

2019

ANNUAL REPORT

United Way of
North Central Iowa



Report by:
Jen Arends
CEO



LEADERSHIP

Dear Supporters,



CHERYL KURTZLEBEN,
BOARD PRESIDENT



JEN ARENDS,
CEO

Passionate hearts and minds are the seeds of community change. As we approach 2020, we continue to follow the ethos that we started with in 1923, we are stronger when we live UNITED. We know that working together with volunteers, donors, nonprofits, businesses, and government we can take down the barriers facing many of our friends and neighbors and build a community of opportunity.

Last year, 1 in 5 north Iowans were touched by a United Way program. Over, twenty-seven thousand people in eight counties received support when it was needed. It is people like Brenda, a domestic abuse survivor, who was able to leave her abusive marriage and obtain a restraining order, and divorce with the help of Iowa Legal Aid. Or Brittany and Dustin, first-time parents, who were supported by Lutheran Services as they navigated an asthma diagnosis. Or Miguel, who at 16 was able to get his first job with the help of 43 North Iowa. It is the individual stories that make up the 27,000 that show what can happen when we work together to help each other.

North Central Iowa is a place where people come together to create a loving and caring community with opportunity for all. United Way works diligently to create a safety net of support throughout Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Kossuth, Mitchell, Winnebago and Worth Counties.

Thank you for giving your time, talent and treasure so our community can thrive!

Thank you for living UNITED.

Cheryl A. Kurtzleben Jen Arends

**OUR MISSION: CONNECT & STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY RESOURCES
TO INSPIRE CHANGE IN THE LIVES OF ALL NORTH IOWANS.**

OUR VISION: *CONNECTING PEOPLE. IMPACTING LIVES. STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES.*

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United Way of North Central Iowa Community Impact

Real Lives. Real Change. Stronger Communities.



Thanks to her mentor from Bridges Mentoring, Stacy built the confidence she needed to take on school!



Thanks to the North Iowa Community Action Organization's Outreach Program, Mike and his family are able to stay in their apartment after an unexpected layoff.



Margie is able to stay in her home due to Meal on Wheels. Without the program, she would be in a care center too soon.



Thanks to her RSVP Volunteer, Emily got the extra time she needed to master reading. Now she looks forward to reading and her time with her Reading Buddy.



With the help of the JJAG program Megan graduated on time and already has a job that allows her to take NIACC classes.



Dan was able to start his new job while knowing his kids are receiving quality childcare due to the Charlie Brown Child Care Assistance for low-income Families.



Thanks to Crisis Intervention Services, Amy is finally free from abuse and is starting to rebuild.

Childhood Success

Goal: Children Enter School ready to succeed and are successful throughout their early education.

United Way Strategies:

Ensure that families are equipped to support the optimal development for children

Children are in early learning environments that nurture and stimulate growth

Community Services are coordinated and accessible and policies effectively address the needs of children in families

Partner with schools to ensure student engagement and learning

Youth Success

Goal: Youth achieve key milestones experiencing successful transitions from elementary to middle and high school and experience on-time graduation

United Way Strategies:

Organize wrap around supports for students as the progress through school

Engage and empower families to promote student success and instill a college going expectation

Equip students with knowledge, skill, and abilities needed for successful careers and family-sustaining income through quality educational experiences

Economic Mobility

Goal: Individuals/families improve their socioeconomic status

United Way Strategies:

Job Readiness-youth and adults have the education and skills to obtain and retain good jobs with the potential for advancement

Focus on Individuals using affordable financial products to effectively manage their money and achieve financial goals

Financial Support Services-programming focus in meeting basic needs, financial literacy, and providing the foundation for economic mobility

Access to Health

Goal: Individuals/families have access to health care and improve their health

United Way Strategies:

Individuals and families have increased access and reduced barriers to health resources in health care in community settings

Ensuring healthy beginnings by ensuring that families grow in healthy environments, emotionally and physically

Community education and intervention to prevent violence and raise awareness of the signs of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

2018-2019 COMMUNITY GRANTS SUPPORTED 34 LOCAL PROGRAMS

United Way of North Central Iowa invests into Education, Financial Stability, and Health programs that specifically target Childhood Success, Youth Success, Economic Mobility, and Access to Health. we operate an open application process based on a yearly funding cycle. Each funding decision is based on the highest priority needs in north central Iowa.



