

THE FORCE FOR GOOD:
**OUR COMMUNITY
IN ACTION**

United Way
of the Plains



OUR MISSION

United Way of the Plains is a nonprofit and for-impact organization that focuses on health, education, financial stability, and basic needs – the building blocks for a good quality of life and a strong community. Together, we improve lives by harnessing the caring power of our community to advance the common good in south-central Kansas.

SPIRIT OF WICHITA

In 2024, the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce honored United Way of the Plains with the Spirit of Wichita Award, recognizing our long-standing commitment to harness the caring power of our community. For over 100 years, United Way has been a beacon of hope and opportunity – mobilizing people and resources to create lasting change. This award celebrates the collective impact of thousands of donors, volunteers, and partners working together to build a stronger region and create a better future for generations to come.

Below: United Way of the Plains leadership pose with the Spirit of Wichita Award. From left to right: Chief Marketing Officer Angie Prather, Vice President of Community Impact Abel Frederic, President and CEO Pete Nájera, Vice President of Philanthropy Gwen Kochman, and Chief Financial Officer Darren Minks.

IN THIS EDITION

- INVESTING FOR IMPACT 2
- TRANSFORMING SOUTH-CENTRAL KANSAS .. 4
- UNLOCKING INVESTMENTS 6
- CREATING RIPPLES OF IMPACT 8
- BY THE NUMBERS..... 10
- HARNESSING THE POWER OF PEOPLE..... 18
- TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY..... 20
- THE POWER OF GENEROSITY 22

Cover: Each fall and spring semester for more than 10 years, the Wichita State University Community Service Board has collaborated with the United Way Volunteer Center to organize Wu's Big Event. The event encourages students and staff to volunteer at nonprofits across the community on a Saturday morning. The cover features students assembling food boxes at Bread of Life.

Special thanks to our print sponsor:



DEAR FRIENDS,

Every powerful movement starts with people who choose to act. Over the past year, our community has again proven that when we come together, we are an unstoppable FORCE FOR GOOD.

When a child struggled to decipher the words on the pages of their textbook, **you showed up** every week as a Read to Succeed reading coach to foster a love of reading that'll last a lifetime.

When an income-constrained family needed to file their taxes, **you showed up** as a volunteer tax preparer to help them do it for free — and unlocked a refund that would pay for car repairs, medical bills, and peace of mind.

When a veteran needed a ride to the VA, **you showed up**. Your donation to Veterans Ride Free ensured they had access to Wichita City Transit, opening opportunities across the city they might not otherwise have.

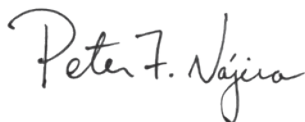
These aren't just singular acts of kindness. They're powerful moments that collectively add up to a stronger, more resilient community. At United Way, we're proud to be the thread that wove **over 1 MILLION moments of generosity** last year into a movement — one that's driven by shared purpose, real results, and a belief in a brighter future.

United Way isn't just a nonprofit. It's a reflection of what's possible when our community is united in action.

And momentum is building. Across our community you continue to step up — as volunteers, donors, partners, and advocates — rooted in the belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive. This report is a tribute to the progress made because of your actions.

As we chart the course forward, let's continue to fuel this movement with bold ideas, courageous action, and the unwavering belief that together, we are a **FORCE FOR GOOD**.

With gratitude,



Pete Najera
President & CEO



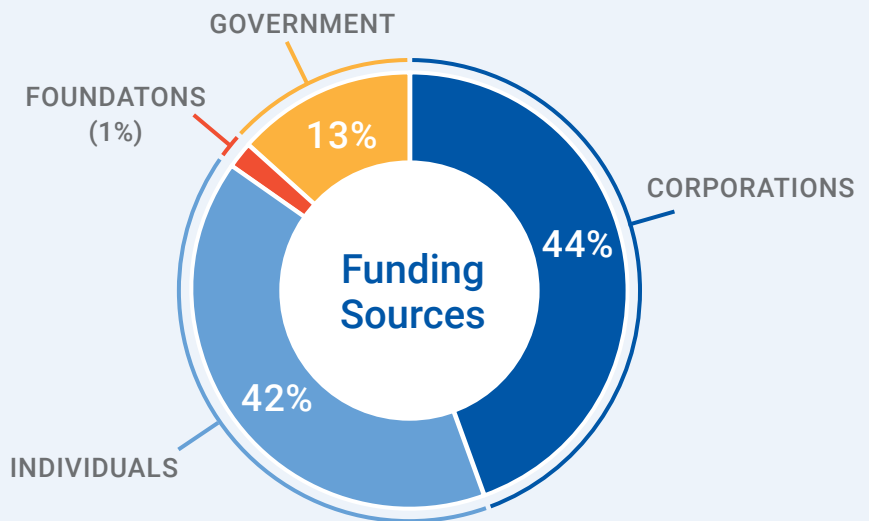
DOLLARS THAT MAKE SENSE:

INVESTING FOR IMPACT

We are uniting south-central Kansas to create, amplify and accelerate solutions that address our region's most complex social challenges. We do this by combining the collective forces of our network, assets, and expertise to deliver impact.

