

2025 SUMMER PROGRAMS REPORT



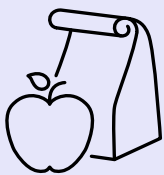
Filling Plates and Fueling Potential All Summer Long

When the school year ends, so do the meal programs that many families rely on to keep their children nourished. For children living in poverty, summer often means empty plates and missed opportunities to stay healthy and engaged. Through United Way's Summer Programs, we've worked to bridge that gap by providing nutritious food and resources to ensure kids thrive — not just survive — during the summer months.

This report highlights the impact of Summer Eats for Kids, which provided a week's worth of healthy food to families, along with other initiatives designed to combat hunger and support childhood development.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and partners, we've made a measurable difference in the lives of kids and families in our community.

Impact of United Way's 2025 Summer Programs



4,094

Food bags distributed to families in our community



1,900

Backpacks were distributed to children in our community



6,100

Books donated to help improve children's literacy thanks to the Women United Book Drive



1,200+

Number of hours United Way volunteers contributed this summer



Why Summer Programs Are Essential

Families living in low-income struggle to make ends meet, and often cannot afford to provide some of the basics – including food and school supplies.

Supporting kids with healthy food and good books during the summer is incredibly important, especially when school is out and regular programs are closed. This break can often mean missed opportunities for learning and nutrition, but by ensuring kids have access to nutritious meals and engaging reading materials, we can help them stay on track and thrive. Good nutrition isn't just about staying full—it's about giving kids the energy they need to play, learn, and grow. Healthy food fuels both the brain and body, helping kids feel better and more ready to explore.



In Windsor-Essex, 1 in 4 households experience food insecurity (2024). Locally, food banks saw a total of 233,057 visits in 2025. Children now make up 32% of those served.

Food insecurity disproportionately impacts families with young children, which is why Summer Eats for Kids was created—to ensure no child in our community goes hungry over the summer.



Helping kids from low-income families with backpacks and school supplies for the start of the school year is a fantastic way to make a big difference. Having the right tools can really boost their confidence and get them excited about learning. Picture a child starting school with a new backpack filled with fresh notebooks, pencils, and colourful supplies—it's life changing!

Backpacks for Success makes sure every child feels prepared and included.

By reducing the financial stress on families and ensuring kids have the necessary tools, we create a more equitable and supportive learning environment. When kids have what they need from day one, they can focus on learning, participating, and enjoying school.



66% of households returned to Summer Eats for Kids multiple times throughout the summer showing the increased need in our community.

"We are delighted to offer our continued support of the United Way Summer Eats for Kids Program and their incredibly valuable initiatives to promote brighter, healthier futures. At Mastronardi Produce, we believe in more than just providing fresh food; we are committed to inspiring healthy living for the next generation. Food is fuel, and we take pride in fueling the curiosity, creativity, and growth of children by ensuring they have access to flavourful and fresh fruits and vegetables."



- Paul Mastronardi, President & CEO of Mastronardi Produce

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

As a valued partner, Mastronardi Produce continues to make a meaningful community impact through their ongoing support of the United Way Summer Eats for Kids program. Their commitment helps strengthen efforts to provide kids and families with healthy food they need during the summer months when school lunch programs close.



The team at Mastronardi Produce brought their energy and enthusiasm to the 2025 Summer Eats for Kids Program, volunteering their time to help assemble and distribute food bags for families across Windsor-Essex County.

Mastronardi Produce contributed \$10,000 to the program and provided fresh fruits and vegetables weekly to all Summer Eats locations. We are very grateful for their ongoing generosity and support.

CHEERS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our work would not be possible without dedicated supporters and volunteers. THANK YOU to all those who joined us in delivering Summer Programs.



UNITED IS THE WAY UNITED IS THE WAY UNITED IS THE WAY

The following donors and organizations generously supported United Way's 2025 Summer Programs with a gift of \$1,000 or more.

\$10,000+

- Farrow
- Mastronardi Produce Ltd
- Period Promise

\$5,000 - \$9,999

- Anne Forrest
- Nature Fresh Farms
- Stellantis
- UE Enclosures
- UNIFOR Ontario Regional Council
- Windsor Port Authority

\$2,500 - \$4,999

- Windsor District CUPE Council Local 9104
- CUPE Local 1393
- Leamington Mersea Goodfellows
- MAZON Canada
- RBC
- Southwestern Manufacturing
- St. Clair College
- Unifor Local 2458
- Unifor Local 444
- Unifor Local 444 Retirees Chapter
- Windsor Volunteers for Literacy Fund

\$1,200 - \$2,499

- Circle of 7
- Enbridge
- Rotary Club of Leamington
- Unifor Local 200

\$1,000 - \$1,199

- Alfred Belanger
- Anne Kister
- Beverly Becker
- Carol Reader
- Carolyn Hill
- CUPE Local 2286
- Dave Cooke
- David Suszek
- Debra Salter
- Jim Fredette
- Kathy Renaud
- Kennet Severn
- Lido Sandre
- Mary Anne Kazuke
- OSSTF ARM Chapter 9
- Robin Boyer
- Tracy Bergeron Lucha
- Ukrainian Credit Union

Thank you to the following organizations for your in-kind support:

- Caesars Windsor
- Fortis
- GreenShield
- Mucci Farms
- Nature Fresh Farms
- Period Promise
- Stellantis
- Mastronardi Produce Ltd
- TransAlta
- Unemployed Help Centre - Hub of Opportunities

