

United
Way



of Whitewater Valley



2022 **IMPACT** REPORT





DEAR FRIENDS,

Do you know just how much of an impact you made on Wayne and Union Counties in 2022?

You have made a profound impact on our children's access to quality early childhood programs and youth developed career-ready skills. Families gained access to services that improved their financial stability and more people received crucial healthcare support. This is the power of working collaboratively and why United Way of Whitewater Valley is proud to present you with our 2022 Impact Report.

2022 was a difficult year for the Whitewater Valley Community. The truth of the matter is that there will always be a need for the services our Program Partners provide and I'm proud that the United Way of Whitewater Valley is here to support their work. Convening resources, supporting matching grants, and providing an easy way for people to maximize the impact of their donation is just a small part of our work that allowed us to help so many people over this last year.

2022 highlights include:

- Supporting two Cause Campaigns - a **utility assistance fund** and a **food insecurity fund** that included donations and grants for people who need help. Thank you to Natco Credit Union for stepping up and providing the matching funds.
- During the school year, we helped bring **Challenge Day** in partnership with Reid Health to local 8th-grade students. Challenge Day activities are designed to improve self-management, social awareness, self-awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.
- We also funded a pilot program to **cultivate workforce readiness** skills for teens. This is in collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club, Future Achievers, and Hogg Helps. Cohort 1 begins in 2023 and graduates will gain exposure to careers, experience internships, and leave with a resume so that they feel prepared to step into the local workforce.

Although our work is far from over, we're headed into 2023 with optimism. We need your help to make this year successful. We could not do this without volunteers, contributors, program partners, corporate partners, our local government, and donors. In this report are ways you can contribute so we can continue to be a catalyst for change. Celebrate the successes of 2022 with us as you read our Impact Report and take a moment to envision what the future holds as we continue to grow and serve our community.

Sincerely,

Tamara Brinkman

PRESIDENT





OUR 2022 BOARD



MORGAN HOWARD
Community
Volunteer



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ANN BROOKS
Harrington-Hoch
Insurance



LAURA COLLIER
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ARON BOROWIAK*
Union County
College Corner



PATRICK RIPBERGER*
Mezzo Solutions

**Former 2022 Board Member*



WHAT WE DO

United Way of Whitewater Valley is dedicated to making change in Wayne and Union Counties. We are a catalyst for change by supporting local nonprofits. We fund the programs of nonprofits that support the needs of our community across our four focus areas: childhood success, youth success, economic mobility, and access to health.

OUR MISSION

United Way of Whitewater Valley is committed to creating a positive impact through facilitation and partnership in Wayne and Union Counties in Indiana. We have been serving these communities since 1928. For over 90 years, we have been bringing organizations, donors and volunteers together to support the most vulnerable members of our community.



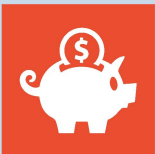
CHILDHOOD SUCCESS

We know that children are the future. Providing quality opportunities for early childhood education is proven to improve cognitive and achievement scores.



YOUTH SUCCESS

Student learning continues outside of school. Out-of-school programs develop time management, communication skills, and self-confidence in middle school and high school students.



ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Sometimes, families need help getting on their feet. Providing support services to families allows them to increase their financial stability and improve their access to affordable housing.



ACCESS TO HEALTH

Not everyone has access to insurance or healthcare. Opportunities to access preventive care, mental healthcare and counseling, and disability healthcare can drastically improve people's lives.

CHILDHOOD SUCCESS

READING SCORE GOAL: 95%

OUR LOCAL PERFORMANCE:



Centerville Schools



Nettle Creek



Northeastern



Richmond Community Schools



Western Wayne Elementary



Liberty Elementary

Source: Indiana Department of Education

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

If students are not reading well by third grade, it begins a downward spiral in academic performance that is incredibly difficult to overcome. Literacy skills build a strong foundation for critical thinking and problem solving. Statistics show that students reading below grade level are far more likely to drop out of school and be on track to become our nation's lowest-income, least-skilled citizens. We know that approximately 30% of Richmond students do not pass the third-grade ISTEP+ Language Arts (Reading) - the first in a series of statewide ISTEP+ tests." Reading skills are lagging even more due to COVID-19.

