



UNITED IS THE WAY™

2025-2026
ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



UNITED WAY
Johnson and
Washington Counties



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

As I reflect on the past year, I keep coming back to this year's campaign theme: **United Is the Way**. Because everywhere I look, I see the power of unity shaping our community.

As we close out another year, I'll be honest—there were moments when it felt like the challenges were growing faster than solutions could keep pace. Needs continued to rise, systems were stretched thin, and nonprofits were asked to do more, often with fewer resources.

But somewhere along the way, something powerful happened. I began to see a quiet movement take shape—one rooted in collaboration, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to solving problems together.

Across our community, organizations, businesses, volunteers, donors, and community leaders came together to respond to urgent needs, strengthen local systems, and create new opportunities for people to thrive. Instead of working in silos, people stepped up to share ideas, resources, and responsibility.

At United Way, we are proud to help lead and connect this work—bringing partners together, identifying gaps, convening conversations, and mobilizing action where it's needed most. Time and time again, we saw what is possible when a community unites around a shared purpose.

None of this happened by accident. It happened because of people like you.

You showed up for one another. You donated, volunteered, advocated, collaborated, and invested in the future of our community. You reminded us that meaningful change happens when all of us come together and do our part.

If this year proved anything, it is that when we choose to stand together, we are a powerful force for good. Thank you for believing in this work and for continuing to invest in United Way and our incredible community partners. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected, and more resilient community for everyone.

Because **United Is the Way**.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Banta

President & CEO

Staff

Jennifer Banta, President & CEO

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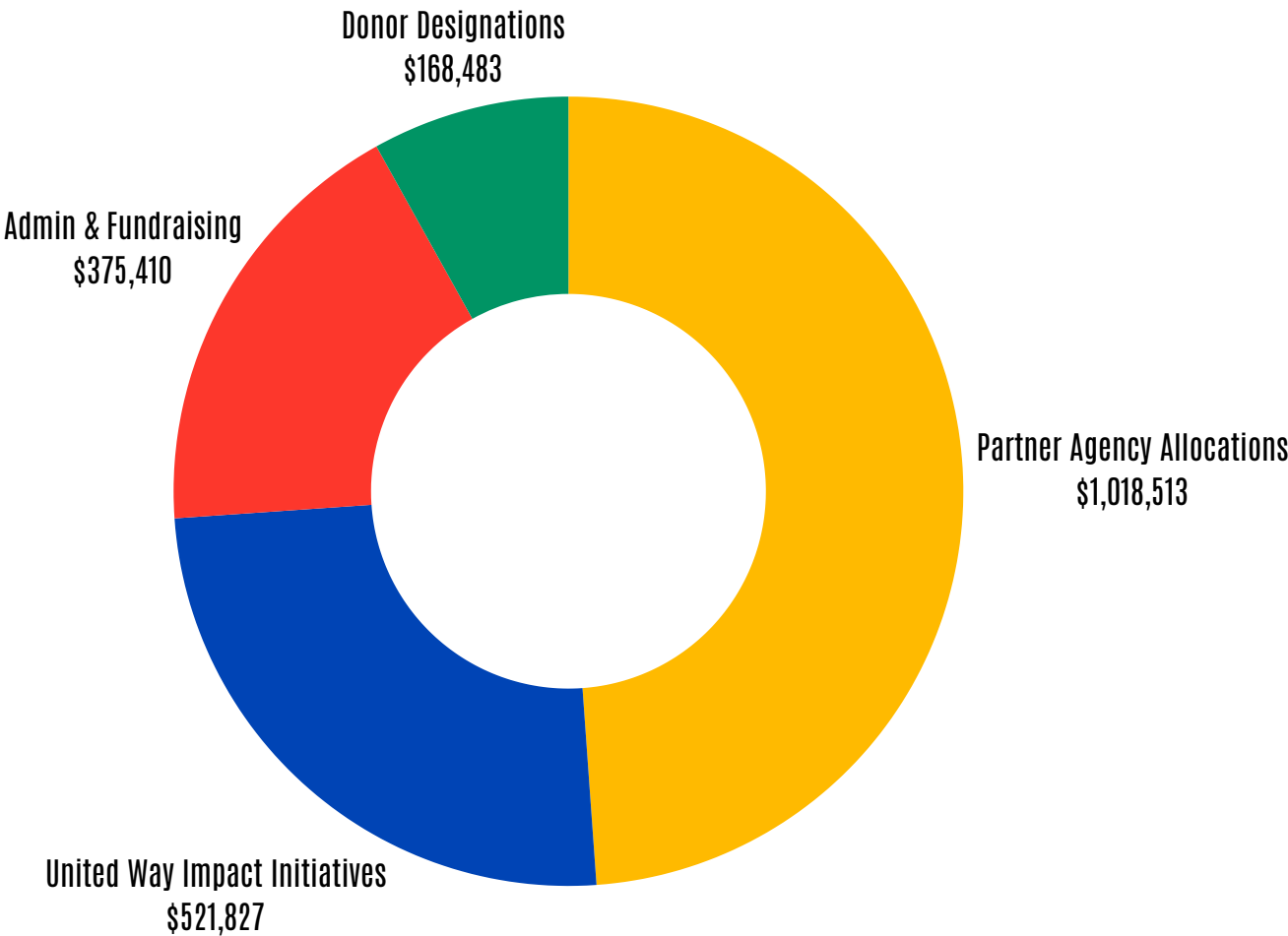
DOLLARS FOR IMPACT

