

Message from Labour

The 2003 United Way campaign was a tremendous success. Once again, it was a record-breaking year with \$84.3 million raised to assist agencies delivering services and programs across Toronto. Campaign Chair John Sheridan, his volunteer cabinet (including two who represent organized Labour) and United Way staff are to be congratulated for a job well done.

The support and donations of unionized workers in the public and private sectors contributed greatly to the campaign's overall success. I want to thank all the labour volunteers who worked on joint union/management workplace campaigns and our affiliates for their record-breaking contributions and tireless efforts on behalf of those in need in our community. In particular, congratulations to the recipients of the Spirit Awards for Labour Participation, presented to unionized workplaces that exemplify the true meaning of collaboration and community involvement.

The recipients in the private sector are the employees of Vibro-Acoustics and members of the Sheet Metal Workers International Association, Locals 30 and 540. The public sector recipients are employees of the Government of Canada and members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada.

Thank you to the Spirit Award finalists. In the private sector, they are employees of Canadian Pacific Railway and members of the United Transportation Union, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, CAW-TCA Canada, and the United Steelworkers of America. In the public sector, they are employees of the Toronto Transit Commission and members of the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 113,

Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 2, and the International Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Lodge 235.

It is never easy to ask working people to give generously when they are struggling to defend their own jobs or their incomes. In the last year, working people in the hospitality and tourism sectors found themselves severely hit with record lay-offs because of SARS. Health care workers put their lives on the line in response to this crisis. Hydro workers are to be congratulated for their diligence in dealing with the blackout last summer, the largest in North American history. Other sectors of the economy continue laying people off. Yet, in spite of this adversity, union members are still reaching into their pockets to support others.

United Way plays a critical role in providing a compassionate voice for the most vulnerable in our community. Unfortunately, it is being called on to fill the vacuum left in many places by the withdrawal of government funding for vital community services. Under the leadership of Frances Lankin, I am confident that United Way can continue to bring together people from all walks of life to work collaboratively on resolving our community challenges.

Through Labour Community Services, the partnership between United Way and Labour Council and its affiliated unions, we will continue to work hard together to build our mutual goal of a caring and equitable community.



John Cartwright

President, Toronto and York Region Labour Council
Vice Chair, Labour



John Cartwright

Union Honour Roll

The following UNIONS actively supported United Way fundraising campaigns in unionized workplaces across our community in 2003. United Way of Greater Toronto and the Labour Council of Toronto and York Region proudly recognize their contribution.

Air Line Pilots Association
Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists
Amalgamated Transit Union
American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada
Association of Postal Officials of Canada
Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers' and Grain Millers' International Union
Brewery, General and Professional Workers Union
Bricklayers, Masons Independent Union of Canada
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers
Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees
CAW-TCA Canada
Canadian Airline Dispatchers Association
Canadian Guard Association
Canadian Labour Congress
Canadian Media Guild
Canadian National Railways Police Association
Canadian Pacific Police Association
Canadian Security Union
Canadian Telephone Employees' Association
Canadian Union of Brewery & General Workers
Canadian Union of Operating Engineers and General Workers
Canadian Union of Postal Workers
Canadian Union of Public Employees
Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada
Directors Guild of Canada Ontario
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
Employees' Association of Kodak Canada
Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics & Allied Workers International Union
Graphic Communications International Union
Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union
Independent Paperworkers of Canada
International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees & Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada
International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Ironworkers
International Association of Fire Fighters
International Association of Heat & Frost Insulators & Asbestos Workers
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers

Union Honour Roll (continued)

International Longshoremen's Association	Service Employees International Union
International Union of Allied, Novelty and Production Workers	Sheet Metal Workers' International Association
International Union of Operating Engineers	Steelworkers Transportation-Communications National Local
I.W.A. Canada	Teamsters Canada
Labourers' International Union of North America	Toronto Police Association
National Union of Public and General Employees	UFCW Canada
Office and Professional Employees International Union	Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees
Ontario Federation of Labour	United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada
Ontario Liquor Board Employees' Union	United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America
Ontario Nurses' Association	United Steelworkers of America
Ontario Public Service Employees' Union	United Transportation Union
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation	University Professors Association
Ontario Teachers' Federation	York University Faculty Association
Power Workers' Union	York University Staff Association
Practical Nurses Federation of Ontario	
Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada	
Public Service Alliance of Canada	
Security, Police, and Fire Professionals of America	



Community Care East York

• For seniors, being able to stay in their own home can make a huge difference in quality of life. That's according to Paddy Ramsingh, the executive director at Community Care East York, a United Way member agency. "As people get older, things that were once routine are now a daunting task," she said. Adding to the difficulties is the fact that a senior may have fewer people to turn to for help. "Often they (seniors) are coming here after they have experienced the death of a partner, so they are recently widowed. They're looking for a social support and that becomes more challenging to have as you're aging because you're seeing your family and your friends passing away."

Ramsingh says this situation can force a premature move into an institution, with negative repercussions. "There's these huge emotional upheavals, of simply moving and having to relocate – but in addition to that, they're viewing a facility as the last stage of their life; their will to live almost completely vanishes."

This is where Community Care East York steps in. "Our services enable people to stay in their homes as long as they can, still be part of their community, still have their neighbours near by," said Ramsingh. "And by us going in and helping them with their baths, with their meals, with their laundry, it gives them the quality of life that they wouldn't otherwise enjoy."

