


UNITED WAY OF KANKAKEE & IROQUOIS COUNTIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**United
Way** 

**United Way of Kankakee
& Iroquois Counties**

THIS IS WHO WE ARE

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

For over 80 years, United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties has mobilized caring people to invest in communities where resources are needed most. **Funder. Thought Leader. Convener. Advocate.** These words describe the role that United Way plays within the Kankakee and Iroquois county region. We are connected to a network of United Ways and draw from those relationships as well as those within the local philanthropic community, to refine how we allocate funds to maximize their impact.



OUR MISSION | To improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community to advance the common good.

OUR VISION | United Way envisions a world where all individuals and families achieve their full potential through education, income stability, and healthy lives.

THIS IS WHAT WE VALUE

- **Excellence** - We focus on achieving the highest standards of organizational excellence and are committed to achieving our mission and vision.
- **Community-First Commitment** - We place the needs of the community before our own interests.
- **Collaboration** - We work toward shared goals that benefit us all, uniting our collective knowledge and power.
- **Vision** - We strive for a brighter future through our dedication to progress, imagination, and game-changing solutions.
- **Transparency** - We practice care, compassion, and honesty in the stewardship of resources and relationships entrusted to us by our community.
- **Empathy** - We root ourselves in our shared humanity and treat each other with kindness and compassion. We are at our best when we honor the equal dignity and worth of all people, even in the face of conflict.
- **Equity & Inclusion** - We will leverage our strengths to engage and include the voices in our community of those who have been traditionally marginalized.

LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

On August 1st, 2023, I crossed the 90-day mark in this role as your Executive Director. Naturally, I celebrated with a cup of coffee. Then, I had some reflection to do.

When I embarked on this new journey, I made a point to schedule as many meetings as I could, sitting down with individuals who held key roles during our 80+ year legacy, and collecting feedback and ideas.

During one of these meetings, I was asked to consider the question, "What are United Way's strengths?" Thankfully, that is a question I have a confident answer for!



- **Our "Big Picture Superpower"** - Our model empowers to be nimble and adapt to address the greatest areas of need in our community.



- **Our History** - We've been serving our community for over 80 years! We stand on the shoulders of giants who made our work today possible.



- **Our Faithful Donors** - United Way received support from around 80 workplaces and literally thousands of individuals last year. We are grateful to know donors who have given consistently for *decades!*



- **Our Team** - At the end of FY 2023, United Way had just two employees. (Special thanks to Melina Pizano, for being the other half of the United Way's dynamic duo!) We rely heavily on the support and leadership provided by our board, as well as the valuable time donated by dozens of local volunteers.



- **Our Funded Programs** - Donations to United Way are currently empowering 24 programs, provided through 14 local nonprofits, which helps us reach 1 in 5 residents of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties. *That's a huge reach!*

Whether you are a donor, volunteer, or serving one of our funded programs, **you are one of our collective strengths**. On behalf of our entire team and Board of Directors, thank you. I'm looking forward with great hope and enthusiasm to the road ahead of us.