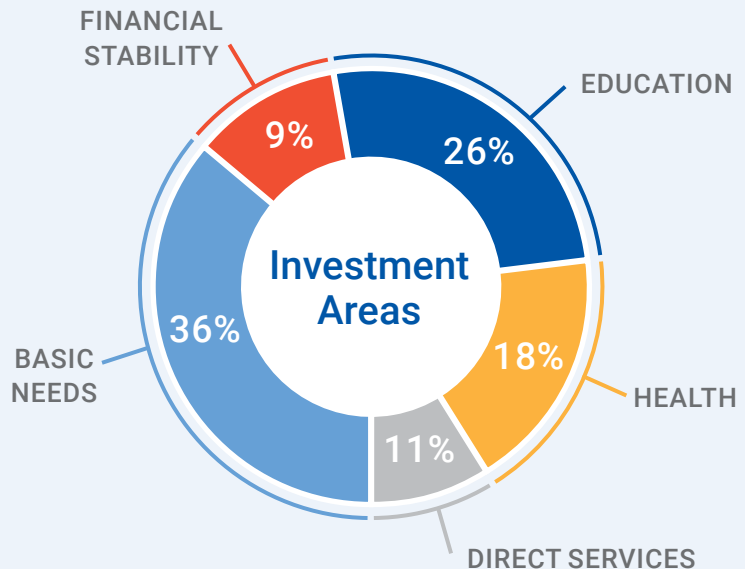
Contribution Sources

We do our work with the partnership and support of individual donors, corporations, foundations, and government agencies who trust us to generate impact with their investments.



Our Approach to Strategic Investments

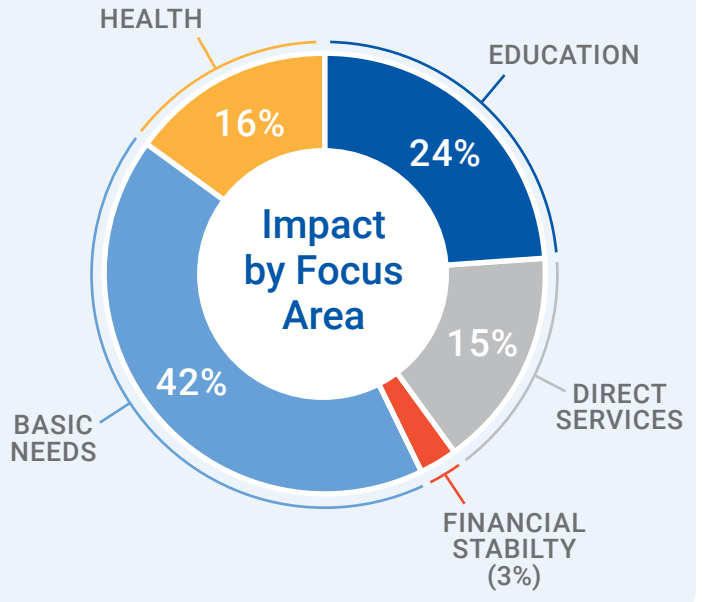
We believe every person in our region should have the opportunity to thrive. We invest in programs that provide a strong and flexible safety net to serve our neighbors' most pressing needs in the areas of health, education, financial stability, and basic needs.





1,037,227

times United Way investments in funded partners and direct services helped the people of south-central Kansas overcome their toughest obstacles to thrive.



\$4,736,682 was invested last year to advance the common good through 67 charitable programs at 61 nonprofits.

Each fall, the fundraising campaign captures our community's collective efforts to bring our neighbors help and hope. Funds raised support three investment opportunities that create measurable change across our impact areas. *Recipients are summarized on the next page.*

OPPORTUNITY ON THE PLAINS is the largest annual investment program that helps meet the most pressing needs in our community. Last year, \$4.5 million was invested in 63 programs.

PROMISE ON THE PLAINS builds capacity of grassroots organizations. Grants ranging from \$6,000 to \$10,000 were awarded to 10 nonprofits last year.

IMPACT ON THE PLAINS is a social innovation competition – modeled after the popular TV show “Shark Tank” – that promotes an entrepreneurial ethos in the nonprofit ecosystem to generate innovative solutions for complex social issues. A total of \$105,000 was invested in four nonprofit programs.

Above: Dr. William Vann with The Center, right, accepts the winning investment at Impact on the Plains to help grow their Entrepreneur Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math (STEAM) Academy.

We grew your gift by 141%.

When you give to United Way, we multiply your gift by serving as policy experts, creating efficiencies, leveraging resources, and building relationships across all business sectors to drive impact. In addition to operating our own direct programs that add value and meet the community's most pressing needs, we also fund charitable programs.

\$1.00 invested
\$2.41 worth of impact





COLLECTIVE IMPACT:

TRANSFORMING SOUTH-CENTRAL KANSAS

United Way of the Plains harnesses the caring power of our community to help everyone thrive. We are building a force for good by investing in programs and providing community services that help improve our neighbors' health and well-being, empower young people to realize their full potential, create a stronger financial future for every generation and address the urgent needs of those in crisis. Together, we're taking action to create change that lasts for generations to come.

Symbols after the program and agency indicate the funding stream:

- ▲ Opportunity on the Plains
- Impact on the Plains
- ◆ Promise on the Plains
- United Way of the Plains Direct Community Services

BASIC NEEDS

Addressing homelessness, food insecurity, rent and utility assistance, and protection from abuse.