27,264 north Iowans were impacted by a United Way funded program in 2018-2019



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Community Conditions	Solutions	Impact Story
Child care cost and the availability of child care is a major barrier for working families. A slight increase in wages can result in the loss of thousands in child care assistance.	Increased funding into emergency child care assistance and advocacy with state legislatures around the child care cliff effect and the importance of child care availability to families.	<i>I've been raising my kids on my own now for years, one major help has been the child care assistance through the state. However, when I got a promotion at work, I lost my assistance. I thought I was going to have to quit, I couldn't keep up with the payments. Luckily, United Way funded child care assistance was there to help me while I adjusted my budget and I was able to stay in my new position. Without the program there to help, I don't know what I would've done.</i>
1/3 of our regions population, or 19,941 households struggle to make ends meet, although having at least one household member working.	\$98,750 invested in financial stability programs and helping families meet basic needs.	<i>-Cerro Gordo Resident</i>



EDUCATION

Community Conditions	Solutions	Impact Story
39.03% of our regions children live below 200% of the poverty limit and 3 out of 8 of our counties rank in the top 50% of child abuse rates in the state.	Strategically invested into programs that ensure that families are equipped to support the optimal development of their children.	<i>Duane and Phillip haven't been matched long, but their time together has made a big impact. Big Duane, a Charles City Police Officer has gotten Phillip to go from video games to working on cars. Philip's mother tells Big Brothers, Big Sisters staff that not only are Duane and Philip well-matched, but their time together will benefit Philip the rest of his life.</i>
Only 19% of youth in our community feel valued by their community, compared to 25% at the State level.	728 Children participated in United Way funded mentoring programs in 2019.	<i>-Floyd County family.</i>

COMMUNITY IMPACT



HEALTH

Community Conditions	Solutions	Impact Story
<p>21% of our community are seniors 65+ years old. Senior Citizens are more likely to be part of the ALICE or working poor, struggling to make ends meet.</p> <p>More than 1 in 3 women have experienced rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. In north Iowa, each year we see a 5% increase in those seeking intervention services due to violence.</p>	<p>1,198 people over the age of 65 received help through a United Way funded program. Accessing services ranging from food access, rural health screening, legal rights and emergency home repairs.</p> <p>2,899 north Iowans received direct assistance dealing with domestic violence, sexual assault, or other violent crimes. 554 of those who received services were under the age of 18.</p>	<p><i>Martin, a WWII veteran, had a recent leg amputation. The surgery had made it treacherous for Martin to navigate his gravel driveway, and access his home. Through United Way partner program, NIACOG Emergency Home Repairs, Martin received the necessary repairs to his residence that allowed him to stay within his home. Without this valuable program, Martin would have prematurely had to enter a nursing facility.</i></p> <p>-Cerro Gordo Resident</p>

VOLUNTEER IMPACT



WOMEN UNITED

- Membership has increased to 30 members
- First child care scholarship awarded to a mother with three children pursuing a nursing degree at NIACC
- Served as volunteers at the Back-to-School Bash

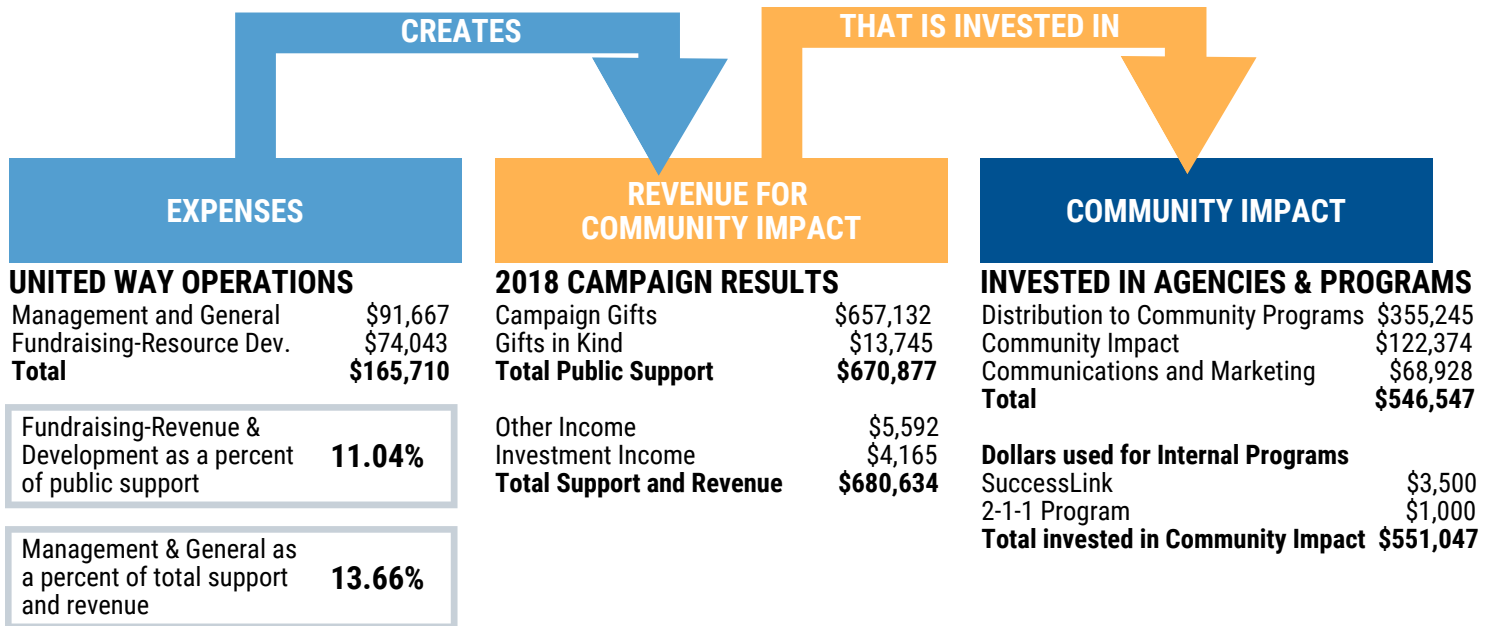
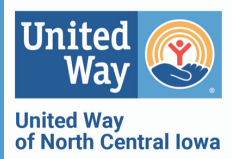
DAY OF CARING

