



# Stories that Unite us.

# Hope and celebration marks our kickoff

Friends.

Our 2023 campaign kickoff was a rousing



success, with more than 400 supporters gathering at the Delta hotel in Saint John.

The mood was electric – it was a true celebration of community spirit and support.

A highlight of the lunch was hearing powerful testimonies from those that benefit from that generosity.

Like Jason Marr. With great courage, Jason took the stage to share his searing story of struggles with his mental health and fitting in at school.

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### Terri's story: finding freedom through outreach

Terri knew that a degree was a path to a better life. But they also needed to work full-time to both live and pay for school.

Because of the twin burdens, Terri's schooling began to slip – their marks started to spiral downward and they were forced to prioritize working to cover their bills.

Eventually, they felt like they had to choose between keeping a roof over their head or graduating.

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#### Elizabeth's story: launching her own business



impossible to find.

Elizabeth struggled to find clothes that fit her and were comfortable for her children with sensory processing challenges.

Clothes with seams, buttons and zippers constructed not to rub against skin were

Those challenges inspired her to launch her own clothing business, Elizabeth's Creations. And she was set up for success through the Enterprising Women program through Kaleidoscope Social Impact, supported by the United Way.

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#### **#UNIGNORABLE FACT**

More than 13% of women in New Brunswick live on low incomes. Those who face multiple barriers are at higher risk of poverty, including racialized women, women with disabilities, and single mothers.





#### **#LOCAL LOVE FACT**

More than 50% of those enrolled in Kaleidoscope Social Impact's Enterprising Women program last year started their own business or found employment, increasing their financial stability including income and assets.



# Witnessing impact first hand...with donuts

On a hot summer day last month, Tamara McKee dropped by a park in Sussex to see the BGC Summer Slide program in action. Because she works for the bakery Mrs. Dunster's, she toted along bags of donuts and cookies.

"The little girls were fantastic. The boys are like, 'You've got donuts?'" she remarks about suddenly becoming the center of attention that day at a local park. "We had a great afternoon."

The visit was arranged by United Way so that Mrs. Dunster's could witness some of the impact it is making in the community through its support of the Million Dollar Pledge.

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United Way Saint John, Kings & Charlotte | 28 Richmond St., Unit 301, Saint John, E2L 3B2
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