

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

LAST YEAR

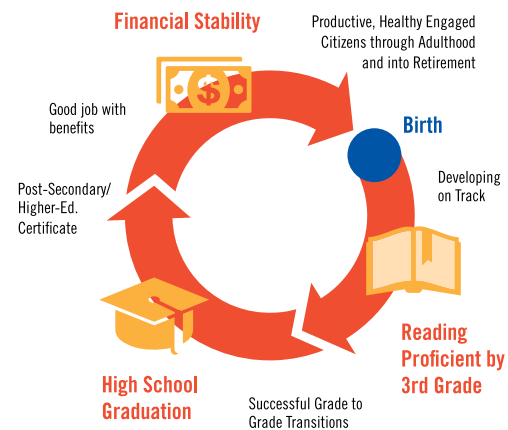
- 496 young children served by United Way funded agencies demonstrated developmentally appropriate skills
- 10,565 youth participated regularly in positive after-school, summer, scouting, and mentoring activities
- Over 1,897,000 pounds of food was distributed through dining sites and food pantries
- Volunteers assisted with filing over 3,695 tax returns, bringing back over \$1,826,000 in Earned Income Tax Credits to our community.
- 13,219 received mental health services to improve their functioning and wellbeing.
- 1,326 women received prescription assistance and 937 women received dental, vision and/or healthcare services.



To create positive, lasting community change, we need to get to the root cause of our most critical needs. This requires the work of our entire community. Your leadership and commitment make it possible for us to achieve immediate results today, while creating a stronger tomorrow for everyone.

United Way does this by helping children and youth achieve their potential, helping families become financially stable and independent and improving people's health. Our long-term plan helps the most vulnerable people in our six-county service area. Our unique ability to work across complex issues with hundreds of community partners is unmatched. We monitor trends, identify gaps and coordinate broad responses to ensure that your gift gets results.

It's all connected...



When a baby is taught to learn,
a child becomes a **READER.**

When a reader succeeds in school,
A youth becomes a **GRADUATE.**

When a graduate gets a good job,
A family has a bright **FUTURE.**

In turn, they teach their babies to learn.

UNITED WAY PARTNER AGENCIES SHOW THE CARING POWER OF OUR COMMUNITIES

Abbe Center for Community Mental Health
Aging Services, Inc.
Alzheimer's Association East Central Iowa Chapter
The ARC of East Central Iowa
Area Substance Abuse Council (ASAC)
Benton County Volunteer Program
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cedar Rapids & East Central Iowa
Boy Scouts of America — Hawkeye Area Council
Boys & Girls Club of Cedar Rapids
Catherine McAuley Center
Community Corrections Improvement Association
Dental Health Center
Families, Inc.
Foundation 2
Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois
Goodwill Industries of the Heartland
Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP)
Horizons: A Family Service Alliance
Iowa Legal Aid
Jane Boyd Community House
Kids First Law Center
K.I.N.D. Care
Mid-Eastern Council on Chemical Abuse (MECCA)
Neighborhood Transportation Service
Partnership for Safe Families
Rape Victim Advocacy Program (RVAP)
Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
Rural Employment Alternatives
Southeast Linn Community Center
The Safe Place Foundation
The Salvation Army
Visiting Nurse Association
Volunteer Services of Cedar County
Waypoint
Willis Dady Emergency Shelter
Witwer Center
YMCA of Cedar Rapids Metropolitan Area
Young Parents Network (YPN)



Visit us at www.uweci.org
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LIVE and GIVE UNITED TO HELP THOSE MOST IN NEED



There are still too many people in our communities who need help. People who need support. Families who are finding their way. Youth who need a future to believe in. Together we can give people the opportunities they need. Put youth on a path of success. Help people fulfill their potential. Enable seniors to live independently. Give everyone opportunities for a better life. In times like these, we can't wait for someone else to help. UNITED, we can make a difference.

Your gift to United Way provides life changing **opportunities** for kids, families, seniors and those most at risk who are searching for a way to **improve** their life.



education



OUR COMMUNITY GOALS:

- Increase the number of low-income kindergarteners who are ready for school by 50%
- Increase the number of low-income youth with 21st Century skills by 25%

LYNDIE'S STORY

Lyndie's parents divorced before she was a year old. Her relationship with her dad didn't work out. Her family relationships became even more strained when she was molested by a family member. Her commitment to school suffered and she was teetering on involvement in risky behaviors. According to Lyndie, "I used to be mad all the time."

Her school guidance counselor nominated her for the Youth Leadership Program (YLP). YLP helped to keep Lyndie grounded and her peers and staff members supported and encouraged her. "It helped me avoid drugs and alcohol and know what is good and not good for me," says Lyndie. Without YLP, Lyndie could have ended up another drop-out or juvenile justice statistic. Today her future is bright and she's preparing for college. She dreams of having a family and maybe even someday helping kids that are struggling like she did.

MADE POSSIBLE BY YOUR SUPPORT FOR UNITED WAY

income



OUR COMMUNITY GOAL:

- Increase the number of financially stable households by 15%

GREG'S STORY

When Greg first came to the Willis Dady Emergency Shelter he was a cautious man, thankful to be out of the cold. He had married young, bought a house, had a good job and looked forward to a promising future. He may have had one if he and his wife hadn't become regular drug users, with police records and a crumbling marriage.

After two years in prison Greg was clean and desperate to reclaim what he once had. It took many meetings with a case worker for Greg to realize his worth and believe in himself. The progress he made helped him find work and get his own apartment. He calls the shelter frequently to let them know how he's doing and let them know how thankful he is for their help. "Without you guys, I would be dead," says Greg. "You believed in me and that's what I needed."

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health



OUR COMMUNITY GOALS:

- Increase healthy choices by 10%
- Increase the number of older adults who are able to meet their daily needs by 25%

HELEN'S STORY

Helen needed radiation treatments for six weeks. Her niece could drive her to appointments on Mondays, but she needed assistance for transportation on the remaining days each week. Helen's niece contacted the Benton County Volunteer Program and a staff visit to Helen's home was made. Completion of the necessary interview and enrollment forms revealed that she is considered low-income and that utilizing public/county transportation would be out of the question because the 77 mile round trip would cost \$75 a day.

With the help of the Benton County Volunteer Program, along with the generosity of family and friends, rides were provided and Helen was able to complete her six weeks of treatment. A staff follow-up two months later revealed she was doing okay and had just scheduled her six month follow-up appointment with her doctor.

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