

UNITED WAY SAULT STE. MARIE & ALGOMA DISTRICT

FUNDED PROGRAMS
JUNE 2017



United Way
Sault Ste. Marie &
Algoma District

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

The United Way Community Assistance Trust meets the immediate needs of families or individuals who are in crisis and with unique needs. The program provides assistance with baby safety items, emergency dental, rent arrears, utilities arrears and emergency vision care.

The United Way Essential Services Outreach Worker spends one day every week working at each of the five community hubs to address the unmet immediate needs of local families and individuals. The Outreach Worker provides assistance with referrals, connects people in need with the services that can help them, and informs community members about the 211 information and referral helpline, and addresses other needs as identified. The Outreach Worker also assists with completion of forms.

The 211 Database Collection service is funded by the United Way to collect and update data for not-for-profit organizations and social services in the local community. In addition, United Way advertises the 211 service across the Algoma District with 43,000 inquiries made in 2016. The 211 database is maintained by The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre.

The United Way Volunteer Income Tax Program provides assistance for individuals who earn a maximum of \$40,000 claiming as a couple, a maximum of \$35,000 claiming as a single parent with one dependent child, or a maximum of \$30,000 claiming single (as of 2015 year). The program is run in partnership with the Credit Counselling Office. Community volunteers complete the income tax forms with the assistance of Credit Counselling staff.

The United Way Northern Health Travel Grant is a unique program of its kind that provides financial assistance to community members who require financial assistance to travel to another community for medical care. The United Way advances travel funds to clients and is reimbursed by the Ontario Ministry of Health. With an annual distribution of \$250,000, United Way assists close to 400 individuals.

Addiction Services Program for women at Algoma Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Centre provide one-on-one weekly counselling support and incorporate modern tools of recovery like art therapy and family conference sessions. Group support is available for clients to network with other women with similar experiences and transportation to appointments in the community is secured.

The Counselling Program at the Canadian Mental Health Association delivers services to children, youth, adults, couples, and families who may or may not have a diagnosis of mental issues or mental illness and who do not have the resources to pay for needed counselling supports.

The General Support Services Program at the Canadian Hearing Society provides long-term support to clients who are under educated, under employed, or at the poverty line. Confidential services are available to clients providing assistance with legal matters, physiological, medical needs and daily living skills.

The Hearing Care Counselling Program at the Canadian Hearing Society works with seniors who are over the age of 55 or with a dual disability. Many free services are offered for them like hearing help classes, internal/external referrals and education hearing aid.

The Home Based Support Program at the CNIB identifies and meets the emotional needs of the people served and their loved ones to move beyond coping with vision loss, overcome barriers and achieve their full potential as contributing and valued members of society.

The Vision Mate Program at the CNIB is available for clients who are isolated from the community. Access to sighted assistance for two hours a week is provided to do things like grocery shopping, reading print materials, running errands, and socialization on a free-of-charge basis. Vision Mates volunteers are recruited, screened, and trained.

The Money & Debt Management Program at Credit Counselling Service provides face-to-face counselling to teach clients how to budget and manage their finances within their means, incorporating impactful use of credit in their everyday life and a realistic action plan for everyday money management. Counsellors mediate with creditors, landlords, courts, utilities and other agencies when the client is unable to or can't reach mutual agreement.

The Education Programs at Credit Counselling Service assists community members especially students with personal goal setting, debt reduction strategies, credit management education & saving planning to achieve financial success.

The Discharge Planning Program at John Howard Society represents a strategic procedure that outlines the essential services people with mental illness, substance abuse, and other vulnerabilities need after their release from an institutional or custodial setting. Some of these essential services are food, shelter and clothing for clients when planning their release from custody. John Howard Society is the only agency that provides Discharge Planning services at Algoma Treatment and Remand Centre.

The Project Lifesaver at Sault Search & Rescue is a volunteer managed program that is available for caregivers and loved ones of someone with cognitive impairment living in Sault Ste. Marie and the surrounding area. A tracking device is used to locate the loved one when they cannot be found.

The 24 Hour Crisis Line & Walk-In Service at Women In Crisis save the lives of many local women and their children on a daily basis. Women who are in-need for immediate protection are helped around the clock each day of the year. Face-to-face support counselling is available in addition to accessible safety plan including the option to attend the Shelter. Women who choose to use the crisis line have the opportunity to talk about their experience and learn about what existing support for them and their dependants.

WORKFORCE ENTRY

The Employment Supports Program at the Canadian Hearing Society improves the lives of people who are culturally Deaf, oral deaf, deafened or hard of hearing and empowers them by eliminating the unique employment challenges they face. The program assists clients with career planning, job preparation and job development to find meaningful employment.

The Options Navigator Program at John Howard Society is a unique local program because the Options Navigator doesn't work from an office or follow standard shifts all the time. Flexible hours enable him to assist those in the most need. The Options Navigator uses his personal relationship with people to determine how to best provide them with the assistance they need. He connects people to employers and agencies who can help them and doesn't leave their side during transitioning.

The Job Search Training Program at the Ken Brown Recovery Home provides one-on-one counselling for individuals, teaching them job search techniques to find the career that matches their set of skills and experience. The program also addresses the areas of resume development, creation of cover letters, interview process, post interview follow-up and community networking.

The Journey to Success Program at the Learning Disabilities Association works one-on-one with students who have recently identified with a learning disability and provides them with the recourses they need to achieve academic, social and emotional success. The program teaches students to develop critical self-advocacy skills and incorporates their feedback in the programming and accommodation they receive.

The Social Skills Program at the Learning Disabilities Association is a 5 week after-school program for students ages 7-13. One social skill is addressed each week, such as verbal and non-verbal communication, emotional awareness for self and others, respect and friendship. The program builds a safe, inclusive environment for students to grow and connect to one another by cherishing their individual strengths and needs.

The Cadet Program at the Royal Canadian Air Cadets is open to all youth ages 12 to 19 to promote good citizenship, healthy living and physical fitness. Youth are trained on leadership skills, conflict resolution, and social relations skills. The

Cadet program mentors are leaders and volunteers in our community who work hard to ensure that Cadets have every opportunity to develop their potential.

The United Way Bursary Program is available to students who are enrolled in a post-secondary program at Sault College and demonstrate financial need with significant involvement in their community.

The Youth In Action Program at the Sault Ste. Marie YMCA operates Mondays to Thursdays, from 6pm-8pm at the Tech at Holly Angels to provide children and youth the basic necessities like proper nutrition, physical activity and educational support to be successful in school.

Poverty to possibility.