

UNITED WAY OF KANKAKEE AND IROQUOIS COUNTIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



CELEBRATING 80 YEARS



OF SERVING OUR
COMMUNITY



United Way of Kankakee
and Iroquois Counties

UNITED WAY FIGHTS FOR THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL STABILITY OF EVERY PERSON IN EVERY COMMUNITY.

OUR VISION | UNITED WAY ENVISIONS A WORLD WHERE ALL INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL THROUGH EDUCATION, INCOME STABILITY AND HEALTHY LIVES.

OUR MISSION | TO IMPROVE LIVES BY MOBILIZING THE CARING POWER OF OUR COMMUNITY TO ADVANCE THE COMMON GOOD.

A LETTER FROM OUR LEADER

Looking back on the past three years as the leader of United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, I pause with wonder, awe, and pride at what this organization has achieved and endured. In my first year, I stepped into an empty office at the cusp of an unknown virus attacking our health, shaking our economy, and upending our everyday lives. With extraordinary will, perseverance and an amazing community of supporters, donors, and partners, we fought through the hardship and created hope for thousands of families in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.

We have remained true to our mission to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community – fighting for the health, education, and financial stability of families in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. We invested in over 40 local programs, added new community partners, and strengthened our commitment to supporting organizations that serve diverse populations. We created events to expand community-wide support and volunteerism. And we rebuilt our team to better serve the growing needs of our communities.

This past year, United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties proudly introduced and renewed programs, initiatives, and fundraising events that made an impact on children, families, and our entire community. In this report, you'll read more about these programs and other highlights: expanding access to resources for parents through Success by 6 and Bright by Text; helping families save money on prescription medications; and empowering women and building community through Women United.

All of this would not be possible without you – our donors, partners, volunteers, and advocates. Your passions fuel our purpose, and that's what makes impact possible.

As we celebrate progress and honor our rich history of giving back, we must not lose sight of where we might make an impact on our community in the future. There is much change – and work to do – on the horizon for United Way.

Thank you for your continued trust, and I invite you to join us in picturing a more united future where all our neighbors, families, and friends can thrive.

Sincerely,



KERSTIN RUST

Executive Director

United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties

WHO YOU HELP

1 IN 4 residents of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties received assistance through United Way funded programs last year. By giving to United Way, you help your friends and neighbors. Here are some ways your gifts have made a difference in the lives of others.



Girls were able to participate in leadership development programs at a subsidized rate, engaging with mentors and self-esteem building activities alongside their more affluent peers, thanks to your contributions.

Children who have experienced abuse can now have a forensic interview in the comfort of their home or another safe space, thanks to new mobile forensic interviews made possible through United Way funding.



650 older adults received home-delivered meals, many of whom were homebound

204 households received supplies and resources to prepare for the school-year

118 families received housing assistance and homeless prevention services

100 children accessed free or low-cost disability services including walkers, wheelchairs, and assistive technology



Strong Neighborhoods: Elm House

On September 25, 2021, a Fall Fest outreach event was hosted on the block near the Elm House. 15 local service providers offered residents helpful resources, activities, and giveaways. The Fall Fest was made possible with the help of 63 volunteers from Olivet Nazarene University, Kankakee School District #111 JROTC, and Community Cup Church.

January of 2022 marked the first-ever Strong Neighborhoods-Elm House Drive-Up Coat & Glove Giveaway. With the help of local volunteers, we provided winter coats and gloves to 50 families in Kankakee and distributed over 100 winter coats and pairs of gloves. This event was made possible in partnership by: Women United, the City of Kankakee Department of Public Works, the City of Kankakee Police Department, and Connect Roasters.

Thanks also to our volunteers: Women United members, Strong Neighborhoods Elm House Steering Committee members, volunteers from Community Cup Church, and members of three ONU clubs: Diakonia, Heart 4 Missions, and Habitat For Humanity.



Community Equity Mural Unveiling

On October 26, 2021, United Way celebrated the unveiling of its first Equity Mural in the Village of Bourbonnais. This event was the culmination of United Way's 21-week Equity Challenge, hosted in the winter-spring of 2021.

Allison Beecher, of Kankakee, and her original artwork, "We Are Stronger Together" received 64.5% of public votes. Runners-up included Paul Laue, of Kankakee, and his submission "We All Live Here Together," and Trenna VanVleck, of Bourbonnais, with "Different People, Same Heart."