Source: *The Reading Academy*

WHAT WE'RE DOING ABOUT IT

We're proud to support our Program Partner, The Reading Academy. The Academy is designed to focus on students' individual needs and help them overcome reading difficulties to catch them up to grade level. Two weeks of full-day classes over the summer led by highly trained teachers led to 92% of students improving their reading skills - with 50% passing their iREAD test. United Way of Whitewater Valley's funding for The Reading Academy supports their endeavor to develop reading skills, build confident kids, and set them up for success over the rest of their lives.

Source: *The Reading Academy*

IMPACT STORY

Thanks to The Reading Academy, 92% of children involved in their programming passed their iREAD test. This is huge and sets them on a track for success throughout school and a good start to their future careers.



YOUTH SUCCESS

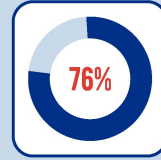
STATISTIC:

Before



of students report feeling disconnected from their school communities, adults, and classmates.

After



of students reported feeling less alone.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Kids who have a sense of connection to their communities and each other see an improvement in social behaviors, conduct problems, and academic performance. No one wants to feel like they're alone.

WHAT WE'RE DOING ABOUT IT

United Way of Whitewater Valley once again partnered with Reid Health to bring Challenge Day to 866 students and 178 adults. This means over 1,000 people experienced activities centered on growing their self-management, social awareness, self-awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making.

IMPACT STORY

After participating in Challenge Day, we saw a positive change in local students. The majority reported feeling less alone. 69% reported feeling empowered to make positive change at their school, within the community, and in the world. We also saw 62% of students acknowledge that there were others at the school who understood their feelings and experiences. 63% of students left the program feeling better connected to peers and adults at the school.

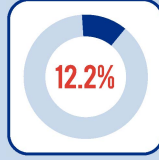


ACCESS TO HEALTH

STATISTIC:



of children in Wayne County and



of children in Union County are food insecure.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Food insecurity and the lack of access to affordable, nutritious food are associated with increased risk for many chronic health conditions, as well as linked to poor academic performance, and other factors that determine a person's likelihood of success.

WHAT WE'RE DOING ABOUT IT

United Way of Whitewater Valley supports Gateway Hunger Relief in order to bridge the gap between paying bills and spiraling into complete financial instability. By supporting their Food Insecurity Campaign, local community members can access food when they need it most. We were able to raise \$10,769 to support this endeavor across Wayne and Union Counties.

IMPACT STORY

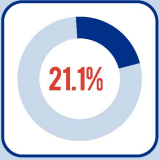
"If not for this place, we'd literally be hungry and not have dinner sometimes. It's great when I need just a lil' extra help because there is not enough money after bills and gas to get to work. This has been a huge blessing for me and my boys."

- C.W.

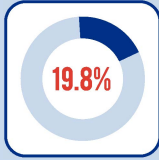


ECONOMIC MOBILITY

STATISTIC:



Poverty Rate in Richmond, IN



Residents with Bachelor's Degree or Higher

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

A disproportionate number of Wayne County community members have experienced generational poverty. Over time, various data illustrate the challenges residents experience in Wayne County. The median household income in Richmond is \$40,871.00 versus \$47,756 in the County and \$58,235.00 in the state. This indicates families are living below the standards of their peers, but it also reflects pockets of extreme poverty in the county. Richmond's poverty rate is 22.1%, nearly double the state of Indiana. Poverty rates are known indicators that many families and children will experience a lack of opportunity and access as households must prioritize basic needs. Only 19.8% of Wayne County residents have a bachelor's degree or higher educational credentials compared to 27.2% in Indiana. Data from the Indiana Department of Education shows that Wayne County students lag behind their peers in Math and English Language Arts proficiency in the state's 2022 I-Learn data. The consequences of these ongoing socioeconomic challenges are further amplified for people of color who have experienced a high degree of historical bias in Wayne County. Creating positive change for youth requires building opportunities through collaborative community initiatives that seek to address the disparities that are present in Wayne County.

