



UNITED WAY
Allen County

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

UNITED IS THE WAY WE CREATE LASTING CHANGE

Dear Friends,

When I think about the past year at United Way of Allen County, I don't first think about numbers. I think about people.

I think about the donor who chose to give because they believe every family deserves a safe place to call home. I think about the volunteers who gave their time because they wanted to make their community a little better. I think about the nonprofit professional who shows up every day, often with limited resources, determined to help one more person. And I think about the families and individuals at the heart of all we do—our neighbors, our friends, and our community.

This is what United Way means to me.

It is people coming together around the belief that we can do better for one another. It is a business leader opening a door, a volunteer offering a helping hand, a donor making an investment, and a nonprofit partner turning that generosity into hope and opportunity.

This past year reminded me that meaningful change rarely happens because of one person or one organization. It happens when we come together.

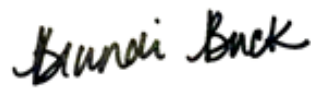
As we look ahead, we are becoming even more intentional about that role. We know that housing stability and food security are fundamental to a strong community. We also know that education and mental health are essential to helping individuals and families move forward. These challenges are complex, and there is no single solution. But I believe deeply that when our community is united, we are capable of creating solutions that none of us could create alone.

I am incredibly grateful to everyone who has been part of that work this year.

Thank you for believing in our mission. Thank you for trusting us with your generosity. Thank you for giving your time, sharing your expertise, opening your doors and, most importantly, caring about the people who call Allen County home.

The impact reflected in this report belongs to all of us.

With gratitude,



Brandi Buck
Executive Director
United Way of Allen County



OFFICERS

Heidi Fowler | Board Chair

Chris Gomez | Board Vice-Chair

Don Cates | Treasurer

Javon Bell | Secretary

John Court | Immediate Past Chair

BOARD MEMBERS

Peter Adams

Allen Brouwer

Bonnie Blackburn-Penhollow

Jill Brown

Tim Captain

Stephanie Crandall

Nick Darrah

Chris Fedele

Sarah GiaQuinta

Andrew Gritzmaker

John Guingrich

Scott Hoffman

Ron Howard

Austin Knox

Kim Moore

Kirsten Pendarvis

David Pricer

Amy Rudd

Evan Schoof

Steven Sykes

2025-26
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

EMERITUS MEMBERS

Herb Anderson

Greg Johnson

Marilyn Moran-Townsend

David Trenkner, M.D.

Irene Walters

FINANCIALS

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

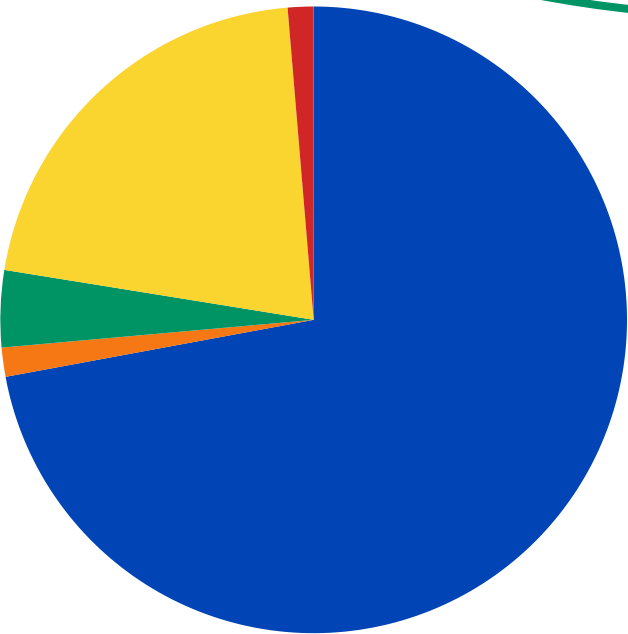
Revenue and Expenses for the year
ending June 30, 2026

Sources of Revenue

Annual Campaign	\$1,551,364
Program Funding & Grants	\$489,328
Other Revenue	\$571,774
Total	\$2,612,466

Uses of Revenue

Program Services		\$2,684,561
Designations		\$55,888
Resource Development		\$147,464
Management & General		\$786,754
Uncollectible		\$49,374
Total		\$3,724,041



Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,445,748
With Donor Restrictions	\$1,814,610
Total	\$3,260,358

Assets (EOY)

Cash & Equivalents	\$329,380
Receivables (Net of Allowance)	\$244,870
Investments	\$1,155,934
Other Assets	\$2,711,130
Total	\$4,441,314



Meeting The Most Critical Needs in Our Community

In September 2025, our Board of Directors approved a strategic direction that will guide our work through 2028. This plan reflects our commitment to addressing the community’s most pressing challenges while strengthening our organization for the future. After careful evaluation of community needs and local data, **we have narrowed our primary focus to two critical areas: Housing Stability and Food Security.**

While these areas will receive concentrated investment and leadership, we remain committed to advancing Educational Opportunities and Mental Health Access through strategic partnerships and community collaboration.

