

“We as human beings have an obligation to stand up and fight for our neighbors.”

Angela Williams, Past President & CEO of United Way Worldwide



1999 Wabash Avenue, Suite 107, Springfield, IL 62704



UNITED WAY

Central Illinois

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

GRATITUDE REPORT

2025

www.uwcil.org

217-726-7000



“At United Way of Central Illinois, we believe everyone deserves the chance to thrive.”

-Marne Fauser, President & CEO



Letter from the CEO

There are moments in this work that stop you in your tracks— a family that finally has stable housing, a child who walks into kindergarten ready to learn, a neighbor who calls 211 and finds exactly the help they needed. These moments don't happen by accident. **They happen because of you.**

To our donors, volunteers, partners, and community champions— thank you. Thank you for showing up, for believing in this community, and for trusting us to put your generosity to work in meaningful ways. What we do together here in Sangamon and Menard Counties is something truly special, and **we don't take that for granted** for a single day.

This past year, we leaned into what we know works: **investing in people across every stage of life and every facet of need.** Our work spans education, health, crisis response, and financial security—because the challenges our neighbors face don't fit neatly into one category, and neither should our solutions. In real terms, that means enhancing school readiness and workforce preparedness, supporting mental health before crisis strikes, promoting housing stability and income growth, and strengthening families with the tools and confidence to navigate systems of care on their own terms. These aren't isolated efforts. They are **strategic, coordinated investments** that work together— reducing the need for emergency interventions over time, improving public health and education outcomes, and building the kind of economic stability that compounds across generations. Every dollar invested here doesn't just solve today's problem; it lays the groundwork for a **stronger, more equitable community** for the people who will call this place home long after us.

We are so proud of what this community continues to build together— and so grateful you are part of it.

With Heartfelt Thanks,

Marne Fauser



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Financial Snapshot

who is ALICE?

Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed



ALICE families often don't qualify for traditional assistance programs because their income is just above the threshold—yet they still can't afford basic needs.

United Way fills these critical gaps:

Emergency assistance for utilities or shelter when traditional programs say **"you make too much"**

MyFreeTaxes helps **maximize refunds and tax credits** often missed by ALICE families

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is available **free for all families** with no income requirements

Supports early learning programs that give **children strong foundations** regardless of family income

Crisis intervention services through funded partners available to all who need them

SingleCare provides prescription savings **without income restrictions**

31,875

Households in Menard and Sangamon counties make **less per year than a realistic survival budget**

In Central Illinois, many hardworking families earn above the poverty line but still struggle to afford basic needs like housing, food, and childcare. These are **ALICE households—Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed**—our neighbors, friends, and family members who keep our community running but often live just one unexpected expense away from crisis. Yet despite ALICE families' essential contributions to our community, too many fall into the gap between poverty and financial security, **earning too much to qualify for assistance but not enough to cover all the basics**. Through our Community Fund and across all four of our impact areas—Community Resiliency, Financial Security, Youth Opportunity, and Healthy Communities—**we're creating pathways to stability for ALICE families**. Whether it's connecting them to emergency assistance through 211, helping them access affordable childcare and education for their children, providing free tax preparation services, or ensuring access to mental health support, our work is designed to help ALICE households meet their needs today and build security for tomorrow.



Scan to view the **United for Alice Illinois Dashboard**



22,931

Clients served through our funded partners' programs in 2025

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY



2023-2026 Priorities:

- Children are equipped with the skills needed to make **financially smart decisions** throughout their life.
- Adults are equipped to **support themselves and/or their families** in a financially stable environment.
- Seniors are supported to lead **independent lives**.



FINANCIAL SECURITY

2023-2026 Priority:

- Support emergency services vital to the basic needs (food and shelter) of the **most vulnerable members** of our community.