Mariah Vail

Executive Director
United Way of Kankakee
& Iroquois Counties



UNITED WAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2022-2023

MIKE O'BRIEN | **BOARD PRESIDENT**

KYLE BENOIT | **PAST PRESIDENT**

SARAH MARION | **VICE PRESIDENT**

KATHY PETERSON | **SECRETARY**

MILEEN JOINES | **TREASURER**

KENT WADE | **CAMPAIGN CHAIR**

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ADAM ELROY

NICOLE GAVIN

KEVIN HACK

KRIS HARMS

JASMYNE HUMBLE

JOHN KEIGHER

JAKOB KNOX

AMANDA MARTINEZ

PEGGY SUE MUNDAY

MONICA PIZANO

DR. AMBER RESIDORI

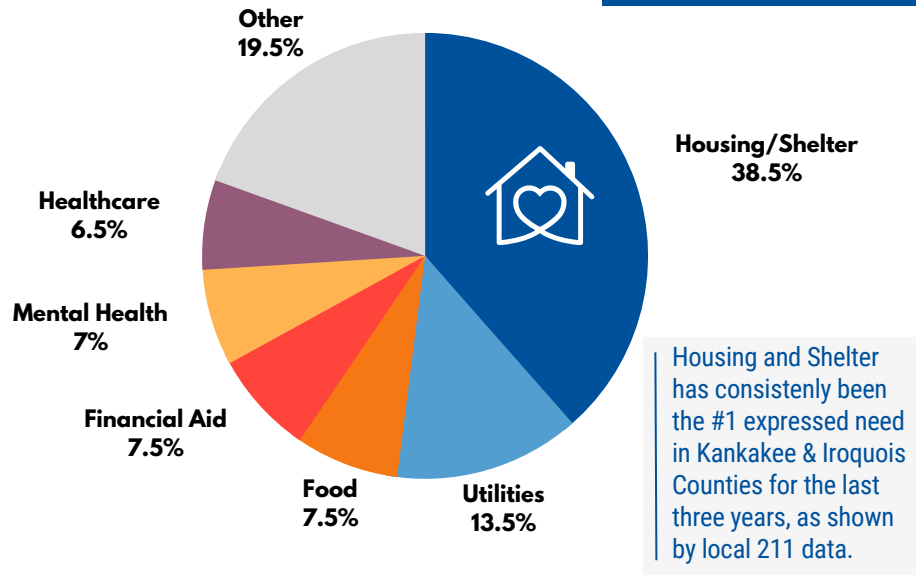
SARAH VIALI

DR. GENEVRA WALTERS



Get Connected. Get Help.™

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. This service is made possible locally by Ascension Saint Mary in partnership with United Way.



Dial 2-1-1 on your phone to find information and be connected to resources available in our community.

211 connects you to services including:

- Food pantries and home-delivered meals
- Financial assistance, literacy, and coaching
- Healthcare and insurance assistance
- Stable housing and utility payment assistance

1,517 Local calls made to 211 in FY 2022-23



Since 2008, United Way and the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley have partnered in leading **Success By 6**, an early childhood community collaborative for service providers, caregivers, and local stakeholders interested in bettering the odds for our youngest neighbors.

The Coalition has refined their strategic priority areas with the intent of better targeting our efforts and improving our ability to gauge impact. These strategic areas and action teams are:

- Healthy Beginnings
- Supported Families
- Early Childhood Workforce Development

In June of 2023, Success By 6 hosted their second annual **Early Childhood Fair** at the Kankakee Farmers Market. We brought together local early childhood partners to provide fun, free activities, as well as helpful resources for parents of children under the age of 6.

In that same month, Success By 6 launched a new **Family Support Bus** partnership program to bring early intervention services directly to families in our community. ([Read more on the next page!](#))

Learn more about Success By 6 and sign up for updates at:

myunitedway.org/successby6



YOUR IMPACT

Your donations empower a diverse network of community organizations who tackle complex health, education, and financial stability issues facing our neighbors.

The work of these accredited 501(c)3 nonprofits is verified through our annual Community Investment process to ensure that they are: mission-oriented, addressing key community needs, collaborative, data-driven, and effective in creating life-impacting change.

Scan to watch a story of impact from a United Way partner!

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!



Health Impact Programs

- **Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet**
 - Senior Nutrition Program
- **Center of Hope**
 - Food Security Program
- **Child Network**
 - Children's Advocacy Center
 - Court Appointed Advocates
- **Clove Alliance**
 - Trauma Counseling Services
 - Medical & Legal Advocacy
- **Easterseals, Joliet Region**
 - Pediatric Therapy
- **Helen Wheeler Center for Community Mental Health**
 - Child and Family Services
 - Outpatient Case Management
- **Iroquois Mental Health Center**
 - Psychiatric Services
- **Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center**
 - Medical Services
- **Options Center for Independent Living**
 - Emergency Services & Assistive Technology Program

Education Impact Programs

- **Clove Alliance**
 - Community Engagement & Prevention Services
- **Kankakee Community College - ALIVE**
 - ALIVE Literacy - Adult Literacy Initiative
 - Volunteers Expanded
 - Baby Talk Program
- **Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center**
 - HOPE Mentoring Program

Financial Stability Impact Programs

- **Agape Community Outreach Mission**
 - Moving Forward Program
- **Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet**
 - Money Management Program
 - Homeless Prevention Services
 - Horizons Joint Transitional Housing
- **Clove Alliance**
 - Case Management Services
- **Foritude**
 - Homeless Drop-In Services
(Pending the start of this new program)
- **Prairie State Legal Services**
 - Civil Legal Aid



This June, our Success By 6 coalition launched a new partnership program to bring early intervention services directly to families in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. Within three months, the Family Support Bus partnership, has provided over 70 screenings to children under the age of 5. Success By 6 is a partnership initiative of United Way and the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley, with additional support from Ascension Saint Mary.

