase of takeout containers, single serving packaged foods, as well as bottled beverages.

Souls Harbour now provides takeout hot lunches 4 days a week, they are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and are in Bridgewater at 136 Pleasant Street. (Corner of Pleasant and Empire.)

South Shore Family Resource Association Support for Vulnerable Families \$2,000

As the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic intensifies, already vulnerable families will need support. The United Way of Lunenburg County is helping South Shore Family Resource Association help families cope in Lunenburg and Queens Counties. This investment will help staff assist vulnerable families to meet some of their most basic needs.

Queens County Food Bank \$2,500

With social distancing and stay at home orders it's hard for people to donate needed food to the local food bank. The United Way of Lunenburg County is helping the **Queens County Food Bank** as they struggle to maintain this valuable service during the COVID-19 crisis.

If you are interested in helping to fund needed local programs. Please consider donating.

- You can donate to the Atlantic Compassion Fund [do so here](#). Please choose Lunenburg County from the drop-down menu. Tax receipts are issued immediately.
- Or you can donate directly to the [United Way of Lunenburg County](#). Tax receipts are issued immediately.

If you have questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Michael Graves
Coordinator
The United Way of Lunenburg County
Cell 902-521-4704