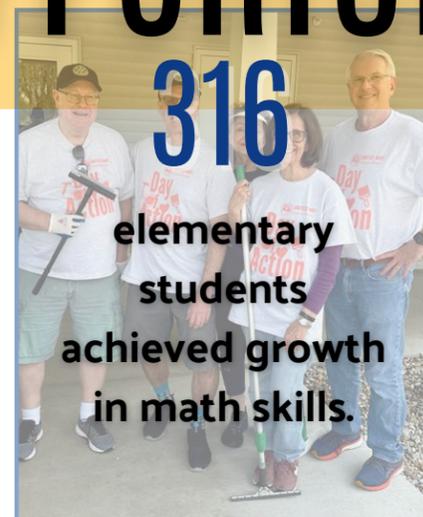
Scan to view the 2025-2026 Community Investment Sheet

When life takes an unexpected turn, United Way of Central Illinois is there—and so is our community's safety net. From the moment someone **dials 211** in a moment of crisis to the long road toward lasting financial stability, **we walk alongside our neighbors at every step.**

When families have food on the table and a safe place to sleep, everything else becomes possible. And when individuals—from young people just starting out to seniors maintaining their independence—**have the tools to build financially stable lives**, our entire community grows stronger. We're not just responding to today's challenges. **We're building a foundation for everyone to thrive.**

A thriving community starts with its youngest members and carries through every stage of life. United Way of Central Illinois invests in people from their very first years of learning all the way through their golden years—because **strong foundations built early** and sustained over time are what make everything else possible. From kindergarten readiness to mental health support to healthy aging, our work spans the full arc of a life lived in community. This is what it means to **invest in people**—not just for today, but for generations to come.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY



3,896

school age children served through our grant partners' programs

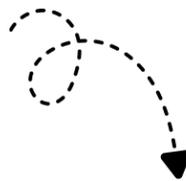


HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

2023-2026 Priorities:

- Children enter **kindergarten prepared** with skills needed to succeed.
- Children reach academic milestones on time and **successfully transition to middle school.**
- Youth reach academic milestones on time and transition to high school and **develop a plan** for life after-school.

Scan to learn more about **What We Stand For**



2023-2026 Priorities:

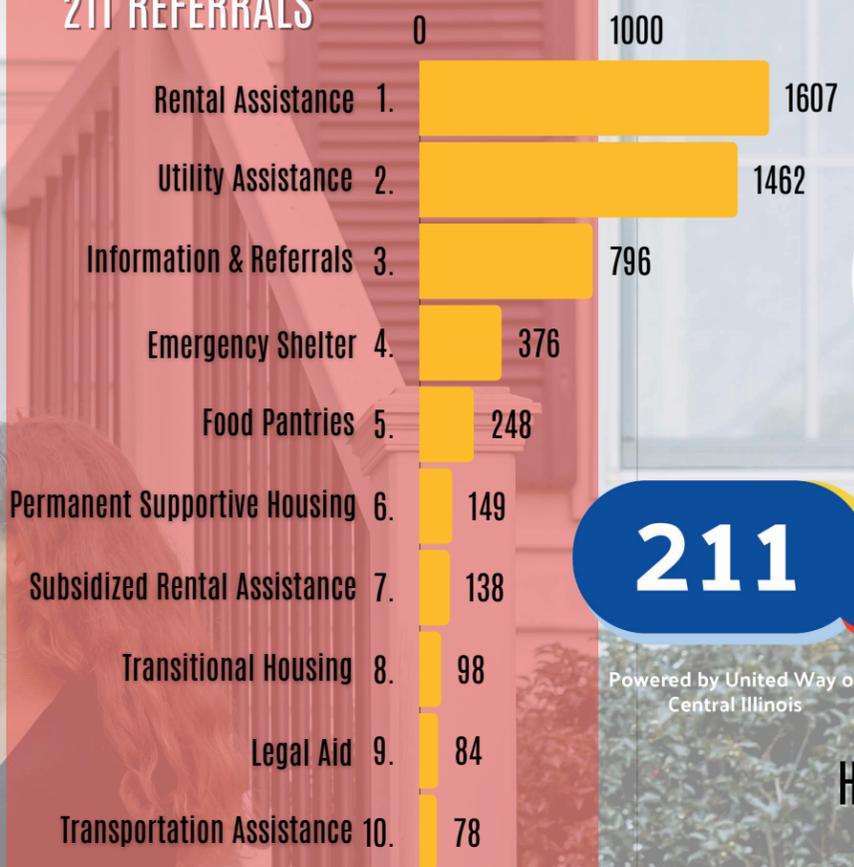
- Individuals are **supported, connected, and activated** to lead healthy lives.
- Individuals will have access to **needed mental health** services.