- Coalition to End Homelessness in Wichita / Sedgwick County, **United Way of the Plains**■
- Community Food Ministry, **United Methodist Open Door**▲
- Community Food Pantry, **Dear Neighbor Ministries**▲
- Court Appointed Special Advocates, **CASA of Sedgwick County**▲
- Crisis Victim Assistance, **Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County**▲
- Emergency Services, **Family Promise of Greater Wichita**▲
- Grow Your Own Farm, **ICT Farms**●
- Harbor House, **Catholic Charities**▲
- Homeless Prevention, **Center of Hope**▲
- Homeless Resource Center, **United Methodist Open Door**▲
- Human Trafficking Prevention and Advocacy Services, **ICT SOS**▲
- Meals on Wheels, **Senior Services of Wichita**▲
- Our Daily Bread, **Catholic Charities**▲
- Protection for Abused and Neglected Children in Butler County, **Tri-County CASA**▲
- Providing Emergency Rent & Utility Assistance to Families in Poverty, **Dear Neighbor Ministries**▲
- Residential Emergency Shelter, **Wichita Children's Home**▲
- Residential Programs, **Youth Horizons**▲
- St. Anthony Family Shelter, **Catholic Charities**▲
- Support Services for Victims of Domestic Violence, **Step Stone**▲
- Supportive Services for Sexual Assault Survivors, **Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center**▲
- The Inn, **HumanKind Ministries**▲
- Veterans Ride Free, **United Way of the Plains**■
- Youth Anti-Homeless Program, **Wichita Children's Home**▲

EDUCATION

Addressing kindergarten readiness, on-grade achievement, and college and career readiness.

- Boys 2 Men Program, **Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas**▲
- Brotherhood and Sisterhood Programs, **Rise Up For Youth**▲
- Champions for Literacy, **United Way of the Plains**■
- Community-Based Mentoring, **Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters Serving Sedgwick County**▲
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, **United Way of the Plains**■
- Early Childhood Connections, **Child Start**▲
- Elevate, **Youth Horizons**▲
- Entrepreneur Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math (STEAM) Academy, **The Center**●
- Full-Time Regional Career Specialist Substitute, **Jobs for America's Graduates – Kansas**▲
- Juniper Music, **Juniper Arts Academy**▲
- One-to-One Mentoring, **Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters Serving Cowley County**▲
- Out of School Programs, **Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Kansas**▲
- PandoKids, **The Pando Initiative**▲
- Partnership Assuring Learning Success, **Prime Fit Youth Foundation**▲
- Read to Succeed, **United Way of the Plains**■
- Root The Power, **Destination Innovation**▲
- Youth Employment Project, **Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas**▲

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Addressing financial preparation, household stability, asset building, and workforce development.

- Bank On ICT, **United Way of the Plains**■
- Bridges Out of Poverty Wichita Initiative, **Children First CEO Kansas**▲
- Camp Destination Innovation, **Destination Innovation**▲

- Career Enrichment and Sustainability Program, **Shepherd's Way**▲
- Credit Counseling and Debt Management, **Consumer Credit Counseling Service**▲
- Domestic Violence Employment Program, **The Women's Network**●
- Financial Wellness, **Elevate Cowley County**▲
- Free Tax Filing Services, **United Way of the Plains**■
- Guided Independent Living Assessment, **Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas**▲
- Hand Up to Work - Phase II, **Goodwill Industries of Kansas**▲
- Home Repair Capacity Building, **Wichita Habitat for Humanity**▲
- LegacyWorks Youth Development Program, **Legacy Ministries**▲
- Outreach Center, **Angels in the Attic**▲
- Seeds for Success Program, **Catholic Charities**▲
- Social Enterprise Program, **Raise My Head Foundation**▲
- Stabilization Services, **Family Promise of Greater Wichita**▲

HEALTH

Addressing access to health care and mental health services, developing healthy lifestyles, and reducing health disparities.

- Cana Counseling, **Catholic Charities**▲
- Clinic Services and Community Programming, **Great Plains Diabetes Research**▲
- Delta Dental Community Benefit Program, **United Way of the Plains**■
- Dental Outreach Program, **GraceMed Health Clinic**▲
- Early Childhood Mental Health, **Rainbows United**▲
- Exercise & Wellness Therapy for People with Disabilities, **Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas**▲
- Exercise and Wellness, **Club Parkinsons**▲
- Garden to Kitchen, **Children First CEO Kansas**▲
- Giving Hygiene, Health and Hope to Wichita and Surrounding Area Students, **Simply Hygiene**▲
- Hope Rising, **Hope Medical Forensic Services**●
- Kids Fore A Better Future, **First Tee – Greater Wichita**▲
- Kitchen Restore, **K-State Research and Extension – Sedgwick County**▲
- Mental Health Services for Sexual Assault Victims, **Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center**▲
- Outpatient Mental Health, **Kansas Children's Service League**▲
- Project Access, **Central Plains Health Care Partnership**▲
- RSVP Non-Emergency Medical Transportation, **Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas**▲
- SingleCare, **United Way of the Plains**■
- Strengthening Girls from Start to Finish, **Girls on the Run Heart of Kansas**▲
- Vision for the Underserved, **Guadalupe Clinic**▲
- Wheelchair Clinic & Assistive Technology, **Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas**▲

UNITED WAY OF THE PLAINS DIRECT SERVICES

We've assessed the social service landscape and offer these direct services to help fill the gaps so all can thrive.

