IMPROVING LIVES

in Sheboygan County

2024-25 Annual Report



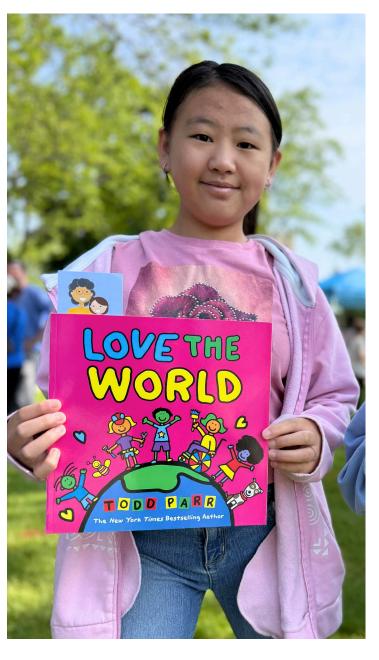














REFLECTIONS & HOPE

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the 2024–2025 fiscal year, we do so with deep gratitude and renewed purpose. This year marked a transformative chapter for United Way of Sheboygan County as we embraced the network rebrand and advanced our evolution as an issue-focused United Way, remaining grounded in data, aligned with community priorities, and committed to driving measurable, lasting change.

At the heart of this transformation is our elevated impact strategy. With four key impact areas guiding our work, we developed clear community goals and outcomes that anchor our new model. Our Strategic Partnership Grantees were selected for their direct alignment with these priorities and their commitment to advancing measurable progress.

Alongside this impact agenda evolution, our core programs continued to strengthen and expand their reach. Highlights include significant growth within the Volunteer Center, which connected more individuals, workplaces, and service groups to meaningful opportunities. Providing Access to Healing (PATH) also saw increased demand and deeper impact, ensuring that students across our county received timely, high-quality school-based mental health care, along with the launch of a countywide Youth Mental Health Network. Lastly, we saw recordbreaking engagement as part of our Community Partnership for Children (CPC) Family Passport and Family Fun Fest promoting family resources and education.

None of this progress would be possible without you – our donors, volunteers, partners, and advocates. Your generosity, partnership, and belief in our mission

fuel this work and inspire us to continually innovate on behalf of the community we all call home. As we look ahead, we are energized by what we have built together and remain determined to continue advancing our mission. Thank you for walking alongside us and for being an essential part of this journey.

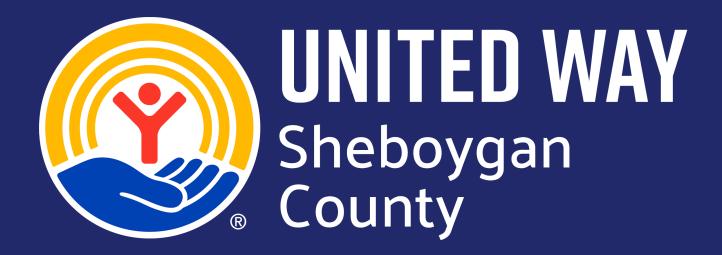
With sincere appreciation,

Kate S. Baer

President & CEO

Christine L. Losse
Christine Loose

Board Chair, 2024-25



For over 90 years, United Way of Sheboygan County has served as a trusted catalyst for change - uniting people and resources to tackle our community's most pressing challenges.

Guided by our mission to improve lives and community conditions in measurable and lasting ways, we remain deeply committed to building a Sheboygan County where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

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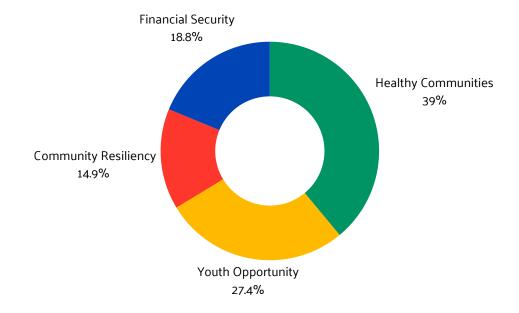
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OUR INVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Because of your generosity, in 2024-25 United Way of Sheboygan County was able to invest a total of \$1.84 million, infusing our communities with hope and lasting change. Our total community impact investments in 2024-25 breakdown as such:



We are committed to maximizing investments in the community through:

- partnering with local organizations, across sector, to tackle complex issues and ensure your dollars are put to work effectively
- funding nonprofit programs with proven results and strong financial health, making sure your contributions have a lasting impact
- strengthening the local social sector through sharing resources, training and support
- ensuring your support drives meaningful change, through impact driven, data-informed and accountable decision making.



\$1,843,602

investment that collectively supports more than 45,000 people in Sheboygan County

CLEARER FOCUS ON IMPACT

In fall 2024, United Way of Sheboygan County joined the global United Way network in unveiling a bold new brand—one that reflects who we are today and where we are headed. More than a fresh look, this rebrand sharpened our collective focus and aligned our work within four core impact areas shared across the network: Youth Opportunity, Healthy Community, Financial Security, and Community Resiliency.

While these impact areas provide a strong, unifying framework, our work has always been grounded in the belief that meaningful change happens locally. One-size-fits-all solutions do not work for communities as diverse as ours. That's why United Way of Sheboygan County focuses on local priorities informed by data, research, and the voices of those who live and work here.



YOUTH OPPORTUNITY



HEALTHY COMMUNITY



FINANCIAL SECURITY



COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

FOCUSING ON ISSUES THAT MATTER

Within each impact area, we are committed to addressing countywide goals and measurable outcomes. We do this by investing strategically in our community, supporting nonprofit partners whose work aligns with shared objectives, and continuously evaluating where we can make the greatest difference. By focusing our efforts, aligning resources, and measuring progress, we ensure that every dollar entrusted to United Way is working as hard as possible for our community.

Together, these efforts help create brighter futures for today's youth, strengthen access to essential resources, and improve the health and well-being of more than 45,000 residents of Sheboygan County.

EARLY CHILDHOOD GOAL: From early care to academic success, all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

GOAL: Youth have the mental health supports they need to thrive.

ESSENTIAL NEEDS

GOAL: Households can meet their essential needs and build toward long-term stability.

VOLUNTEERISM & CONNECTION

GOAL: Community members and organizations are connected, engaged, and empowered to make a difference.



