Total investment from April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

\$2,084,233

At United Way of Johnson & Washington Counties, we invest community dollars where they can make the greatest impact. Guided by local needs and community data, funding supports our four impact areas through grants to partner agencies, donor-designated gifts that go directly to local nonprofits, and United Way programs and initiatives that strengthen our community.

We are committed to responsible stewardship, ensuring the majority of every dollar raised is invested back into Johnson and Washington Counties. In addition to funding services, United Way brings together partners, volunteers, businesses, and community leaders to address challenges, build solutions, and create lasting change.





What began as a complicated, last-minute summer food assistance, Healthy Kids Iowa, became something far more powerful in Johnson County: **a community refusing to let children go hungry.**

Food pantries, nonprofits, local governments, schools, volunteers, and neighbors came together in the summer heat to sort, pack, direct traffic, and hand out thousands of bags of food to local kids. It was exhausting, imperfect, and at times heartbreaking when supplies ran short. But it also proved something important – when policy fell short, the **community stepped forward.**

After months of advocacy and tireless effort from United Way partners across Iowa, leaders finally listened, helping pave the way for Summer EBT to return and better support families in the future.



1,563

Children served by Healthy Kids Iowa
summer food distribution



251

Healthy Kids Iowa Volunteers

United Way coordinated 251 volunteers for the June, July and August Healthy Kids Iowa summer food distribution events. These volunteers contributed a total of 753 total hours.



SNAP GAP >>>>

Access to healthy, reliable food is essential to both individual well-being and long-term financial stability. Yet thousands of local families across Johnson and Washington Counties continue to experience food insecurity, often forced to choose between groceries, housing, healthcare, transportation, and other basic necessities. According to local community data and

our Community Needs Assessment, **food insecurity impacts 11.5%** of residents in our community, while local food pantries continue to report record levels of need. In November 2025, that need became even more urgent when a two-week government shutdown caused disruption in SNAP benefits, temporarily cutting off access to nearly \$1.9 million in federal food assistance for more than 11,000 local residents. Families already struggling to make ends meet were suddenly forced to stretch limited budgets even further.



HOLIDAY HOPE



32

Households kept their water on

The Neighbors Helping Neighbors fund provides emergency utility assistance to Coralville residents facing financial hardship, helping families maintain essential water services. United Way facilitated the distribution of these funds, with future program administration transitioning to partners at HACAP.

Last holiday season, one family participating in **Adopt-a-Family** included a simple request on their wish list: art supplies for their child. Their sponsor responded with an abundance of paints, canvases, and creative materials.

