

2020 GCWCC ProjectBe Impact and Investment Report

HealthPartners leads a collective of 16 Canadian health charities that are building a healthier Canada.

We invest in the health of Canadians through medical research, programs and services, health and wellness programs, education and advocacy.

# **2020 ProjectBe Summary**

Youth Mental Health and Addiction – 50% of HealthPartners’ members support youth mental health initiatives, including research on youth mental health and chronic disease, support groups, and providing information directed to younger Canadians touched by chronic disease. Additionally, some members engage in public awareness initiatives on the impact of addiction and health outcomes and advocate for better public policy on addictive substances like tobacco, vaping and alcohol. $137,000 in investments are highlighted in this report.

Indigenous Health - Systemic inequalities created by colonization and other racialized issues have created unequal access to primary and secondary healthcare and contribute to poor health outcomes. We are supporting a more equitable landscape by incorporating indigenous perspectives into medical research and education, and delivering culturally-appropriate programs to Indigenous Canadians. $213,000 in indigenous health investments are outlined in this report.

# Homelessness/Poverty Reduction –Our members are trying to stop homelessness before it begins by focusing on poverty reduction initiatives. Over 50% of our members provide direct financial support to vulnerable Canadians to reduce the significant out-of-pocket expenses related to living with a chronic condition; these supports often ensure that they do not become homeless. Additionally, all are focused on changing systemic inequities that lead to poverty and homelessness by advocating for improved access to health care, accessible housing, nutrition education, access to medication and increases to income supports.

# $1,147,313 in investments are highlighted in this report.

# **Funding Allocation**

HealthPartners presently receives 20% of these funds raised through ProjectBe, which represents $303,400 from the 2020 campaign.

**Impact**

***Youth Mental Health and Addiction***

* Initiatives Funded:
  + - Arthritis Society – research on juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) and mental health
    - 3 studies with Crohn’s and Colitis on youth living with Inflammatory Bowel Disease and mental health (3 year study - $115,000 per year)
    - Huntington Canada - Youth Mentorship Program serves to empower and support youth with Juvenile Huntington Disease
    - Canadian Cancer Society - funded a study on the long-term impact of childhood cancer on mental health
    - Assisted in developing New International Guidelines on Mental Health in cystic fibrosis patients
    - MS Society of Canada - Impact of Parental MS on Early Childhood Development
* 20% of our members to provide services, awareness and research around addiction.
  + Cancer Society: Through our Smokers’ Helpline and our Walk or Run to Quit program, we helped over 23,700 Canadians try to quit smoking
  + Liver Foundation: public awareness campaign around increased alcohol consumption and the dangers during COVID
  + The Lung Association public awareness on vaping and tobacco and the danger for youth, $22,000

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| *“I think in the pandemic now, more than ever, it’s loneliness. A lot of the appointments that me and other cancer patients have to go to, or anyone with an immuno-compromised system, we have to do so alone. So whether that’s a chemotherapy visit, or for me, a three-week stay in the hospital for a stem cell transplant, it’s all alone. We can’t have friends or family in the hospital with us.”*  *-- Dylon Buskermolen*  *On youth mental health and living with cancer* |

***Indigenous health***

7 of our member organizations have initiatives focused on indigenous health, working with indigenous communities to address health issues. Through funding indigenous researchers and bringing a First Nations perspective to the forefront, our members are committed to changing the conversation – and health outcomes - through inclusive approaches to health outcomes.

* The Alzheimer Society funds a study by Daniella Alcock (indigenous PhD candidate) on oral narratives of female indigenous caregivers for loved ones diagnosed with alcohol-related dementia. The grant is $66,000.
* Kidney Canada has funded Dr Mary Smith, an indigenous researcher at Queens University on circles towards indigenous solutions for kidney health, a strength based approach. The grant is $97,710.
* Diabetes Canada has funded a study on how using holistic approach to health and wellness can help prevent and treat type two diabetes in indigenous youth and improve quality of life.
* Heart and Stroke – has developed 4 strategies to address social determinant of health in indigenous communities that include safe drinking water, reaching K-6 students with heart health education (Heart and Stroke worked with 563 educators and reached 19,537 indigenous students on heart health), food access and CPR training for grade 8 students
* Diabetes Canada: Dr. Jonathan McGavock - Indigenous Youth Mentorship Program (IYMK)

University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB) Funded: 2018-2023 Amount/Year: $50,000

* Arthritis: Dr Cheryl Barnabe talks about indigenous perspectives in rheumatology (changing western approaches to indigenous health): <https://arthritis.ca/living-well/what-s-possible/research/reconciliation-in-arthritis-care-taking-up-the-call-to-action>

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| *Coming from a First Nations family, it was difficult to navigate the healthcare system dealing with jurisdictional barriers, stigma and a lack of resources. As a caregiver, there are no existing supports for alcohol-related dementia that are culturally safe.*  -Danielle Alcock, PhD Candidate  Research funded by Alzheimer’s Canada |

# PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS THROUGH POVERTY REDUCTION

All 16 HealthPartners members work to reduce the barriers facing those living with a chronic disease. The collective impact of these supports and actions, often in a collaborative way, serve to improve the lives of Canadians by reducing the risk of becoming homeless.

Those include:

* Advocacy and awareness:
  + Access to affordable housing, including accessible housing
  + Improved income supports for Canadians such as paid leave for caregivers, improvements to CPP Disability etc.
  + Advocacy for access to universal pharmacare, catastrophic drug coverage, improved access to treatments and primary care, accessibility
  + Advocating for public investments in preventing disease and disease progression which can lead to poverty
  + Increasing awareness of the connection between the social determinants of health and chronic disease
* Financial Support
  + Programs and services that provide mobility equipment and financial supports for certain type of aids for daily living that are not covered by government supports
  + Kidney Foundation provides economic supports for dialysis patients – 4200 individuals supported for an investment of $519,000
  + MS Society provides Quality of Life Grants for the purchase of mobility devices – 1581 individuals for a $628,313 investment
  + CCS - drove more than 12,500 people to treatment and home again through over 235,900 rides offered by our transportation program and our volunteer drivers with the Freemasons Cancer Car Program. Our transportation service covered more than 9.6 million kilometers, which is almost the equivalent of 25 one way trips to the moon! CCS also offered 6,114 people a caring and supportive home away from home when they needed to travel for their cancer care.

*People living with diabetes who rely on food banks experience challenges with diabetes management including an inability to schedule food intake, make dietary choices, and coordinate medications with meals.*

*From: Diabetes Canada: Food Security and Diabetes, a Position Statement*