INSIGHTS THAT GUIDE OUR WORK



Understanding our community **starts with listening**. Through ALICE data, 211 call analytics, and on-the-ground insights across Sangamon and Menard Counties, we identify where help is needed most—and where **our investments can make the greatest difference**. This data doesn't just inform our decisions; it shapes our strategy. When 211 calls reveal gaps in housing support, childcare access, or emergency assistance, we respond by **directing resources to programs that address those specific needs**. When ALICE reports show families struggling despite working full-time, we prioritize initiatives that **create pathways to financial stability**. By grounding our work in real community data, we ensure every dollar donated and every volunteer hour served creates measurable impact where it matters most. This approach allows us to be both **responsive to immediate needs** and strategic in building **long-term solutions** that strengthen our entire community.

211 REFERRALS



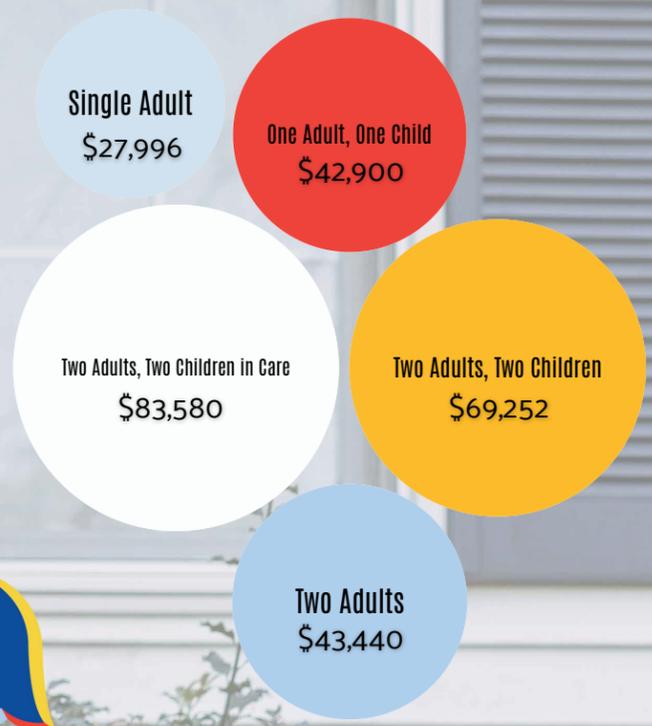
6,331

Referrals given to services by 211 for residents of Sangamon and Menard counties in 2025



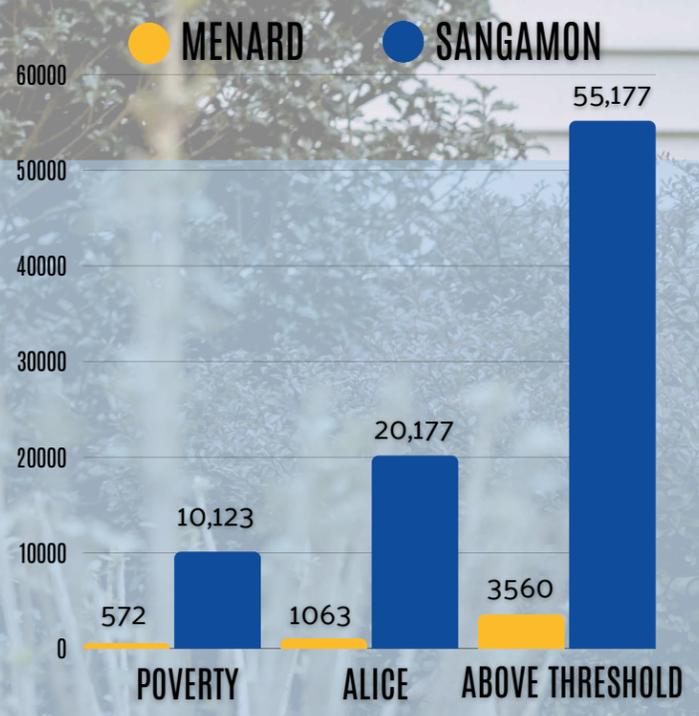
Scan to view the **interactive 211 Illinois Dashboard**

