

## BIG Impact With A Small Grant

Being a victim of crime and having to face the accused in court, sometimes for the first time since the crime was committed, is stressful. Having to wait in the lobby area with the accused is tense and intimidating. Thanks to a small capital & equipment grant from United Way, the Camrose & District Victim Services were able to create a comfortable, separate and safe space at their courthouse for victims and witnesses.

"Some court days are very long and having the room furnished provides victims with a distraction and the ability to regroup if needed. The little ones are able to review their video statements in the comfort and privacy of the room. We have witnessed victims that are sitting on the couch with Lucy (the Victim Services Dog) providing the comfort and security that they so badly need. We can actually see the transformation in their faces and their body language ease." The Witness Support Room enables victims to feel calm, confident, and competent before entering the courtroom.