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 69 companies listed here are members of our Corporate Leadership program in fiscal year 2022-2023. Combined, these companies and their employees contributed just over \$332,000 in workplace giving, sponsorships, and locally designated grants. We thank them for their faithful generosity and commitment to our shared purpose.



- ABBVIE
- AMEREN
- AQUA OF ILLINOIS
- ASCENSION SAINT MARY
- AT&T GLOBAL CORPORATION
- AUNT MARTHA'S
- BASF CORPORATION
- BRADLEY BOURBONNAIS COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
- BRADLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #61
- BISHOP MCNAMARA
- BMO
- BRANDON CASEY'S COMFORT CREW
- CARLE FOUNDATION HOSPITAL
- CATERPILLAR FOUNDATION
- CIGNA
- CITY OF KANKAKEE
- CLOVE ALLIANCE
- COMED/EXELON
- CNO FINANCIAL GROUP
- CONSTELLATION
- COUNTY OF KANKAKEE
- CSL BEHRING
- CUMBERLAND FARMS
- DISCOVER FINANCIAL
- DOW CHEMICAL
- EASTERSEALS
- EDWARD JONES
- EXXON MOBIL CORPORATION
- FEDEX CORPORATION
- FIRST FINANCIAL BANK
- FIRST TRUST BANK OF ILLINOIS
- GARDANT MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS
- GOOD SHEPHERD MANOR
- GOOGLE
- HARBOR HOUSE
- HELEN WHEELER CENTER
- HUBERGROUP
- HYDRITE CHEMICAL
- INNOVATIVE STAFF SOLUTIONS
- IROQUOIS FEDERAL
- IROQUOIS MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
- ITW
- KANKAKEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- KANKAKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT #111
- MEIJER
- MIDLAND STATES BANK
- NELNET
- NICOR GAS
- OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
- ONEOK
- PEDDINGHAUS CORPORATION
- PEOPLES BANK OF KANKAKEE COUNTY
- PNC BANK
- PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES
- PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL
- RIVERSIDE HEALTHCARE
- SECURITY LUMBER & SUPPLY CO.
- SKDO
- STATE BANK OF HERSCHER
- SUPERVALUE (JEWEL OSCO)
- TARGET
- THRIVENT FINANCIAL
- UNITED WAY OF KANKAKEE & IROQUOIS
- UNION PACIFIC
- UPLIFTED CARE
- UPS
- US BANK
- VILLAGE OF BOURBONNAIS
- VILLAGE OF MANTENO

Additional companies with one or more employees who contributed at a smaller level included:
CNG, Enterprise, Exact Science Corp, First Mid Bank & Trust, Grinnell Mutual, JC Penney, Kellogg, Kroger, Old National Bank, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Zachry Industrial



Women United is a dynamic force that leverages the strength and commitment of female leaders to bring about positive change within our local communities. Since 2016, the United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties has proudly honored and celebrated the remarkable achievements of local women leaders through the annual Women United breakfast.

Over time, Women United has transformed into a membership-based affinity group, steadfastly advancing the mission of the United Way. Our primary focus remains on championing health, education, and financial stability, with a dedicated emphasis on empowering local women and girls. As of January 2021, Women United has blossomed into a vibrant and diverse community, comprising over 50 dedicated members. Our unity is forged by a profound sense of connection – to one another, to our shared mission, and to the communities we proudly call home.

In 2022-2023 Women United efforts raised over \$37,000 towards United Way's community impact investments in programs serving women and girls.

