



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## United Way Halifax funds 12 organizations and counting for wildfire recovery

**Needs include food, appliance replacement, baby items, cleaning supplies, transportation and costs of displacement**

**June 20, 2023 – HALIFAX/KJIPUKUK** – A targeted application process was launched last week for community organizations in Tantallon, Shelburne and Barrington to apply for funds raised through the United Way Halifax Wildfire Recovery Appeal. Twelve organizations have already received their funding and are beginning to meet needs in these communities.

“We’re hearing from community that there are varied needs for people who were displaced or lost homes and property due to the wildfire. The most common needs at this stage are food, appliance replacement, baby hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and reimbursement for costs incurred from being displaced,” says United Way Halifax president and CEO, Sara Napier. The organization has heard from many people who were unable to cover the increased costs of transportation, food, and hotel or motel stays during the evacuation. “It’s meant some people who were doing okay before are struggling now. We really encourage anyone who has an unmet need to self-identify and seek support from one of these organizations.”

The Wildfire Recovery Appeal has raised over \$1.3 million, thanks to the generosity of local businesses and organizations of all sizes, and many donors across the province, country, and even globe. From young Nova Scotians hosting a lemonade stand to corporate donors matching employee gifts and musicians and concert goers coming together, it was truly inspiring to see. Sara Napier says this is indicative of just how much people do care about each other in times of need. “When a community is facing hardship, the first instinct is to offer help. We’re so proud of how individuals and businesses have shown up to demonstrate how much they care.”

Funds from the appeal will continue to be invested in community organizations like registered charities, incorporated nonprofits and Indigenous governing bodies. “We’re grateful for every donation that has come in, and we’re committed to investing those donations to meet needs quickly and effectively,” says Sara Napier. She adds that this is just phase one of funding, and organizations can request additional funding for their initial application and can apply more than once if they find there are additional unmet needs. “Phase two will focus on some of the longer-term needs in community, which we expect will be quite different from what we’re seeing now.” It’s anticipated some of these longer-term needs might be related to mental health supports, support for those who were uninsured, restoration of social networks and more.

Applications are being approved within 24-48 hours, and funding is available to those organizations almost immediately. United Way Halifax expects a six-month timeframe of providing funding to community. Examples of organizations that received funding include churches such as St. Nicolas Anglican Church and Lucasville Baptist Church and community centres like Upper Hammonds Plains Community Centre. Acadia First Nation is also a recipient of funding to support band and non-band community members.

United Way Halifax realizes this has been a very difficult time for residents in the communities impacted by wildfire, acknowledging that the wildfires have disrupted daily life for everyone. Representatives of United Way Halifax will be available to talk to community at the Resiliency Hub which was set up in Tantallon by HRM. A representative will be there on Thursday, June 22 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and it's anticipated that someone will be on-site weekly. United Way Halifax will share more information related to schedule in advance on social media. Staff have also visited Shelburne and Acadia First Nation to better understand their communities.

A full list of organizations supported through the Wildfire Recovery Appeal can be found on United Way Halifax's website: <https://www.unitedwayhalifax.ca/how-we-help/provide-funding/wildfire-recovery-appeal/>

The webpage will be updated as new organizations are approved for funding.

Registered charities, incorporated nonprofits and Indigenous Governing Bodies in Shelburne, Barrington, and Tantallon that are interested in applying for funding should contact us at [info@unitedwayhalifax.ca](mailto:info@unitedwayhalifax.ca) for an application link.

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United Way Halifax is a local impact organization bridging gaps for people experiencing poverty and marginalization in HRM. Our organization changes lives by providing funding, creating solutions, partnering with others and advocating for change.

### **Media Contact**

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### **Tantallon Phase One Recipients**

Emmanuel Baptist Church – Upper Hammonds Plains  
Freedom Kitchen and Closet (Knox Church) – Lower Sackville  
Lucasville Baptist Church – Lucasville  
Lucasville Community Association – Lucasville  
St. Margaret's Bay Toy Library – Tantallon  
St. Nicholas Anglican Church – Upper Tantallon  
The Unicorn Theatre Society – youth focused, Seabright  
Upper Hammonds Plains Community Centre – Upper Hammonds Plains  
Wallace Lucas Community Centre – Lucasville

### **Shelburne and Barrington Regions, Phase One Recipients**

Acadia First Nation – supporting band members and non-band community members  
Shelburne County Youth Health and Support Association – Shelburne  
Villagedale Community Association – Municipality of Barrington