- 211 Information & Referral Service, **United Way of the Plains**■
- Disaster Response, **United Way of the Plains**■
- Give Items of Value Warehouse, **United Way of the Plains**■
- Promise on the Plains
 - **The Center**◆
 - **Community Operations Recover Empowerment**◆
 - **The Gift of Chess**◆
 - **Hope Community Development Corporation**◆
 - **The Kansas African American Museum**◆
 - **La Familia Senior/Community Center**◆
 - **Prairie Rose Wellbriety Foundation**◆
 - **Progressive Community Outreach Program**◆
 - **Urban League of Kansas**◆
 - **Wichita Indochinese Center**◆
- Volunteer Services, **United Way of the Plains**■

DRIVING LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT:

UNLOCKING INVESTMENTS

Through targeted grants from organizations outside of our community, region, and state, we are able to advance initiatives to amplify local impact while also strengthening our region's economic resilience.





RAISING STRONG READERS

Champions for Literacy, a Memphis-based initiative, partnered with the WSU men's basketball team to raise funds to support United Way's childhood literacy efforts.

\$15,000 BECAME \$30,000

United Way raised \$15,000, which was matched, dollar-for-dollar, by Champions for Literacy and their sponsor, International Paper.

LOCAL IMPACT

- 2,871 kindergarten through third-grade students at 14 Title I elementary schools were each gifted two new books to help them strengthen their literacy skills.
- The program supports reading at grade level by third grade — a benchmark shown to increase graduation rates.
- A stronger student base will provide employers a competitive future workforce.



FOSTERING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

United Way of the Plains is the backbone organization for the local Early Childhood Block Grant from the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. The grant supports a collaborative of community partners to help ensure children enter school ready to learn, reduce the need for future specialized education, promote enhanced parenting skills, and provide professional development for preschool teachers.

\$779,884

was awarded to United Way of the Plains to support five programs at three local nonprofits.

LOCAL IMPACT

- 296 children and 285 caregivers were served by local partners.
- By investing in early childhood learning, we are setting the stage for strong students and the future strength of our local workforce.



ENDING HOMELESSNESS

United Way of the Plains serves as the lead agency for the Coalition to End Homelessness in Wichita/Sedgwick County. In their efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring for all our neighbors, the Coalition applies for an annual grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

\$300,000

was raised by United Way as a required financial match to obtain the HUD grant.

\$3 MILLION

was award by HUD to fund local efforts to end homelessness.

LOCAL IMPACT

- Funds obtained through the HUD grant supported:
- Shelter, housing, and supportive services
 - City housing department
 - County COMCARE
 - Community coordination
 - Job creation
 - Access to opportunity

Generous local donors helped United Way raise \$315,000 to unlock \$3.8 million from outside our community to fuel these three programs that help Wichitans thrive and boost the local economy.

LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS: CREATING RIPPLES OF IMPACT

By aligning strategic partnerships, volunteer efforts and community expertise around bold initiatives, we're generating impact that will spread hope and opportunity for generations to come.

OPENING THE BOOK TO STRONG FUTURES: PARTNERING WITH THE DOLLY PARTON FOUNDATION

\$128,000 is raised annually by United Way to cover mailing costs and administrative fees to host Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in select ZIP codes in Sedgwick, Butler, and Sumner Counties.

\$128,000 is matched annually by the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund.

\$256,000 is unlocked annually from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

OVER 1.2 MILLION BOOKS have been mailed to preschool children in south-central Kansas over the last ten years, helping them begin their formal education with the skills to succeed and strengthening our future workforce.





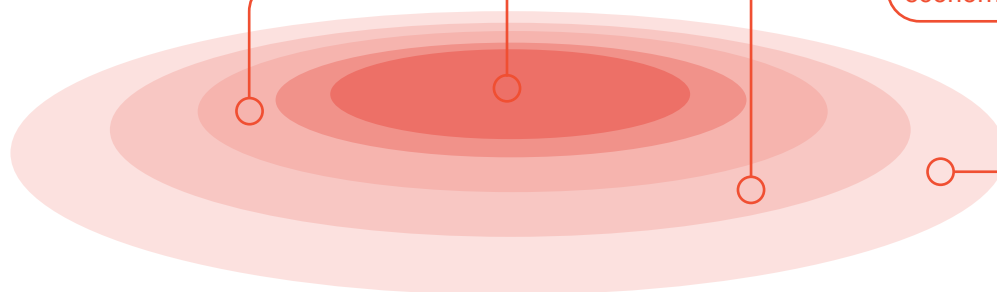
FOSTERING FINANCIAL STABILITY THROUGH FREE TAX FILING SERVICES

\$60,000 was raised by United Way as a required financial match to obtain a grant from the IRS.

\$220,000 was awarded by IRS to support United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

122 VOLUNTEERS became IRS-certified tax preparers and completed 11,459 tax returns for over 5,800 low-to-moderate income households.

\$7.4 MILLION in tax refunds were accessed by local tax payers, helping them cover expenses like rent, utilities, groceries, school supplies, and transportation, as well as discretionary spending that also boosts our local economy.



Above: Jodi Noah, Vice President of Textron Aviation, confers with an employee volunteering for United Way's Free Tax Filing Services. Textron was one of 14 sites hosted across south-central Kansas to help our neighbors with low-to-moderate income file their taxes for free.

