

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Three regional United Ways join *United for Refugees* campaign**

*Eastern Ontario communities ready themselves to support refugees of the Syrian crisis*

Three United Ways serving the communities of Lanark County, Prescott-Russell, and Renfrew County have joined the *United for Refugees* campaign to support refugees of the Syrian crisis. Funds raised will be used to support the sponsorship and settlement of refugees in these counties.

“We’re all heartbroken by the Syrian crisis, and members of our community are telling us they want to help,” said Fraser Scantlebury, Executive Director, United Way Lanark County. “Together, we want to be prepared to support these refugees as they build a life in our communities.”

*United for Refugees* is a community initiative to raise funds for the sponsorship and settlement of people affected by the Syrian crisis. The Government of Canada has committed to bringing 10,000 refugees to Canada by the end of 2015, and another 15,000 by March 2016.

Following on United Way Ottawa’s successful launch, the United Ways of Lanark County, Renfrew County, and Prescott-Russell are launching *United for Refugees* in an effort to make sure that newcomers to our regions have the right tools to start a new life.

“This fundraising effort focuses on getting resources to where they are needed the most and will have the greatest impact,” said Jodie Densmore, Executive Director, Centraide United Way Prescott-Russell. “Donations will be used to assist with sponsorship, provide counseling for refugees in their native language, mental health support, English and French language training, employment supports and more.”

Each regional United Way Centraide is now accepting donations for *United for Refugees* on their websites. For Lanark County, please go to [www.lanarkunitedway.com](http://www.lanarkunitedway.com).

“United Way has a long history of helping newcomers in our community,” said Gail Logan-McMeekin, Executive Director, Renfrew County United Way. “We know we can make a difference in the lives of those affected by the crisis in Syria.”

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#### ***About United Way Lanark County***

For 28 years, United Way Lanark County has been enriching our communities by investing resources where they are needed most and will have the greatest impact. Our purpose is to create opportunities for better lives by mobilizing people, influence, knowledge, and dollars around local social issues that impact people's health and well-being, education and financial stability.

#### **For more information, please contact:**

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