A few weeks later, the child created a colorful painting as a thank you for the donor. The moment was a simple but powerful reminder that when neighbors support one another, kindness and joy have a way of coming full circle.



94

Organizations, groups, and individuals sponsored families in 2025



193

Families supported during holiday
Adopt-a-Family

825 individuals including **481** children

SNAP RESPONSE

United Way of Johnson & Washington Counties quickly activated the **Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)** network and partnered with the **Food Access Network (FAN)**, a coalition of 19 local food pantries and organizations coordinating food support across the community. Together, FAN partners responded to increased demand and helped ensure families continued to have access to food.

At the request of our partners, United Way established an emergency **Food Access Network Fund** and mobilized community support within days. Donors, businesses, and community members raised an additional **\$26,668** outside of the annual campaign in just a matter of weeks, helping FAN partners collectively purchase and distribute food where it was needed most in our community.





3,724

Books distributed to students



2,009

Local students served at Ready Set School



491

Magic Reading Carpets went to local preschoolers



84

Children attended summer camp through Summership scholarships

“My favorite part is hanging out with my friends, and I like to learn how to put stuff together and figure out how it works.”
-Camp Invention camper



For many kids, summer camp is where friendships are forged, confidence is found, and a love for something new, such as art, the outdoors, science, or music, takes root for the first time.

In 2025, United Way's **Summerships** program made that moment possible for **84 local students**, providing \$21,000 toward enriching experiences at **35 different camps** that might have otherwise remained out of reach.



Ready
Set
School

BECAUSE OF YOU, STUDENTS THRIVE

Every student deserves to walk into their first day of school feeling ready to learn, with their own backpack, supplies in hand, and nothing standing in the way of learning. Through Ready Set School, in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters, The Salvation Army, Neighborhood Centers, and Open Heartland, we were able to do just that for 2,009 local students in 2025. From school supplies and backpacks to fresh haircuts and dental and eye exams, each student received what they needed to step into the school year with confidence and pride. When our **youth** are prepared, they can focus on what matters most—the **opportunities** ahead.



26

Individuals received long-term support services following the Coralville apartment fire.



1,387

Calls answered on the 211 hotline for Johnson & Washington Counties in 2025



Get Connected. Get Help.™

RESPONDING TO CRISIS



In the Spring of 2025, a devastating apartment fire in Coralville displaced **26 individuals**, including children, older adults, and University of Iowa students. In the immediate aftermath, United Way of Johnson & Washington Counties coordinated a rapid, compassionate response through the Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) network and local partners.

Emergency hotel stays were supported, housing options were identified alongside property managers and community organizations, and ongoing assistance was provided in the days following displacement. Over the weeks ahead, partners worked together to connect each household to stable, affordable housing.

Thanks to this coordinated response and strong local partnerships, all 26 individuals ultimately secured long-term housing, reflecting the strength of local collaboration and our community's shared commitment to Community Resiliency.

United We Prepare



The **Johnson County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)** is a collaborative network led by United Way of Johnson and Washington Counties that brings together nonprofits, government agencies, schools, and community partners to coordinate disaster response. United Way convenes COAD meetings to support clear communication and aligned resources when emergencies occur. As disasters increase across Iowa, COAD's work also focuses on preparedness—helping partners plan ahead, share resources, and strengthen coordination before emergencies happen so our community is more resilient when disaster strikes.



STRONGER COMMUNITIES

224



Hawkeye Day of Caring Volunteers



225

Community Days of Caring Volunteers



For more than **15 years**, UWJWC has partnered with the **University of Iowa** on the student-athlete **Hawkeye Day of Caring**, helping connect volunteers with meaningful opportunities to serve local nonprofits. Building on that long-standing tradition, UWJWC partnered with CIVCO to launch the first-ever **Community Day of Caring** to expand volunteerism across the broader business community. The initiative encouraged local companies to give back through hands-on service directly impacting our community.