STRATEGIC PARNTERSHIP GRANTEES

At United Way of Sheboygan County, we've reimagined how we invest in the community. This ensures our collective work creates sustainable, measurable change. Previously known as "Partner Agencies," now called Strategic Partnership Grantees, represent an enhanced data-driven approach to our impact agenda.

Strategic Partnership Grantees are selected because their work directly aligns with one of our four impact areas: **Youth Opportunity, Healthy Community, Financial Security, and Community Resiliency**. These partners advance our countywide goals, helping to move the needle forward on current and critical issues here in Sheboygan County.

Through annual contracts and a three-year renewal cycle aligned with the local community needs assessment timeline, this model ensures that investments remain responsive, equitable, and tied to measurable outcomes – while also maintaining continuity with long-standing partners doing essential work. Our issue-focused approach to impact is **strategic**, **evidence-based**, **and centered on community need**.

These organizations include:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters Wisconsin Lakeshore
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Sheboygan County
- CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children) of East Central Wisconsin
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- Consumer Credit Counseling Service / Family Services Association
- Family Connections
- Family Resource Center Sheboygan County
- Fresh Meals on Wheels of Sheboygan County
- Lakeshore CAP
- Lakeshore Regional Child Advocacy Center
- Mental Health America Lakeshore
- Nourish
- REINS
- Safe Harbor of Sheboygan County
- The Salvation Army Sheboygan
- Sheboygan County Food Bank
- Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization

Pictured at Left: Together with United Way of Sheboygan County's staff, nonprofit leaders from the 17 Strategic Partnership Grantee organizations at the United Way office in Sheboygan.

TOTAL IMPACT INVESTMENTS = \$1.84M

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

\$504,386

GOAL: From early care to academic success, all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.



Community Partnership for Children









HEALTHY COMMUNITY

\$718,405

GOAL: Youth have the mental health supports they need to thrive.





Providing Access To Healing (PATH)













FINANCIAL SECURITY

\$345,947

GOAL: Households can meet their essential needs and build toward long-term stability.















COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

\$274,863

GOAL: Community members and organizations are connected, engaged, and empowered to make a difference.





Volunteer Center of Sheboygan Co.



















THE RESULTS OF WORKING TOGETHER

At United Way, we know that creating meaningful change requires a collaborative approach to address complex challenges. By uniting local nonprofits, corporate partners, volunteers, and community leaders, we tackle the root causes of issues that impact individuals and families every day.

Together over the last year, we've achieved significant milestones, from increasing access to mental health services to providing essential resources for education and housing stability. Through these partnerships, we're empowering residents with the tools they need for lasting success and resilience, creating a stronger, more connected Sheboygan County for all.



874 hospital visits

that provide support & resources following the birth of a child at Aurora Sheboygan and HSHS St. Nick's hospitals

64 nonprofits

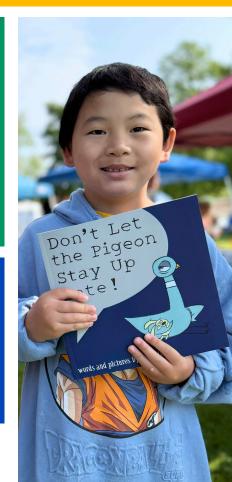
supported through the Volunteer Center

11,786 therapy sessions

provided in schools to 716 students through the PATH program

1,207,023 lbs. of food

distributed through the Sheboygan Co. Food Bank and its local pantry network



















COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Guided by its mission to develop and support a coordinated system addressing the diverse needs of Sheboygan County's children, families, and caregivers, the Community Partnership for Children (CPC) works tirelessly toward its vision of ensuring all children are safe, healthy, and prepared to grow, learn, and achieve.

In 2024-25, CPC achieved several significant milestones including:

- a celebration of Family Strengthening Month and the Month of the Young Child, the CPC organized and promoted 47 events and activities through our Family Fun Passport. This year marked two major enhancements: we launched a fully virtual Passport website and expanded the program's duration from four weeks to ten weeks. These improvements increased accessibility for families and encouraged sustained engagement throughout the spring months.
- our annual Family Fun Fest reached new heights with a record-breaking attendance of more than 2,000 community members. This vibrant event brought families together for hands-on activities, entertainment, and valuable connections to local resources reinforcing CPC's role as a trusted leader in family support.
- EmpowerED, a free, full day of professional development designed to uplift and equip 66 local early childhood educators.



1,200

books distributed to local children, thanks to a grant from Celebrate Children Foundation

98.7%

of parents felt more confident in their ability to support their children 60%

of the 278 children (ages 0-6) who received a developmental screening, achieved developmental milestones 168

children (ages 0-6) who received a developmental screening, were connected to additional services or programs to support their development

3.7% 142

critical child health & safety items provided to local families through the CPC Distribution Network 66

early childhood educators attended our free EmpowerED conference

Pictured above and on previous page: Children and their families enjoy our annual Family Fun Fest. Held annually at Fountain Park in downtown Sheboygan, Family Fun Fest showcases the work of 20+ local organizations and programs that support young children, parents and families.

HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS

Every young person deserves a chance to thrive, regardless of their circumstances. At United Way of Sheboygan County, we believe in creating environments where children and teens can succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. By addressing barriers and providing resources that empower youth, we aim to set the stage for a brighter future for all in our community.

Together with our **Youth Opportunity** partner agencies and grantees, we are focused on the following community outcomes:

- Parents have access to high quality early childhood education and childcare.
- Parents feel confident in their parenting abilities.
- Parents are knowledgeable about community supports.
- Children are supported to develop the skills needed to thrive at their developmental stage.



Pictured above: Jennifer Kiekhoefer, Speech-Language Pathologist with the Plymouth School District, asks a young girl a few questions during a free developmental screening day at Generations and Family Resource Center. Developmental screenings are a critical tool to ensure a child is meeting their developmental milestones and to support the parents with additional resources to aid in the child's future success.

INVESTING IN YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

We believe every child deserves the chance to reach their full potential. By focusing on youth opportunity, we're committed to expanding access to quality child care, preparing young children for kindergarten, fostering positive relationships, and supporting parents and families. We know that early investments in children's physical, emotional, and social development build a strong foundation for lifelong success.

