



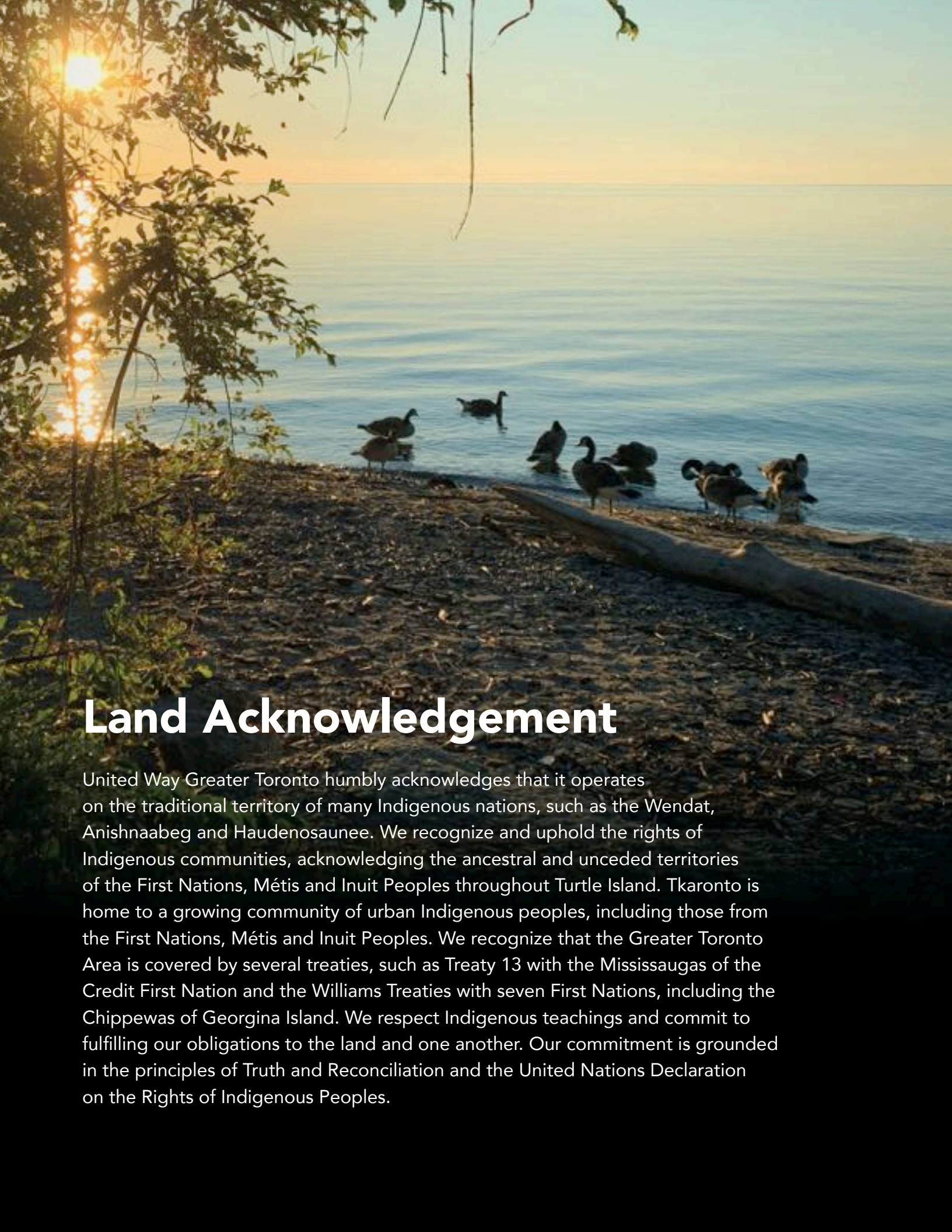
# BUILDING COMMUNITY TAKES COMMUNITY



United Way  
Greater Toronto

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MAJOR INDIVIDUAL GIVING 2023 HONOUR ROLL



