



**UNITED WAY**  
Allen County

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

# A Message from our Leadership

United Way Supporters,

I want to extend our deepest gratitude to you, our community, for your steadfast support during this time of transition and change for our organization.

Change is never easy, but it is often necessary. Over the past 18 months, United Way of Allen County has undergone important shifts to better align our mission with the evolving needs of the community. Whether through restructuring, new leadership, or adapting how we deliver services, our focus has remained clear: to build a stronger, more equitable future for everyone.

Your support, whether through donations, volunteer time, partnership, or encouragement, has made all the difference. Because of you, we've been able to maintain vital programs, launch new initiatives, and continue serving those who need us most. Your belief in our mission and your willingness to walk with us during this period of change has been both humbling and inspiring.

As we look ahead, we're excited about what we can accomplish together. We are more committed than ever to transparency, collaboration, and making measurable impact in the lives of individuals and families in our region as we focus on housing stability and food security.

Thank you for your trust, your generosity, and your shared commitment to community.

With gratitude,

*Heidi*



**Heidi Fowler**

Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Ivy Tech  
Board Chair, United Way of Allen County

Dear Stakeholders,

It's hard to believe a full year has passed since I stepped into the role of Executive Director. This past year has brought both challenges and meaningful growth, and I remain deeply humbled by the journey. I've felt truly welcomed and supported by so many of you, which has given me the confidence and clarity needed to lead this organization.

As we look to the year ahead, we are proud of all we've accomplished—and energized by the opportunities still before us. Our focus moving forward will center on two critical areas: housing and food security for our community. These needs are urgent, and we are committed to responding with both compassion and action.

None of this would be possible without you—our dedicated and compassionate supporters. Your belief in our mission fuels everything we do, and with your continued partnership, we know the best is yet to come.

On behalf of our entire team, thank you for being such an essential part of our story. We're grateful for your support and excited to continue this important work together.

Respectfully,

*Brandi*



**Brandi Buck**

Executive Director  
United Way of Allen County

# About Us

## **Mission**

United Way of Allen County exists to boldly impact critical community issues.

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## **Vision**

Effectively transforming our community through measurable impact.

# Board of Directors

We are deeply grateful to our Board members, who serve as trusted champions in the community. Through their mission-driven leadership, they help guide and advance United Way's vision and mission. With strategic insight and a commitment to our bylaws, they play a vital role in shaping our impact and ensuring our continued success.

**Heidi Fowler**  
Board Chair

**Chris Gomez**  
Vice Chair

**Don Cates**  
Treasurer

**Javon Bell**  
Secretary

**John Court**  
Immediate Past Chair

Jill Brown

Ron Howard

Tim Captain

Austin Knox

Stephanie Crandall

Kim Moore

Nick Darrah

Emily Musser

Sarah GiaQuinta

Lloyd Osborne

John Guingrich

David Pricer

George Guy

Amy Rudd

Peter Adams

Joel Harter

Evan Schoof

Allen Brouwer

Scott Hoffman

Greta Southard

Bonnie  
Blackburn-Penhollow

Prachi  
Hoffmeister

Steven Sykes

# Our Impact

## Educational Opportunities

### KINDERGARTEN COUNTDOWN

Our early learning program reached 115 students across 8 classrooms in 7 schools, with an impressive 86% average attendance rate.

Student growth highlights:

Pre - literacy skills increased by 17%

Social - emotional scores improved by 18%

Name writing ability rose 38%

Basic math skills rose by 8%



**We Are Your Schools**

**Families in Transition:** United Way is honored to have received the Community Partner Award and will continue supporting Fort Wayne Community Schools by fully funding a case manager for the 2025-2026 school year.

This vital role, which assists students and families experiencing homelessness, was at risk due to funding gaps—our investment ensures this critical support remains in place.

### PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF

The Persistence Pays Off program served 66 students, delivering critical support that fosters long-term stability and success.

- 348 financial literacy lessons delivered
- Over \$34,900 in emergency services distributed
- More than \$21,800 in mental health support provided
- Achieved a 99% persistence rate

### Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Training Series

United Way of Allen County is proud to partner with the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health to launch two specialized training series focused on Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH).