The mural is now located at 481 South Main Street (IL Route 45/52) where Mi Casa Mexican Restaurant currently resides.

Bourbonnais was chosen as the home to this mural in keeping with United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties' Equity Challenge, of which 120 of the 270 participants were Bourbonnais residents.

Learn more about our Equity Challenge and other efforts at:

myunitedway.org/equity



LOCAL RESOURCES



United Way and the Success By 6 Coalition continued support of **Bright By Text** for a second year. This resource enables local families to **text "UWKIC" to 274448** to subscribe for helpful child development tips and resources. This text messaging service is free and offers caregivers of children, prenatal to age eight, a variety of tools, tips, and local or national resources.

113

new families have subscribed for free Bright By Text updates and resources since July of 2021.

United Way works with local partners to make Bright By Text free for Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. This tool aligns with United Way's mission priorities: to improve the health and education of our community.

"We are thrilled to see local families signing up for Bright by Text to receive timely early childhood education and development tools," said Fiana Smith, Community Impact Manager for United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. "This service is a wonderful resource, and our Success by 6 Coalition is working hard to ensure Kankakee and Iroquois county families are aware of this free resource and local events happening this year."



myunitedway.org/bright-text



United Way partnered with **SingleCare** (formerly FamilyWize) to assist residents of Kankakee and Iroquois counties in accessing affordable prescription medications. This is one way United Way seeks to secure greater health and financial stability for our neighbors.

The most commonly accessed prescriptions in fiscal year 2021-2022 were heart disease, analgesic, and mental health related prescriptions.

Download and print a card on SingleCare.com or **text "family" to 700700** to receive a card on your phone. Message and data rates may apply.

SINGLECARE'S LOCAL IMPACT | JULY 2021-JUNE 2022

Total Rx Savings	Total People Helped
United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties	
\$48,172	363

This marks a 41% increase in dollars saved on prescriptions and a 72% increase in local residents who utilized SingleCare services since last year.



myunitedway.org/singlecare

The SingleCare prescription savings card is:

- Free to use by everyone - just show it to your pharmacist at checkout
- No registration or eligibility requirements
- Save up to 80% on 10,000+ prescription medications
- Accepted at major pharmacy chains nationwide
- Works whether you're insured or underinsured
- Unlimited uses



1,445

211 calls from Kankakee and Iroquois Counties in 2021-2022.

211 is one of our most effective strategies to reach people in need. No matter the situation, the specialists at 211 listen, identify underlying problems, and connect people in need with resources and services in their community that improve lives.

Dial 211 on your phone to find information and be connected to resources available in our community. 211 connects you to services including:

- Crisis and emergency counseling for mental health concerns, domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking
- Disaster assistance
- Food pantries and home-delivered meals
- Financial assistance, literacy, and coaching
- Healthcare and insurance assistance
- Stable housing and utility payment assistance

211 is sponsored locally by United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties and Ascension Saint Mary.



Largest 2021-2022 resource requests in Kankakee & Iroquois Counties:



#1 Request - 42% of calls
Housing, Shelter & Rent



Utility Assistance



Employment & Income



Mental Health & Addiction

myunitedway.org/2-1-1

IMPACT PARTNERS

United Way works with local nonprofit agencies to improve lives and strengthen communities. The agencies listed here have been awarded funding to support programs in education, financial stability, and health during the FY 2022-2023 fiscal year.

EDUCATION

A More Excellent Way Ministries

Bridge Family Enrichment Program

Catholic Charities Diocese of Joliet

Back to School Fair

Clove Alliance

Engagement & Prevention Services

Garden of Prayer Youth Center

Early Education & Intervention

S.A.F.E. Summer Program

SEFE Afterschool Program

Girl Scouts of Central Illinois

Leadership Experience

Harbor House

Prevention Education

Helen Wheeler Center for Community

Mental Health

Child and Family Services

KCC ALIVE

Baby Talk Program

Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center

HOPE Program

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Catholic Charities Diocese of Joliet

Homeless Prevention Services

Money Management Program

Horizons Joint Transitional Housing

Fortitude Community Outreach

Emergency Shelter Services

KCC ALIVE

Adult Literacy Services

Prairie State Legal Services

Civil Legal Aid

HEALTH

American Tribe Equine Therapy, Inc

Equine Therapy Services

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet

Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Healthy Aging Community-Based Services

