

Media Release



United Way
London & Middlesex

United Way celebrates the generosity of our community

London, ON – United Way invited hundreds of its donors and volunteers to join in the “Hoopla” and celebrate the impact that their generosity has in people’s lives in London and Middlesex County.

During halftime, Dr. Karima Velji, the 2016 Campaign Chair, Evelyn Daley, Vice Chair, and Kelly Ziegner, CEO, thanked the community on behalf of the 85,000 people who benefit from United Way funded programs each year. Joining them at court was Sara, a 12-year-old cancer survivor, and her tutor, Chi-Lan, from United Way-funded Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) of London Region.

Sara survived brain cancer after being diagnosed when she was just a toddler. Because of the aggressive treatment needed to beat the illness, she’s faced side effects that have impacted her ability to process and analyze information. Over the past five years, Sara has participated in a number of LDA day camps, reading and math programs, and one-on-one support from Chi-Lan. Now thriving in class among her peers, Sara quips, “I feel like I can do anything and know I’ll succeed. For me, LDA has been a real lifesaver!”

“Stories like Sara’s are the reason I chose to volunteer my time and lead the United Way Campaign,” explained Dr. Karima Velji. “I am so incredibly proud of our community for rallying together to raise more than \$9 million which will ensure we can continue to invest in programs proven to change lives and get results for our community.”

“We are grateful for the commitment and leadership demonstrated by Karima and her entire volunteer team,” said Kelly Ziegner, CEO, United Way of London & Middlesex. “Our volunteers and donors care deeply about our community and understand that their generosity improves lives locally.”

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