- Cohort one included 22 mental health clinicians and 15 childcare providers and home visitors
- Each participant will complete 55 hours of in-depth IECMH training
- Participating clinicians will receive an endorsement to their professional credential

# Our Impact

## Food Security

20 FOOD  
25 DRIVE



Thanks to incredible community support, this year's food drive was a major success

- 9,745 lbs. of food collected – a 40% increase over last year
- 27 companies hosted bins across 59 collection sites

We were excited to welcome Salsa Grille as a new partner in this year's food drive! All four Fort Wayne locations hosted collection bins, promoted the campaign across their social media channels, and even joined us for media interviews to spread the word. The effort not only supported a great cause but also resulted in increased in-store sales—a true win-win for our community.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who donated, participated, and partnered with us to help fight food insecurity!



# Our Impact

## Community Collaboration



During fiscal year 2024-2025, 74 teams and 1,500+ volunteers came together to complete 72 community projects, making a powerful impact.

Over 8 tons (16,220 lbs.) of biosolids (compost material) were picked up by hand.  
\$20,500 was contributed through sponsorships.



United Way of Allen County teamed up with Papa John's for a delicious way to give back by raising \$1,863 through the Pizza for a Purpose campaign.



In collaboration with Volunteer Center and Catholic Charities, United Way offered free tax preparation services to local residents. 2,911 tax returns were completed, returning nearly \$3 million in refunds to residents. In addition, the program saved community members over \$794,000 in tax preparation fees.

Usage of the My Free Taxes platform surged by more than 190%, demonstrating growing demand for accessible, no-cost tax services.

# 2024-2025

## Priority Area Grant Recipients

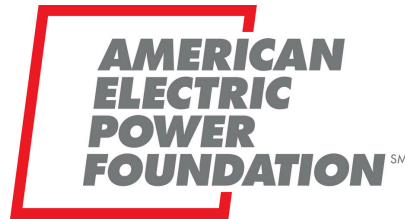
Over the past year, United Way of Allen County invested in the community through grants, strategic initiatives, and collaborative partnerships. These efforts are guided by our Priority Area Grants—an annual, strategic investment process focused on addressing the most critical needs. By aligning our funding with four key priority areas, we work hand-in-hand with community partners to create lasting change across Allen County.

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| A Mother's Hope               | \$25,000  |
| Aging & In-Home Services      | \$20,000  |
| Amani Family Services         | \$25,000  |
| Blessings in a Backpack       | \$20,000  |
| Brightpoint                   | \$180,000 |
| Catholic Charities            | \$70,000  |
| Community Harvest             | \$30,000  |
| Courageous Healing            | \$20,000  |
| Headwaters Counseling         | \$30,000  |
| Healthier Moms & Babies       | \$30,000  |
| Lutheran Social Services      | \$125,000 |
| Miss Virginia's Food Pantry   | \$20,000  |
| Neighborhood Health Clinics   | \$20,000  |
| Out of a Jam                  | \$20,000  |
| St. Joseph Missions           | \$30,000  |
| The League                    | \$50,000  |
| The Fort Wayne Rescue Mission | \$20,000  |
| Wellspring Social Services    | \$20,000  |
| YWCA                          | \$30,000  |

## \$785,000 Agency Investment

# 2024 Day of Caring Event Sponsors

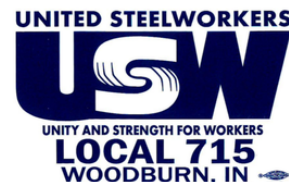
## Golden Hammer Sponsor



## Bronze Nail Sponsor



## Green Thumb Sponsor



# 2024 Food Drive Event Sponsors

## Platinum Pantry Sponsor

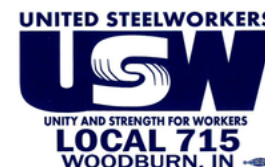


Kathy Callen

## Golden Gratitude Sponsor



## Silver Serving Sponsor



## Bronze Bowl Sponsor



## Media Sponsor



# 2024

## Campaign Award Recipients

At United Way of Allen County, meaningful achievement and lasting community impact are at the heart of everything we do. We believe that going above and beyond for the greater good makes someone a true changemaker. It's an honor to work, collaborate, and stand shoulder to shoulder with those who share our commitment. Each year, we proudly recognize local organizations that help advance our mission to drive bold, transformative change on the most critical issues facing our community.



**SPIRIT OF GIVING**  
Franklin Electric

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**SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION**  
Salsa Grille

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**OUTSTANDING LARGE ORGANIZATION**  
3Rivers Federal Credit Union

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**OUTSTANDING MEDIUM ORGANIZATION**  
Regal Rexnord

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**OUTSTANDING SMALL ORGANIZATION**  
Asher Agency

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# 2024

## Campaign Award Recipients



**OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR**  
Gina Rhoad



**OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY IMPACT**  
Nick Darrah



**OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER**  
Javon Bell

# Monsignor Thiele Award Recipient

The Monsignor Thiele Award is presented annually to an individual for exceptional service to the United Way of Allen County, recognizing their commitment to the community and efforts to further the United Way's charitable goals.