# Land Acknowledgement

United Way Greater Toronto humbly acknowledges that it operates on the traditional territory of many Indigenous nations, such as the Wendat, Anishnaabeg and Haudenosaunee. We recognize and uphold the rights of Indigenous communities, acknowledging the ancestral and unceded territories of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples throughout Turtle Island. Tkaronto is home to a growing community of urban Indigenous peoples, including those from the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples. We recognize that the Greater Toronto Area is covered by several treaties, such as Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Williams Treaties with seven First Nations, including the Chippewas of Georgina Island. We respect Indigenous teachings and commit to fulfilling our obligations to the land and one another. Our commitment is grounded in the principles of Truth and Reconciliation and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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## Message from our President & CEO

Thank you. To each of you on our 2023 MIG Honour Roll, for showing your love for this region we call home, and a desire to make it everything it can be for everyone who lives here, thank you.

Your support has meant so much during these challenging times. Our region is facing multiple crises: high costs of living, housing unaffordability, rising food insecurity. Inequitable access to opportunities and gaps in social infrastructure have led to poverty being concentrated in certain neighbourhoods. Too many are struggling to make ends meet.

But your generosity and the care you show for Peel, Toronto and York Region enable us to carve a path forward. And as our region faces unprecedented growth over the next decade, we look to lean into our neighbourhood work like never before, tailoring local solutions so that the challenges of today don't define our tomorrow.

We will continue to strengthen our social safety net, our network of agencies — still the most effective on-the-ground, frontline response to immediate needs. Reweave our social safety net to ensure we can meet emerging challenges in the face of increasing demand for social services and build resiliency for times of crisis.

We will spearhead and scale innovative models, bringing together visionary partnerships between residents, public and private sectors to work on community-first solutions. Like in the Greater Golden Mile, where our Inclusive Local Economic Opportunity initiative is connecting residents to stable, good paying jobs, supporting local entrepreneurs and businesses and ensuring the area's rapid infrastructure and development growth benefits the surrounding community.

We will build, safeguard and protect vital community spaces including our Community Hubs — accessible one-stop shops for social and health services, and heartbeats of the neighbourhoods they serve. With 10 Community Hubs already in service, we envision shovels in the ground to build 10 more over the next 10 years.

The work ahead of us is immense but so important. And your continued support enables us to build a stronger, equitable, more resilient region for all. Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for helping ensure that everyone, in every neighbourhood, has everything they need to thrive — today and for the future ahead.

Always and only,

**Daniele Zanotti**  
President & CEO,  
United Way Greater Toronto



## Message from our 2024 Major Individual Giving Cabinet Chair

I am a proud, longtime champion of United Way, much like many of you. I was introduced to United Way through a workplace giving campaign at Lenczner Slaght, nearly 25 years ago at the start of my legal career. The success I've achieved since then has given me a deep sense of responsibility to give back.

I was raised by a strong mother, and she instilled in me the value of community. She was a hardworking, single parent that helped lay the foundation for my future success. I have put in the work, but I have also been fortunate to have unwavering support and access to resources and opportunities that are essential to building a good life — food, safe housing and education — something we all deserve.

I know how life-changing it can be when people invest in you and believe in your potential. United Way Greater Toronto wants to ensure everyone has those same opportunities and I know each of you included in this Major Individual Giving 2023 Honour Roll does, too.

I am honoured to lead United Way's Major Individual Giving Cabinet this year. I have witnessed their decades long impact in community and their continued work in the GTA today. But I also believe that we can do so much more to build a Peel, Toronto and York Region where everyone thrives.

As we envision a future GTA for all, United Way understands that we need to amplify local voices and scale neighbourhood solutions. I trust them to bring together community, donors, business and government to create true systems change. I know they can meet big challenges with innovative approaches, built on a deep understanding of community needs.

