



Stronger Together

Dear Friends and Supporters,

United Way Campaign season is just around the corner! This is a pivotal time when workplaces across our community come together to support our mission through workplace campaigns. A workplace campaign is an organized effort by employees to raise funds through various activities, such as payroll deductions, special events, and direct donations. These campaigns play a crucial role in raising the funds necessary to support vital programs and services.

How can you get involved? Ask your employer if they have a corporate giving platform and teach others how to use it, encourage your colleagues to join in, contribute, and spread the word about the importance of these efforts on social media, have a hot dog eating contest, or auction off pies to throw in your bosses face! The possibilities are endless, and every contribution helps make a difference in our community.

Be a workplace champion! Lead the charge in your office, organize fun events, and inspire others to give. Join us in making a difference. Your generosity can help bridge the gap and ensure that essential services remain available to those who need them most. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient Fort McMurray!

Volunteer Spotlight

IT CAN BE YOU!

**YOUR
PICTURE
HERE**

Our community thrives because of dedicated individuals who step up to lead and inspire. This could be you! By becoming a workplace champion, you'll play a crucial role in raising funds for vital programs and services. Your leadership can help ensure that more families receive the support they need, children have access to educational resources, and our most vulnerable populations get the helping hand they need.

Reach out to us today to learn how you can get involved and lead a workplace campaign.

For more information, please reach out to jdavies@fmwbunitedway.com.



WAYPOINTS

Agency Spotlight

At United Way Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo, we are dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families in our community. One of the key ways we achieve this is by funding and partnering with exceptional organizations that provide vital services and support. Today, we shine a spotlight on one such organization: Waypoints Community Services Association.

Waypoints stands at the forefront of the battle against domestic and sexual violence in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Their mission is to improve the safety, health, and well-being of individuals, families, and communities. Guided by the vision of a society free of domestic and sexual violence, Waypoints offers essential services to those affected by these devastating issues.

Waypoints' Sexual Assault Program is a cornerstone of their work, providing free counseling and support services to individuals who have experienced sexual trauma, such as childhood sexual abuse, sexual assault, or sexual harassment. Recognizing that the ripple effects of sexual violence extend beyond the individual, Waypoints extends their free services to family members, partners, and friends, ensuring a holistic approach to healing.

Their services are not just limited to counseling. Waypoints also engages in client advocacy and community education programs, fostering a community-wide understanding and response to sexual violence. Their collaborative efforts with local authorities, healthcare providers, educational institutions, and various community organizations ensure a comprehensive network of support for survivors.

The statistics are sobering: almost one in every two adult Albertans has experienced some form of sexual abuse in their lifetime. Survivors of childhood sexual abuse are significantly more likely to encounter further abuse as adults. With two out of three Albertans knowing a survivor and one in two having personally supported one, the need for robust support systems is undeniable.

Waypoints addresses this critical need head-on. Their commitment to providing free, accessible counseling and support services is a lifeline for many in our community. By offering these services at no cost, Waypoints ensures that financial barriers do not stand in the way of healing and recovery.

The essential services provided by Waypoints would not be possible without the support of organizations like United Way Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo. By funding Waypoints, we ensure that critical programs like the Sexual Assault Program remain available to those who need them most. Our support allows Waypoints to expand their reach, enhance their services, and continue their mission of creating a safer, healthier community. To learn more, visit here:



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[@waypointswb](https://www.instagram.com/waypointswb)



[waypointswb.ca](https://www.waypointswb.ca)



AUGUST 4 - SEPTEMBER 22

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Supply students in your community with the school supplies they need to succeed.

Donate today | #StaplesSchoolSupplyDrive



United Way
Centraide

Community Highlight

HELP START THE SCHOOL YEAR RIGHT!

The Tools for School program and Stuff the Bus event are back, aiming to ensure every student in our community has the supplies they need to succeed. This year, we are partnering with Staples Canada and other local businesses, including Harvard Media and Kal Tire, to collect and distribute essential school supplies to families in need.

Your support can make a significant difference. Donate supplies, volunteer at the events, or spread the word to ensure we reach as many families as possible. Together, we can help every child start the school year with confidence. For more information on how to get involved or donate, please contact tmcglennon@fmwbunitedway.com

TOOLS FOR SCHOOL

Dates: Donations accepted from Aug 4 to Sept 22, 2024 at **Staples**

Event: Collection by Harvard Media and Kal Tire at **Superstore** on Aug 24

STUFF THE BUS

Dates: Aug 30 to Sept 1

Location: **Staples**

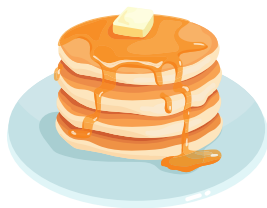


Upcoming Events

2024 CAMPAIGN KICKOFF & PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Join us at **J. Howard Pew Memorial Family Park** as we officially kickoff the 2024 United Way Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo Community Campaign! Enjoy a free pancake breakfast, visit with our Partner Agencies to find out about their important work, and work off the pancakes in the bouncy castles and games!

Date: Sept 14, 2024 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM



SPARKLE IN RED: DANCING WITH THE YMM STARS 2024

Join us for the 2nd Annual "Sparkle in Red: Dancing with the YMM Stars" event on October 26, 2024. Enjoy a night of dazzling performances by local celebrities and dance professionals. This event sold out last year, so get your tickets now at:

fmwbunitedway.com/sparkleinred2024





Meet the Board

MICHAEL VICKERS - DIRECTOR

We are proud to introduce the dedicated members of our Board of Directors who work tirelessly to guide and support our mission.

Michael Vickers, originally from North Sydney, Nova Scotia, has been a proud resident of the Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo region since 2007. He serves as Suncor Energy's Health and Safety Advisor and is an active member of the community, sitting on the boards of United Way, UCP for Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo, and the Canadian Mental Health Association. Mike's dedication to promoting health and safety, both physically and mentally, makes him an invaluable asset to our team.

Mike has been instrumental in supporting United Way in the community. He recently helped organize the 8th Annual United Way Grand Slam Slo-Pitch Tournament on July 13th. The event was a huge success, raising over \$55,000 for United Way Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo. Twenty-one teams came together at Syncrude Athletic Park, showcasing the strength of community spirit. This employee-organized event was further bolstered by Suncor's SunCares program, which enhances employee contributions through volunteering and matching.

Mike is a dedicated safety professional with numerous certifications and a strong background in health and safety. He has led programs that have won awards for safety culture and is a passionate advocate for mental health in the workplace. Since 2022, he has been a certified Psychological Health and Safety Advisor, promoting a culture of trust and empowerment among workers.

We are grateful for Mike's contributions and leadership. His efforts help us continue to support vital programs and services in our community. If you are inspired by Mike's story and want to get involved, contact us to learn how you can support United Way initiatives and lead a workplace campaign.



Suncor employees at the 8th Annual Grand Slam Slo-Pitch Tournament, which Michael Vickers helped organize, pose after a great weekend of fundraising for United Way.