OUR IMPACT AND REACH:

BY THE NUMBERS

At United Way, we believe lasting change starts with measurable results. Every program we provide is designed to create meaningful solutions that improve the quality of life for individuals and families in our community. These numbers reflect the real-world impact of your support—neighbors helped, barriers removed, and lives changed for the better.

“**PRACTICING READING IS VITAL. IF THEY DON'T HAVE BOOKS AT HOME, IT MAKES IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO PRACTICE READING. THIS IS SO AMAZING FOR THEM.**

– Kamile Yarger, first-grade teacher at Washington Elementary School, on the impact of Champions for Literacy

EDUCATION



108,980

books were mailed to 11,615 local preschool children at no charge through **DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY**, helping them build a foundation of literacy skills before they start school.



437

students struggling with their reading skills were paired with a volunteer reading coach through **READ TO SUCCEED**. Coaches met with their student weekly to listen to them read and help them strengthen their skills. 44% of students achieved grade-level benchmarks by the end of the school year.



5,742

books were distributed to kindergarten through third-grade students at 14 Title I schools in Wichita Public Schools to inspire summer reading as part of the **CHAMPIONS FOR LITERACY** initiative.

Right: Kindergarten students at Washington Elementary School show off their Champions for Literacy book packs.





FINANCIAL STABILITY



RECORD BREAKING

\$7,356,517

in tax refunds were returned to low-to-moderate income households through United Way's **FREE TAX FILING SERVICES**. The program leveraged the power of more than 120 IRS-certified volunteers to process 11,459 tax returns that help clients retain more of their earnings and access refunds for essential expenses like groceries, rent, transportation, school supplies, and medical care.



3,293

safe and affordable bank accounts were opened by our unbanked neighbors through the work of the **BANK ON ICT COALITION**, led by United Way, to help everyone on their journey to financial stability.

“

I CANNOT EXPRESS THE JOY THE CLIENTS GET WHEN THEY HAVE ACCESS TO THE ESSENTIAL TOOLS TO HELP THEM REBUILD THEIR LIVES. BANK ON CERTIFIED ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THAT REBUILDING PROCESS.

– Robert, Salvation Army Recovery Home

Left: Bank On ICT Coalition partner Osiris Arredondo with Quantum Credit Union connects with a community member at an outreach event.

RESOURCE NAVIGATION

2.1.1

Kansas

Every day, our neighbors across the state grapple with life's hard questions: How will they pay for groceries this month? Can they afford to take their child to the doctor? Who can help them develop their skills to secure a new, better job?

United Way's **211 INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE** leverages a comprehensive database of health and human services to connect Kansans in crisis to locally available programs and resources. Their work complements 911 in emergencies and 988 for mental health support to provide holistic care for all.



 **153,001**

times **211** connected Kansans to community resources to meet their needs via calls, texts, online chats and website searches.

TOP FIVE NEEDS:



13,801 REQUESTS
Utility Assistance



8,444 REQUESTS
Tax Filing Assistance



5,603 REQUESTS
Rent Assistance



3,191 REQUESTS
Food Pantries



1,762 REQUESTS
Homeless Shelter

ENDING HOMELESSNESS



The **COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS IN WICHITA/ SEDGWICK COUNTY**, led by United Way, unites over 600 community stakeholders in working toward **functional zero homelessness** — when the number of people experiencing homelessness at any given time is lower than the community's proven ability to house them quickly. To achieve this goal, the Coalition quickly identifies anyone who becomes homeless, connects them to housing and services without delay, and continually realigns community resources to end homelessness.



3,257

individuals were connected by Coalition partners to emergency shelter, transitional housing, street outreach, or housing services.



152

veterans were housed as part of **HOMES FOR HEROES**, a collaboration formed in 2023 with the City of Wichita, Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center, Sedgwick County, and United Way to achieve functional zero homelessness for veterans.



1,423

individuals were housed or kept in housing, a **39.5%** increase from 2023.



\$3 MILLION

in grant funding was secured by United Way on behalf of the Coalition from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The grant supports projects that end homelessness through housing and supportive services, as well as initiatives that strengthen community coordination and outcome reporting. Twelve programs at eight organizations were funded through the grant in 2024.

WE ENGAGE WITH OUR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. AND THEN WE GET THEM INTO HOUSING AND WE CONTINUE TO ENGAGE WITH THEM TO ENSURE THAT THEY STAY HOUSED.

— Jillian Castaneda, United Way of the Plains Housing Navigator

Right: United Way Housing Navigator Jillian Castaneda speaks with an individual during the annual homeless census, also known as the Point-in-Time Count. As our community's largest outreach event, volunteers provide basic needs to our unhoused neighbors while gathering valuable insights to help our community plan services, guide funding decisions, and measure progress. The 2024 count identified 691 individuals experiencing homelessness.





AMPLIFYING NONPROFIT IMPACT

United Way's **GIVE ITEMS OF VALUE** (GIV) warehouse creates a bridge between organizations with excess inventory and nonprofits with limited budgets.



103

local companies and national retailers, including Amazon, donated products like bedding, toys, bikes, and cleaning supplies to GIV last year.



807

community volunteers helped move products through an inventory process and onto the warehouse floor.



280

nonprofits shopped at the warehouse 1,350 times, accessing items for free to support their missions and the needs of their clients.