This is a critical time, with unprecedented population growth on the horizon and so many struggling to make ends meet, worried about an uncertain future. But united, we can create a region that is full of prosperity and opportunity for all, with strong neighbourhoods that make people feel safe and connected.

What you see on the pages of this Major Individual Giving 2023 Honour Roll is what community looks like. It represents our collective love of this place we call home, people who care deeply: giving time, energy and resources to ensure that opportunities reach everyone in our region.

Thank you for giving so generously and helping to ensure everyone across the GTA feels hope and optimism for the future.

Sincerely,

**Monique Jilesen**  
Managing Partner, Lenczner Slaght  
2024 Major Individual Giving Cabinet Chair

# 2024 Major Individual Giving Cabinet

## Monique Jilesen

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RBC Capital Markets

**Damon Williams**  
RBC



Our Major Donor Circle members gave \$10,000 or more to United Way Greater Toronto from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2023. Their generosity fuels United Way's work tackling poverty and the forces that create it, including precarious work, the affordable housing crisis, the skyrocketing cost of living, racism and discrimination. Together, we are endeavouring to build stronger, more equitable neighbourhoods where residents across the GTA have what they need to thrive. We are proud to celebrate the extraordinary care these individuals and foundations show for Peel, Toronto and York Region.

UNITED WAY  
**MILLION  
DOLLAR  
ROUNDTABLE**

Our Million Dollar Roundtable members have made a remarkable commitment to our community with their tremendous generosity. By cumulatively giving \$1 million or more to United Way Greater Toronto over the years, they have powered groundbreaking initiatives and critical services in every corner of Peel, Toronto and York Region.

Year over year, these donors have ensured that United Way can continue to tackle poverty in all its forms. Together, we are working to ensure that everyone in the GTA has their basic rights and needs met — housing, food, mental health — while building strong, vibrant neighbourhoods that are welcoming to all.

We are incredibly grateful for their long-term support and for caring so deeply about this place we call home.

■ Throughout the following pages, members of the Million Dollar Roundtable will be recognized by a blue square next to their name. We are honoured to recognize these incredible individuals for all they do for our community.

**THE KUCEY FAMILY**

# Caring for Community

The Kucey family has community mindedness in their DNA. “My mom didn’t have money to give, but she was always baking things for the neighbours or the church,” says Charles Kucey, an Investment Advisor with CIBC.

Charles and his wife, Jane, have shown their generosity over the decades, making gifts to educational, healthcare and cultural institutions — as well as to local causes — through the Kucey Family Foundation and the Kucey Family Foundation for Children.

From creating a university scholarship for promising young golfers through Golf Canada to funding a morale-boosting pandemic coffee program for local hospital workers and supporting a literacy program for the children of new Canadians, the Oakville couple is always finding meaningful ways to make a difference.

And it’s the Kuceys’ ongoing commitment to community, expressed through years of giving to United Way, that has led to them becoming members of the Million Dollar Roundtable, recognizing their lifetime support of over \$1M.

Jane and Charles have three grown-up children, two of whom live in Canada: their son, Andrew, and daughter, Anastasia, who now help manage the family foundation. Their daughter, Katelyn, now lives in the UK.



Transmitting their values of caring for others was something the Kuceys did throughout their children’s formative years. “When they were younger, on Boxing Day, I told them to go to their bedrooms and gather toys for the drive at the church,” says Jane. The family would also pack care kits for local women’s shelters together.

“Our parents were always really encouraging, even when we were teenagers. Any time Dad was giving, he would always say, ‘I’m going to give this much. What does everyone think?’” recalls Anastasia. “So, we felt involved from an early age and have tried to continue this.”

