



Introduction Brochure



What is Youth United?

Youth United is the United Way of Thunder Bay's youth affinity group. Youth ages 14-19 work together to raise funds. They get a direct say in how those funds support youth programs. These youth programs help children and teens with mental health, addictions, and gain work experience while contributing to anti-racism work.

Youth United works within the United Way's core goal of a community where all youth graduate. We want to give children and teens the tools they need to graduate and become all they can be.

Through Youth United, you can earn volunteer hours, experience, and skills to put on your resume. Make connections with peers and community leaders. Learn about issues in Thunder Bay and what you can do to help.

“ Youth 4 Community taught me how to work comfortably in a team setting and how to solve problems using input from everyone. It was a valuable experience that I thoroughly enjoyed. ”

-Abby Brown, Youth 4 Community participant

Our History: Youth United builds on its predecessor, Youth 4 Community (Y4C). For 10 years student councils raised funds and through Y4C sat on a committee to give their funds to youth programs.

Youth United builds on the success of Y4C. We will bring new, fresh energy and expand on the program to provide more to our members and recipients.



What We Do

Youth United groups fundraise within their schools and communities. Typically groups are school-based, but they don't have to be. Find a group of friends and email youthunited@uwaytbay.ca to register and start fundraising.

After the fundraising period, the funds each group raised are pooled. Each group selects a few participants to be on the philanthropy committee. The committee meets weekly for a month and reviews applications from local agencies and organizations with youth-focused programming to decide how to allocate funds raised by Youth United groups.

Youth United members will also have volunteer opportunities with local non-profit agencies such as the Shelter House, RFDA, and more. Members can also participate in UWTB's yearly Day of Caring where UWTB volunteers take action in a single day to help agencies needing extra resources.

Youth United will also provide opportunities for students to learn about issues youth face in Thunder Bay and the northwestern Ontario region. We work towards an inclusive, connected community by providing events, workshops, and educational opportunities that address topics such as racism, discrimination, and socioeconomic barriers.

2019 Recipients of UWTB youth program funding:

- Evergreen
- Community Clothing Assistance
- Children's Centre
- Our Kids Count
- Pro Kids
- Hammarskjold Fire Council
- Wake the Giant
- Community Arts and Heritage Education Project





2018 4-year High School Graduation Rates in the Northwestern Ontario Region

69.1%

Lakehead District School Board

59.7%

Superior-Greenstone School
Board

71.5%

Keewatin Patricia School
Board

79.3%

Thunder Bay Catholic School
Board

Youth Graduation and Success

Graduation rates in northwestern Ontario are below the provincial average. Youth in the region face compounding challenges: isolation, addiction, limited after-school activities, and lack of community supports. Youth United wants to change this.

Youth United gives students the opportunity to earn the volunteer hours they need to graduate. We want youth to be invested in themselves and their communities. By fundraising and participating in the philanthropy committee, youth will learn planning, organization, and committee skills that will help them succeed in post-secondary studies and entry into the workforce.

2016, 2018 4-Year Graduation Rates in
Northwestern Ontario

