



ANNUAL REPORT FY25

Dear friends,

As I look back on the past year, I'm reminded of a powerful quote shared with me by a friend and colleague: "Action is hope. There is no hope without action." — Ray Bradbury. Those words have never felt more true. In a time marked by growing needs and ongoing economic and political uncertainty, it would be easy to feel discouraged. But instead, I feel hopeful—because every day, I witness the incredible actions of our community.

I see that hope in our partner agencies who lead with compassion, creativity, and resilience. I see it in the volunteers who give their time, the donors who invest in lasting solutions, and the neighbors who step up to be part of the change.

Together, we've faced complex challenges, responded in moments of crisis, and raised our collective voice to champion equity, dignity, and opportunity for all.

This year's annual report centers on the power of partnership, because the actions of our many community partners are what give me hope. United is more than our name—it's our path forward to a stronger, more equitable future.

Thank you for being part of this work. Your support fuels the action that makes hope possible.

With gratitude,
Jennifer Banta
President & CEO
United Way of Johnson & Washington Counties





Healthy Community

In June, we hosted an advocacy event at CommUnity Crisis Services Food Bank to address a growing concern—food insecurity. The discussion was especially timely, following changes to summer hunger programs affecting children across Iowa. The event brought together donors, elected officials, and community leaders to hear from a panel of local experts, including representatives from Coralville Community Food Pantry, CommUnity, the Iowa City Community School District, and Johnson County Social Services. Panelists shared insights into the root causes of food insecurity and emphasized the importance of policy, collaboration, and community support in driving long-term solutions. Streamed on local public TV, the event was part of United Way's commitment to advocacy, education, and equity—ensuring every family has access to nutritious food and a strong community safety net.

Youth Opportunity

Every child deserves to start the school year with confidence—and last summer, United Way helped make that possible through the first-ever Ready, Set, School event. In partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters, The Salvation Army, and Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County, we supported **1,559 local students** with backpacks, school supplies, haircuts, and free vision and dental screenings. More than just meeting basic needs, the event gave kids a sense of pride and showed them their community is behind them—every step of the way. When children feel supported and confident, they're better able to focus, make new friends, and take on all the possibilities a new school year brings



Financial Stability

In 2024, United Way's Adopt-a-Family program supported **207 families**—877 individuals, including 511 children—by easing the financial stress of the holidays and bringing a season full of joy. Through the generosity of local businesses, nonprofits, and individuals, the leadership of our sponsor Iowa City Area Association of Realtors (ICAAR), and our partnership with local agencies—families received not just gifts and essentials, but a sense of hope and stability. By helping families meet critical needs during a financially challenging time, Adopt-a-Family promotes **financial security and strengthens community ties**. ICAAR's sponsorship and hands-on involvement reflect the power of partnership to build a more resilient and supportive community—one family at a time.

Community Resiliency

Imagine going two years without water in your home. That was reality for one Washington family—until a caring neighbor stepped in. The neighbor raised funds to cover the overdue bill, but when they asked the city to restore service, the request was denied. That's when they turned to United Way. We reached out to city leaders but still could not remove the barrier. We **connected** with one of our **partner agencies**, Iowa Legal Aid, for their expertise in utility law. Their lawyers took the case, mediated with the city, and advocated at a council meeting. That very evening, water restoration was approved. By the next day—after two years—water was finally flowing again. This outcome shows the power of persistence, partnership, and having United Way and our partners by your side.



Board Leadership Program

United Way, in partnership with Greater Iowa City, Inc. and the Community Foundation of Johnson County, launched the Board Leadership

Program to strengthen local nonprofit boards and develop the next generation of community leaders. The program equips participants with the skills and confidence to serve effectively,

addressing the ongoing need for well-prepared board members who reflect the communities they serve. To connect graduates with nonprofits, the program culminates in a Board Fair where participants meet organizations seeking new board members. This matchmaking helps nonprofits access the leadership they need to thrive and reflects United Way's broader commitment to investing in strong agencies and a stronger community.

"BLP helped me understand the real responsibilities of board service and connected me with leaders and organizations I might never have met otherwise."