United Way of Allen County is proud to nominate Allen Brouwer, Senior Vice President at Old National Bank, as the recipient of the 2025 Monsignor Thiele Award.

Allen exemplifies the spirit of this award through his dedication to service, leadership, and impactful philanthropy. As Treasurer from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024, he brought not only financial expertise but a deep sense of stewardship to his role—ensuring that community-contributed resources were managed with integrity, transparency, and purpose. He recognized that these funds are entrusted to us, not owned by us, and guided their use with principles rooted in generosity and sustainability.

Beyond his fiduciary responsibilities, Allen became a mentor to the entire United Way finance team, fostering collaboration, providing invaluable support, and introducing tools such as visual financial dashboards to improve organizational understanding and decision-making. His leadership has inspired a culture of excellence, innovation, and cross-functional alignment.

A passionate advocate for United Way's mission, Allen integrates charitable giving and social impact into his professional life, leaving a legacy of kindness and purpose. His belief in the organization's potential and willingness to share his knowledge make him an exceptional example of service leadership.

We are honored to recognize Allen Brouwer with the 2025 Monsignor Thiele Award.



# Tocqueville Society Contributors

Founded in 1984 and inspired by Alexis de Tocqueville’s reflections on American volunteerism and civic spirit, the United Way Tocqueville Society brings together passionate individuals dedicated to lasting community change.

Today, the Society honors those who give \$10,000 or more annually and who exemplify Tocqueville’s vision through their generosity, leadership, and service. These members are helping to solve our most pressing local challenges, and their support drives meaningful impact across Allen County.

Thank you to our Tocqueville Society members—your commitment to United Way of Allen County makes a real and lasting difference.



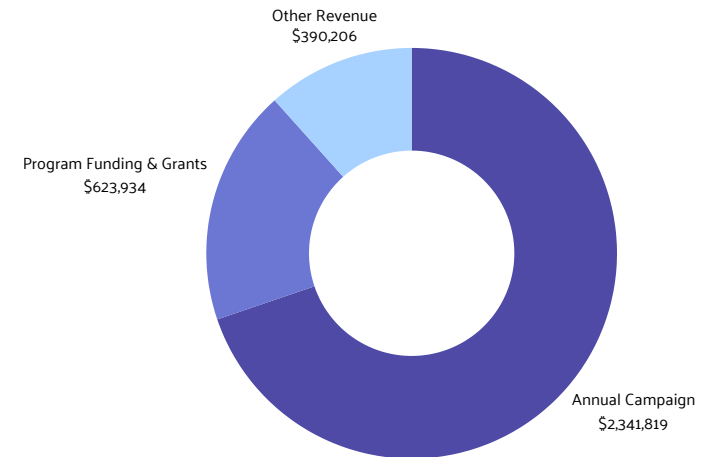
|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| Mr. & Mrs.<br>Don & Rae Cates            | Mr. David E.<br>Christianson           | Mrs. Ginny B.<br>Clark                     | Mr. & Mrs.<br>Nelson & Mary<br>Coats    |
| Mr. Scott A. Glaze                       | Mrs. Harriett J.<br>Inskeep            | Mrs. Julie Inskeep<br>and Bobby<br>Simpson | Dr. Kevin J. Kelly                      |
| Mr. & Mrs.<br>James & Pat<br>Marcuccilli | Mr.& Mrs.<br>Tom & Joan<br>Marcuccilli | Mr. & Mrs.<br>Michael &<br>Patricia Miller | In memory of<br>Maurice O’Daniel        |
| Mrs. Mimi<br>Rolland                     | Ms. Deborah<br>Sturgis                 | Mr. Jeffery Taylor                         | Mr. & Mrs.<br>Robert & Irene<br>Walters |

