

# Your Brant United Way Donations At Work!

On December 15, 2009, Brant United Way will announce to the community the amount raised during the September 1st to November 31st Campaign and express its deep appreciation to the thousands of individuals and hundreds of businesses that so generously made a financial contribution to the campaign. It is only with that strong community support that the next step in the process can begin. Brant United Way community volunteers are now rolling up their many collective sleeves and getting down to the important job of distributing your gifts to its 18 Member Agencies.

The four priority areas for the distribution of your financial gifts: children and youth; independence and well-being; crisis counselling and support; and, poverty and housing; were identified by the community through a consultative process to guide Brant United Way in the distribution of funds.

Each of the 18 Member Agencies were required to submit a funding application to Brant United Way by the 30th of October. The application is broken down into three distinct sections consisting of a:

1) Review of the governance structure of the Agency – i.e., did the Member Agency file its required year-end reports to the Canada Revenue Agency?

- 2) Review of the Agency's financial position and budget plans
- 3) Review of the Agency programs to be funded – Is there a need in the community for the program? Is the program resulting in positive change in people's lives?

This year's Member Agencies grant submissions filled two banker boxes full of information; United Way now has the responsibility of diligently reviewing all of that information in order to determine the best distribution of your donated dollars.

The volunteer Allocations Committee is responsible for the overall fund distribution process. Under their direction, a sub-committee is responsible for reviewing the governance piece of the application and reporting back any areas of concern. Another sub-group of volunteers with financial expertise reviews the submitted financial records of each Agency and report their observations back to the committee.

The larger "program" section review of the applications requires in excess of 40 community volunteers. These volunteers attended a three-hour training session with United Way and then in late November went out in groups of four to meet with each of the 18 Member Agencies at their place of business. They spent an hour and a half at each Agency reviewing the program(s) effectiveness in meeting the identified needs of clients. After the onsite visit, each Review Team develops recommendations for the amount of funding they believe the Agency should receive from United Way, and identifies any issues/concerns they may have in regards to the delivery of the program(s).

The Allocations Committee then reviews the reports from all of these sub-committees during weekly meetings to determine the final funding recommendations to be approved by the Board of Directors in late February 2010. It is a difficult process for the Allocations Committee - though the community is extremely generous, the amount of funds available for distribution is never enough to meet the full financial requests of the agencies. The Allocations Committee after reviewing all the data collected and considering the recommendations of all the sub-committees must make the final determination for the best distribution of your financial contributions to the Member Agencies.

Brant United Way is proud of its process in distributing funds. The decisions made are based on the collective wisdom of over 70 community volunteers. It is an open and transparent process that assures in the end that the Member Agencies are providing quality supports and services to those in our community that need their assistance.

United Way is a source of long-term core funding for its Member Agencies that allow them to be sustainable. United Way funding helps them pay their rent, keep their lights and heat on, pay their staff, and provide valuable programs and services. Without United Way support, some of its Member Agencies would cease to operate in our community, and others would have to direct valuable staff resources away from delivering direct service to clients to the task of fundraising.

Brant United Way is a collective. It works within the community to gather the required financial resources and then distributes them in an effective, efficient and responsible manner to address the needs of our community. We thank all of you for being part of this important social network. We collectively believe in our community! As the Executive Director of Brant United Way I get to see on a daily basis how your dollars are truly making a difference in the lives of thousands of individuals within our community, and I thank you deeply for that!

Sincerely,



Dianne M. Austin, Executive Director



**Dianne M. Austin**

*Executive Director*



**I believe  
in my  
community**

**Brant United Way**  
www.brantunitedway.org

