

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release – Thursday, February 6, 2014*

**United Way Announces Capacity Building Grant Recipients**

United Way of Saskatoon and Area is pleased to announce that \$100,000 will be invested into eight local nonprofit organizations striving for organizational effectiveness through capacity building initiatives.

Capacity building projects encompass whatever is needed for an organization to more effectively and efficiently achieve its mission. As our community grows, so does the demand for programs and services that nonprofit organizations are delivering. The importance of investing in further building the capacity of these organizations is greater than ever.

The National Council of Nonprofits states, “Capacity building is not just about the capacity of a nonprofit today — it’s about the future. Distinct capacity building projects such as identifying a communications strategy, improving volunteer recruitment, developing a leadership succession plan, identifying more efficient uses of technology, and engaging in collaborations with community partners — all build the capacity of a charitable nonprofit to effectively deliver its mission in the future. When capacity building is successful, it strengthens a nonprofit’s ability to fulfill its mission over time, and enhances the nonprofit’s ability to have a positive impact on lives and communities.”

The 2014 United Way Capacity Building Grant recipients include:

Canadian Paraplegic Association	YWCA Saskatoon
Saskatoon Indian & Métis Friendship Centre	Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre
Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services	Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company Inc.
Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City Inc. (CLASSIC)	Saskatoon Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health Inc. (SWITCH)

Chantelle Johnson, Executive Director of CLASSIC, agrees that capacity building is essential to the future of organizations in the sector.

“Many organizations work hard to develop strategic plans that are only realized through internal capacity building. This is exactly what CLASSIC experienced last year after our strategic plan was set in place. The Capacity Building Grant from United Way of Saskatoon and Area offers the ability to move into the future in a more sustainable way, and helps organizations to build momentum to move towards their goals.”

United Way of Saskatoon and Area strives to strengthen our community and create positive change by focusing our work and investments in three areas:

- Moving people from poverty to possibility
- Building healthy people and strong communities
- Helping kids be all that they can be

**United Way of Saskatoon and Area. Change starts here.**

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