

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE UNITED?**

LIVE UNITED. It's our mission. A goal. A constant reminder that we have the power to facilitate change. More, it's an invitation. To give. To advocate. To volunteer. It takes everyone in the community working together. Whether you're giving a monetary donation, advocating on behalf of these issues, or volunteering your time, you're joining the movement for a brighter future.

### **WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND?**

The Community Impact Fund is comprised of all donations to the United Way of Washtenaw County that are not directed to a specific organization. The Community Impact Fund supports education, income and health efforts in the community, by:

- Funding over 125 programs of local health and human service agencies
- Investing in core UWWC programs in financial literacy include a Financial Capabilities Program, our Volunteer Center and 2-1-1 information and referral service.

### **WHY SHOULD I GIVE MONEY TO UNITED WAY OF WASHTENAW COUNTY INSTEAD OF DIRECTLY TO AN AGENCY?**

In a rapidly changing world, United Way of Washtenaw County is an active participant in building a stronger, healthier and more compassionate community. People usually need help with more than one issue and UWWC builds a strong safety net of community support.

United Way of Washtenaw County does what no single organization alone can do. Your contribution, when combined with the gifts of others, makes a powerful impact in our community. A single gift through UWWC will address many challenges in Washtenaw County and help thousands of lives.

Including United Way of Washtenaw County as one of the agencies you support ensures that together, we are investing in the needs of the greater community.

### **HOW DOES UNITED WAY CHOOSE WHAT TO FUND?**

United Way of Washtenaw County funding is directed solely to health and human services programs. UWWC regularly monitors the overall human services needs and gaps in the community. Sometimes these gaps are specific to a population or geographic area in the county.

A formal application process is used for a large portion of our community funding and all of our grant awards are reviewed and disbursed by community volunteers. Other grants are awarded on an emergency basis or using a separate timeline.

### **WHERE DOES UWWC INVEST MY DONATIONS?**

Local dollars are changing local lives and grants are made only to Washtenaw County agencies. Visit [www.uwwashtenaw.org/yourdollarsatwork](http://www.uwwashtenaw.org/yourdollarsatwork) for a list of non-profit agencies that receive funding via UWWC. This list is part of our commitment to financial transparency and accountability.

In addition, this list shows specific programs that are funded, agency contact information, links to their websites and what areas of need are being helped.

## WHAT OTHER WAYS DOES UNITED WAY BRING VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY?

- **VolunteerWashtenaw.org** is our online volunteer center that links people with volunteer opportunities and makes it easy to get connected. Over 22,500 volunteer since 2015!
- **Varsity Letter Program** promotes our community volunteering among high school students by awarding local students with a varsity letter from their local high school in recognition of their outstanding community service. In June of 2020, United Way recognized 38 students who had a combined total of over 6,020 hours of community service for the previous 12 months. That's \$109,000 back into the community!
- Our free **VITA** tax services saved tax payers tax preparation fees AND returned over \$1.75 million to low-income individuals and families
- **SingleCare** prescription savings card helps uninsured and underinsured with the high cost of medications: \$529,000 was saved on prescription medications and 5,273 people were helped in 2018.
- Our Financial Coaching Program provides free one-on-one financial coaching to build and sustain foundation-level asset-building. In FY20, 80 individuals received financial coaching and saved \$33,625 combined.
- Stuff the Bus, May Days of Caring and Day of Action bring additional support to our community.
- United Way of Washtenaw County's **Emerging Philanthropists (EP)** have raised around \$30,000 in the past 4 years while building relationships.
- **Women United** has raised over \$480,000 by hosting 13 years of Power of the Purse! All proceeds will support the financial stability programs for women in Washtenaw County.