REALISTIC SURVIVAL BUDGET ANNUAL SALARIES



Powered by United Way of Central Illinois

HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME THRESHOLD



2026-2029 PRIORITIES



In 2025, we asked ourselves a critical question: **What does our community really need?** The answer wouldn't come from assumptions or guesswork—it would come from listening. We started where we always do: with the data. We dove into current community needs assessments, but numbers only tell us how many people are struggling. They don't tell us why, or more importantly, **what will actually help.**



So we went deeper. We sat down with local nonprofits who see the gaps every day, hearing firsthand about the challenges families face and where the system is falling short. We opened the conversation to the broader community, and 297 residents stepped up to share what matters most to them and their neighbors. Donors told us about their vision for our region's future. Board members weighed in with their strategic perspectives.

Then we did something different. At two public community conversations, we didn't just ask people what they thought—we asked them to **make the hard choices.** Participants allocated funding among competing priorities at their tables, experiencing the same difficult trade-offs our Vision Councils face. Through data walks with workplace campaign partners, employees connected dots between **statistics and the real people behind them.**



By the time our Vision Councils gathered to make sense of it all, they had something powerful: **quantitative data, frontline expertise, community voices, donor perspectives, and the collective wisdom of hundreds of neighbors.** They spent months turning all of this input into a clear roadmap across our four impact areas—Youth Opportunity, Community Resiliency, Financial Security, and Healthy Community. For each, they identified **one urgent priority, one measurable goal, and two to three focused strategies to guide our investments.**

This wasn't a top-down plan crafted in isolation. It was built by our community, for our community—shaped by real voices, informed by hard data, and grounded in the realities our neighbors live every day.

Because when **we listen first, we invest wisely.** And when we invest wisely, we all thrive.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

26-29 PRIORITY:

Ensure children **build strong foundations for lifelong learning by achieving key milestones from early childhood through elementary school.**

MEASURABLE GOAL:

Each year from 2026 through 2029, 70% of children served through United Way-funded Youth Opportunity programs will meet or show **measurable progress toward early learning or grade-level academic milestones**, including kindergarten readiness and reading and mathematics proficiency by third grade.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

26-29 PRIORITY:

Strengthen the community's ability to **respond to and recover from crisis by providing immediate supportive services and connecting individuals to essential resources for longer-term stability.**

MEASURABLE GOAL:

Each year from 2026 through 2029, 60% of crisis service users will be **connected to services beyond** immediate crisis support.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

26-29 PRIORITY:

Ensure all individuals and families have **access to affordable support and guidance to navigate mental and behavioral health needs.**

MEASURABLE GOAL:

Each year from 2026 through 2029, 75% of clients engaged in United Way Health-funded programs will be connected to at least one needed mental or behavioral health service, and 50% of those will report **improved confidence in maintaining their mental well-being.**

FINANCIAL SECURITY

26-29 PRIORITY:

Empower adults to **achieve and maintain financial stability through financial education, employment, skill building, and access to safe and affordable housing.**

MEASURABLE GOAL:

Each year from 2026 through 2029, 70% of individuals served through United Way Financial Security-funded programs will achieve at least **one key measure toward financial security** (e.g., obtaining stable housing, maintaining employment for six months, or improving financial management skills).