Challenges in this area range from limited access to quality child care and unpreparedness for kindergarten, to children lacking positive relationships. To address these, we support:

- Referrals and training for child care providers and professionals through Family Connections
- developmental screenings and the "Welcome Baby" program
- In-home visits and **parenting education** through the Family Resource Center's "Parents As Teachers" program
- before and after-school programming through Boys & Girls Clubs of Sheboygan County
- Farm-to-School education through Nourish, providing children with knowledge about healthy food and sustainable environmental practices

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GRANTEES

The organizations and programs below received funding in the 2024-25 fiscal year.























PROVIDING ACCESS TO HEALING

Launched in 2015 in response to a community-wide conversation surrounding growing concerns about youth mental health, Providing Access to Healing (PATH) is a school-based mental health program in Sheboygan County that offers therapy services directly within local schools. Clinicians support youth experiencing depression, anxiety, ADHD, and other emotional or behavioral challenges while partnering with families, schools, and community providers to strengthen overall well-being.

By placing licensed therapists directly in schools, PATH aims to address critical barriers to care such as transportation challenges, scheduling conflicts, financial obstacles, and the geographical barrier of being a rural community with a lack of providers. PATH ensures that mental health care is accessible, equitable, and focused on the well-being of our youth. By embedding services within schools, the program alleviates the pressure on schools, families, and the broader community while fostering resilience and mental health among youth.

Since its start in 2012 through a small pilot program at Random Lake School District, Providing Access to Healing (PATH) has grown to serve all nine public school districts in Sheboygan County and is now also available at two parochial schools as well..

OUR PARTNERS IN PATH

MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

During the 24-25 school year, 20 full-time equivalent therapists provided services to 53 partnered schools through out Sheboygan County.





EXTENDING THE HEALING

Partner in "Breathe & Believe", a school-based yoga program which provides students with additional tools to care for their mental health and whole person care.

YOGA ON THE LAKE

PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

Schools: Cedar Grove-Belgium, Elkhart Lake- Glenbeulah, Howards Grove, Kohler, Oostburg, Plymouth, Random Lake, Sheboygan, Sheboygan Christian, Sheboygan Falls, St. John Lutheran - Plymouth, St. Paul Lutheran - Sheboygan & Head Start

Community: Boys & Girls Clubs of Sheboygan Co.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK

In the fall of 2024, we launched a collaborative new effort in addressing youth mental health. What began as the PATH Steering Committee grew into something larger, more inclusive, and more responsive to the needs of our community: the Youth Mental Health Network (YMHN).

The Youth Mental Health Network was created in response to a growing and urgent reality – youth mental health needs in Sheboygan County are increasing, and no single organization can address them alone. Gaps in services, rising demand, and the complexity of challenges facing young people called for deeper collaboration, stronger coordination, and shared solutions. YMHN exists to meet that moment.

This network brings together schools, nonprofit organizations, healthcare providers, government agencies, faith-based partners, and local employers with a shared commitment to supporting the mental health and well-being of youth. By intentionally connecting partners across sectors, YMHN works to integrate services, share resources, align efforts, and foster meaningful dialogue. The goal is simple but ambitious: to create a more coordinated, accessible, and effective system of support so that every child and young person feels seen, supported, and connected.

The network officially launched with a Fall Meet & Greet on November 21 at Jake's Café in Sheboygan. More than 50 individuals gathered, representing 30 different organizations, school districts, agencies, and businesses from across the county. The room was filled with energy, passion, and a shared sense of purpose as participants connected, celebrated this new chapter, and committed to working together on behalf of local youth.

Since its launch, the Youth Mental Health Network has continued to grow and convenes on a quarterly basis. These meetings provide space for relationship-building, learning, and collaboration. It ensures that partners are not working in isolation, but instead moving forward together with shared goals and a collective voice.

The Youth Mental Health Network represents a critical investment in our community's future. By bringing the right people to the table and working together across systems, we are building a stronger foundation of support for young people – and creating the conditions for lasting change in youth mental health throughout Sheboygan County.

FILLING A CRITICAL NEED

Many PATH families can't afford mental health care due to high deductibles or other barriers. PATH fills that gap. With nearly two-thirds of families relying on Medicaid or PATH financial assistance, upcoming potential changes to Medicaid may put this access at risk, making continued community support essential.



Nearly one in four PATH students last school year reported thoughts of suicide, self-harm, or feeling "better off dead" – underscoring the critical need for accessible school-based mental health care.

1 IN 4



43% of PATH students **struggled with anxiety** during the 24/25 school year. In just six months, **symptoms of students with severe anxiety fell by 22%**, demonstrating the program's effectiveness in supporting mental health.

43%



75% of PATH students **struggled with depression** during the 24/25 school year. In just six months, symptoms of students with **severe depression fell by 20%**, demonstrating the program's effectiveness in supporting mental health.

75%



Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic events that can have lasting effects on children's health and well-being. These are linked to a higher number of risk factors for leading causes of death in adults. Studies show that adults with **four or more ACEs** – compared to those with none – are at **greater risk of negative health outcomes**. Among PATH students, nearly **half experienced four or more** ACEs.





THE IMPACT OF PATH ON OUR CHILDREN



716

students received therapy services during the 24/25 school year. The highest number of students served in a single school year since the PATH began in 2015.



11,786

An increase of of therapy sessions over 12% from the previous school year



100%

PATH students **reported if they were hurt, in trouble, or needed support, they would reach out to their PATH therapist.** Research shows that having at least one trusted adult in a child's life significantly benefits mental health and reduces risk factors.



96%

PATH students last school year **reported greater hope and life satisfaction** after participating in PATH, giving youth the optimism and support they so desperately need to thrive.



95%

of PATH students responded positively to their capacity to access supportive resources that bolster well-being.



HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS

A healthy community is the foundation for thriving individuals and families. Together with our **Healthy Community** Strategic Partnership Grantees, PATH program, and newly launched Youth Mental Health Network, we are focused on measuring progress towards the following community outcomes:

- Youth have access to mental health and/or crisis services.
- Youth experience a measurable reduction in adverse symptoms/behaviors.
- Youth report improved coping skills for long term mental wellness.