WHAT WE'RE DOING ABOUT IT

United Way of Whitewater Valley is proud to announce support of a new local initiative to promote workforce readiness for teens. Through the collaboration of the Boys & Girls Club of Wayne County, Future Achievers, and Hogg Helps, this 8-week program will provide teens with job skills training and on-site work experience. The program begins in Spring of 2023 and will serve 20-25 teens. A second will follow in the Fall. The program intends to create connections between teens and local businesses to foster future careers. We are looking forward to the impact this makes on our community.



OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS

United Way of Whitewater Valley Program Partners are agencies who support our community in the areas of early childhood education, youth success, economic mobility, and access to healthcare.



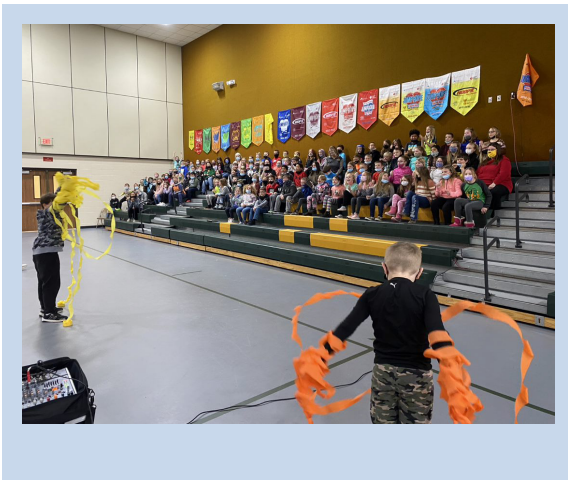
TIM PIERSON
Executive Director
Bridges for Life

“As a new non-profit, accessing the financial support needed to develop and run programming can be challenging. Obviously, we have to demonstrate the value we can bring to the community before funders want to take a risk in offering support; yet financial support is often needed to be able to show that value - so it can be tough. Building social trust with potential funders like the United Way of Whitewater Valley has helped us to be able to gain support to run programs that we believed to be valuable. The United Way has been one of our greatest local funding partners and have truly helped us in so many ways. From supporting our Covid-19 Quarantine Care Package Project and our weekly meal program (Dinner at the Lamp) to our new Recover Together program, we are so grateful to the United Way of Whitewater Valley for their consistent and generous support, we are beyond thankful for this great partnership!”

MORE THAN WORDS

More Than Words is a program of the United Way of Whitewater Valley that seeks to connect schools, businesses, and community organizations in order to give kids and families a vision for how we live and work together in Wayne and Union Counties. We use a series of monthly words each month and work together toward a better way to be.

PERSEVERANCE Compassion
TRUST Self-Control
COOPERATION **JOY**
HOPE **GRIT** Self-Discovery **PERSEVERANCE**
JOY **COURAGE**
HONOR **Discovery**
Compassion



OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

United Way of Whitewater Valley (UWWV) works with local businesses, government organizations, nonprofits, and other entities to address problems endemic to our communities within Union County and Wayne County. Why do we work with so many different organizations? No single organization can do it all on their own. UWWV is the essential connection between businesses looking to establish a culture of corporate social responsibility and organizations in need of financial assistance to serve our communities. In short, we make sure your investments yield the highest possible return so that you can make the biggest impact on our community.



TIM FRAME
3 Rivers Credit Union

"We participate in many initiatives around town, but United Way is one of the most important."



SANDI MATHEWS,
Meijer

"Our money is going to a local need, it's important for our team to know that the money goes where they live and work."



WHY INVEST IN UNITED WAY?

- We have a **birds-eye view** of the greatest needs and greatest potential within our counties.
- We are well positioned to coordinate and facilitate collaboration across non-profit organizations to **amplify outcomes**.
- We **support** the health and success of many non-profit organizations.
- Through our annual grant, non-profits receive their **funding on a monthly** basis, ensuring consistent delivery of services.
- We **celebrate and share** our health, education, and financial stability across the community.

