This guide is designed to help you answer frequently asked questions about contributing to the United Way. Questions and concerns are a natural part of the process of asking people to give, advocate, volunteer, or foster equity in their lives. If you encounter any questions that you can’t answer, please contact your United Way representative.

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.** To explore **Equity** in your community. It takes everyone working together. Whether you’re giving a monetary donation, advocating on behalf of an issue, volunteering your time, or promoting equitable conversations in your community, 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 cause or organization. The Community Impact Fund supports education, financial stability, and health efforts in the community, by:

- Providing funding for 67 local agencies through 7 grant funds.
- Investing in core United Way programs and partnerships including TrustPlus (a one-on-one financial coaching agency), our Volunteer Center, and 2-1-1, our information and referral service.

What does it mean to “partner” with United Way?

We encourage all community members to consider partnering with us through the acronym GAVE…

**G**ive – Pledge a financial gift today to partner with us; building a stronger, healthier, and more compassionate community. United Way’s mission is to advance the common good through the three building blocks of a good quality of life: education, income, and health. Make your gift @ uwwashtenaw.org/give.

**A**dvocate – use your voice and raise awareness about causes that impact our community. Advocating sounds like a very official word, but all it means is a supporter, an ally, or someone who stands up for another.

**V**olunteer – Visit Volunteer Washtenaw to check out a host of virtual and in-person volunteer opportunities available with local nonprofits.

**E**quity – Participate in an Equity challenge. These are self-guided, private, learning journeys where you can explore topics like structural racism, segregation, and privilege to better understand how you can become an equity champion in your personal and professional life.

Where do financial gifts go?

Local dollars are changing local lives and grants are made only to Washtenaw County agencies. Visit 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.
**Why should I partner with the United Way instead of directly to an agency?**

United Way of Washtenaw County does what no single organization alone can do. Your partnership, when combined with the gifts of others, makes a powerful impact in our community. By including United Way of Washtenaw County as one of the agencies you support ensures that together, we are investing in the needs of our community.

Join us today by Giving, Advocating, Volunteering, and promoting Equity in your community.

**Can I designate where my contribution goes?**

Yes, you can designate your gift to any 501(c)(3) organization. United Way has a 13.5% administration fee for gifts that are designated.

You may also designate your gift to a specific part of our work, such as health, income, or education.

Your contribution makes the largest impact when it is undesignated and can support all of United Way’s work.

**Does United Way condone pressure in workplace giving campaigns?**

No, United Way does not condone pressure towards any employee before, during, or after giving campaigns. All donors should give voluntarily.

**What other ways does United Way bring value to our community?**

- **Financial Coaching** – TrustPlus, a United Way partner, provides one-on-one financial coaching to help clients reach their financial goals.

- **2-1-1** – Our FREE, 24/7 call center that handles more than 8,000 calls annually from people seeking help.

- **Volunteer Center** – The Volunteer Center pairs local agencies and volunteers to improve lives and create lasting change in our community.

- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** – The VITA program processes over 1,000 tax returns annually for low-to-moderate income clients in Washtenaw County. This service returns millions of dollars in refunds and credits back to our community.

- **Varsity Letter** – Our program recognizes high school students who give by volunteering to develop the next generation of caring, and involved citizens.

**What is United Way’s Privacy Policy?**

Confidentiality is a hallmark of our 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](#).
Questions We’ve Heard

I have given in the past but have never received a thank you from United Way.

Each company that runs a workplace campaign has different company policies with United Way. Some company policies prevent United Way from thanking employee donors. If you would like to find out how your gift makes a difference, read our Annual Report or visit uwwashtenaw.org/yourdollarsatwork for our more detailed grant reports.

I would like to contribute, but I just can’t afford it.

Luckily, there are many ways to get involved with United Way. We encourage all community members to follow the acronym GAVE. United Way values all community members whether they Give, Advocate, Volunteer, and explore Equity in their community. Make a pledge to advocate, volunteer, and explore equity in your community.

I’m not going to use these services, so why should I support them?

We believe that when all members of our community have access to the tools they need to thrive, we all benefit. Maybe you’ve never needed help, but statistics show that you or a member of your family probably have or will rely on United Way or one of our community partners at some point in your lives. Giving to United Way ensures that there is a place to turn in times of need – wherever that might be!

Aren’t all United Ways the same?

There was a controversy in the news about a United Way that concerns me.

United Ways are independent organizations governed at the local level. Funds RAISED in our community STAY in our community. We are a transparent, Washtenaw County-based organization that envisions an equitable community where opportunity is not limited and where every member reaches their full potential. We strive towards this goal by offering grants to community agencies, uplifting opportunities for advocacy, promoting volunteering opportunities, and creating spaces to explore equity in our lives.