Pictured above and on previous pages: Through the PATH "Breathe & Believe" initiative, Christine Voice (Yoga on the Lake) leads Kohler high school students through an in-school yoga class. Besides therapy, students use yoga as a tool to care for their mental health and care for their whole body. In a post-session survey, 85% students at Boys & Girls Clubs of Sheboygan County reported improvement in their self-regulation through taking weekly yoga classes.

INVESTING IN A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Creating a healthy community starts with addressing barriers that prevent individuals and families from accessing the mental health services they need. By supporting programs that offer advocacy, therapy, mentoring, and other essential services, we strive to improve well-being and build resilience across Sheboygan County.

These initiatives focus on protecting vulnerable children, providing innovative therapy options, fostering supportive relationships, and ensuring equitable access to care—empowering people to thrive in mind, body, and spirit. In 2024-25, funding in this area supported programs that:

- Protect and advocate for children who have been victims of crimes in partnership with Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA) and Lakeshore Child Advocacy Center
- Support emotional resilience in students through the Resilient Classrooms project, led by Mental Health America Lakeshore
- Promote physical, cognitive, social/emotional, and educational growth through REINS' horse-assisted therapy
- Foster **positive mentoring relationships** that enhance social skills and reduce mental health symptoms through Big Brothers Big Sisters Shoreline
- Deliver case management services to those in need of support through Catholic Charities...

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GRANTEES

The organizations and programs below received funding in the 2024-25 fiscal year.











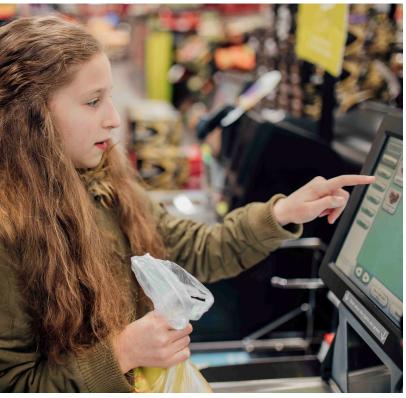


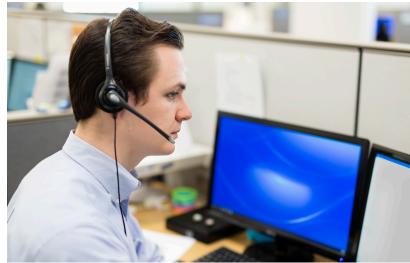














WORKING - AND STILL FALLING SHORT

On paper, Sheboygan County is working. Stores are staffed, care centers are open, restaurants are busy, and our community hums along because thousands of people show up every day to do the jobs we all rely on. But beneath that steady rhythm is a quieter, more troubling reality: nearly one in three households in Sheboygan County cannot afford the basics of everyday life – even with steady work.

These families are known as ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. They are childcare workers, personal care aides, janitors, cashiers, cooks, nursing assistants, and stock clerks. They are the people who keep our economy running – yet too many cannot afford stability for their own families.

Traditional poverty measures often miss them. Only about 11% of local households fall below the Federal Poverty Level, but an additional 20% hover just above it while still unable to cover essentials. That means 31% of households in our community are living below the ALICE threshold, struggling to keep up with the real cost of living.

And that cost keeps rising. In 2023, the bare-bones survival budget for a family of four in Sheboygan County far exceeded what two full-time workers in common local jobs could bring home. Even with both adults working full time, the numbers simply don't add up — a gap fueled by the soaring costs of child care, housing, food, transportation, health care, and technology. The basics have become unaffordable for too many.

These households often earn too much to qualify for public assistance, yet not enough to weather a flat tire, a medical bill, or a month of increased expenses. ALICE families are working, budgeting, sacrificing – and still falling short.

United For ALICE reminds us that these neighbors are also the most vulnerable during economic uncertainty, unexpected expenses, and emergencies. By naming and quantifying this group, the data brings their struggle into clearer view – and gives our community a roadmap for change.

Behind every ALICE data point is a working family doing everything right, and still barely holding on. Their stories underscore the responsibility we share: to build a community where work is rewarded with stability, and where every household – not just some – has the opportunity to move forward.



\$30,000

FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL: FAMILY OF FOUR (2023)

\$7.25 minimum wage (federal and State of Wisconsin, 2023)

\$13.88

hourly wage needed to survive in Sheboygan Co. (single person, no kids, 2023) \$81,648

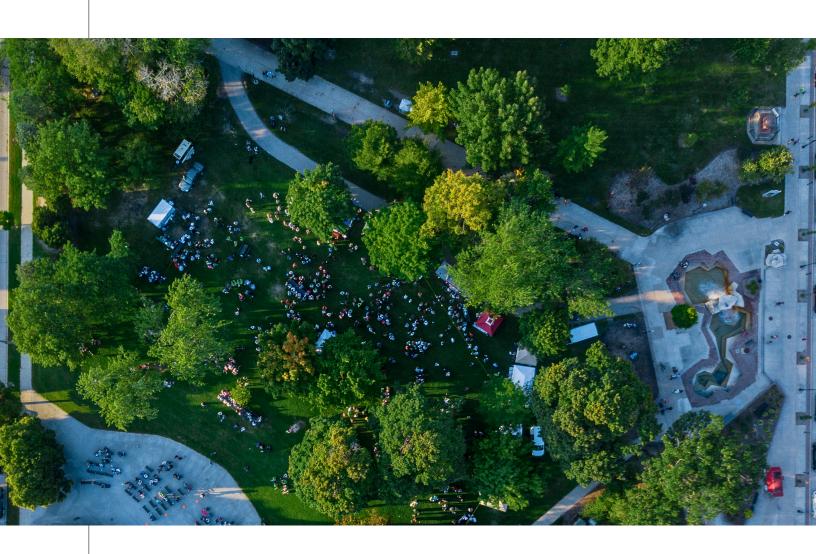
HOUSEHOLD SURVIVAL BUDGET - 2 ADULTS, 2 IN CHILD CARE. SHEBOYGAN COUNTY (2023)

HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS

Economic stability is essential for the well-being and prosperity of our community. At United Way of Sheboygan County, we are committed to ensuring that all residents have the resources and support they need to achieve and maintain financial security. By addressing both immediate needs and long-term challenges, we strive to create an environment where everyone has the opportunity to thrive economically and contribute to a vibrant, resilient Sheboygan County.