Home Delivered Meals

Center of Hope

Food Security Program

Child Network

Children's Advocacy Center

Court Appointed Advocates

Clove Alliance

Case Management Services

Client Advocacy

Counseling Services

Easterseals, Joliet Region

Pediatric Therapy

Harbor House

Youth Counseling

Prevention Education

Helen Wheeler Center for Community

Mental Health

Outpatient Case Management

Iroquois Mental Health Center

Psychiatric Services

Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center

Medical Services

Northern Illinois Food Bank

Hospital-Based Food Pantry

Options Center for Independent Living

Assistive Technology & Emergency Services

United Cerebral Palsy - Center for Disability Services

Family Support Home-Based Services

Scan to watch stories of impact from 2021-2022 United Way agencies

United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois County relies entirely on private donations, provided by generous individuals and companies in our community. Our funding is sourced locally and that support stays local. **Your support makes this possible!**



CORPORATE LEADERS

Each year, United Way works with local companies, who we refer to as our Corporate Leaders, to improve lives and strengthen communities. Leaders qualify by giving, or working with their team to raise, \$100+ per year.

The 70 companies listed here are members of our Corporate Leadership program in fiscal year 2020-2021. Combined, these companies and their employees contributed over **\$355,000**. We thank them for their passion for change and commitment to our shared purpose.



AMEREN	IROQUOIS FEDERAL
AQUA OF ILLINOIS	IROQUOIS MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
ARMSTRONG FLOORING	ITW
ASCENSION SAINT MARY	KANKAKEE AREA CAREER CENTER
AT&T GLOBAL CORPORATION	KANKAKEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BASF CORPORATION	KANKAKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT #111
BISHOP MCNAMARA	KELLOGG'S
BRADLEY BOURBONNAIS COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL	MANPOWER INC.
BRADLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #61	MEIJER
CARLE FOUNDATION HOSPITAL	MIDLAND STATES BANK
CATERPILLAR FOUNDATION	NELNET
CATHOLIC CHARITIES	NICOR GAS
CIGNA	OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
CITGO PETROLEUM CORPORATION	PEDDINGHAUS CORPORATION
CITY OF KANKAKEE	PEOPLES BANK OF KANKAKEE COUNTY
CLOVE ALLIANCE	PNC BANK
COMCAST	PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES
COMED/EXELON	PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL
COUNTY OF KANKAKEE	RIVERSIDE HEALTHCARE
CSL BEHRING	ROBERT BAIRD COMPANY
DOW CHEMICAL	SECURITY LUMBER & SUPPLY CO.
EASTERSEALS	SKDO
EXXON MOBIL CORPORATION	STATE OF ILLINOIS
FEDEX CORPORATION	SUPervalue (JEWEL OSCO)
FIRST FINANCIAL BANK	TARGET
FIRST MIDWEST BANK	THRIVENT FINANCIAL
FIRST MID BANK & TRUST	UNION PACIFIC
FIRST TRUST BANK OF ILLINOIS	UPLIFTED CARE
GARDANT MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS	UPS
GOOD SHEPHERD MANOR	US BANK
GOOGLE	VILLAGE OF MANTENO
GRINNELL MUTUAL	WALMART FOUNDATION
HARBOR HOUSE	WELLS FARGO
HELEN WHEELER CENTER	YWCA
HOMESTAR INSURANCE SERVICES	
HUBERGROUP	

Small Local Business. Big Local Impact.

Small businesses play a critical role in maintaining a thriving local economy. Our entire community benefits when children succeed in school, families are stable, and our community has access to the resources needed for stronger, healthy lives. In 2021, United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties rolled the **365 Small Business Circle**. For as little as \$1 a day, small businesses were able to join the fight for a healthier community. Businesses who turned their dollars into charge were: **365 Small Business Builder - Homestar Title Company. 365 Small Business Members - Art's Landscaping & Irrigation, Bear Construction, Elite Community Credit Union, Fast Signs of Kankakee, and Fisher-Gentry Eye Care.**





UNITED WAY WOMEN UNITED

Women United harnesses the power and dedication of women leaders to transform local communities. Since 2016, United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties has celebrated local female leaders at the annual Women United breakfast. Women United has evolved into a membership-based affinity group moving United Way's mission forward - fighting for health, education, and financial stability, with a focus on local women and girls. Since January 2021, Women United has grown into a diverse community of over 50 members bound together by a powerful sense of belonging - to each other, to our mission, and to the communities we call home.

