

## CASE FOR GIVING

### Why United Way?

**One gift addresses many needs.** United Way of Allen County helps meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents. United Way funds programs that meet basic needs like food and shelter, as well as programs that help people become self-sufficient, such as literacy training and counseling.

**Oversight.** United Way volunteers ensure that all Partner Agencies and funded programs meet strict standards for governance, financial management, operations and diversity and inclusiveness.

**Coordination.** United Way of Allen County helps local non-profits work better and work better *together*. For example, United Way is helping coordinate a local response to national changes in programming for the homeless. United Way's education initiative, Learn United, is bringing local youth-serving organizations together to find ways to help more local children.

### Why Give More? Unmet Needs.

Following are some examples of why more funding is needed in Allen County.

- **963 unmet needs.** In 2010, United Way's Northeast Indiana 2-1-1 Call Center reported a total of 963 Allen County callers could not meet their needs because resources were not available in the community. These unmet needs include assistance with rent deposits, utility bills, holiday support, child care, medical/dental/vision care, shelter, car repair, and specialized transportation.
- **\$205,000 to support Basic Needs is lost.** This year, the Federal Government's 28-year old Emergency Food and Shelter Program was cut drastically – by 40 percent nationwide. In 2011, Allen County will receive \$48,000 EFSP funds, while last year the county received \$253,000. United Way of Allen County allocated last year's EFSP dollars to 14 local agencies that used the resources for food and shelter per Federal guidelines. For example, Associated Churches used the funding to provide 103,419 meals to hungry residents and Vincent House provided 2,000 nights of shelter to homeless families with the funding.
- **40 women/40 families waiting for housing.** Hope House has a waiting list of 40 homeless, chemically dependent women who need transitional housing with supportive services. Vincent Village has a current waiting list of 40 homeless families.
- **1500 waiting for child care vouchers.** Community Action Agency of Northeast Indiana has a waiting list of more than 1500 low-income families who qualify for child care vouchers. At Early Childhood Alliance more than 100 young children (up to age 6) who qualify for tuition vouchers from the State will not receive tuition support because of state reductions in funding for child care.

### Why Give More? Community Conditions.

- **Poverty at historic highs.** In 2009, 20.5 percent of Allen County children lived in poverty, while in 2000, 12.9 percent lived in poverty. Historically, the local childhood poverty rate has been substantially lower than the national average, but it is now at the same level. (IPFW Community Research Institute, [www.ipfw.edu/crj](http://www.ipfw.edu/crj).) Meanwhile, the percent of all local residents living in poverty almost doubled from 7.9 percent in 1990 to

14.6 percent in 2009, surpassing the State and Federal percentages for the first time in decades.

- **Unemployment still high.** Allen County's unemployment rate was 8.2 percent in July 2011. In April 2008 it was just 4.5 percent (Indiana Department of Workforce Development website.)
- **26 percent of low-income third-graders need literacy help.** Twenty-six percent (566) of Allen County low-income third-graders did not pass the reading portion of the ISTEP test in the spring of 2011. This is a marked improvement over the 40 percent that did not pass in 2007! Still, our community must continue to ensure all children can read at grade level by third grade because studies show that students who don't read at grade level by the end of third grade are *four times* as likely to drop out of high school later.

## Results Matter

United Way provides a portion of the funding for programming that achieved the following results in 2010.

- **Basic Needs:** 11,894 individuals received medical services on a sliding fee scale, 1,308 individuals were assisted during a disaster such as a fire, 2,271 families received utility vouchers, and 85,539 families received 1,275,083 meals.
- **Family Stability:** 2,178 individuals received 12,866 hours of counseling; 601 individuals attended financial management workshops; 238 received employment counseling; 303 adults attended adult learning (GED prep) classes; 1,238 individuals with disabilities received therapy, special equipment, fitness programming or a wheelchair ramp; and 107 homeless individuals benefited from transitional shelter and counseling.
- **Success in School:** 294 youth attended quality after-school programming, 15,261 home visits were conducted with low-income families whose children are at risk of abuse or neglect and 779 low-income children attended high-quality child care.
- **Learn United:** Last year, approximately 200 Classroom Buddies helped children in 15 Allen County Schools, 220 Real Men Read volunteers read to approximately 5,000 students and distributed more than 25,000 books.
- **2-1-1:** 2-1-1 saw a 12 percent increase in calls for service from 2009 to 2010, answering 43,229 requests for service. Volume has grown 84 percent since 2005.
- **Tax Assistance:** This year, volunteer tax preparers helped 1,587 low- and moderate-income residents claim \$2.5 million in refunds and tax credits.

## How Can I Give?

Every dollar counts.

- Spread out your donation through payroll deduction in your workplace campaign.
- Donate at [www.UnitedWayAllenCounty.org](http://www.UnitedWayAllenCounty.org) through pay pal.
- Call United Way at 260.422.4776 to request a credit card payment or direct withdrawal from your checking account.
- Call Chris Rouse at 260.422.4776 to make a planned gift or gift of stock.