Together with our **Financial Security** partner agencies and grantees, we are focused on the following Sheboygan County community outcomes:

- Community members have access to emergency shelter and food resources.
- Community members increase financial literacy/knowledge for a more secure future.
- Community members demonstrate skills that support stability and empowerment.



INVESTING IN FINANCIAL SECURITY

We believe that financial security is the foundation for a thriving community. By providing access to shelter, food, and financial education, we strive to create a secure future for all. This impact area focuses on ensuring residents have access to emergency shelter, affordable meals, and essential health services, while also supporting programs that empower individuals to build stability and independence.

Together with our partners, we work to address immediate needs while fostering long-term solutions that strengthen families and uplift our community. This includes:

- equipping individuals and families with the tools they need to manage debt, improve credit
 and achieve long-term financial stability through the licensed financial education and
 counseling available through Consumer Credit Counseling
- helping homebound and disabled individuals to stay healthy, safe and independent in the home they love while also accessing fresh, nutritious meals through Fresh Meals on Wheels
- supporting low to moderate income families with securing and maintaining housing through Lakeshore CAP
- empowering individuals and families effected by domestic abuse and sexual assault with crisis support, emergency shelter, legal advocacy and education through Safe Harbor
- offering vital support to those facing homelessness and financial crises through emergency utility assistance and shelter through Salvation Army
- improving access to healthy, nutritious and culturally-relevant food for those in need through Sheboygan County Food Bank
- enhancing Sheboygan County residents' quality of life through stable transitional housing at Bridgeway and "Double Your Dollars" for food share benefits at the Farmers Market through Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GRANTEES

The organizations and programs below received funding in the 2024-25 fiscal year.















9,623 nights of shelter

collectively provided by Lakeshore CAP, Safe Harbor, and Sheboygan Co. Interfaith

295 EBT users

utilized the Sheboygan Farmers Market (run by SCIO) and their "Double Your Dollars" program, helping them to stretch their dollars further

816 attendees

attended 55 different financial education classes in Sheboygan County, conducted by Consumer Credit Counseling (Family Services Association

67 individuals

who were previously homeless successfully obtained housing, thanks to Lakeshore CAP

















VOLUNTEER CENTER

Through initiatives like the Day of Caring, which engaged over 900 volunteers and contributed more than 3,000 service hours to local nonprofits, the Volunteer Center is helping to create a culture of service and support that strengthens the entire community. By engaging students from local schools and employees from local corporations, the center encourages volunteerism, promotes civic responsibility, and empowers individuals to become active, compassionate stewards of their communities.

This collaborative spirit not only meets immediate needs but also builds long-term resilience by fostering connections and encouraging community-wide participation in making Sheboygan County a stronger, more supportive place for all. Highlights from 2024-25 include:

- 21,691 hygiene items were collected in Sheboygan County's 2025 Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive, co-chaired by Volunteer Center Director Lisa Finney
- engaging students across Sheboygan County in volunteer opportunities and educating them on the importance of using their talents to serve others. Over 1,500 students have participated in volunteer activities in 2024-25, creating a lasting impact and fostering a culture of service in the next generation.
- helping local corporations and businesses to boost employee engagement and retention with Volunteer Time Off (VTO) activities and impact.



3,547
volunteers engaged in

15,501 hours of service

nonprofit organizations supported through the Volunteer Center

\$12,647

project grant dollars distributed on Day of Caring 2024 \$31.86

value of 1 hour of volunteering in Wisconsin

\$493,861

total economic impact of volunteers in Sheboygan County in 2024-25

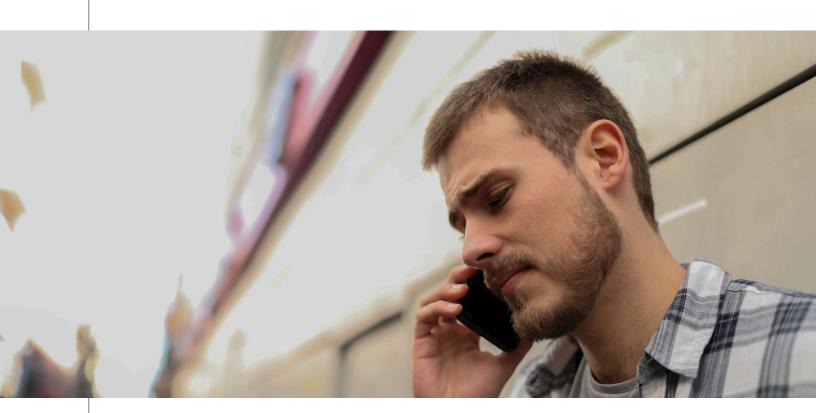
211: GET CONNECTED, GET HELP

Supporting Those Who Need It: A United Way Funded Lifeline

In 2024, 1,081 individuals from Sheboygan County turned to 211 — a critical lifeline for those in need. Operated as a free and confidential helpline, 211 connects individuals and families to essential resources, offering hope and guidance during their most challenging moments. For many, this simple three-digit number is more than a hotline; it's a bridge to stability and support.

Sheboygan County calls most frequently concerns were with housing (30% of all calls), a stark reminder of the growing challenges in finding safe and affordable shelter. From families on the verge of eviction to seniors navigating utility assistance, these calls highlight the urgent and ongoing need for housing support in our community. United Way of Sheboygan County continues to invest in 211 to ensure that every caller is met with compassion and connected to the help they need.

Behind every statistic is a story — a single parent finding temporary housing for their children, a young adult navigating mental health resources, or a senior locating food assistance. The power of 211 lies in its ability to transform lives, one call at a time. Your support helps keep this vital service available, ensuring no one in Sheboygan County has to face their struggles alone.



INVESTING IN COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

We address complex issues like providing immediate help to those in crisis, matching community needs with individuals eager to make a difference, and supporting a corporate sector that values volunteer opportunities for employees. By cultivating partnerships and driving impactful programs, we build the foundation for a community that stands together in times of need.

