

## United Way invests in 12 youth-led initiatives

Twelve groups of passionate, entrepreneurial young leaders in the community, aged 14 to 24 were recently awarded Youth in Action grants worth up to \$2,000.

Eight youth-led projects were awarded under the general grants stream, funded by United Way's Community Investment portfolio. Four projects were awarded under the brand new Financial Literacy grants stream, funded by United Way of Peel Region's Women United, a group of dedicated female executives in Peel Region.

“At United Way, we're focused on reducing and preventing poverty in our community ? we look at the root causes of poverty and how we can intervene,” United Way of Peel Region Interim President and CEO Anita Stellinga said. “Each of these diverse projects has a role in that. Whether your project is about mental health, creating networking opportunities, financial literacy or getting job-ready, you are playing a part in poverty reduction in our community.”

All 12 youth-led projects will roll out in Caledon, Brampton and Mississauga over the next seven months. The initiative is led by United Way's GenNext Council, a group of dedicated young leaders in Peel.

“GenNext is excited to be a part of these incredible, youth-led projects that aim to address social issues, inspire change, and create impact in Peel Region,” GenNext Council Chair Jannies Le declared.

GenNext leaders will provide mentorship to each group for the duration of the projects.

Youth in Action grants are a one-time granting opportunity focused on youth-led projects that offer creative, youth-initiated ideas to address community issues in Peel Region. Youth between the ages of 14 and 24 are eligible to apply for this grant.

Youth in Action grants were developed in 2009 by United Way's Young Leaders Council, a group of volunteers aged 20 to 35, committed to creating a legacy of volunteerism and spirited giving within Peel Region.