In 2021-2022 Women United efforts raised over \$30,000 towards United Way's investments in programs serving women and girls.

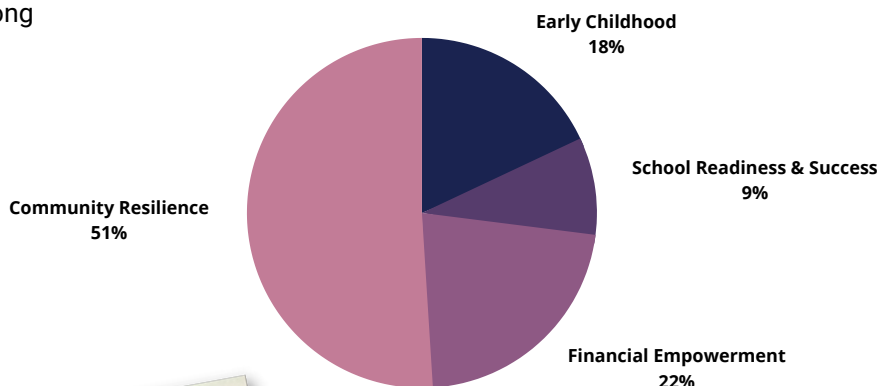


Being a part of Women United opens the door to volunteering with our quarterly Kindness Projects that benefit our community alongside others, building empowering and motivating relationships with local women at exclusive events, and being a part of a community of women who contribute their personal passions, best ideas, and unique strengths to the mission of building strong communities where we live and work.

"Being a Women United member is an honor. It gives me the opportunity to encourage women to become involved in activities to benefit other women and the community. The Kindness projects are some of my favorites because by participating, I am helping to bless others. The Women United Breakfast is one I love planning to help bring women to share their knowledge and experience with us. So get involved and help us spread the blessings."

- Mary Thomson, Women United Founding Member

Women United's 2021-2022 Region-Wide Impact



WOMEN UNITED'S 2021-2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

EMPOWER HOUR EVENTS

This year, Women United started New Member Coffee, a networking hour for women to connect over a cup of coffee before their workday begins. New Member Coffee gives women the opportunity to network, meet other local women and learn more about being a Women United member. This quarterly event quickly transformed into EmpowHER Hour, a networking hour hosted outside the typical work day.

Thank you to the following businesses who have opened their doors for these events to happen: ReCharge Coffee, Uplifted Bistro, Connect Roasters, and Knack Brewing & Fermentations.

KINDNESS PROJECTS

Women United supports community and volunteer events hosted by and available to Women United members, including:

- **AUGUST 2021 - Donation Drive for Garden of Prayer Youth Center** - Women United members collected donations valued at over \$1,800 including yoga mats, slippers, bras and other goods for young women and girls participating in Garden of Prayer's youth placement program.
- **OCTOBER 2021 - Harbor House 4K** - In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, ten Women United volunteers participated in Harbor House's 4k to End Domestic Violence and also wrote encouraging notes to survivors of domestic violence.
- **DECEMBER 2021 - Santa's Workshop with Center of Hope** - 23 volunteers assembled 500 gift baskets for the Center of Hope Food Pantry in Kankakee. The organization distributed these movie night-themed baskets to local families during the holiday season.
- **JANUARY 2022 - Winter Coat and Glove Drive** - Women United and Strong Neighborhoods hosted a winter coat and glove drive. Joining the community-wide effort, eight local businesses hosted bins for the community to donate. 234 coats and 150 pairs of gloves were collected and 20 volunteers helped to distribute the coats and gloves to neighbors in need.
- **JULY 2022 - Community Baby Shower** - Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Women United members and local workplaces, over \$2,600 worth of diapers and wipes were collected and distributed to Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center.

WOMEN UNITED'S ANNUAL BREAKFAST RETURNS!

Women United celebrated International Women's Day by hosting their Women United Annual Breakfast on March 8, 2022. Hosted at the Majestic Theater in Kankakee, this sold-out event raised \$22,000 for programs serving women and girls in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.

The Breakfast featured inspiring local speakers and brought together over 200 people in-person and online. The morning was filled with connections, inspirational storytelling, and the opportunity to shop and support local women-owned businesses. The morning ended with a raffle filled with baskets donated by local female entrepreneurs in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. Proceeds from this fundraiser were allocated towards programs that benefit the lives of women and girls - supporting financial empowerment, early childhood success, school success, and community resilience.