In 2024-25, our Community Resiliency initiatives include:

- the **211 Wisconsin helpline**, which fields nearly 2,000 calls each year from Sheboygan County alone, connecting people with essential resources when they need them most.
- our Volunteer Center of Sheboygan County, which organizes year-round volunteer opportunities, creating a vibrant culture of giving back.
- data-driven insights from the **United for ALICE** program, which highlights the needs
 of households striving for financial stability.
- innovation grants to support emerging issues and innovative solutions, awarded to Sheboygan Co. LGBTQ Alliance and Nourish
- training on Unconscious Bias with Derek Mosley for nonprofit sector professionals
- emergency and other small grants to support local organizations including Above & Beyond Children's Museum, Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, LIVASU (Dementia Innovations), Black American Community Outreach and Sheboygan County Warming Center
- fiscal agency support for and vital partnerships with the Sheboygan County Human
 Trafficking Task Force and Sheboygan County Housing Coalition



GRANTEES & SUPPORTED PROGRAMS

The organizations and programs below received support and funding in the 2024-25 fiscal year.





























CARING FOR CHASE



Six-year-old Chase* sat crying in the school office, surrounded by worried adults and a police officer. He tried to stay calm, wiping his hands on his dirty hand-me-down jeans. He had been told to say he'd fallen down the stairs, but when his teacher showed real concern, Chase finally told the truth. Life at home, marked by his mother's addiction and unpredictable anger, had become unbearable for Chase. So that morning, after she grabbed and hit him, he ran to the bus stop, desperate to get away.

When the police officer gently explained that more helpers would come and take him somewhere safe, Chase was terrified of being "taken away," but also relieved. A social worker brought him to the Lakeshore Regional Child Advocacy Center, where a warm space filled with kind people helped to ease his fears. Hungry and exhausted, he gratefully accepted a snack and juice.

At the CAC, Chase shared what life had been like since his mother's new boyfriend moved in – more drugs, more violence, and more injuries he could never explain. The interviewer listened patiently, and a medical specialist documented the cigarette burn, the deep cut that never received stitches and fresh bruises. Each adult at the Center treated Chase with care and respect and for the first time. Chase felt safe and cared for.

Before leaving, staff helped him clean up and gave him new clothes that actually fit. Riding with the social worker, Chase learned he would stay with his grandmother – someone he'd been told didn't care about him. For the first time in a long while, he wondered if that might not be true.

Chase's safety depended on a caring teacher, school staff, law enforcement, and the multidisciplinary CAC team working together. Their coordinated response ensured his protection and provided crucial evidence so he could live safely with family while his mother received help.

We cannot erase every trauma, but we can strengthen the safety net for children like Chase.

*All names and identifying details have been changed for the safety and respect of these individuals.



HEALING, NOT HUNGER



After months of uncertainty and nights spent without a place to call home, Linda* finally received the news she had been hoping for: she secured an apartment of her own. It was a major step toward stability, one she knew wouldn't have been possible without the food support she received from Sheboygan County Food Bank. By visiting the Sheboygan Cares Food Pantry (SCFP), Linda was able to stretch her limited income to cover rent, utilities, and other essentials that made her new home feel real.

But just as she began settling into her space, Linda received a devastating diagnosis: cancer. The fear of treatment, medical bills, and the unknown weighed heavily on her. But one thing she didn't have to worry about was accessing healthy food. Each week, SCFP provided fresh produce, protein-rich items, cheese, milk, and pantry staples – everything she needed to stay nourished during treatment. It was that consistency that allowed her to focus on healing, not hunger.

Throughout her battle, Linda often said that knowing she had reliable food support felt like having "one corner of her world steady" when everything else was in chaos. Recently, she received the call she had prayed for: her cancer is in remission. She described the moment as "the biggest relief and the start of a new chapter."

Linda's story reminds us that meeting basic needs is more than providing meals – it is giving people the foundation they need to recover, to rebuild, and to rediscover hope.





Pictured above: Special ed students from Sheboygan South High School volunteer at the Sheboygan County Food Bank in support of the organization's "Food for Thought" program.

GROWING TOGETHER



Nourish's Farm2School program connects local classrooms with hands-on food education, helping students build curiosity and confidence with fresh, healthy ingredients. Through nutrition and culinary lessons, garden visits, and sensory-based learning, students explore where food comes from and discover new flavors in a supportive, inclusive environment.

When Jefferson Elementary visited the farm, students harvested the same kale their peers planted the previous spring. They massaged the kale leaves, added MontAmore cheese, pepitas, dried cranberries, and a maple vinaigrette. Then they practiced describing their food during "Unpack Your Snack" - naming actions like harvest, wash, chop, and crumble, and sharing sensory words like crunchy, crisp, sweet, and sour. More than 90% of students try the featured snack and the majority enjoy it, but one student's enthusiasm stood out. He loved the kale salad so much that he asked to take home a full backpack of kale and ingredients so he could make it again with his family.

In another class, a young girl with significant sensory needs entered the Nourish kitchen beaming, thrilled to be part of the experience. Her peers immediately welcomed her, helping read the recipe, choose tools, and measure and mix ingredients. Although she typically avoids many textures and foods, the excitement of cooking alongside friends encouraged her to try the vegetable snack. To the delight of her aide, she quickly signed "MORE! MORE!" and enjoyed multiple servings - an important moment of inclusion, confidence, and joy.

These experiences reflect the heart of Farm2School: creating opportunities where every child can explore good food, discover new abilities, and share those experiences with their families and classmates.



Pictured above: During a field trip to Nourish Farms in Sheboygan Falls, students learn to make a healthy and delicious snack using locally grown kale. In the spring of 2025, Nourish was also awarded an Innovation Grant from our Community Action Team, to support their on-site growing program that supports community members struggling with food insecurity.

INNOVATION GRANT RECIPIENT



With support from United Way of Sheboygan County's inaugural Innovation Grant, the Sheboygan County LGBTQ+ Alliance is stepping forward with a bold, community-centered response. The Alliance is launching a comprehensive initiative designed to strengthen belonging, build resilience, and offer accessible mental health support for LGBTQ+ youth and adults alike.

In Sheboygan County, far too many young people are struggling to feel safe, supported, and seen. The 2023 Healthy Sheboygan County Community Health Assessment revealed a stark reality: only 40% of LGBTQ+ high school students reported feeling a sense of belonging, compared to 65% of their straight and cisgender peers. Just as troubling, 40% shared that they have experienced bullying – whether in school or online. These numbers reflect a critical gap in well-being and connection for youth who deserve to thrive.

