



October 18, 2013

Mr. Bill Fisch
Regional Chair & CEO
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street, Box 147
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

Dear Chairman Fisch:

In July 2012, United Way York Region assumed the role of Community Entity (CE) for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) funding program under Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) from The Regional Municipality of York. The transition for the community and providers was seamless thanks to the tremendous support of the HPS Community Advisory Board and the dedicated staffing team of the Region. As part of our commitment to ongoing communications with key partners and stakeholders on this transfer, United Way is pleased to provide a report of key activities and accomplishments of the implementation of the HPS program to date.

For the period of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, United Way has administered just over \$650,000 in HPS funding which have supported over 850 of the region's most vulnerable residents. The partner agencies and their HPS funded projects are:

- 360°Kids (formerly Pathways for Children, Youth and Families) – *Youth Street Outreach Worker*
- Community Legal Clinic of York Region – *Preventing Homelessness Through Targeted Eviction Prevention*
- John Howard Society of York Region – *Reintegration Project*
- Salvation Army, Sutton Youth Shelter – *Youth Homelessness Prevention Initiative*
- Women's Centre of York Region – *Enterprising Careers*
- The York Region Food Network – *Kitchen Renovation*

The York Region Food Network's kitchen renovation, which was a one-time small capital project, is now complete and fully operational, offering facility for food programming and social enterprise opportunities to support disadvantaged individuals and their families. All other projects continue to be on target or exceed the planned targets of the deliverables, providing critical support for vulnerable youth, low income groups, individuals involved in the criminal justice system and women struggling to maintain self-sufficiency.

As a result of the HPS funding, agency partners have enhanced their strategies for engaging and working with individuals who are at risk of homelessness or homeless and developed new partnerships towards homelessness prevention and mitigation.

As the CE, United Way is working closely with HRSDC to:

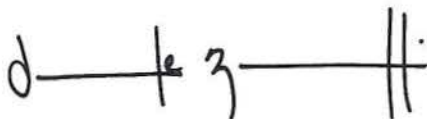
- Ensure compliance with project monitoring and reporting requirements, including on-site activity and financial audits for each of the projects and additional annual statistical data collection.
- Enhance the governance structure of HPS by renewing the Terms of Reference of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) to be effective April 1, 2014 in alignment with the renewed HPS timeline and directions.
- Advocate for the renewal of HPS funding for 2014 on and explore the implications and opportunities of a Housing First approach for York Region.

Above and beyond supporting the HPS mandated activities, United Way continues to convene opportunities for tackling the issue of homelessness collaboratively in our community. In partnership with York University and the Canadian Homelessness Research Network, United Way launched a knowledge mobilization initiative with a special focus on Youth Homelessness in February 2013. We facilitated a seven-part learning series on "Responding to Youth Homelessness: A System's Approach" and brought together leaders from across Canada sharing and discussing new and promising systems approaches to addressing youth homelessness with over 150 participants from multiple sectors. A York Region Youth Homelessness Research Agenda has also been developed with the support of a multi-disciplinary advisory group. Focus of the research is on studying the prevalence of youth homelessness in our region, mapping the existing service infrastructure addressing the issue, identifying key points for effective interventions and exploring a systems approach to ending youth homelessness. Preliminary findings of the research will be discussed at an event during United Way Week on Friday, October 25, 2013.

United Way's role in leading the implementation of the HPS program has been recognized in the recently approved York Region's 10-Year Housing Plan entitled ***Housing Solutions: A Place for Everyone***. With the renewal of the HPS program by the federal government for another five years and in close partnership with the Region who will continue to be a key member of CAB in the next phase of HPS, United Way is excited and remains committed to working with the community, corporate champions, donors, labours, all levels of government and the critical network of service providers in achieving our shared goal of "strengthening the homelessness and housing stability system" boldly outlined in the Plan.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to liaise with me directly at 905-474-9974, ext. 224 or dzanotti@uwyr.on.ca.

Always and only, thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniele Zanotti', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Daniele Zanotti
CEO

cc: Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner of Community and Health Services

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