Priority Area Grants

\$600,000

Granted to Agencies

Food Distribution

6 471,878

Agencies Funded Meals Distributed

Housing Stability

8 1,538 20,117

Agencies Funded Shelter Days Provided Financially Assisted

Mental Health Access

3 385

Agencies Funded Individuals Served

Priority Area Grant Recipients

- A Mother’s Hope
- Amani Family Services
- Associated Churches
- Blessings In a Backpack
- Brightpoint
- Child Advocacy Center
- Community Harvest Food Bank
- Healthier Moms and Babies
- Lutheran Social Services

- Miss Virginia’s Food Pantry
- St. Joseph Missions
- The Fort Wayne Rescue Mission
- The League
- The Salvation Army
- Vincent Village
- Wellspring Interfaith Social Services
- YWCA Northeast Indiana



Additional Community Investment Through Our Network Support

United Way of Allen County is uniquely positioned to access additional funding through Indiana United Ways. Through this network, we are eligible for grant dollars that can be invested back into our community.

Your support helps us unlock additional funding and expand our impact in Allen County.

Capital Project Support

\$1,477,000 granted to 3 nonprofit agencies in Allen County since 2024

Community Support Funds

\$295,880 of additional funds granted to 4 nonprofit agencies in Allen County

Program Support

\$397,826 additional funds to support programs such as VITA, Kindergarten Countdown, and FWCS Families in Transition

Impact In Our Community

Helping More Dollars Go Further for Those Who Need Them Most

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA): Provides free tax preparation through IRS-certified volunteers, helping individuals and families access available tax credits and retain more of the income they have earned.



2,986

Tax Returns Completed

4,722

Volunteer Hours

68

Volunteers

\$3.49 Million

Total Refunds

\$1 Million+

Saved in Tax Prep Fees

\$2.3 Million+

Total Dollars Invested in Allen County

“It's not just academic goals that bog students down.”

Persistence Pays Off Student

Educational Opportunities

Providing Essential Supports So Students Can Persist and Thrive in Life

From infancy to adulthood, our many partners and you help children, youth, and adult learners realize their potential and discover how they can create successful futures for themselves through our various initiatives. We bring together businesses, schools, and community organizations to expand what's possible for Allen County learners.

KINDERGARTEN COUNTDOWN

Helps children and families prepare for a successful transition into kindergarten by providing resources, activities, and support that build school readiness and confidence. During 2025-26, UWAC hosted two Kindergarten Countdown programs.

188
Students Participated

87%
Attendance Rate

Families in Transition

Supports families experiencing homelessness within Fort Wayne Community Schools through case management and specialized services, helping students and families overcome barriers to stability and educational success.

68
Students Served

31

Unaccompanied Youth

PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF

Provides case management, financial assistance, and mental health services to college students, helping them overcome barriers and complete their degree or credential.

91%
Persistence Rate

77

Students Served

779

Coaching Sessions by Case Manager

144

Counseling Sessions Provided

Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Training Series

A 10-day training series based on an infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) - informed curriculum for childcare providers, home visitors, and clinicians.

23

Clinicians & Home Visitors Participated

14

Childcare Providers Participated





20 FOOD 26 DRIVE

Food
Security

Ensuring Families Have Access to the Food They Need

Annual Food Drive

As the cost of basic needs continues to rise, more households are struggling. This annual food drive is one of the many ways United Way is working to reduce food insecurity, and it wouldn't be possible without the support of our community.

Three local food banks benefited from the food drive:

- Associated Churches
- Community Harvest Food Bank
- Miss Virginia's Food Pantry

10,107
Pounds of Food
Collected

58
Collection
Sites

37
Companies
Participated

Public Collection Site Partner
 Salsa Grille

Emergency Food Campaign

In response to the federal government shutdown in the fall of 2025 and its impact on families relying on SNAP benefits, the Emergency Food Campaign was created to provide immediate relief for local food pantries facing increased demand.

\$45,000
Total Contributed

Emergency Food Campaign Contributors

- Kathy Callen
Nelson Coats
Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne
Fort Wayne Metals
Summit Brands Legacy Foundation
United Way of Allen County
Bob & Irene Walters
Dick & Marni Waterfield

Showing Community Strength, Care, and Compassion Through Action

United Way of Allen County believes in the power of giving back and creating positive change through meaningful volunteer opportunities. Through initiatives such as Day of Caring and Kit Builds, we connect volunteers with opportunities to support local organizations and help our community thrive.

United Way of Allen County DAY OF CARING

1,535+ 76 69 34,260 lbs.
Volunteers Teams Projects Compost Material Collected

KIT BUILDS

8 16 541
Companies Organizations Kits
Participated Benefited Distributed



57 \$2,951
Volunteers Amount Raised

Volunteer
Engagement

10,269
Total Volunteer
Hours







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.

