



Allegan County United Way  
and Volunteer Center

# 2020 IMPACT REPORT

## ALLEGAN COUNTY

### WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR

United Way fights for the education, health, and financial stability of every person in every community. To live better we must **#Live United**

United Way's **VISION** is that all individuals in Allegan County achieve their full human potential.

Using data to drive efficient and effective decisions, United Way operates an **IMPACT AGENDA** that supports, develops and implements a range of impact solutions that improves lives and creates stronger communities.

Change doesn't happen alone. Hope is not a strategy. United Way's **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** process provides meaningful and impactful opportunities to engage in creating stronger communities. We mobilize over 8,000 donors, advocates, and volunteers every year to meet the ever-changing needs of our residents.

### COVID-19 RELIEF

When disaster struck, we were there, **together, United**. Creating a COVID-19 Emergency Response, we worked with our closest partners to solve hourly, daily and weekly problems as they arose.



## 20 GRANTS

from the Feed the Need Coalition awarded to local agencies responding to the needs of individuals and families, covering PPE, food, mental health, and more.



## \$50,000

raised by United Way for the Feed the Need Coalition Fund.



## 50 VOLUNTEERS

mobilized in coordination with the Emergency Operations Center, agencies, and DHHS.



## 45+ TONS

of food distributed through the Goods Donation Center.





## IMPACT AGENDA

Every three years, United Way conducts two major studies to assess the pressing and prevalent issues faced by families and individuals. The **COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT** and **ALICE REPORT** supports data driven decision making to drive measurable lasting change in the programs, initiatives and collaborations that are part of our Impact Agenda.

United  
Way



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## EDUCATION

Success in life begins with a quality education. And yet, millions of children and youth lack the support they need to strengthen their literacy, stay on track in school, graduate high school and find a career. Our goal is that **kids enter school ready to learn** and are **supported for successful school progression**.

### IN THE EDUCATION IMPACT AREA UNITED WAY SUPPORTS:

**5**  
Programs

**2**  
Collective Impact  
Collaborations

**37,500  
BOOKS**

*mailed to children ages 0-5  
across Allegan County in 2019  
through the Imagination Library  
program.*



\*Charlie, an early-elementary age boy, challenged with a mental health disorder, was struggling at school due to behavioral issues. These problems were resulting in suspensions, removals from instruction, and even causing significant safety concerns when Charlie would leave the school building or bus without permission. Through collaborative intervention, The Arc of Allegan County was able to conduct assessments, offer resources, and develop strategies that helped reduce the occurrence of negative behavior, improve support services, and repair the strained relationship between the family and school staff. These positive changes have given Charlie the ability to communicate his needs and helped get him back on track as he progresses through his primary and secondary education. Program funding from Allegan County United Way helped The Arc of Allegan make this possible.

*\*Named changed to maintain anonymity.*

## HEALTH

When it comes to accessing health services, a person's zip code or income should never be a barrier to improved health. Yet for many, that's a daily reality. Our goal is individuals have **access to healthcare and improve their health**.

### IN THE HEALTH IMPACT AREA UNITED WAY SUPPORTS:

**9**  
Programs

**1**  
Collective Impact  
Collaboration



**\$14,360 +**

*amount saved by 226 people in  
Allegan County on prescriptions  
through FamilyWize in 2019.*

*Total saved since inception of program  
= \$224,994*



\*Sarah was at a loss, crying at her dining room table. She couldn't afford all the prescriptions needed to treat her diabetes every month and would reuse her insulin needles, not take as much insulin as was prescribed, and skip doses on other medications. After hearing about the FamilyWize prescription discount program through a United Way presentation, she downloaded the app right away. The savings were so significant, she was able to head straight to her pharmacy and pick up all she needed for the month. She has not had to skip a dose of her medication since.

*\*Named changed to maintain anonymity.*

## FINANCIAL STABILITY

A better future begins with financial stability - We give people the resources and opportunities they need to improve their lives and the lives of their children. Our goal is to have **financial supports and resources for all ALICE Households** and that everyone has **access to post-secondary experiences and workforce development opportunities** that lead to a family sustaining jobs.