## HOW ARE UNITED WAY AND ITS FUNDING AGENCIES ACCOUNTABLE TO DONORS?

- United Way of Washtenaw County is audited by an independent accounting firm and is carefully reviewed by the members of the United Way Finance and Audit Committee and Board of Directors. Transparency is vital and reports are available by request and posted on our website.
- **Charity Navigator** gave UWWC their highest rating for financial accountability and transparency in 2020. A 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest and most-utilized independent evaluator of charities is granted to agencies for sound fiscal management.
- **GuideStar Gold** recognizes UWWC for our full financial and impact data available for review. We are committed to full financial transparency and provide complete financial information.
- All agencies and programs requesting United Way of Washtenaw County funding also undergo careful, regular and in-depth financial review by experienced professional staff and volunteers who review audited statements and budget documents. In addition, agencies must report annually about the impact of their services on specific outcomes and indicators. All UWWC-funded agencies must be registered 501(c) (3) agencies and must abide by the U.S. charitable laws.

## WHAT MAKES AN ORGANIZATION ELIGIBLE FOR UNITED WAY FUNDING?

Eligible grantees include local 501(c)(3) non-profit human service organizations, local governments, and school districts that are located within and serving Washtenaw County. All of our investments align with [our strategic focus areas](#): **Early Childhood, School-Aged Youth, Health & Nutrition, Housing & Homelessness, Seniors, and Financial Stability**

## CAN I DESIGNATE MY GIFT?

Yes. United Way of Washtenaw County donors can choose to designate their annual contributions to the Community Impact Fund (where the need greatest), one of our Focus Areas (above) within the Community Impact Fund, and/or to a specific non-profit agency, with a 501(c)(3) tax status. For donations directed to a specific agency we receive a 13.3% administrative fee.

## WHAT IS UNITED WAY'S OVERHEAD?

Our 13.3% administrative fee for staff and fundraising activities is well below industry standards, and it is one of the reasons why it is beneficial to give to United Way. These fees allow us to run smoothly so we are able to best help our 84 nonprofit partners.

## DOES THE UNITED WAY OF WASHTENAW COUNTY FUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD?

The United Way of Washtenaw County does not directly fund Planned Parenthood. The United Way of Washtenaw County is an open designation agency which means that we facilitate donor directed giving by processing designations to organizations that fall outside of United Way of Washtenaw County's funding focus areas. See full funding disclosure for UWWC directed grants here: [www.uwgive.org/yourdollarsatwork](http://www.uwgive.org/yourdollarsatwork)

## DOES UNITED WAY SELL OR TRADE LIST INFORMATION OF ITS DONORS?

No. United Way of Washtenaw County maintains its own database of supporters and will under no circumstances sell or trade this information to any individual or organization, public or private.

## WHAT IS UNITED WAY OF WASHTENAW COUNTY'S PRIVACY POLICY?

Confidentiality is a hallmark of professionalism. United Way of Washtenaw County uses reasonable commercial efforts to avoid disclosure of information which is confidential, privileged or nonpublic other than in accordance with this privacy policy. See our full [privacy policy here](#).

## WHAT IS UNITED WAY'S NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY?

United Way of Washtenaw County is committed to equal employment opportunity. However, we will employ only those individuals entitled to work in the United States, complying with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA). We will not discriminate against employees or applicants for employment on any legally-protected basis including, but not limited to: veteran status, race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions,

national origin, citizenship, intent to become a citizen, age, height, weight, familial status, marital status, genetic information, and disability as defined by law.

In addition, we ask all of our grantees to affirm that their agency is in compliance with the following Federal Directive on non-discrimination Standard of Voluntary Health and Welfare Services:

- No person is excluded from service because of race, ethnicity, gender, age, physical disabilities, sexual orientation or gender identity.
- There is no segregation of those served on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, age, physical disabilities, sexual orientation or gender identity.
- There is no discrimination with regard to hiring, assignment, promotion or other conditions of staff employment on basis of race, ethnicity, gender, age, physical disabilities, sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Governing bodies are open to representation from all segments of the public, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, physical disabilities, sexual orientation or gender identity.