

United Way Week - September 14 - 20

Parksville, BC – Mayor Chris Burger has proclaimed the week of September 14 to 20 as "*United Way Week*" in the City of Parksville.

Since 1958 the United Way of Central and Northern Vancouver Island has sought to stimulate community involvement in the improvement of social conditions. The United Way supports health and social programs that improve the quality of life and focuses on three key objectives:

- Help kids grow up healthy, safe and strong.
- Support healthy people and strong communities.
- Move from poverty to possibility.

In 2012, the United Way fundraising campaign raised nearly one million dollars in the central Vancouver Island region, Comox Valley and Campbell River. All donations stay in the area and are invested into services to help those in need. "Impact councils" comprised of local volunteers with experience in homelessness, early childhood development, domestic health and other social issues review funding applications and recommend which non-profit agencies should receive funding.

In the central Vancouver Island region, the United Way provides funding to 22 non-profit agencies in Nanaimo, Ladysmith, Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Gabriola Island, Cedar, Bowser, Errington, Nanoose Bay and Parksville. Some of the local charities include the Errington Therapeutic Riding Association, the Boys & Girls Club of Central Vancouver Island, the Parent Support Services Society of BC and the Vancouver Island Crisis Society.

Mayor Chris Burger said, "The United Way campaign truly exemplifies the idea of community health because the donations are staying right here in our community and being distributed to fund those much-needed social programs that support everyone from children to seniors."

More information about the United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island can be found on their website at <http://www.uwcni.ca/>.

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