## Million Dollar Circle (\$1,000,000+)

- The Barrett Family Foundation
- Donald K. Johnson, O.C.
- The Slight Family Foundation

## Innovator (\$500,000-\$999,999)

- The Azrieli Foundation
- Elisabetta Bigsby, in loving memory of Stephen Bigsby
- Gary & Donna Slight
- Bill & Bronwen Thomas
- Darryl & Cassandra White and Family

## Visionary (\$200,000-\$499,999)

- William & Lorna Anderson
- The Bennett Family Foundation  
The Blidner Family Foundation
- John P Carswell
- Ed & Fran Clark
- Dominic & Pearl D'Alessandro
- Maureen & Victor Dodig
- Bob Dorrance & Gail Drummond
- The Goldberg Family Foundation
- Al Green Family
- Jack & Pat Kay
- The Henry White Kinnear Foundation
- The Koschitzky Family  
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- ■ Heather Mason-Wood & Michael Wood
- Shabnam & Bharat Masrani  
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- Stephen Smith & Diane Blake
- Hap & Barbara Stephen  
Scott Thomson & Caitlin Dunne
- The Waugh Family

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- Diana Belevsky & Al Meghji  
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- Alice & Grant Burton  
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## Cornerstone (\$75,000-\$99,999)

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- Leanne & George Lewis  
Donald Lewtas & Barbara Mitton
- The McLean Foundation  
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Christine & Stuart Morris
- Gilles & Julia Ouellette  
Brad & Kathy Owen  
Barbara & David Payne  
Andrew Pickersgill & Stephanie Bloomfield  
William & Linda Quinn  
Jeff & Dianne Wendling

■ Member of Million Dollar Roundtable who has cumulatively given \$1 million or more to United Way Greater Toronto, a tremendous show of commitment to our community

■ ■ Member of Women United who has given generously in support of women in the GTA experiencing poverty and related issues



**Trustee**  
(\$50,000-\$74,999)

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- Richard M. Thomson O.C.
- Fred & Vicki Tomczyk
- Jennifer Tory



**MARGARET NEWALL**  
IN MEMORIAM

# An Unstoppable Force

As a child, Margaret Newall (1937-2023) witnessed the devastating impacts of the Dust Bowl — massive dust storms that led to hunger and mass migration. Her family, in Davidson, Saskatchewan, often invited people who'd lost everything for supper. Their code was 'family hold back,' meaning guests satisfied their hunger first.

"Seeing other people firsthand who were disempowered and experiencing poverty affected her whole way of seeing," says Margaret's daughter, Alison.

Margaret opposed injustice in all forms and was an unstoppable force in every community she called home.

While teaching in the 1970s, a boy whom she taught was facing violence at home, and the realization that a child wasn't safe in their own home marked her deeply. Later, in the 1990s, she helped found Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE) and the Prairieaction Foundation, both committed to research into family violence and identifying community-led solutions. And after reading the full Truth and Reconciliation report,

she rallied support for the Thunder Woman Healing Lodge — now a recipient of United Way program funding — so Indigenous women leaving incarceration could heal.

From building neighbourhood libraries to fighting discriminatory rules to sponsoring 2SLGBTQ+ refugees, Margaret made things happen. "She had a T-shirt — which she was very happy with — that said: 'Underestimate me. That'll be fun!'" recalls her eldest son, Ian.

A long-time United Way supporter, Margaret asked important questions and stepped up when needs presented. After attending a Thorncliffe Park Community Hub tour and learning of a \$50K shortfall, she closed the gap — on top of making her generous annual gift to United Way.

Margaret held three honorary degrees and was named to the Order of Canada, but she never sought recognition, just positive change. "She was an optimist," says her youngest son, Malcolm. "She believed a difference could be made."