- Nine volunteer projects completed in north central Iowa
- 109 volunteers engaged
- 545 hours donated



FINANCIALS

FY 7/1/18-6/30/19



VOLUNTEER HOURS DONATED TO UNITED WAY FOR THE COMMUNITY BENEFIT

TOTAL IN-KIND BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY

Total Community Hours Volunteered	1,380
Value of volunteer hour*	\$25.43
Total Value of Volunteer Hours	\$35,080.68

*per independetsector.org, accessed 12/22/19

AGENCIES SUPPORTED THROUGH DONOR DESIGNATION

Algona Family YMCA	Garner Community Christian Child Care
American Red Cross	
Amy's Food Pantry	Grow Rockford Together
BackPack Program	Hope for Life Pregnancy Center
Boy Scouts of America, Winnebago Council	Hospice of North Iowa
Bridges Mentoring	Jordan River
Big Brothers Big Sisters-Floyd County	Kossuth County CARE Team
Catholic Charities	Lake Mills Community Preschool and Daycare
Charles City Community Fund	Lutheran Services in Iowa
Charles City YMCA	Meals on Wheels
Children's Autism Center	NIVC Services
Community Kitchen	One Vision
Comprehensive Systems	Osage Fire Fighters Association
Crisis Intervention Services	Prairie Ridge
Elma Early Childhood Center	The Learning Center (TLC)
Floyd County Humane Society	The Salvation Army
Forces and Fire	TreeHouse
Franklin County Extension ISU	Lake Mills United
Free Bikes 4 Kids	United Way of Story County
	Total Designated: \$37,015.03

2018 COMMUNITY IMPACT ALLOCATIONS

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Iowa	\$3,415
IJAG	\$18,621
Al Exito-Franklin County	\$3879
MCCSD-Nurtured Heart Approach	\$8,700
Osage Community Daycare-Bridges Mentoring	\$12,931
RSVP Reading Buddies	\$13,450
RSVP Reading Coaches	\$2,690
Community Health Center-Mason City	\$20,500
Community Kitchen of North Iowa	\$26,380
Crisis Intervention Services-Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention	\$5,690
Crisis Intervention-Intervention Program	\$46,553
Francis Lauer Youth Services-Emergency Shelter	\$25,865
Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB	\$23,276
Meals on Wheels	\$12,935
North Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Council-Satellite Child Protection Center	\$8,800
Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless	\$4,495
One Vision Children's Autism Center	\$7,140
Cedar Valley Friends of the Family-Rapid Housing Initiative	\$9,311
Iowa Legal Aid Financial Stability Project	\$13,450
NIACOG Housing Trust Fund	\$21,210
NICAO-Outreach Program	\$18,621
NIVC-Community Connections	\$20,173



It Takes A Community

United Way is thankful for our village—an extraordinary group of donors, volunteers, leaders and service providers who join forces to create lasting change for the north central Iowa region.

Many thanks to:

United Way Board of Directors
 Donors
 Local Businesses
 Corporate Sponsors
 Committee Volunteers
 Community Impact Partner Agencies
 Community Leaders
 Local and State Municipal Leaders
 Regional Partners
 United Way Staff

To learn more about United Way of North Central Iowa,

Visit unitedwaynci.org, call 641.423.1774 or email info@unitedwaynci.org

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