Thank you to our Women United sponsors: CSL Behring, Ascension Saint Mary, Olivet Nazarene University, Kankakee Community College, Riverside Healthcare, ITW Zip Pak, First Financial Bank, Harvest View Senior Living, Prudential- Sarah Viall, Economic Alliance of Kankakee County, Garden of Prayer Youth Center. Thanks also to our in-kind event sponsors: Plus One AV and Thrivent Financial.

CSL Behring
Biotherapies for Life™

 **Ascension
Saint Mary**

myunitedway.org/women-united

UNITED WAY OF KANKAKEE & IROQUOIS COUNTIES ANNUAL REPORT

7



OTHER 2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS

80TH ANNIVERSARY | 2021 ANNUAL DINNER

Kankakee County's United Way chapter was officially born on December 17, 1941, in a meeting room at the old Hotel Kankakee - ten days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. First named the Kankakee County Community War Chest, the earliest fundraising efforts supported local agencies along with war relief charities. While fundraising methods and services have evolved over the years, the goal of United Way has remained steadfast: to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community to advance the common good.

Our 2021 Annual Dinner, hosted on Thursday, September 30, 2021 at the Kankakee County Museum, honored this history with a special "Walk Through The Decades" tour, highlighting stories, articles, and artifacts from each of our eight decades in our community.



Scan to view our "Walk Through The Decades" playlist.



Thank you to our sponsors for this special night: Ascension Saint Mary, Olivet Nazarene University, Iroquois Federal, CSL Behring, Riverside Healthcare, Midland States Bank, and Federated Bank.

GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, November 30, 2021, marked Giving Tuesday, a day that encourages generosity and activism with non-profits around the world. This Giving Tuesday, United Way received support from nearly 100 donors, raising over \$8,500.

Special thanks to our 2021 Giving Tuesday Ambassadors: Jessica Andrade, Larry Burton, John and Shanon Keigher, Amanda Martinez, Angela Morrey, Kathy Peterson, Dr. Amber Residori, Larry and Mary Self, and Jeff Williamson.

2022 UNITED WAY ANY-K

The United Way ANY-K returned for a second year in May of 2022. While pending thunderstorms prohibited ANY-K participants from gathering together in-person, participants and donors were still able to gather virtually for a yoga session led by Women United member, Tami Galbreath.

In 2022 we changed our approach to empower United Way agencies to create ANY-K teams and fundraise for their own programs along with United Way. Teams who participated this year included: A More Excellent Way Ministries, the Bread Basket Food Pantry, Catholic Charities, Harbor House, KCC Literacy Programs - ALIVE & Baby Talk, and Prairie State Legal Services.

Congratulations to our top 2022 ANY-K Teams!

- 1st PLACE: Team Miles for Meals, Catholic Charities
- 2nd PLACE: Team A More Excellent Way
- 3rd PLACE: Team United Way

Kudos to our highest-achieving ANY-K participants!

- Lorraine Rogers - Team A More Excellent Way
- Jennifer Wick - Team Miles for Meals
- Bry Williams - Team Miles for Meals

Thanks to our 2022 ANY-K Sponsors! >



Thanks to the support of 141 total participants and donors, the 2022 ANY-K raised over \$6,900 for local programs.



Play Palz 101

Ascension Saint Mary

OUR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT VOLUNTEERS



VOLUNTEERS UNITED



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

There are over 200 people we want to personally thank for their support... Scan the QR code to see our full appreciation page!



2021-2022 FINANCES




We are responsible to our donors, partners, and the broader community to ensure that the dollars entrusted to us are invested in ways that will produce positive results for this community.