**WHERE THE MONEY GOES
IN THE WHITEWATER VALLEY**

Meet Olivia!
Olivia is a child who wants to succeed.
All Olivia needs is an opportunity. →

Let's Go!

- A Strong Start to Education**
puts Olivia on the right path
- Accessible Healthy Foods**
helps Olivia focus in the classroom
- Access to Quality Healthcare**
allows Olivia to miss fewer days of school
- Feeling Empowered**
Olivia goes on to achieve a college degree which opens more doors
- Economic Mobility**
Olivia's parents find jobs and move towards financial stability
- Ability To Earn More**
allows Olivia's parents to save more of their hard earned money
- Feeling Supported**
Olivia earns a high school diploma
- Because You Made It Happen,**
Olivia wants to make it happen too.

We All Win!

United Way of Whitewater Valley
brings communities together to lift all the "Olivias". Because you are **MAKING IT HAPPEN**. With your support, we are able to fight against **POVERTY** by making a difference in Education, Economic Mobility and Health for the residents of Wayne and Union Counties.

Make It Happen
GiveTheUnitedWay.com

THE POWER OF A FEW DOLLARS



\$2 Bag of Chips
daily

OR



You can send 730 kids through child safety training that aims to prevent sexual abuse. (Jacy House)



\$5 Cup of Coffee
weekly

OR



You can guide 30 local Latinx children through a local leadership program. (Amigos)



\$15 LUNCH
1x a week

OR



You can provide 1 teen with an 8-week job skills training program and on-site work experience. (Boys and Girls Club, Hogg Helps, and Future Achiever's Workforce Initiative Network)

GOALS FOR 2023

- Help ALICE families achieve upward mobility and increase access to healthcare services, high-quality preschool, and more
- Enhance nonprofit support through our quarterly Nonprofit Luncheons
- Continue to provide nonprofits a voice through Third Sector
- Diversify our revenue sources
- Add more organizations to our annual Employee Giving Campaign
- Increase the number of Board Members



FINANCIAL REPORT

We distributed \$221,482.97 in annual grants throughout Union and Wayne Counties in 2022 – funds that were raised from our Annual Campaign. This supported 29 programs with 24 of our nonprofit partners. Due to an increased need in our region, we additionally raised \$5,897 for Utility Assistance and \$10,569 for Food Insecurity relief.

Here's the thing: **charitable giving is down**. It's down across the country and here in our community, too. The data that's available suggests a couple of reasons, but we're not going to make assumptions. What we can assert is that the need has never been greater in recent history, and we need your help. The decline in donations over 2022 caused us to reach into our reserves - which means we are starting 2023 further behind the starting line.

Normally, a portion of the funds we raise goes to cover our operating costs. This ensures that we can continue to

- Identify the needs of the community
- Determine the root cause of these needs
- Facilitate collaboration between organizations
- Fund the organizations addressing the needs of community.

In addition to this work, we examine our local charitable organizations to ensure their impact, outcomes, and effectiveness are genuine and best-suited to address our local needs. We also help businesses achieve their corporate social responsibility objectives by providing an easy way for employers to give back to their community in a trusted format that leverages the collective impact from all their employee donors. The ability to give is multiplied as each donation is combined with others. The \$5 you give is combined with the \$5 all the other donors gave to achieve more than what one person can do alone.

We made the unprecedented decision to fully fund our own operating costs through our reserve funds because we wanted every cent of the \$221,482.97 to go to our nonprofit partners and the vital programs they provide. This means that even though there was a decline in donations, we made sure none of our program partners felt the squeeze.

United Way shouldered that burden.

Now we need your help to prevent this from happening again and to do even more good work in Whitewater Valley.

Now is the time to make a commitment.

Now is the time to become a corporate partner.

Now is the time to make our community **Better Because of You.**



Donate Now



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PRESIDENT

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