



## United Way teams up to deliver car seats in the Central Okanagan



Figure 1: WFN Community Services team receive the car seats from United Way's Reanne Amadio

**November 7, 2017** – The United Way Central and South Okanagan/Similkameen delivered car seats to the Westbank First Nation Community Services department today as the final delivery of the Child Safety Initiative, a unique partnership with KGH Foundation and Central Okanagan Foundation. This year, 50 car seats were distributed in the Central Okanagan to Lake Country Health Planning, Westbank First Nation, KGH and Kelowna Community Resources, with a few more still to be allocated as the need arises.

A total of 84 car seats were distributed in the last two weeks to nine partner agencies in the Central and South Okanagan/Similkameen. Costco Kelowna orders the seats at a discounted price and Budget Car and Truck Rental provided the cube van for the deliveries in the South. The Child Safety Initiative enables families in need to apply for a car seat from one of the partner agencies.

BCAA estimates that as many as five per cent – roughly 23,000 – of children in British Columbia don't use a child car seat when travelling by car, despite the clear advantages to using one. The unfortunate reality is that some kids go unprotected because their family simply cannot afford a car seat. Family poverty is a complex issue and affects one in five children in British Columbia.

“Helping children and youth in our community reach their full potential is a priority for the United Way CSO through our All That Kids Can Be investments and initiatives,” says Helen Jackman, Executive Director of United Way CSO. “The safety and well-being of children is vital part of this strategy and the drive behind the Child Safety Initiative.”

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Figure 2: KGH team from left to right, Bonnie Wilkie, Doug Rankmore, Bobbi McGrath, new parents - Sarah Baker, Matti Koivisto and newborn Colt, Laura White and UWCSO's Reanne Amadio



Figure 3: UWCSO's Reanne Amadio with Kelowna Community Resources team receiving 32 car seats

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Figure 4: Lake Country Health Planning unit received 5 car seats to distribute to those in need in the community.



Figure 5: Reanne Amadio picks up the donated van from Budget Car and Truck Rental

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For more information about the Child Safety Initiative, visit: <http://unitedwaycso.com/how-we-help/kids/child-safety-initiative/>

Hi-res photos available here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cbj9t3wqua15byf/AABh7ezMMTr9pf3y9yPqYIRfa?dl=0>

### **About United Way CSO**

For over 65 years, the United Way of the Central and South Okanagan/Similkameen has served the region from Lake Country in the North, to Osoyoos and Princeton in the South. Our mission is to improve lives and build community by engaging individuals and mobilizing collective action. The United Way invests in three focus areas that support all that kids can be, move people from poverty to possibility and builds strong communities. We also invest resources in local capacity building and community initiatives that address some of the most pressing needs in the community such as poverty and homelessness. For more information, visit [unitedwaycso.com](http://unitedwaycso.com) or call 1-855-232-1321.

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