At the heart of this effort are workshops, support groups, and community training opportunities created and facilitated by LGBTQ+ individuals with lived experience. This approach ensures that every space is grounded in cultural understanding, authenticity, and safety. Through peer-led support groups and mental health-focused workshops, youth will have opportunities to connect, share, and heal alongside others who understand their journeys.

The Alliance is also building long-term capacity by training a cohort of community-based facilitators and adapting existing curricula to include LGBTQ+-specific content. These trainings will be offered at no cost, strengthening support systems across schools, nonprofit partners, and other service providers. As more allies and professionals become equipped with inclusive tools and knowledge, the ripple effect will help create more affirming environments throughout Sheboygan County.

These efforts embody the spirit of United Way's Innovation Grants-supporting new, community-driven solutions that directly address emerging needs.







"Thanks A Latte" to Our Local Nonprofit Professionals

AUGUST 2024 - United Way's staff welcomes Meagan Van Ahn (far left), a newly hired Director of Marketing and Outreach, during the annual Nonprofit Appreciation event at United Way offices in Sheboygan.





Celebrating 90 Years of Caring

SEPTEMBER 2024 - In honor of 90 years of raising critical funds for critical causes in Sheboygan County, United Way's annual Day of Caring featured a 90's themed shirt and after party. Left to right: Kate Baer (UWSC), Allison Thompson (Fresh Meals on Wheels) and 2024-25 Campaign Co-Chairs Michelle and Jeff Gentine (Masters Gallery Foods).

Unconcious Bias with Derek Mosley

OCTOBER 2024 - United Way hosted a training day for local nonprofit professionals at Nourish Farms in Sheboygan Falls.. The event featured speaker Derek Mosley, a former circuit court judge and now the Director of Marquette University's Lubar Center for Public Policy Research & Civic Education.





The Power of Transformative Philanthropy

On Previous Page: Kristin and Richard Bemis attend United Way's Spirit Awards Ceremony at The Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake in April 2025. The couple was awarded with the "Transformative Philanthropy" award, in recognition of their commitment to Nourish Farms.



NextGen Leaders at Community Cafe

OCTOBER 2024 - Formerly known as Emerging Leaders, the group renamed to NextGen Leaders, seen here volunteering together at the Community Cafe at St. Luke's in Sheboygan.

Youth Mental Health Network Launches

NOVEMBER 2024 - Launched officially with a Meet & Greet held at Jake's Cafe, the YMHN brings together schools, community organizations, and stakeholders to strengthen support for youth mental health.





ATHENA: Empowering Women

NOVEMBER 2024 - UWSC's board and staff celebrate at the Sheboygan Co. Chamber's ATHENA Awards. This year, both our organization and our Volunteer Center Director, Lisa Finney, were nominated for awards.

Volunteer Time Off Project

DECEMBER 2024 - Lisa Finney, Volunteer Center Director, worked with the Chicagobased Constellation Brands, to help design a meaningful yet flexible volunteer project during the company's all staff retreat at The American Club in Kohler.



Essential Needs Remain A Priority

JANUARY 2025 - United Way welcomed Hanna Maechtle to the team, brought on as the Director of Essential Needs and Nonprofit Engagement, bringing renewed focus on the areas of housing, hunger and financial security.





First-Ever Innovation Grants

FEBRUARY 2025 - With guidance from our volunteer led- Community Action Team, we launched our first-ever Innovation Grants to address bold and creative solutions to local issues. After a competitive review of 29 applications, Nourish Farms and the LGBTQ+ Alliance were selected as grant recipients.

A Collective Effort of Caring for Community

MARCH 2025 - Formerly called Partner Agencies, we gathered together leaders from all 17 of our Strategic Partner Grantee organizations at the United Way office in Sheboygan. The meeting focused on how together we can collectively measure and report on community outcomes and goals.





Spirit Awards: Recognizing Our Community's Volunteers

APRIL 2025 - Each year, our Spirit Awards, recognize the outstanding volunteers in Sheboygan County. This year, two students from Sheboygan South High School - Sophia Lieffring and Yesenia Vera - took the award for Youth Star Volunteer. (pictured at left on the front page of The Sheboygan Press).

Appreciating our Educators

MAY 2025 - Hosted by the newly formed Youth Mental Health Network, this annual event shows appreciation for local education professionals and their work in supporting the health and well-being of Sheboygan County's students.





Tee Off for Youth Mental Health

JUNE 2025 - Now in its 7th year, this annual event raises critical funds for our Providing Access to Healing (PATH) in-school mental health program. This year, the event raised recording breaking dollars raised for the program.

Family Fun Fest Brings Joy to Fountain Park

JUNE 2025 - The Community Partnership for Children hosted its annual Family Fun Fest at Fountain Park in downtown Sheboygan. With nearly 2,000 individuals, this year's event saw record breaking attendance.





24/25 Campaign Celebration

JULY 2025 - Closing out our 90th campaign season, with Jeff and Michelle Gentine (Masters Gallery Foods) leading the effort as this year's Campaign Co-Chairs. This year, Masters Gallery broke a company record for funds raised for United Way, catapulting them to the #4 Most Generous Workplace in Sheboygan County.





TOP 10 MOST GENEROUS WORKPLACES IN SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

2024-25 CAMPAIGN YEAR









#4





#7 rockline® #8 people who make it right



#9





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the businesses and foundations below that gave to United Way of Sheboygan County in our 2024-25 Campaign. In addition to the businesses and foundations listed, special thanks to the thousands of individuals that also invested in our community.

3 Sheeps

Acuity

Advocacy Programs of Family Services

Alliant Energy Corporation

Ansay & Associates, LLC

Associated Bank

AT&T / SBC

Aurora Health Care

Aurora Sheboygan Clinic

Automation Products

Baird Foundation, Inc.

Bell Tape Inc.

Bemis Manufacturing Company

Biggby Coffee - Sheboygan Locations

BMO Harris Bank

Boys & Girls Clubs

C & S Wholesale Grocers'

Cadence

Carbliss

Catholic Charities

Cedarview LLC

Charlie Health

City of Plymouth

Clifton Larson Allen

Compu-Tek Accounting

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Crafted Plastics Inc.

Culver's Frozen Custard

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ELGS PTA

Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District

Elkhart Lake's Road America, Inc.

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John C. & Katherine B. Miller Charitable

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Kerpe Family Giving Fund

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Lakeshore CAP Inc. of Wisconsin

Lakeshore Community Health Care, Inc.

