Who We Are

• An independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit rooted in anti-poverty, anti-racist principles.
• Connects PEOPLE, RESOURCES, and ORGANIZATIONS together to create a thriving community for everyone in Washtenaw County.
• Provides real-time responses and solutions to critical needs + emerging problems that one human service agency cannot solve on its own.
• Dedicated to supporting all in Washtenaw County, no matter their stage in life – Health, Education, and Financial Stability
• Provider of direct programs and partnerships such as…

Equity

• Inequities hurt everyone.
• Focusing on equity is necessary to realize our vision of a just, connected, and inclusive Washtenaw County in which systemic racism and its consequences no longer exist.
• United Way funds community-based solutions that remove barriers and increase access so all people have the opportunity to thrive.
• In practice, we used an equity lens to our grant making meant investing in efforts that prioritized the people and communities that continued to be most impacted by COVID-19.
Poverty, Racism, and Trauma are the three root causes that limit people's opportunities in Washtenaw County. These are interconnected and mutually reinforcing systemic factors that shape the world we see today.

Poverty

- Home to the most educated city in America, 12% of Washtenaw County people live below the poverty level and an additional 19% struggle to meet their basic needs, meaning 31% of residents in our community are living in poverty or struggling to meet basic needs.
  - The United Way is fighting poverty by bringing people, resources, and organizations together to ensure everyone, regardless of their income, has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Racism

- We recognize structural racism and other forms of oppression have contributed to persistent disparities in the education, financial wellbeing, and health of Washtenaw County people which United Way seeks to dismantle.
  - Where we see racism and racialized outcomes, we will invest in community-created solutions, advocate for changes in policy and educate community members to advance equity and combat systemic racism.

Trauma

- Whether from adverse childhood experiences, or onetime events, trauma has a cumulative, negative, and lasting impact on people’s health and wellbeing.
  - Trauma cuts across race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.
  - Although trauma can occur at any age, it has particularly debilitating long-term effects on a child's developing brain.
- United Way is fighting trauma by investing in solutions that protect people from experiencing trauma, and ensure that community support is in place when trauma does occur.
How can you make a difference?

This year’s campaign theme is #UnitedWeThrive.

- Your gift to the United Way, along with grants and gifts from others, gives YOUR friends, family, and neighbors in YOUR community the chance to build a better life.
- By partnering with United Way, you are...
  - Investing in upstream solutions that attend to the root cause of preventable social problems.
    - e.g. early childhood-focused agencies (Head Start, Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center, Parents as Teachers) that prevent trauma or mitigate the impacts of adverse childhood experiences.
  - Attending to the downstream impacts of racism, poverty, and trauma.
    - e.g. supportive services for citizens returning home from incarceration, healthcare services for people experiencing poverty, housing solutions for people who are experiencing homelessness.
  - Investing in YOUR community.

United Way of Washtenaw County fights for your neighbors, your friends, and your family.

Join the fight by giving to the United Way, today!

What does it look like to partner with United Way?

When you consider partnering with us, use the acronym G.A.V.E.

**G**ive – Pledge a financial gift today to partner with us; building a stronger, healthier, and more compassionate community.

**A**dvocate – Use your voice and raise awareness about causes that impact our community.

**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.
Who is ALICE?

• *31% of households in Washtenaw County struggle to afford the basic necessities of housing, childcare, food, technology, health care, and transportation.
• That’s a total of *43,000 families in OUR community.
  ○ This is not just a problem in Washtenaw County, this is a systemic issue across our state.
• That’s why United Ways across Michigan, with the help from the Consumers Energy Foundation, have come together to bring you the ALICE Project.
• The acronym ALICE represents those in our communities who are working yet struggling to makes ends meet.

ALICE stands for those who are …

A – Asset
L – Limited
I – Income
C – Constrained
E – Employed

  ○ For those in this group, the past few years have compounded systemic issues in their lives.
• United Way is investing in solutions to mitigate and disrupt the impacts of poverty, racism, and trauma; three forces that limit people’s opportunities in Washtenaw County.
• Give today and together we can create equitable solutions for maximum community impact.