John H. Tory & Barbara Hackett

Don Walker & Joan Kelley Walker

■ Jane Wang & James Rong

■ John & Josie Watson

Estate of Elizabeth Joan Williams

■ Shelagh & David Wilson

Patricia Younger

# A Celebration of Life

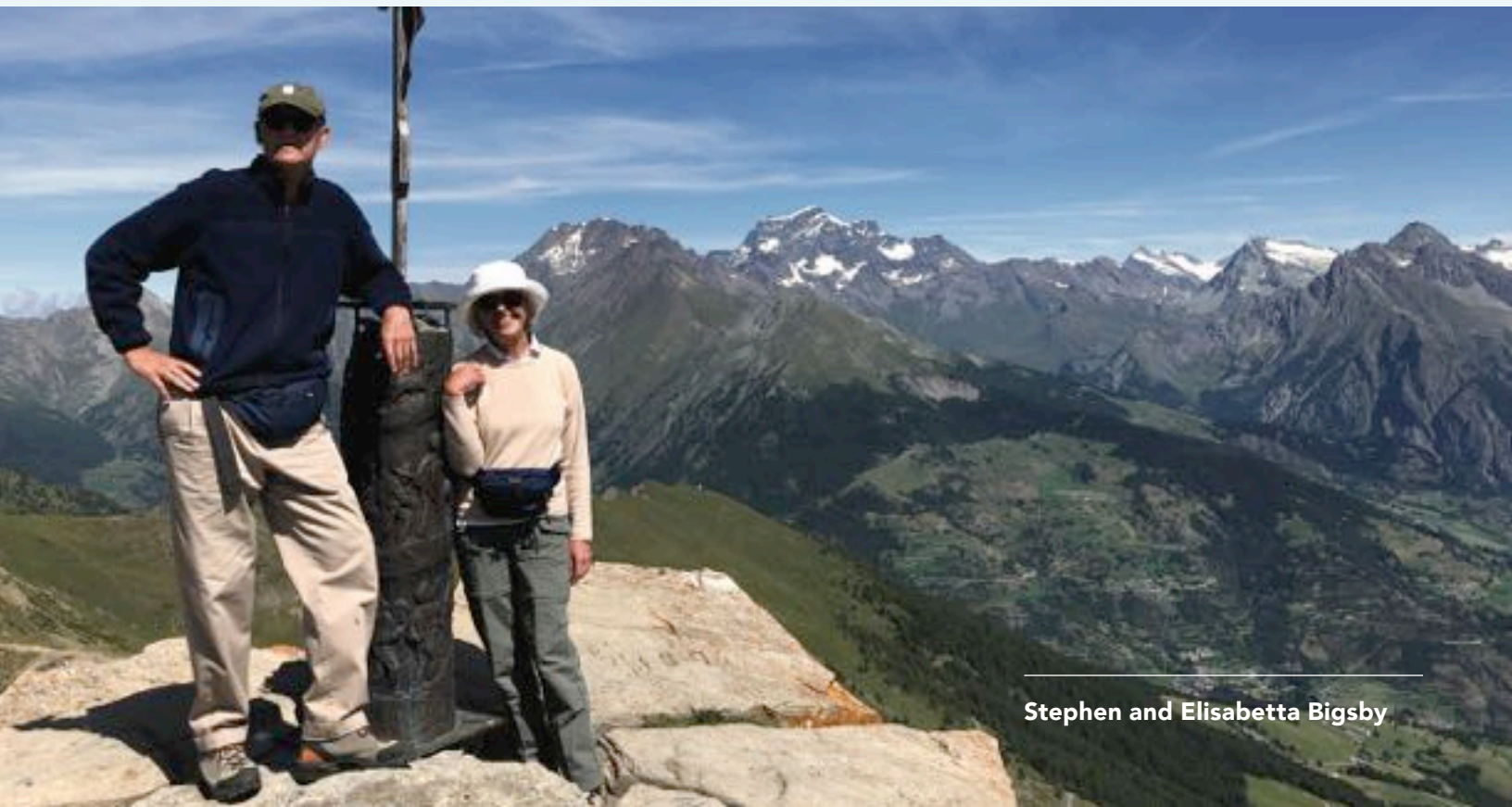
When Elisabetta Bigsby moved to the GTA, a colleague at RBC proudly referred to Toronto as ‘the city that works.’ But now, two and a half decades later, Elisabetta sees the challenges facing the city – and she believes engaging the people most affected is the best way to bring about solutions.