### IN THE FINANCIAL STABILITY IMPACT AREA UNITED WAY SUPPORTS:

**9**  
Programs

**4**  
Collective Impact  
Collaborations

**myfree  
taxes.com**

**\$208,852**

*in refunds received by  
Allegan County residents  
with MyFreeTaxes in 2019.*

**36%** of households below ALICE threshold  
in Allegan County

**\$13,000 +** worth of food and cash  
donated through the Stuff the Bus Food Drive

### EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM

- Phase 37 = Allegan County received **\$27,440**
- Phase CARES = Allegan County received **\$30,14**



Allegan County United Way hosted 12 My Free Taxes events in 2019 to help people around Allegan County complete their tax returns for free.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

United Way provides meaningful and impactful opportunities to engage in building a stronger community through **Volunteerism**, **Advocacy**, and **Giving opportunities**.

## VOLUNTEER

United Way's Volunteer Center mobilizes the caring power of community every day through events like Stuff the Bus and Adopt-a-Highway, and through our interactive, live, online volunteer portal.

Allegan County United Way's online volunteer portal provides, agencies, businesses and individuals with a one-stop shop for volunteerism. Last year, **59** agencies, numerous businesses and over **400** volunteers used United Ways online Volunteer Center to make a difference in our community.



### TOTAL ANNUAL VOLUNTEER MOBILIZATION IN ALLEGAN COUNTY

**948** Volunteers

**3,690** Volunteer Hours

**\$93,836.70** Value of Volunteer Hours

## ADVOCATE

We're improving education, financial stability and health for individuals and communities. But we don't do it alone. And donations and volunteers don't solve every problem. We provide a platform for you to make a bigger, deeper difference. Join us today. Change doesn't happen without you.

### MICHIGAN 2-1-1

- In 2018, Michigan 2-1-1 responded to **346,158** requests for assistance for a range of resources, from workforce development to health, housing, and utility assistance.
- **Give ALICE an effective, non-bureaucratic connection to faith-based, nonprofit, and public resources before their needs become costly emergencies - support 2-1-1.**

### CHILDCARE

- Accessible and affordable childcare is a barrier faced by families across the state of Michigan. Today, the least expensive licensed child care for an infant and preschooler is **\$13,464** annually, exceeding the annual cost of housing, food, or transportation.
- **Remove the child care barrier for ALICE - ensure access through increased child care provider payments and affordability by raising the subsidy cap to include ALICE families.**

### EARLY LITERACY

- According to the 2017-18 M-STEP less than **45%** of students statewide were proficient readers by the end of the third grade. In 2017, Michigan United Ways invested more than **\$14 million** in childhood success, including initiatives around early literacy.
- **Implement the necessary supports for all children to read by third grade - provide birth to age eight resources needed.**

### EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

- The EITC is a proven-effective tool for working people with low to moderate incomes to gain financial stability. On average, increasing the credit to **20%** puts nearly **\$500** of the income earned back into a working family's pocket.
- **Strengthen the state Earned Income Tax Credit so that ALICE can keep working and put money back into local communities - update state credit for today's economy to 20% of the federal credit.**

United Way's legislative platform works on behalf of ALICE Families on the local, state and Federal levels. Learn more by scanning this code.



### TEXT ALERTS TO 50503

To receive advocacy alerts from United Way



## GIVE

Every year, thousands of generous donors support our work. Through payroll deduction campaigns, on-line gifts, special events and more, these contributions enable us to keep fighting for the health, education and financial stability of every person in our community.

### TOTAL PARTICIPATION IN CAMPAIGN GIVING IN ALLEGAN COUNTY

**96** Companies

**844** Donors

### RETURN ON INVESTMENT

For every **\$1** we raise through campaigns we create **\$2.05** in community benefit. United Way's total community benefit for 2019/2020 fiscal years was **\$1,034,631**. This community benefit positively impacted the lives of more than **12,654** Allegan County residents.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN **GIVE**, **ADVOCATE** AND **VOLUNTEER** AT [WWW.AC UW.ORG](http://WWW.AC UW.ORG)

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