RECORD BREAKING

\$3.27 MILLION

in donated goods were distributed to nonprofits – helping them redirect more resources into programming to meet the needs of their clients and easing the burden to fundraise.

Above: JD Terry with Textron eAviation volunteers at GIV, helping sort and organize newly donated products. Last year, volunteers served over 2,250 hours to support GIV warehouse operations.



HONORING LOCAL VETERANS

FLAGS OF FREEDOM is an annual display of 600 American flags hosted by United Way of the Plains and IAM & AW District Lodge #70 to honor and support veterans each Memorial Day. As part of the event, the public is invited to purchase flag dedications in honor of a veteran or active-duty service member. Proceeds benefit services like **VETERANS RIDE FREE**, a collaboration between United Way, the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center and the City of Wichita Transit to eliminate transportation barriers for local veterans. This free service helps them access employment, medical appointments, groceries and more to live a full, thriving life.



57,791

free rides on the City of Wichita Transit system were accessed by veterans last year through **VETERANS RIDE FREE**.

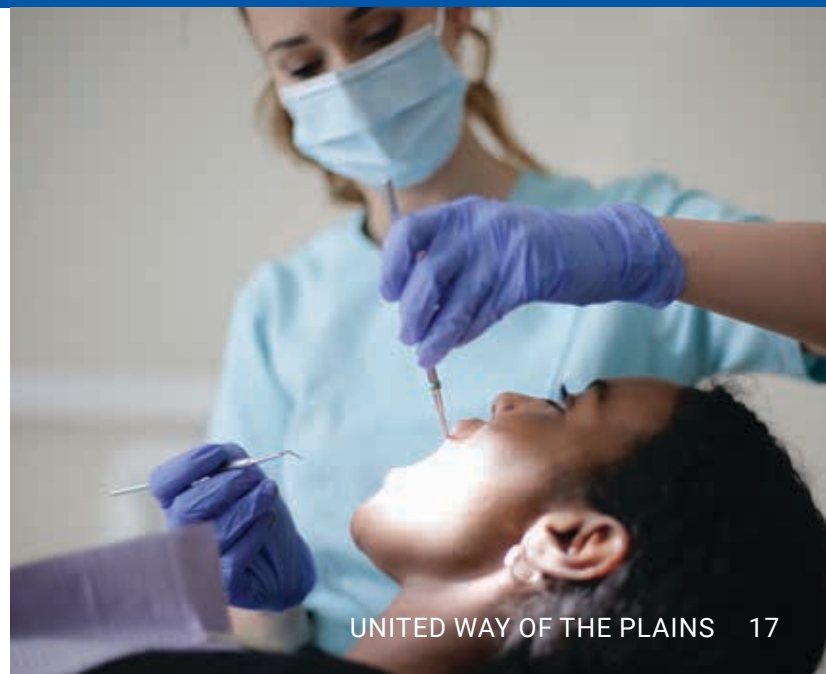
Above: A young boy honors veterans at the dedication ceremony for Flags of Freedom.

HEALTH



\$430,871

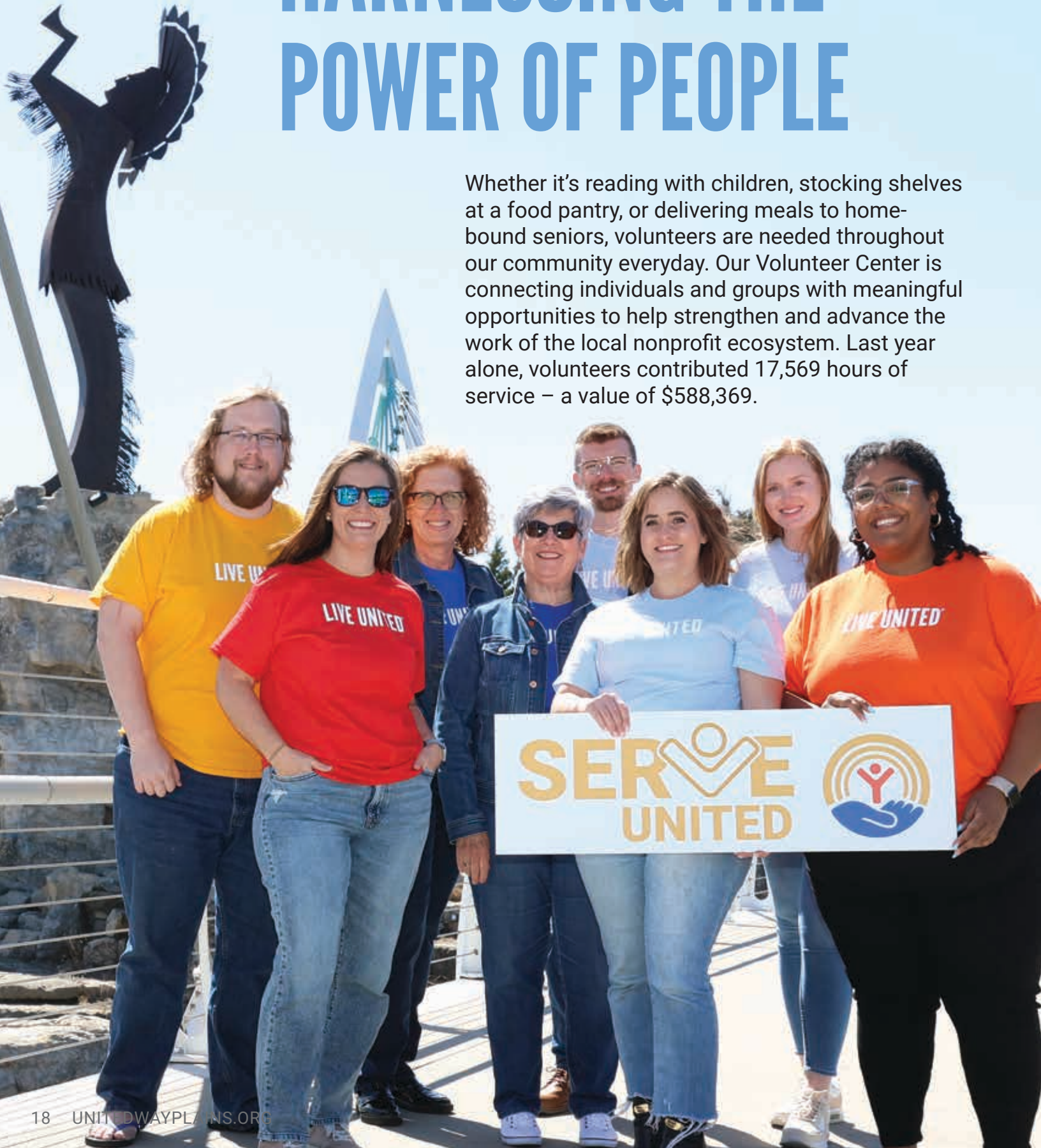
in dental care costs was saved by 416 individuals through the **DELTA DENTAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT PLAN**. The program offers basic coverage with deductibles as low as \$5 or \$10, helping qualifying clients maintain their health without straining their budgets.