Elisabetta was first introduced to United Way through RBC’s workplace giving campaign, and she and her husband, Stephen, became long-standing donors. When Stephen passed away, Elisabetta decided to make a one-time gift of over \$800,000 to United Way in honour of her husband.

*“We always viewed United Way as the kind of organization that seeks to understand issues through the people involved and to facilitate constructive outcomes through ongoing engagement and cooperation,”* Elisabetta says.

This gift, an incredible show of generosity and example of trust-based philanthropy, allows United Way to continue investing where they will have the most impact for our region and the people who live here.

“Supporting such efforts seemed the appropriate way to celebrate Stephen’s memory. He would have wanted to help.”



Stephen and Elisabetta Bigsby

## Benefactor (\$25,000-\$49,999)

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 Caroline Zayid  
 Gabriella Zillmer & Bryan Bray



*“I’m proud to be a United Way supporter, to belong to Women United and to sit on the Major Individual Giving Cabinet. I care deeply about issues affecting mental health and addiction as I’ve seen firsthand the impacts they’ve had on people close to me, including family members. It’s also meaningful to me to connect with and provide support to single parents and women in need — all areas where United Way does critical work. Finally, I try to inspire others by sharing the positive impact United Way has. Whether it’s inviting speakers to team meetings, rallying colleagues to make group gifts or bringing them out to Day of Caring volunteer opportunities — it’s all about being engaged in our own community.”*

— **Wilma Ditchfield**,  
 Senior Vice-President, National Office,  
 CIBC Private Wealth and Imperial Service

# Pay it Forward



Jenn Ocampo-King believes in the transformative power of mentorship, support and putting in the work.

As a 15-year-old, she lived alone and held three jobs until a high school co-op program introduced her to the world of finance, from which she's built a successful career, now at TD Bank as Managing Director, Head of Securities Lending.

Her non-traditional path underscores how important opportunity can be.

"If you have access to opportunity and drive, you can make it happen," Jenn says. "How can we provide fair access to opportunities, healthcare, housing and food? That's what it's about: everyone can be successful if they just have access."

In her early years, her loving family sometimes struggled with rent or necessities, but she saw the power of community firsthand: a neighbour would show up with a

homemade meal, or a food basket would arrive at a critical time. She saw how a small act of kindness makes a huge difference.

Even now, as a busy mom who sits on the board of several non-profits, she continues to make time for issues that resonate with her like women, healthcare, homelessness and underserved youth, particularly in finance.

Her firsthand experience seeing how a support network and encouragement can be transformative motivates her to continue supporting United Way, as does learning about the impact her donations have in community.

"What inspires me to give is these moments, when someone comes in as a recipient of United Way support and shares the impact that support makes and how it helps," she says.

"The work done at United Way is so important — it inspires me to give as much as I can."

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*“My family has supported United Way for more than 20 years. I’ve volunteered with United Way and trust them as a community advisor: identifying the issues facing our community and investing in the best ways to address them. Across the GTA, and in Peel where we live, we see how United Way makes change locally, in neighbourhoods close to home.”*

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# From Words to Action

Dominic D'Alessandro knows firsthand what it's like to grow up in poverty and how essential having access to education and opportunities has been to his success.

"I've been poor. I understand that it's not a choice that people make," says Dominic, former President and CEO of Manulife Financial. "Education was everything for me. It was what allowed me to make the most of my life."

His mother struggled to provide for four children after his father died in a workplace accident not long after the family arrived in Montreal from Italy. But when someone needed help, she always gave what she could.

"We didn't have much, but we were raised to be compassionate of others and help if we could," he says.