Tocqueville Society Contributors

Mr. Allen Brouwer

Mr. & Mrs. Don & Rae Cates

Mr. & Mrs. David E. & Barb Christianson

Mr. & Mrs. Nelson & Mary Coats

Mr. Nicholas J. Darrah

Mr. Scott A. Glaze

Mrs. Harriett J. Inskeep

Mrs. Julie Inskeep and Bobby Simpson

Dr. Kevin J. Kelly

Mr. & Mrs. James & Pat Marcuccilli

Mr. & Mrs. Tom & Joan Marcuccilli

Anonymous

Food Drive Sponsors

Platinum Pantry Sponsor

Chuck and Tammy Yeaser
Meijer

Golden Pantry Sponsor

USW Local 715

Silver Serving Sponsor

Bowen Health
Barnes & Thornburg
Jill and Samuel Boggs
PHP

Bronze Gratitude Sponsor

AID of Indiana
Northeast Indiana AFL-CIO
Salsa Grille
Stephanie and Joel Crandall

Media Sponsor

Fort Wayne Newspapers

Event Sponors

Day of Caring Sponsors

Platinum Paintbrush Sponsor

Indiana Michigan Power
Foundation

Golden Glove Sponsor

City of Fort Wayne

Silver Screwdriver Sponsor

AID of Indiana
L3Harris

Bronze Bucket Sponsor

AnCor HR LLC
Aqua Indiana
Avery Dennison
Regal Rexnord
UAW Local 2209 - GM
Fort Wayne Assembly
USW Local 715

Supplies Sponsor

Allied Mechanical Inc.
Dierkes & Sons
K&N Carpet

A portrait of Nick Darrah, a man with short brown hair, smiling. He is wearing a light blue button-down shirt under a grey suit jacket. The background is a wall of horizontal wooden planks. The photo is partially framed by a yellow circular border on the right side.

Monsignor Thiele Award Recipient

**Nick
Darrah**

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 recognize Nick Darrah, Vice President of Partnerships & Government Relations at NEI for the 2026 Monsignor Thiele Award.

Nick brings a lifelong commitment to service, shaped in part by his time as a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, into both his professional work and his volunteer leadership, consistently working to strengthen communities and advance the impact of nonprofits across our region. This experience instilled in him a deep sense of responsibility, discipline, and service to others, qualities that continue to define his leadership and community engagement today.

Since beginning his board service with United Way of Allen County in 2022, Nick has demonstrated diligent and faithful service while exhibiting extraordinary devotion to the organization's mission. As Chair of the Advocacy Committee, he has provided thoughtful and strategic leadership to elevate critical community issues and champion policies that support economic stability, expand opportunities, and improve outcomes for individuals and families throughout Allen County. His ability to convene stakeholders and represent community priorities has strengthened United Way's voice and impact.

Nick's service extends across multiple facets of the organization. In addition to his role as a Board Member, he actively contributes to the Resource Development Committee, supporting efforts to secure and steward resources that directly benefit nonprofit partners and those they serve. His engagement reflects both a strong understanding of community needs and a genuine commitment to addressing them.

Beyond the local level, Nick serves as an affiliate board member of Indiana United Ways, helping to align local priorities with statewide strategies. He has also participated in Day at the Statehouse, advocating for policies that advance the work of families working to improve their quality of life across Indiana.

What distinguishes Nick is not just the breadth of his involvement, but the consistency and authenticity of his service. He leads with humility, integrity, and a deep care for the community he serves. His contributions have strengthened the effectiveness and reach of United Way's work and have had a meaningful impact on the individuals and families served.

Nick Darrah's record of achievement clearly fulfills the criteria of the Monsignor Thiele Award. His past contributions reflect diligent and faithful service, extraordinary devotion to advancing the mission of United Way of Allen County, and a measurable impact on the community. Recognizing Nick would not only honor his contributions but also inspire others to step forward in service to strengthen our community.

2025 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.



OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR

Zach Stauffer, Regal Rexnord



TRUSTED STEWARD

Nelson Coats, DWD CPAs & Advisors



SPIRIT OF SERVICE

Evan Schoof,
Northeast Indiana AFL-CIO Executive Vice President
USW Local 715, BFGoodrich



OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER

Chris Fedeles, Gray Digital Media



OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER

In Memoriam
Sethe Dierkes, Dierkes & Sons



SPIRIT OF GIVING

3Rivers Federal Credit Union



SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION

Lutheran Social Services of Indiana



OUTSTANDING LARGE ORGANIZATION

Indiana Michigan Power



OUTSTANDING MEDIUM ORGANIZATION

Franklin Electric



OUTSTANDING SMALL ORGANIZATION

Indiana Agriculture & Technology School, Fort Wayne

UNITED IS THE WAY WE CREATE LASTING CHANGE

Visit unitedwayallencounty.org to learn more about:

- Who We Are
- Our Work
- Ways to Get Involved
- Events
- How to Donate



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