STRENGTH IN SERVICE:

HARNESSING THE POWER OF PEOPLE

Whether it's reading with children, stocking shelves at a food pantry, or delivering meals to home-bound seniors, volunteers are needed throughout our community everyday. Our Volunteer Center is connecting individuals and groups with meaningful opportunities to help strengthen and advance the work of the local nonprofit ecosystem. Last year alone, volunteers contributed 17,569 hours of service – a value of \$588,369.



Serve United Movement Launches

In 2024, the United Way Volunteer Center stood up **SERVE UNITED**, a new initiative that brings together volunteers to support our community through United Way programs like Read to Succeed, Free Tax Filing Services, Point-in-Time Homeless Count, and grant review panels. The program fosters a true “Force for Good” to drive an even greater impact in our region while offering opportunities to build community with like-minded individuals. Last year, 1,217 Serve United members volunteered 12,035 hours through nine United Way programs.

Special thanks to our Serve United Steering Committee members who helped launch and shape the impact of this new initiative. Pictured left, from left to right: Matt Moore, City of Wichita; Catie Shaffer, Hutton; Wendy Johnson, Wichita Public Schools; Amy Schafer, Community Volunteer; Dylan Thiessen, Koch Industries; Maria Lawter, Cargill; Riley Ware, INTRUST Bank; and Rosie Mosate, INTRUST Bank.

“**MY HOPE IS THAT SERVE UNITED CONTINUES TO INSPIRE OTHERS WHO ARE LOOKING TO GIVE BACK TO THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY WHILE CREATING A THRIVING NETWORK OF PASSIONATE VOLUNTEERS. SERVE UNITED VOLUNTEERS HAVE IMMENSELY IMPACTED OUR NONPROFITS AND NEIGHBORS RIGHT HERE IN SOUTH-CENTRAL KANSAS.**

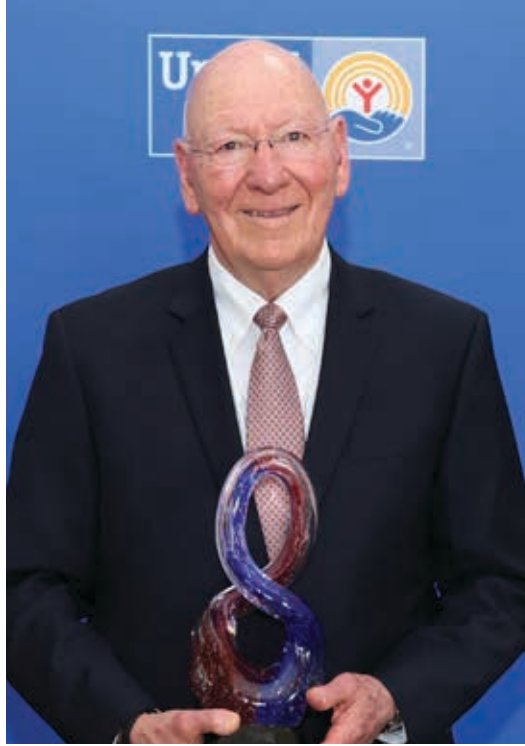
– Rosie Mosate, Serve United Steering Committee Vice Chair

Inaugural Day of Action

On June 21, the United Way Volunteer Center hosted Wichita’s first-ever **DAY OF ACTION**, joining a global movement that mobilizes community members to take local action. More than 100 volunteers rolled up their sleeves to support nine local charitable organizations through basic construction, cleaning, organizing, landscaping, and by creating outreach bags and affirmation bracelets for clients.

