And 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.

Within 36 hours, launched the Care Ottawa County Coalition with our local community foundations and deployed an emergency response website, careottawacounty.com, to help people find help and give help.

360+ VOLUNTEERS

mobilized to shop for seniors, pack food boxes, sew masks and so much more. Want to help? Visit careottawacounty.com.

$300,000+

raised by United Way for the coalition Emergency Human Needs Fund.

104 GRANTS

totaling $873,310, from the Emergency Human Needs Fund, awarded to local agencies responding to the needs of individuals and families.

HELP

These grants addressed immediate needs such as housing, food, prescriptions, mental health, and more.
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 followed by completion of a post-secondary experience that leads to a family sustaining job.

IN THE EDUCATION IMPACT AREA
UNITED WAY SUPPORTS:

- **11** Programs
- **3** Collective Impact Collaborations

4,855+
people in Ottawa County were impacted by our funded Education programs

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 that there is accessible, affordable and quality housing for all, and that people have access to all available income supports and resources.

IN THE FINANCIAL STABILITY IMPACT AREA
UNITED WAY SUPPORTS:

- **19** Programs
- **3** Collective Impact Collaborations

$362,480+
in refunds received by Ottawa County residents with MyFreeTaxes in 2019.

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:

- **19** Programs
- **5** Collective Impact Collaborations

$364,078+
amount saved by 5,482 people in Ottawa County on prescriptions through FamilyWize in 2019.

LAKESHORE HOUSING ALLIANCE

A Program of Greater Ottawa County United Way

The Point in Time count takes place annually on the last Wednesday of January. This year’s PIT count was held on January 30, 2019 and counted 225 people who were literally homeless: staying in emergency shelter, transitional housing or in a place not meant for human habitation.

$364,078+
amount saved by 5,482 people in Ottawa County on prescriptions through FamilyWize in 2019.

CARES Act

Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act

The COVID pandemic only increased the need for the funds and services provided by United way’s Lakeshore Housing Alliance. The CARES Act provided $438,000 in additional funding, and the Lakeshore Housing Alliance in partnership with Good Samaritan Ministries, used those funds to assist in preventing eviction caused by COVID unemployment, and for moving people as quickly as possible from homelessness to permanent housing.

IN THE HEALTH IMPACT AREA
UNITED WAY SUPPORTS:

- **19** Programs
- **5** Collective Impact Collaborations

$364,078+
amount saved by 5,482 people in Ottawa County on prescriptions through FamilyWize in 2019.

11 Programs
3 Collective Impact Collaborations

There is no way we could afford her medications even with insurance.

Each morning, Mr. R. helps his wife of many years prepare for the day. Mrs. R. relies on at least six medications to relieve her Alzheimer’s, Diabetes, high blood pressure and cholesterol. These life-sustaining medications cost almost $3,000 for a 3-month supply, which is a cost that she and her husband cannot afford. Through United Way prescription and program supports, she is able to get her prescription medications from drug companies for free or at a reduced cost, and Mr. R. doesn’t have to choose between food or medicine. Mr. R. shares that his wife owes her life to this support. “There is no way we could afford her medications even with insurance.”
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 Rake a difference and Junior Day of Caring, and through our interactive, live, online Volunteer Portal. Due to changes caused by the pandemic, our largest single day volunteer event, Day of Caring, became Week of Caring, to help build a stronger community, together.

United Way’s Online Volunteer portal provides, agencies, businesses and individuals with a one-stop shop for volunteerism. Last year, over 133 agencies, numerous businesses and over 6,500 volunteers used United Way’s online Volunteer Center to make a difference in our community.

United Way’s Students LIVE UNITED program provides high school students in Ottawa County with the tools and support to locate volunteer opportunities, track their hours and earn recognition for their investment in our community. 400+ students were involved in SLU this year, and 10 seniors received awards.

**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.

**#UNITEDFOREQUITY**

Over 800 people accepted the challenge and participated in a county Wide United Way 21-day equity challenge. These individuals committed to deepening their understanding of, and willingness to confront racism for twenty-one consecutive days.

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

**GIVE**

Every year, thousands of generous donors support our work. Through payroll deductions, online gifts, special events, and more, these contributions enable us to keep fighting for the HEALTH, EDUCATION, and FINANCIAL STABILITY of every person in Ottawa County.

**RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

185 Companies
5,359 Donors
$1 = $4.37 Community Benefit
($8.2 million total community benefit for 2019/2020).

74,000+ Lives changed

**TEXT ALERTS TO 50503**

To receive advocacy alerts from United Way

Misty Burlingame is one of UW’s newest volunteer success stories! Misty began her journey as a United Way COVID-19 Response Team Volunteer helping seniors receive food and supplies in their time of need. She has since migrated to volunteering in UW’s signature events such as Week of Caring, preparing food boxes for people in need.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN GIVE, ADVOCATE AND VOLUNTEER AT OTTAWAUNITEDWAY.ORG

**TOTAL ANNUAL VOLUNTEER MOBILIZATION IN OTTAWA COUNTY**

8,776 Volunteers
120,719 Volunteer Hours
$3,069,884 Value of Volunteer Hours

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