365 Small Business Circle is our giving program that **makes philanthropy easy** for small businesses through affordable daily donations (\$1-3/day). Members support community programs in Sangamon and Menard Counties while gaining **visibility and networking opportunities**.

Scan for more details on **Business 365**



365 LEADERS

Body Symmetry
Carrollton Bank
Kuhn & Trello
Peerless
TPH Strategies

365 MEMBERS

Christen Owen- LPL Financial Advisory
Dale Blankenship- LPL Financial Advisor
Edward Jones- Duane Sieren
Property Tax Advisors, LTD
Resource One Design Group, Inc.
State Farm Insurance Agent, Damon Priddy

DINE UNITED



Thank you to our **2025 Locations**

- American Legion & Mess Hall Restaurant
- Anvil & Forge
- Boone's
- BUNN Gourmet
- Cafe Moxo
- Hae's
- Maid Rite
- Mel-O-Cream
- Nancy's Pizza
- Potbelly
- Scoop Du Jour

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



Nalo & Darrell Mitchell



Lisette Felix



Bo Virgin



Scan for more details on **2026 Locations**

BUSINESS 365

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY



Scan to learn more and sign up for DPIL



33,726

Books sent in 2025 to
3,026 enrolled children in
Sangamon and Menard
counties



Thank you to our DPIL Donors:

- United Way of Central Illinois generous donors
- The State of Illinois
- Athens Lions Club
- Petersburg Women's Club
- United Way Communityworks Fund at the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln

During the 2025 Great Lakes Valley Conference Women's Volleyball Championship, all eight teams partnered with us to create **holiday gift bags for local seniors**. The NCAA Division II Planning and Finance Committee awarded the conference \$2,500 for this **exemplary community service initiative**.



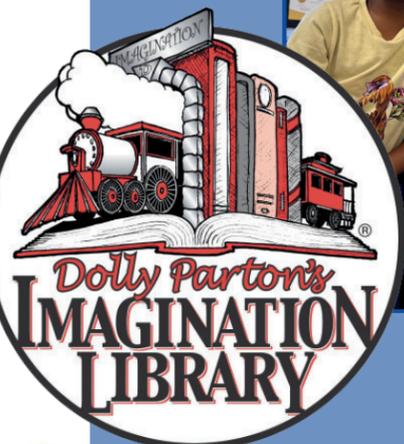
GLVC PARTNERSHIP

ALWAYS UNITED

Always United connects retired or near-retirement aged community members with **meaningful volunteer opportunities** throughout the year. Whether you're looking to give back, learn new skills, or meet neighbors, this program makes it easy to use your time and talents to **strengthen our community**.



Scan to learn more about **Always United**



Scan here to learn more about **Day of Action 2026**

Thank you to our 2025 Sponsor

heartland

Coca-Cola

BOTTLING COMPANY



486 VOLUNTEERS x 53 PROJECTS

\$50,724 of service delivered to our community

DAY OF

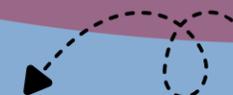


21 STUDENTS AT TWO SCHOOLS 198 VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED 8 SERVICE PROJECTS COMPLETED

Student United Way connects high school students with leadership development and hands-on service opportunities. Active at **Glenwood High School** and through our **District 186** partnership, students lead community projects and build skills that last a lifetime.



STUDENT UNITED WAY



Scan here to learn more about **Student United Way**

YOUR IMPACT IN 2025

“Megan, 46, has schizophrenia and a history of homelessness. For over a year, PATH staff built trust with her during sporadic shelter visits and encounters in abandoned buildings.

Initially uncooperative with medical appointments, Megan’s health and engagement gradually improved through consistent outreach. Her symptoms became manageable, and with PATH support, she **secured stable housing**—where she’s remained for over six months. Megan has now transitioned to Memorial Behavioral Health Adult Case Management for ongoing care.”