In its inaugural year, **Community Day of Caring** mobilized 100 volunteers throughout Johnson County, while MidWestOne Bank employees contributed their time through a company-wide Day of Caring. Together, volunteers provided more than **800 hours** of service to local nonprofit partners, completing projects ranging from organizing donations and painting to beautification efforts. As UWJWC continues to serve as a hub for volunteerism and community engagement, we look forward to expanding these efforts and their impact in the years ahead.



THROUGH VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to a generous sponsorship from Hills Bank, our **Volunteer Center** launched in our new location in the summer of 2025, creating a dedicated space to connect community members with meaningful ways to give back. More than **1,600 volunteer connections** were made by United Way.



Through United Way's online Volunteer Portal, community members, including University of Iowa students, faculty, and staff can explore volunteer opportunities with **133 local nonprofit agencies**. By connecting people with causes they care about most, the Volunteer Center helps strengthen nonprofits, build community engagement, and inspire service throughout Johnson and Washington Counties.



133

Partner nonprofits use our
Volunteer Portal



VOLUNTEER CENTER

Presented by:



HILLS BANK

5,659

Volunteer Hours through United Way

\$174,991.74

Value of Volunteer Hours

INVESTING IN WHAT MATTERS

Partner Agency Investments	Total*
4 Cs Community Coordinated Child Care	\$25,411.58
Abbe Center for Community Mental Health	\$17,955.71
Aging Services, Inc.	\$27,539.80
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County	\$44,682.78
Community & Family Resources	\$7,555.52
CommUnity Crisis Services	\$111,672.39
Coralville Community Food Pantry	\$22,140.03
Domestic Violence Intervention Program (and RVAP)	\$105,491.73
Free Lunch Program	\$11,869.01
Geriatric & Special Needs Dental Program	\$9,168.95
Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois	\$1,026.68
Goodwill of the Heartland	\$13,911.80
HACAP	\$16,271.01
Healthy Kids School-Based Health Clinics	\$63,495.42
Horizons, A Family Service Alliance	\$15,893.63
Iowa City Free Medical Clinic/Parrott-Stiles Free Dental Clinic	\$128,318.07
Iowa Legal Aid	\$27,563.80
Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity	\$14,930.14
Johnson County Visiting Nurse Association	\$10,078.43
National Alliance on Mental Illness of Johnson County	\$6,113.14
Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County	\$129,196.03
North Liberty Community Pantry	\$31,354.32
School Children's Aid Program	\$10,494.11
Shelter House	\$110,093.12
Table to Table	\$64,608.96
The Arc of Southeast Iowa	\$23,975.82
The Housing Fellowship	\$19,005.86
United Action for Youth	\$79,758.70
Total Investment	\$1,149,576.54

* UWJWC Board allocated investments plus designated campaign donations

POWERED BY COMMUNITY



TOP 10 WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN PARTNERS

Employee Giving Campaigns

- University of Iowa
- University of Iowa Center for Advancement
- MidWestOne Bank
- P&G Beauty Care
- City of Iowa City
- P&G Oral Care
- Civco
- Scheels
- GreenState Credit Union
- Hills Bank

Total Campaign Contribution

- University of Iowa
- P&G Beauty Care
- MidWestOne Bank
- University of Iowa Center for Advancement
- P&G Oral Care
- ACT
- Scheels
- GreenState Credit Union
- Hills Bank
- City of Iowa City

WITH DEEPEST THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Leadership Giving

of Tocqueville Society Donors & dollars raised

13 | \$192,018

of Leadership Donors & dollars raised

157 | \$373,809

Corporate & Workplace Giving

of Corporate Gifts & dollars raised

62 | \$434,100

of Top Tier Workplace Campaigns & dollars raised

20 | \$1,156,825





HOW TO SUPPORT THIS WORK

SCAN ME!



The impact highlighted in this report is only possible because of the generosity of our donors, volunteers, workplace partners, funded agencies, sponsors, and community supporters. Together, we are creating opportunities, strengthening families, and building a more resilient community across Johnson and Washington Counties.

Whether you choose to give, volunteer, advocate, or partner with United Way, you can be part of the change. Learn more, get involved, and support our work at www.unitedwayjwc.org.



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