Fernando Pacheco, Investment Officer - Hills Bank



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Community Needs Assessment

At United Way of Johnson & Washington Counties, we know meaningful change starts with listening. In 2024, we launched a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) to better understand local challenges and opportunities, ensuring our work is guided by the voices of those who live here.

This was a community-led process—not just a data project. Workgroups across our four impact areas reviewed the findings and helped prioritize needs. Through listening sessions and interactive data walks, residents, nonprofits, educators, and local leaders helped shape the story behind the numbers.

The result is our **Stronger Together Community Roadmap**—an equity-driven plan for action built on lived experience. For donors, the CNA offers confidence that every dollar targets the most urgent needs and highest-impact opportunities, guiding how we invest, partner, and advocate moving forward.



Joint Funder Collaboration

In direct response to feedback from our nonprofit partners, United Way of Johnson & Washington Counties led the creation of a more transparent, equitable, and streamlined joint funding process. For the first time, United Way, Johnson County, Iowa City, Coralville, and North Liberty aligned on a shared two-year grant cycle with coordinated timelines and consistent expectations.

This collaborative model reduces the administrative burden on agencies and ensures funding decisions are strategic and community-driven. Together, we revised application questions, simplified budget requirements, and improved data tracking to reflect both agency goals and shared community indicators.

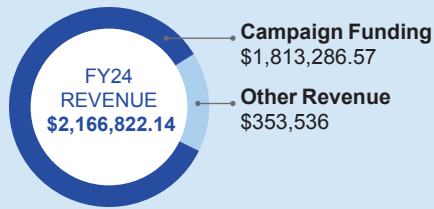
With aligned timelines and evaluation criteria, funders can now review applications jointly, share insights, and prioritize resources based on the most urgent needs identified in the Community Needs Assessment. It's a smarter, more unified approach to driving impact.



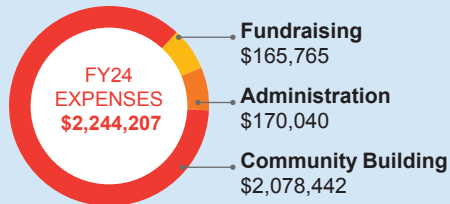
1,559

students were served at Ready, Set, School. Local students received backpacks, school supplies, haircuts, dental and vision screenings, giving every child the opportunity to succeed in the new school year.

FY24 Revenues



FY24 Expenses



2024 was teed up for success with our Team United Campaign Coaches Kate Moreland & Sasha Boros joining Coach Jan Jensen at our kickoff event.



4,661 Books Distributed



Volunteers made a real difference throughout our community from Hawkeye Day of Caring, to Reading Buddies and Pen Pals, and even our Corporate Partners pitched in on community projects.



14,813 Hours
Value of Volunteer hours
\$503,546

FY24 Partner Agency Investment

4 Cs Community Coordinated Child Care	\$32,639.63
The Arc of Southeast Iowa	\$30,285.54
Abbe Center for Community Mental Health	\$22,983.08
Aging Services, Inc.	\$30,830.02
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County	\$49,722.61
CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank	\$119,851.55
Community and Family Resources	\$10,000.00
Coralville Community Food Pantry	\$18,962.60
Domestic Violence Intervention Program	\$87,174.88
Free Lunch Program	\$7,437.30
Geriatric & Special Needs Dental Program	\$7,583.28
Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois	\$1,884.04
Goodwill of the Heartland	\$17,339.86
HACAP	\$21,596.06
Healthy Kids School-Based Health Clinics	\$71,820.15
Horizons Meals on Wheels	\$19,253.58
Iowa City Free Medical Clinic & Dental Clinic	\$125,689.91
Iowa Legal Aid	\$38,696.84
Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity	\$17,108.93
Joan Buxton School Children's Aid	\$10,909.01
Johnson County Visiting Nurse Association	\$10,642.39
National Alliance on Mental Illness of Johnson County	\$6,564.95
North Liberty Community Pantry	\$27,841.65
Rape Victim Advocacy Program	\$86,628.65
Shelter House	\$30,145.56
Table to Table	\$61,857.25
The Housing Fellowship	\$22,830.50
The Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County	\$124,968.59
United Action for Youth	\$77,173.88
TOTAL	\$1,190,422.29

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