“A 1st grader came to Boys and Girls Club only being able to recognize three spelling and vocabulary words. He was very frustrated in class and acted out because of his inability to keep up with his class. With the help of the staff, **he is now up to 68 spelling and sight words.** He has worked hard and is so proud of what he has accomplished.”

“Sally and her four children moved into MERCY’s program with severe disabilities and chronically homeless. The mom, who has some developmental delays and learning difficulties, **completed the welding program at MTI and graduated.** She then became gainfully employed and recently moved into their own housing with no subsidy.”

“Jeffrey, a 30-year-old single male entered the program seeking employment, struggling to make ends meet financially and needing housing. He attended several employments coaching workshops and attended financial literacy workshops, where he gained effective budgeting, savings, debt management and credit. After one month of engaging in the program, he successfully found a **full-time job working 35 hrs/week with Mel-O-Cream.** He loves what he is currently doing and enjoys working with customers every day.”

“Sampson was a quiet third-grader who struggled with reading and lacked confidence in the classroom. Reading aloud made him anxious, and he was struggling to keep up with his grade level. At Freedom School, Sampson found a supportive and high-energy environment that made learning an exciting experience. He was exposed to books that sparked his imagination, especially adventure stories, which quickly became his favorite. Throughout the program, he read more than **10 books and showed noticeable growth in confidence.** His proudest moment came during the end-of-camp showcase, where he stood tall and read aloud to a room full of families and friends, something he never would have done before.”

“Paula, a 68-year-old Springfield resident, recently underwent knee surgery. Like many older adults, she is used to being independent and able to get to appointments and errands on her own schedule. However, during her recovery, Paula was unable to drive and faced a major challenge as she had no family nearby who could help with transportation. Senior Transport was able to ensure Paula could continue accessing critical services during her recovery period. The program provided **reliable transportation to follow-up medical appointments** and physical therapy, helping Paula stay on track with her treatment plan and avoid isolation at home.”

“Joey entered Camp Kindergarten after being expelled from two full-time Pre-K programs due to challenges with social-emotional learning skills. Camp Kindergarten staff worked diligently to create a supportive, nurturing environment where the student could grow and thrive. Thanks to the collective efforts of the team and the Joey’s determination, the full four weeks of Camp Kindergarten were successfully completed. The student received the **“Most Improved in Social-Emotional Learning” award.** The family expressed deep gratitude for the transformation witnessed. Seeing the mother moved to tears at the End of Program Celebration was a powerful reminder of the impact of this work.”

“Ramona entered our Emergency Shelter with her two young children, battling substance addiction and managing health challenges for herself and her oldest daughter. Our register nurse case manager determined that she and her oldest daughter needed immediate medical care as they both were severe diabetics. Ramona received medical treatment and has worked **incredibly hard to change her life-** attending in-house daily life skill, financial, parenting, and food and nutrition classes.”



2025 CAMPAIGN AWARDS

CAMPAIGN THEME: **THE POWER OF COMMUNITY**




Outstanding ECC of the Year

SHAUNA HAYES, BUNN

Shauna played a **key role in leading BUNN's workplace campaign**, organizing various fundraising events and a volunteer kit-packing activity that benefited **250 families in Sangamon County**. Her enthusiasm, meticulous attention to detail, and genuine passion for service brought **energy and excitement** to BUNN employees, especially during the fall festival and the basket raffle.

RISING STAR AWARD

CRAWFORD, MURPHY, & TILLY

With an energetic ECC and active leadership, CMT ran an **outstanding campaign** that included giveaways, a team lunch, participation in a UW data walk, and decorating holiday bags to support **250 local families**.



MOST ENGAGED CAMPAIGNS

Express

Brought the energy with a show-stopping **lip sync video** (scan QR code below) and inspiring employee testimonials about why **United is the Way!**

Senior Services of Central Illinois

Kicked off their workplace campaign in style with an **all-staff rally, sports day, and cutest pet competition!**

Troxell

Engaged teams with an **eye-opening data walk** and rallied together for Dine United events!