After excelling in school, Dominic was pleased to find a similar view of giving while working at RBC and Manulife and joined their United Way workplace giving campaigns. Shortly after moving to Toronto, Dominic served as the 1998 Community Campaign Chair and had the opportunity to visit several United Way agencies, which gave him a deeper understanding of the needs in the community and how they're being met. Later, Dominic and his wife, Pearl, also inspired others to give by matching \$1 million in donations.

Dominic and Pearl appreciated United Way's expertise, so they continue their support for United Way through the Dominic and Pearl Educational Attainment Fund, ensuring youth can access the education and supports they need to thrive.

"This is a community that's rewarded me immensely," Dominic says. "I talked about the importance of meeting community needs and giving back all those years when I was climbing the corporate ladder and trying to achieve financial security — and now, I try to put those words into action."



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## ZABEEN HIRJI

# The Joy of Giving

Caring for community is deeply rooted in Zabeen Hirji's family. Her mother and late father encouraged her to live by the adage, 'To whom much is given, much is expected.'

Zabeen went on to climb the ranks at RBC starting as a teller and retiring as Chief HR Officer and Chair of the RBC Foundation. She attributes much of her success to the confidence her father instilled in her and seeing her widowed mother's resilience in response to the challenges her family faced after arriving in Canada. This also deepened her commitment to supporting newcomer women.

*"When you lift women up, everyone benefits — their children, their families, their communities. It has a generational impact,"* says Zabeen.



Through her volunteer and philanthropic efforts, Zabeen is focused on helping people unlock their potential and building inclusive prosperity. That's why she's been a dedicated supporter of United Way for 25 years. Zabeen appreciates how we bring together community, donors and government to build a region where everyone can thrive.

She says, "It's a privilege to invest in my communities and it gives me so much joy to see the positive impact on peoples' lives."

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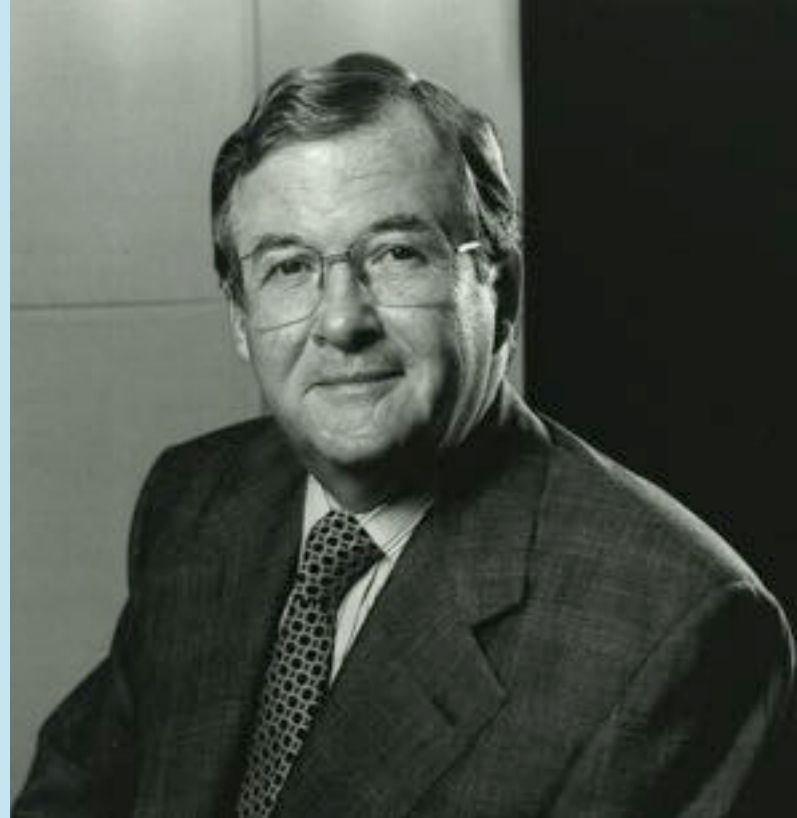


**PETER GODSOE**  
IN MEMORIAM

# A Passionate Advocate

Through a career that spanned four decades, Peter Godsoe started as a teller at Scotiabank and rose to Chairman and CEO, serving at the helm for 11 years. His visionary leadership shepherded one of the leading banks in Canada and oversaw its expansion into Mexico. Awarded the Order of Canada, he was a champion for gender equality in leadership positions and benefit coverage for same-sex partners.