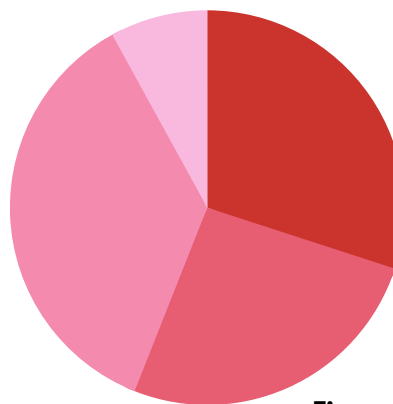
WOMEN UNITED'S 2022-2023 REGION-WIDE IMPACT



Early Childhood Development
8%

Healthy Beginnings
30%

Trauma & Resilience
36%



Financial Literacy
26%



COLLABERATION IS OUR STRENGTH

Women United teamed up with the talented local graphic designer, Jami Mcelroy, to bring some pizzazz to our wardrobe! Together, we designed, crafted, and printed the most fabulous Women United t-shirts you've ever laid eyes on. **And guess what? We've sold over 100 of them!** Chances are, you've spotted these shirts gracing the streets, worn by incredible women who proudly sport our empowering slogan: EmpowHER. Proceeds will go towards supporting local programs that benefit and empower women and girls in our community! Talk about fashion with a purpose!

WOMEN UNITED'S 2022-2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

Special Thanks To Our Partner, Connector, & Builder Members!

Debra Baron, Janice Krizik Schmidt, Jessica Davis, Margaret Frogge, Mary OBrien, Rhonda Pence, Robin Savage, Sarah Powers, Monica Pizano, Tami Galbreath, Jessica Robinson, Barbi Brewer-Watson, Jan Glazar, Brittney Davis, Jill Rieken, Melissa Tanner, Sarah Memenga, Brandi Kaner, and Kathy Peterson



NETWORK | EMPOWHER HOUR EVENTS

EmpowHER Hour is a quarterly networking event that gives women the opportunity to network, meet other local women and learn more about being a Women United member. Thank you to the following businesses who opened their doors for these events: Knack Brewery, The Kankakee Farmers Market, The Majestic, Roze Boutique, The Well-Manteno.



VOLUNTEER | KINDNESS PROJECTS

Women United supports community and volunteer events hosted by and available to members.

- **October & April - Story Time with Success by 6 & Women United** - Women United and Success by 6 volunteers read meaningful books to local children followed by activity. Women United members read 'My Voice is a Trumpet' by Jimmie Allen to 38 students and helped the children describe what their voice is.
- **October - Women's Self- Defense Workshop** - Women United members had the opportunity to participate in a self- defense class taught by Master Lee and Han. This workshop was made possible thanks to the Brandon Casey's Comfort Crew & the Bourbonnais Police Department!
- **March - Letters to Her** - During the 7th Annual Women United Breakfast, attendees had an opportunity to write a personal letter to a woman experiencing hardship in our community. We received over 100 heart-felt letters to share with women served by our nonprofit partners.
- **July - Give Joy & Feel Joy** - Women United members volunteering at Mattea's Joy, packaging snack boxes for families with hospitalized children.



WOMEN UNITED ANNUAL BREAKFAST

The 7th Annual Women United Breakfast took place on International Women's Day, March 8, 2023, at Gathering Point Church in Bourbonnais. Over 200 women and men attended the Women United Annual Breakfast. The 7th annual event featured an exciting lineup of local female speakers who shared their insights on using their skills and strengths to empower and uplift women in the community, overcoming obstacles, the power of perseverance, personal and professional growth, and more.

Thank you also to our 2023 Breakfast speakers: Dr. Deanna Van Kuren, Monica Pizano, Courtney Wade, Sydney Mongaraz, Maggie Frogge, and Staci Wilken.



POWER OF THE PURSE

The first Women United Power of the Purse fundraiser took place on January 25, 2023 at the Majestic. Over 150 women attended Power of the Purse. This exciting event featured a fireside chat, over 20 silent auction items (\$100+ value), and a raffle featuring hand painted purses. This was a perfect kick off to Women United's eventful 2023 year! Special thanks to our 2023 Fireside Chat Speakers: Jamie Freedland & Kathi Myers.