Henson Robinson

Mobilized employees and vendors through their **annual golf tournament** to champion United Way!

Heartland Credit Union

Went all out with **raffle baskets, dessert carts**, and teams conquering the **United Way Escape Room!**

City of Springfield

City of Springfield saw a **59% growth** in their campaign with increased engagement and fun activities!

TOP 10 MOST GENEROUS COMPANIES

- Ameren
- Bank of Springfield
- BUNN
- Caterpillar
- Crawford, Murphy & Tilly
- Horace Mann Educators Foundation
- INB, N.A.
- Kerber, Eck, & Braeckel
- Memorial Health
- Springfield Public School District 186

TOP 5 MOST GENEROUS NONPROFITS*

- Helping Hands of Springfield
- MERCY Communities
- Senior Services of Central IL
- Sojourn Shelter and Services
- Springfield Housing Authority

*UNDER 200 EMPLOYEES



Scan here to check out **Express' 2025 Campaign Video**



To our donors, volunteers, partners, businesses, event attendees, Vision Council members, committee members, campaign coordinators, and every individual who gave their time, talent, or treasure in 2025—thank you for believing that when we come together, we can change lives. Because every single day, you prove that we can.

We are endlessly grateful. Thank you for showing up—for us, and for each other.



THANK YOU!





\$608,015 invested in our community by **213** Leadership Givers



Scan to view a list of all 2025 Leadership Givers



LEADERS GUILD

GRATITUDE PARTNER



Memorial Health

Memorial Health has long been a cornerstone of compassion and service in Central Illinois, and we couldn't be more grateful to recognize them as our **Gratitude Partner for the second year in a row**. Their unwavering commitment to our community and their belief in United Way's mission continues to inspire us every day.

Year after year, Memorial Health stands beside us as we bring people and resources together to tackle our community's greatest challenges. But their partnership is about so much more than financial support—it's rooted in a **genuine care for our neighbors**.

What truly sets Memorial Health apart is how deeply they're woven into the fabric of our work. Their team members **don't just write checks—they show up**. They volunteer their time on Day of Action, serve on our Board of Directors and Vision Councils, and bring their heart and

expertise to everything they do. Their impact is felt in boardrooms, yes, but more importantly, it's felt in the lives of the individuals and families they help us serve every single day.

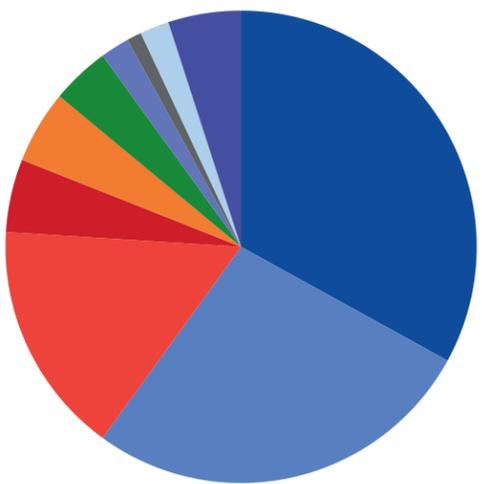
"Memorial Health's partnership has been truly transformational for our organization and our community," said Marne Fauser, President & CEO of United Way of Central Illinois. "Their leadership, generosity, and genuine commitment to making a difference inspire others to join us. Together, we're building stronger, more resilient communities where **everyone has the opportunity to thrive.**"

As we look to the future, we're so thankful to have Memorial Health by our side. **Thank you, Memorial Health, for being United with us.**





UNITED WAY INCOME OVERVIEW



Workplace Giving 33%
 Corporate Gifts 27%
 Individual Giving 16%
 Workplace Special Events 5%
 UWCIL Events 5%
 SECA 4%
 Digital Giving 2%
 In Kind 1%
 Paid Direct Designations 2%
 Foundation Giving 5%