Langan Family Fund of Lakeshore

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Manning Lighting Inc.

Mark A & Joan Ravanelli Miller Fund

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McClone Agency, Inc.

Meijer Sheboygan

Melitta S. and Joan M. Pick Charitable

Melvin F. & Ellen L. Wagner Foundation

Mental Health America

Meyer Motors, Inc.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Modern Woodsman of America

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National Exchange Bank Foundation, Inc.

Northland Plastics, Inc.

Odyssey Fun Center

O'Hare Wealth Management

Old Wisconsin Sausage, Inc.

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QPS Employment Group

Quackenleague

Quality Metal Polishing Company

Random Lake PTO

Riesterer Financial

Rockline Industries

Rogers Behavioral Health

Ross Glove Company

Rupp's Supper Club

Sargento Foods Inc.

Sartori Company

Schrieber Foods

Schwarz Fish Company

Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization

Sheboygan LGBTQ Alliance

St Paul Lutheran School

Suchon Funeral Home

Superior Lawn & Garden

Summit Credit Union

Takeda Pharmaceuticals

Target

The Louie and Paula Gentine Giving Fund

The Production Farm

Torginol, Inc.

Torke Coffee Roasting Company

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United One Credit Union

United Way of Sheboygan County

Valley Bakers

Van Horn Automotive Group

Vesta CPAs

Village of Cleveland

Waldo State Bank

Wasserstrom & Associates

Water Street Pub

Wells Fargo Bank

Wigwam Mills Inc.

Willow Creek Behavioral Health

Wisconsin Bank & Trust

Yoga on the Lake



A special thanks to the support and guidance of our 2024-25 Campaign Co-Chairs, Jeff and Michelle Gentine (Masters Gallery).

DESIGNATIONS

Part of United Way's role in the community to raise critical funds to support the community. While we focus our efforts on 4 focus areas and local issues that matter most, many companies allow their employees to designate their gifts to any 501c3 nonprofit organization through their United Way workplace giving campaign. The list below includes a total of \$67,369.29 which was designated by local donors to the following organizations:

- Alzheimer's Association of Southeastern WI
- American Red Cross Northeast WI
- American Red Cross Southeastern WI
- Anchor of Hope
- Bay Lakes Council Boy Scouts
- Big Brothers Big Sisters WI Shoreline
- Boy Scouts Cub Pack 885
- Boys & Girls Club of Fond du Lac County
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Sheboygan County
- CASA Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Catholic Charities
- Cedar Grove Area United Fund
- Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board
- Community Chest of Kiel
- Dogs 2 Dog Tags
- Elevate
- Family Connections
- Family Resource Center of Sheboygan cO.
- Family Service Association
- Flawless Hoops
- Found du Lac Area United Way
- Foundations Health and Wellness
- Fresh Meals on Wheels Sheboygan
- Greater Random Lake Adell United Fund
- Habitat For Humanity Lakeside
- Hmong Mutual Assistance Association
- Howards Grove Fire Department
- Junior Achievement of Sheboygan County
- Kids Matter Inc.
- Kinship Community Food Center
- Lakeshore CAP Inc
- Lakeshore Regional Child Advocacy Center
- Love Inc Sheboygan County
- Mental Health America Lakeshore
- Milestones Programs for Children

- Nourish Farms
- Old Glory Honor Flight
- Ozaukee Food Alliance
- Plymouth Education Foundation
- Quit Qui Oc Athletic Alliance
- REINS Inc.
- Safe Harbor Sheboygan
- Salvation Army Sheboygan
- Sharon S. Richardson Community Health Center
- Sheboygan Cancer Care Fund
- Sheboygan County Food Bank
- Sheboygan County Humane Society
- Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization
- Sheboygan Theatre Company
- Sixteenth Street Community Health Center
- The Tee Box
- Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
- United Way Manitowoc County
- United Way of Brown County
- United Way of Dane County
- United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County
- United Way of Northern Ozaukee
- Vince Lombardi Cancer Center
- Wounded Warrior Project

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

This annual financial audit was performed by Vesta CPAs.

	2025	2024
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,411,678	\$ 1,726,960
Promise to give, net allowance for uncollectible promises to give of \$115,000 as of June 30, 2025 and 2024	\$825,370	\$ 784, 075
Investments	\$ 1,331,310	\$1,233,822
Beneficial interest in assets held by Community Foundation	\$106,651	-
Property and equipment, net	\$132,138	\$ 97,037
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,807,147	\$ 3,841,894
Accounts payable	\$18,151	\$ 36,881
Allocations and designations payable, net of discount for present value of \$0 and \$47,371 as of June 30, 2024 and 2024, respectively	\$ 1,137,929	\$ 1,073,978
Accrued liabilities	\$ 48,402	\$ 45,440
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 1,156,299	\$ 1,492,400
Net assets		
Without donor designation		
Undesignated	\$ 2,361,534	\$ 2,470,470
Board designated	\$ 53,753	\$ 51,448
Net investment in property and equipment	\$ 132,138	\$ 97,037
Total net assets without donor restrictions	\$ 2,547,425	\$ 2,618,955
With donor restriction	\$ 55,240	\$ 66,640
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 3,807,147	\$ 3,841,894

Mission

To improve lives and community conditions in measurable, lasting ways

Vision

A community where everyone can achieve their full potential

United Way Staff



Kate Baer President & CEO



Lisa Finney Volunteer Center Director



Brad Heusterberg Chief Financial Officer



Brianna HeusterbergDirector of Youth Mental Health & PATH



Hanna MaechtleDir. of Essential Needs &
Nonprofit Engagement



Katelyn PiperChief Philanthropy Officer



Meagan Van AhnDirector of Marketing
& Outreach



Ryan WilinskiDir. of Community Partnership for Children

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Garrett TeSelle Community Member

2024-25 Campaign Co-Chairs

Jeff & Michelle Gentine Masters Gallery Foods



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Spirit Awards Committee

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Nicole Brown, Kohler Co.
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Johannah Wenig, HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital
Michelle Zuengler, HSA Bank



Youth Mental Health Network

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Jeremy Willems, Lakeshore Child Advocacy Center

Denise Wittstock, Big Brothers Big Sisters Shoreline







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