myunitedway.org/our-promise

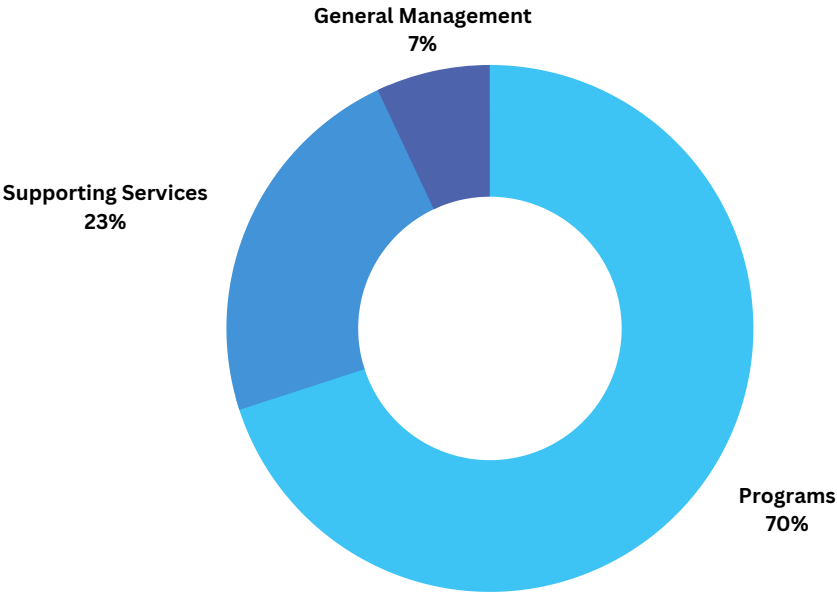
Program Funding Breakdown

Each year, Community Investment volunteers serve as a voice for our community's interests. They help us invest local donations in a manner that is relevant to local needs and will produce meaningful, data-driven results.

This year, Community Investment volunteers visited 20 non-profit programs in-person across Kankakee & Iroquois Counties and three programs virtually. Volunteers evaluated 44 total programs and provided funding recommendations that resulted in the distribution of funds shown below. See page 5 for a full list of agencies and programs who received funding for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

	Health	55%
	Behavioral Health	12%
	Food Security	6%
	Health Equity	6%
	Healthy Beginnings	9%
	Education	19%
	Early Childhood	8%
	School Readiness & Success	10%
	Financial Stability	27%
	Financial Literacy	1%
	Stable Housing	18%
	Continuing Education	8%

2021-2022 Expenses



*Financial data as of June 30, 2022

General Management expenses included: office management; human resource costs; purchasing and distribution of materials; accounting, auditing, budgeting and financial reporting services; and more.

Supporting Services expenses included: fundraising activities, staff, and management; as well as general marketing and awareness events.


Programs expenses included: Impact Partner grants for 2021-2022; Success by 6; Strong Neighborhoods; Bright by Text; SingleCare; 211; Women United; Equity Challenge/Mural; Community Engagement; Volunteer Engagement and Advocacy; and more.

WE VALUE YOUR TRUST




We take our finances very seriously, and we pride ourselves on adhering to a stringent set of membership standards that focus on governance, ethics, financial management, and general operations. We strive to be transparent with our donors, as demonstrated by our 2022 Gold Seal of Transparency status with Candid.

DONOR BILL OF RIGHTS



We want to do everything we can to maintain the trust of our donors and neighbors. View our Donor Bill of Rights by scanning the QR code below.



UNITED WAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The United Way Board of Directors is charged with providing oversight, control and management of the affairs and property of United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. Its responsibilities include strategic leadership, resource and relationship management, reputation building, stewardship of assets and oversight of public policy agenda and advocacy. We are deeply grateful for each of our 2021-2022 board members.

BOARD PRESIDENT

MICHAEL O'BRIEN
Commercial Relationship Manager
Midland States Bank

PRESIDENT-ELECT

SARAH MARION
President & CEO
Village of Manteno Chamber of Commerce

TREASURER

MILEEN JOINES
Certified Public Accountant
Geoffrey Johns & Associates

SECRETARY

KATHY PETERSON
Executive Director of Program &
Community Development
Ascension Saint Mary Hospital

PAST PRESIDENT

KYLE BENOIT
Senior Vice President, COO
Riverside Healthcare

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Director of Ambulance/EMS System
Riverside Healthcare

KRISTEN HARMS
NA Supply Chain Manager
ITW Zip Pak

JASMYNE HUMBLE
Communications Director
County of Kankakee

BRANDON JUODIKIS
Financial Planner
SA Piggush Financial Advisors

JOHN KEIGHER
Retired CEO
Urban Farmer

AMANDA MARTINEZ
Commercial Loan Officer
Federated Bank

DR. AMBER RESIDORI
Dean, College of Professional Studies
Olivet Nazarene University

SARAH VIAL
Financial Advisor
Urban Farmer

KENT WADE
Founder & Director
Lift With Ambition

DR. GENEVRA WALTERS
Superintendent
Kankakee School District 111

TAMMI WILSON
Financial Representative
Western Southern Financial

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KERSTIN RUST

DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS

MELINA PIZANO
MARIAH VAIL

COMMUNITY IMPACT MANAGER

FIANA SMITH

