

Western announces record gift to United Way

January 23, 2012

Adela Talbot, Western News

Western announced today a record-breaking gift of \$716,632 on behalf of the university community, making it the largest donation ever to the local United Way. Western President Amit Chakma congratulated the volunteers, contributors and entire Western community for a wonderful gift to the United Way.

In a community with one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, the demand for services offered by [United Way of London & Middlesex](#) is in high demand.

Contributing toward the citywide campaign goal of \$8.5 million, The University of Western Ontario announced today a record-breaking gift of \$716,632 on behalf of its faculty, staff, retirees and students, making it the largest donation ever to the local United Way.

“We have seen in our community that this has been a really challenging year for a lot of people,” says Andrew Lockie, chief executive officer, United Way of London & Middlesex. “And to see a place that cares, like Western does, step up with a truly incredible achievement, an achievement that is historic for us, really takes what we can do for people in our community to a whole new level. And people’s lives change because of that.”

Western surpassed its 2010 gift of \$631,487 by \$85,415, an increase of 13 per cent and its 2011 campaign goal of \$650,000 by \$66,632. The generous financial support comes from more than 1,300 Western staff, faculty, retirees and students, fueled by more than 200 Western volunteers.

Western was the top corporate donor in 2011.

“I wish to congratulate the volunteers, the contributors and the entire Western community for a wonderful gift to the United Way,” says Western President Amit Chakma. “There are many ways that Western supports the United Way and it is truly an honour to be part of such a caring community.”

The 2011 Campaign Co-Chairs were Lynn Logan, associate vice-president financial services, and Joan Finegan, associate dean (Social Science). Lisa Lopes was Western’s 2011 Sponsored Employee.

“Western has a long-standing tradition of working toward the common goal of building our community,” Logan says.

Since 1994, Western's campus community has raised more than \$7 million for United Way of London & Middlesex.

United Way London & Middlesex supports more than 80 programs at 40 community agencies and helps individuals in or at risk of poverty, violence and mental health issues. The charity also promotes wellness and independence for seniors and persons

with disabilities, it helps prepare youth for future success and marginalized members of the community participate in community life.