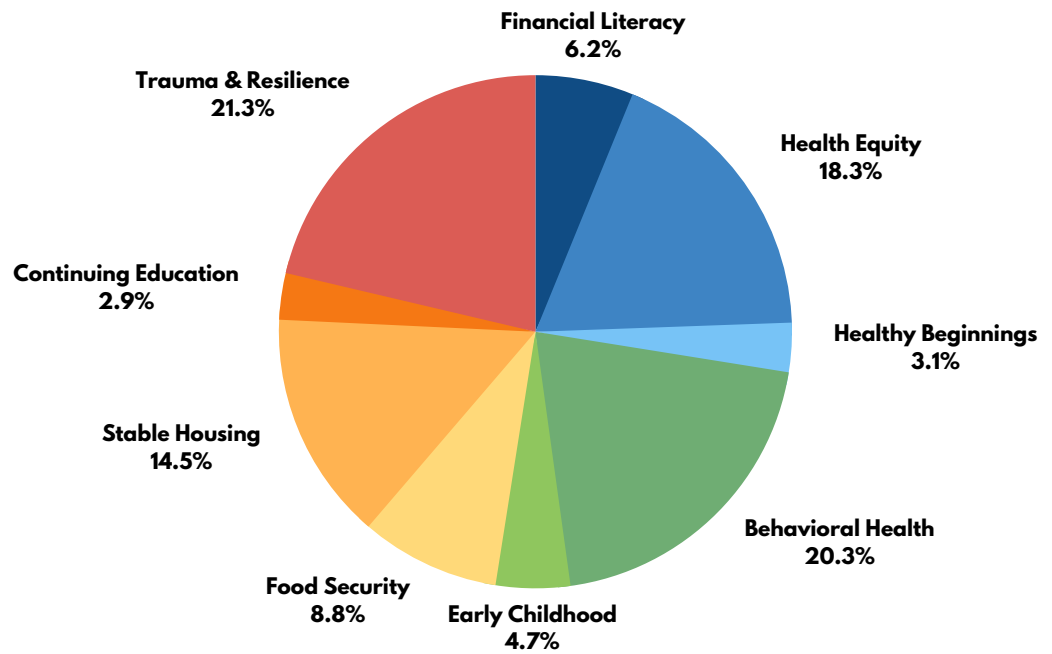
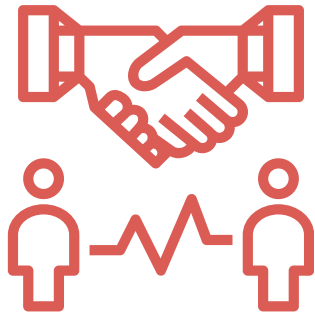
The first Power of the Purse fundraiser and the 7th Annual Women United Breakfast collectively raised over \$28,000 for local women and girls!



2022-2023 FINANCES

Displayed below is the breakdown of current year, 2023-2024, community impact and local program investment categories.

Total investment in local programs:
\$255,954.67



In the 2023 fiscal year, our local United Way witnessed one of the largest declines in workplace campaign donations in the last decade. This was not unique to our region, and was witnessed by United Ways around the world, as well as by many other nonprofits. Giving in the United States overall saw a national decline in 2022, only the third time in the last 40 years giving declined rather than increased. Reasons for this include the rising cost of living nationwide, shifts in generational giving patterns, new third party giving platforms, and more. As a result, we've made substantial cuts to our internal operations for the current 2023-24 fiscal year. We even pulled from our reserves at the end of the 2022-23 fiscal year in order to maintain promised support for funded impact partners.

We want to steward your donations to the best of our ability. If you have any questions regarding your donations, please contact us at info@myunitedway.org.

ENDOWMENTS

United Way currently has two endowment funds (listed, right) which stewarded by our friends at the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley. We chose not to pull the available distributions from these funds in FY 2023, in order to let funds build back interest another year.

If you are estate planning, please consider designating your support towards these endowments!

United Way General Fund: \$67,756.83*

Established in 2010 by anonymous donors with a lead gift of \$20,000. Contributions to this fund support operations and programs in both Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.

United Way of Iroquois Fund: \$636,063.21*

Established in 2014 through an estate gift for the benefit of Iroquois County. Contributions to this fund generate up to \$25,000 in distributions each for Iroquois County nonprofits.

**Endowment Account Balances as of June 30, 2023*



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.

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 **2023 Gold Seal of Transparency** status with Candid.



UNITED FOR OUR COMMUNITY