Before and after his retirement, Peter was a loyal donor, dedicated supporter and passionate advocate for United Way – hosting events, generously matching donations to inspire others to give and establishing The Peter and Shelagh Godsoe Family Foundation.



Peter's passion and sense of humour will be deeply missed, but his beloved wife Shelagh and their children Craig, Eden and Cynthia remain dedicated to supporting many different programs through the fund, ensuring Peter's values of equality, generosity and youth empowerment live on.

■ Katrina Rempel & Oliver Moore

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# The Tomorrow Fund™

While many of today's social challenges will be overcome, others will persist, and new ones will emerge. Contributions to United Way's endowment program, The Tomorrow Fund™, ensures stable and ongoing funding that will empower us to meet these challenges as they arise. We thank the following donors for their contributions. They have made a tremendous commitment to the future of our entire community.

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## JOAN ELIZABETH WILLIAMS IN MEMORIAM

# A Thoughtful Planner

Joan Elizabeth Williams' long history of giving to United Way dates back to the 1990s and reflects her values of care for community. A loyal alumnus and mentor to many at University of Toronto's Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, she also expressed care for others by helping establish the Kappa Kappa Gamma Foundation in 1991. The Foundation grants scholarships to deserving women students in Canada, pursuing doctoral studies.

After a successful business career at both Wood Gundy and Canadian Arctic Gas, Joan moved to the country to enjoy her retirement and dedicate time to her passions: gardening, cooking, flower drying and bridge.

When she passed away at age 92, Joan left a generous legacy gift in her will to United Way Greater Toronto — one of 29 community, culture and health-focused beneficiaries. Joan's thoughtful planned giving pays testimony to her civic mindedness and compassion, as well as her love of music and the performing arts.

# Promises for Tomorrow

Promises for Tomorrow donors have made a commitment to support United Way with a future gift through their estate. The thoughtfulness and care they show today will have a significant and lasting impact that will benefit communities across Peel, Toronto and York Region for years to come. With their support, United Way will ensure that neighbourhoods across the GTA are equitable, inclusive and thriving communities for future generations.

## Gifts Made by Bequests

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# Plan ahead for a future that leaves no one behind

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Leave a gift in your will to create a legacy that reflects your values. In addition to offering tax benefits to your estate, every gift, no matter how large or small, will enable United Way Greater Toronto to continue its relentless work and determination to fight local poverty.

Together, we will build strong neighbourhoods across the GTA for generations to come, where everyone can access everything they need to thrive. Any way we can.

**To learn how to leave a gift in your will,** contact Jennifer Chegus at [jchegus@uwgt.org](mailto:jchegus@uwgt.org) or call 416-777-1444 ext. 288.



WORKING WITH  
COMMUNITIES IN  
PEEL, TORONTO &  
YORK REGION

## About United Way

As the largest non-government funder of community services in the GTA, United Way Greater Toronto reinforces a crucial community safety net to support people living in poverty. United Way's network of agencies and initiatives in neighbourhoods across Peel, Toronto and York Region works to ensure that everyone has access to the programs and services they need to thrive. Mobilizing community support, United Way's work is rooted in ground-breaking research, strategic leadership, local advocacy and cross-sectoral partnerships committed to building a more equitable region and lasting solutions to the GTA's greatest challenges.



**WORKING WITH  
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