# Financial Summary

Revenue and Expenses for the year ending June 30, 2025

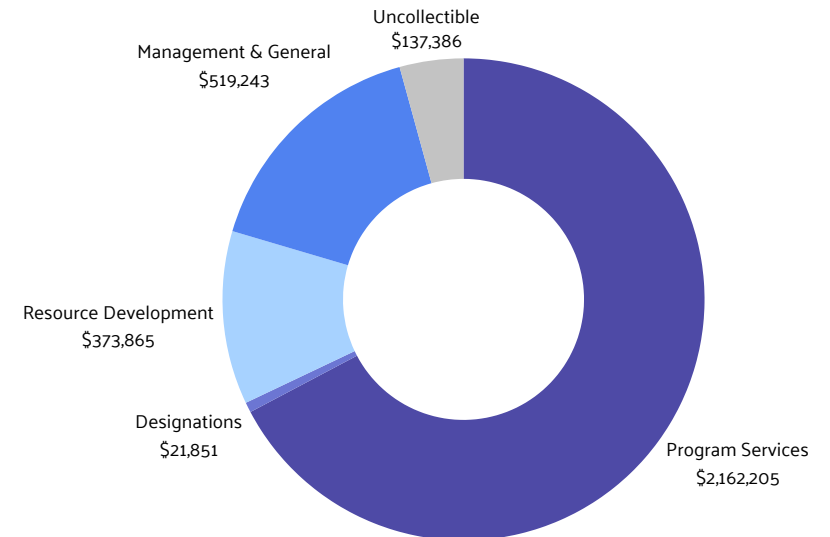
## Sources of Revenue

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Annual Campaign          | \$2,341,819        |
| Program Funding & Grants | \$623,934          |
| Other Revenue            | \$390,206          |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$3,355,959</b> |



## Uses of Revenue

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Program Services     | \$2,162,205        |
| Designations         | \$21,851           |
| Resource Development | \$373,865          |
| Management & General | \$519,243          |
| Uncollectible        | \$137,386          |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>\$3,214,550</b> |

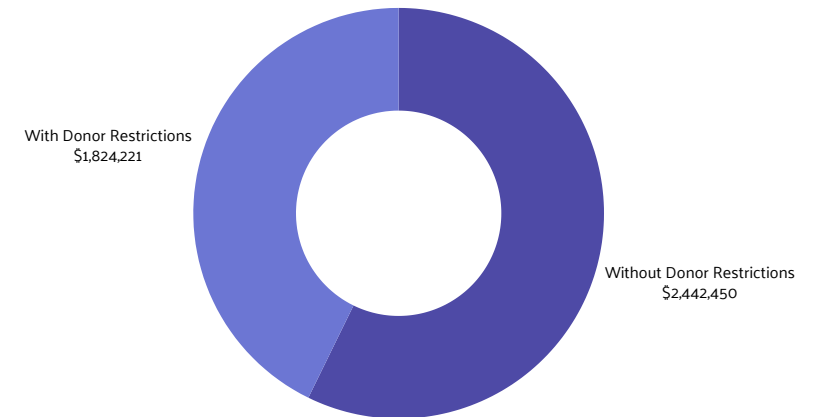


# Financial Summary

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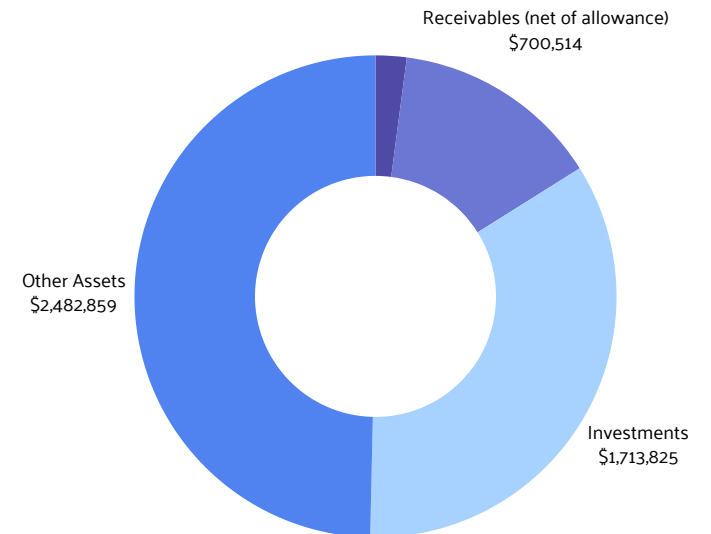
## Net Assets

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Without Donor Restrictions | \$2,442,450        |
| With Donor Restrictions    | \$1,824,221        |
| Total                      | <b>\$4,266,671</b> |



## Assets (EOY)

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Cash & Equivalents             | \$103,821          |
| Receivables (Net of allowance) | \$700,514          |
| Investments                    | \$1,713,825        |
| Other Assets                   | \$2,482,859        |
| Total                          | <b>\$5,001,019</b> |





# Get Involved. Give Back. Take Action

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260.422.4776

[www.unitedwayallencounty.org](http://www.unitedwayallencounty.org)