DIRECT INVESTMENTS + MANAGED RESOURCES = TOTAL IMPACT

25-26 Board of Directors

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

25-26 GRANT CYCLE

Penny McCarty, Board Chair Memorial Health

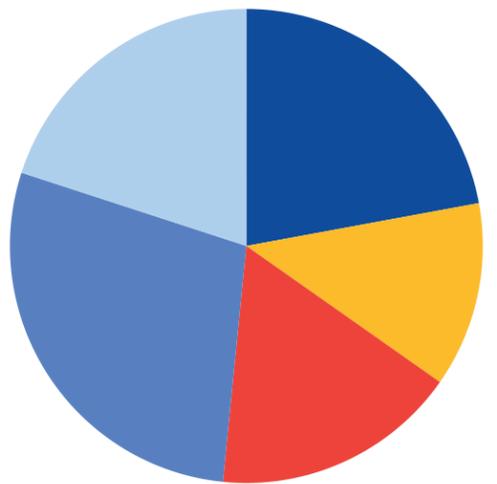
- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Thomas Ahr
HSHS | Jon Erickson
Clock Tower Community Bank | Kelley Himmelberg
INB | Manny Mikaelson
TPH Strategies |
| Amy Beadle
Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau | Nick Gentile
Prairie State Bank | Carol Jessup
Retired | Nikki Monari
Springfield Police Department |
| Randy Bryant
Retired | Tammy Gilchrese
American Bank of Freedom | Aaron Johnston
US Bank | Jackie Newman
Springfield Housing Authority |
| Phil Capps
KEB | Bryan Gleckler
LLCC | Justin Knoedler
BOS | Jeff Raes
Hickory Point Bank |
| Mylas Copeland
Green Toyota & Audi | Janet Gooch
UIS | Nicholas Koch
Troxell | Sister Marilyn Jean Runkel
Dominican Sisters |
| Bill Davis
Brown, Hay, & Stephens | Brandi Goodin
BUNN | Frank Lynch
Wolter, Beeman, Lynch & Dennis | Beth Smith
Horace Mann |
| Evan Davis
Memorial Health System | Steve Hewell
Troxell | Rabbi Barry Marks
Temple Israel | Rob Waller
Hanson Professional Services |

4 IMPACT AREAS + DONOR DESIGNATIONS = TOTAL IMPACT



Scan here to view Financial Statements

21% Community Resiliency
 12% Healthy Community
 16% Financial Security
 27% Youth Opportunity
 19% Donor Designated Funds



UNITED WAY COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

2025 IN NUMBERS

2,876 Individual Donors

\$2,046,880 Dollars Raised in the 2025 Campaign

3,839 Calls Answered by 211 from Sangamon & Menard County

3,026 Children Received Books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

2,819 Holiday Cards Delivered to Local Seniors

3,441 in Volunteer Hours Contributed

28 Funded Programs

Scan here to see our interactive Funded Programs Dashboard



UNITED IS THE WAY

Make an Impact at Work: United Way's workplace giving campaign allows employees to contribute through payroll deduction, special events, or one-time gifts, making it easy to create lasting change in our community.

Give Your Way - Online, by Mail, or In-Person: Make a difference by visiting our website at www.uwcil.org/donate. Prefer a personal touch? Write a check and mail it or drop it by our office—we'd love to see you!

Plan for the Future, Leave a Legacy

- Gifts from Your IRA: If you're 70½ or older, make tax-free charitable contributions directly from your IRA while reducing taxable income.
- Include United Way in Your Will: Secure your legacy with a planned gift. Create a free will at www.freewill.com
- Endowment Gifts: Provide lasting support by establishing an endowment now or as part of your estate plan.

Give Smart - Maximize Your Impact

- Gifts of Stock: Avoid capital gains tax while maximizing your charitable deduction.
- Donor Advised Funds (DAF): Simplify giving and receive immediate tax benefits by donating through a DAF.

Follow us on Social Media!



UNITED WAY
Central Illinois



Scan here to visit the UWCIL Ways to Give page

