

FINANCIAL SECURITY

We believe every person should have the opportunity to move beyond survival and build a stable, secure future. This means friends and neighbors have a safe home and a quality job, creating a strong foundation for success.

United Way plays a critical role in this work. We strategically invest resources into programs that help families progress along the economic mobility continuum and advocate for the conditions that make long-term upward mobility possible for all.



6,088

individuals served through quality and affordable housing programs

83%

of individuals served, maintained, or improved housing situation

3,585

individuals supported through workforce programs

81%

obtaining or improving employment

VITA
VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

**1,995 TAX
RETURNS PREPARED**

\$2,502,653
FEDERAL TAX RETURNS

\$582,422
STATE TAX RETURNS

\$3,085,075
TOTAL RETURNS

VITA PROGRAM SPONSORS:



Transamerica™

JONES COUNTY SUPERVISORS



1,111

individuals served at the Opportunity Center receiving support with top needs such as job applications and resumes.

Economic mobility and systems change go hand in hand. Creating lasting solutions means going beyond temporary fixes - it requires transforming the systems that shape people's lives.

That's where United Way plays a unique role. We invest in programs that help individuals build stability while also aligning resources, bringing partners together, and using data to drive collective action. Together, we work to create a community where everyone has the opportunity to move upward and thrive.

One solution we want to highlight is the Opportunity Center at Ladd Library. The Opportunity Center is a collaborative effort between UWEI, the Cedar Rapids Public Library, Kirkwood Community College, HACAP, and the City of Cedar Rapids. Designed as a single-entry point for individuals seeking services, it works to create equitable and sustainable workforce systems.



By offering resources such as job search support, digital literacy training, career development, and connections to social services, the Opportunity Center addresses real barriers that many individuals face in achieving economic stability and personal growth."

— ERIN NORWOOD OPPORTUNITY CENTER PROGRAM COORDINATOR



YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

We believe every child should have the opportunity to create a successful future and become tomorrow's leaders.

United Way advances childhood success by funding proven programs that support early development, out-of-school learning, and youth mentoring. We strengthen this work by connecting volunteers to opportunities like tutoring and mentoring and by partnering with local companies to support children through large-scale projects. UWECI envisions a community where every child has the chance to learn, grow, and succeed.



1,402

children served to access early childhood resources

88%

children improved social-emotional skills through early childhood and school-aged programs

17,951

children provided support and access they needed to be successful through after-school and summer programs



Volunteers play a vital role in helping children thrive. In Benton County, the Project Group supported Belle Plaine Elementary by cutting out 8,000 cars and 1,070 awards for a classroom point system, giving students a fun way to earn rewards and stay engaged. Across the region, three kit builds, or group volunteering projects of putting together backpacks filled with school supplies or other items, advanced childhood success. Van Meter employees assembled 150 snack kits for Tanager's Freedom School, while Cummins and Transamerica volunteers donated more than 300 backpacks filled with supplies for Foundation2. These efforts ensured that kids had the tools, encouragement, and support they need to succeed in school and beyond.



HEALTHY COMMUNITY

We believe every person should have the opportunity to achieve their best health and well-being. This means local individuals and families have access to healthcare and nutritious food.

United Way helps make this possible by funding programs that connect people to affordable care and critical health services. We also mobilize volunteers to provide direct support, outreach, and help navigating complex healthcare systems - ensuring more people have the opportunity to live healthier lives.



8,494
individuals served by
healthcare programs

92%
of individuals reported
improved health, well-being,
and functioning

WOMEN UNITED

Women United supporters are an inspiring group that unites the caring power of women to ensure all women in our community have access not only to medical care, but also supportive services.

4 PROGRAMS

=

2,983 WOMEN WITH
GREATER ACCESS TO
HEALTHCARE

+

89% OF WOMEN
REPORTING IMPROVED
ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

For seniors in our rural counties, access to healthcare is often a challenge, but volunteers are making a difference. Through UWECI's Medical Transportation program, seniors get to essential medical appointments, helping them stay healthy and independent. The Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) volunteers provide trusted guidance on Medicare, easing confusion and reducing costs.

The Belle Plaine Project Group brightens a local nursing home with holiday signs and special treats, reminding older adults that they are valued and cared for. In one year, this group put together 270 treat bags and made 495 signs for residents. Together, these efforts ensure seniors have both the care and the connection they need to thrive.



SHIIP
IOWA'S MEDICARE
RESOURCE

SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION PROGRAM (SHIIP)

228 individuals served
\$66,393 saved

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

SPONSORS: Benton County
Supervisors, Jones County
Supervisors, Physicians Clinic of Iowa
and St. Luke's Foundation

BENTON COUNTY

65 clients
24,509 miles

JONES COUNTY

54 clients
20,738 miles



COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

We believe every person should have the opportunity to live in a community that thrives through any challenge. This means our community can prepare, respond, and recover from any emergency, becoming stronger than we were before.

United Way partners with local organizations, like Linn Area Partners Active in Disaster (LAP-AID), to plan for emergencies, coordinate resources and volunteers, and support our community at a time when it is needed most.



292

households received financial assistance through the PATCH program

\$3,442,000

distributed to homeowners to help with repairs after the derecho through the PATCH program

LAP-AID, which United Way is a collaborative partner, released a guide in 2026 that models the PATCH program and how it can be replicated within other communities, in response to a disaster like the derecho.



Community resiliency isn't just about preparing for emergencies, it's also about strengthening our nonprofit sector to be here, ready to meet the needs of our community for years to come. That's why a collaborative effort between United Way, Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, and Kirkwood Community College formed a professional development series for nonprofit employees, Learn to Lead.

"By equipping leaders with essential skills in communication, emotional intelligence, and people management, this program builds the leadership pipeline our community needs to sustain impact long into the future."

-Karey Chase, UWECI Vice President of Community Impact