



6 March 2025

To: Mayor and Council

We are sharing with you our Annual Report for 2024 to highlight the work of the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force. The Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force works in partnership with 90+ community-based agencies, planning tables, community groups, universities, institutes, and policy-makers. The Poverty Task Force is led by the United Way of Bruce Grey along with leadership from Bruce and Grey Counties.

We have created a platform that allows for meaningful dialogue, education, and purposeful partnerships that address the root causes of poverty in Grey and Bruce Counties. Our objective is to spark and inform public debate and to engage the social, academic, and policy communities around important issues of poverty reduction in rural communities.

The Poverty Task Force works in partnership to address poverty-related issues facing Grey Bruce – housing, income security, employment security, health equity, community voices, and transportation. We promote high-level discussion among Grey Bruce municipal and provincial governments, carry out local participatory research with universities, the Four County Labour Market Planning Board, and other research partners, and take action with social service agencies and community leaders. We are an action table of the Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy.

The Poverty Task Force is funded by Grey County, Bruce County, and the United Way of Bruce Grey. The United Way of Bruce Grey is the administrative lead and employs a Coordinator. The Poverty Task Force currently meets monthly virtually.

We have significantly benefited from the participation of councillors at the lower-tier municipalities to engage in poverty-reduction strategies. We are asking that you formally adopt the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force as a committee that a member of your council attends. We believe that this formal representation will improve communication and engagement between our respective organizations. Your municipality's participation would be invaluable in strengthening our collective efforts to address poverty in our communities.

We invite you to join us in this important work and look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Jill Umbach.

Jill Umbach
Planning Network Coordinator
Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force/United Way of Bruce Grey
povertytaskforce@unitedwaybg.com, 519-377-9406

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Francesca Dobbyn.

Francesca Dobbyn
Executive Director
United Way of Bruce Grey