Right: An employee from INTRUST Bank helped beautify the downtown riverbanks as part of the United Way Day of Action. INTRUST Bank was one of nine organizations that rallied employees to participate in this global day of volunteering.





Tocqueville SOCIETY

The United Way Tocqueville Society is a national initiative inspired by Alexis de Tocqueville, who traveled the United States extensively in 1831 and observed the strong support for public welfare among citizens. We are grateful to local members who support United Way of the Plains' mission to create pathways to opportunity for all with an annual investment of \$10,000 or more.

As part of the 2024 Tocqueville Society Annual Dinner, three philanthropic leaders were recognized for paving the way for transformative change in our community. As pictured above, left to right:

Spirit of Service Honoree
Paul Allen
Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.

Spirit of Service Honoree
Richard Kerschen
The Law Company

Spirit of Giving Honoree
Helen & Russ Meyer

Transformational Partners

Gifts of \$100,000+

Helen and Russ Meyer

Groundbreaking Partners

Gifts of \$25,000 - \$49,999

Rachel and Paul Allen

Hannah and Adam Berry

Yolanda and Gene Camarena

Marla and Charlie Chandler

Hannah and Rich Kerschen

Laura and Philip Knight

Liz and Charles Koch

Judy and Doug Ledbetter

Kriya and Terry Shortt

Anonymous

Accelerating Partners

Gifts of \$10,000 - \$24,999

Sue and Fred Berry

Susayn Brandes

Susie and Bill Braun

Gayla and Dan Carney

Ken Clay

Marilyn Sue Cressler

Margaret and Todd Dechant

DeVore Foundation

Julie and Steve Dixon

Jill Docking

Tracy and Ron Draper

April and Mike Gerber

Nancy and Don Glenn

Patty and Dawson

Grimsley

Jenny and Dan Heinz

Jenifer and Francis Hitschmann

Michele and Tony Isaac

Kris and Brian Johnson

Shawna and Shawn

Lancelot

Sondra Langel

Julia and Matt List

Cindy and Chuck McSwain

Lauren and Matthew Morris

Janet and Dave Murfin

Jan and Pete Nájera

Jodi and Craig Noah

Nick and Susan Onofrio

Kathy and Dave Robertson

Barbara and David Rolph

Lauren and Jon Rolph

Dee Rolph

Michelle Ruffin-Stein and Steve
Stein

Andrea and Jim Scarpelli

Jaki and Roger Scholfield

Debbie and Jay Smith

Jack Snyder

Shelly and Matt Stumpe

Kelly and Shawn Sullivan

Natalie and Sean Tarbell

Daniel J. Taylor Family
Foundation

Marla and Steve Webb

Sandy and Mike Wegner

Roberta Whetzel

Ellen and Todd Winter

Anonymous



Helping Hope Shine Brighter

In the spirit of the holiday season, three generations of the Berry family demonstrated extraordinary generosity through a matching gift challenge that united our community around a shared cause. Their \$1,000 donation for every year of Berry Companies' operation, totaling \$67,000, not only honored their family's legacy of caring but also spurred others to make a difference by doubling every dollar donated in the month of December. \$164,553 was raised to support vital programs that provide stability for families, strengthen education for children and address critical basic needs, helping hope shine brighter all year long.

Above: Fred Berry, Founder of Berry Companies and past United Way of the Plains Board Chair; Walt Berry, Executive Chairman of Berry Companies and 2024 United Way of the Plains Board Chair; and Adam Berry, Chief Operating Officer of Berry Companies.

FUELING IMPACT:

THE POWER OF GENEROSITY

These generous organizations, supporters, and members are the driving force behind the work United Way does to help everyone achieve their potential. With their support, we are transforming lives and changing community conditions for the better.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

CHAIR

Walt Berry
Berry Companies

VICE CHAIR

Jennifer Szambecki
Hutton

TREASURER / FINANCE CHAIR

Sue Tirukonda, CFP
Cordell Wealth Management

COLLECTIVE IMPACT CHAIR

Gene Camarena
La Raza Pizza, Inc.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

Doug Ledbetter
Ernst & Young LLP

GOVERNANCE CHAIR

Moji Rosson
Meritrust Credit Union

STRATEGIC PLANNING CHAIR

Bobby Gandu
Wichita State University

Directors

Sarah Andrews
Stand Together

Ron Baker
Ascension Via Christi

Brian Burnett
Plumbers and Pipefitters Local
Union #441

Ebony Clemons
Evergry

Margaret Dechant
6 Meridian

Adam Dunn
Martin K. Eby Construction Co.

Bradley Dyer
Credit Union of America

Ricki Ellison
Greater Wichita Partnership

Lindsay Fulcher
Emprise Bank

MaeLauren Hudson
Community Volunteer

Donna Lin Niles
Cargill

Judy Pierce
Wichita-Hutchinson Labor
Federation of Central Kansas

Dr. William Polite Jr.
Wichita Public Schools

Jesse Romo
City of Wichita

Carol Russell
Communication Workers of
America #6402

Gary Schmitt
INTRUST Bank

Tonya Sudduth
Bombardier

John Trowbridge
AGH

Dr. Sheree Utash
WSU Tech

Katie Warren
United Teachers of Wichita

Johnathan Weigand
J.P. Weigand & Sons, Inc.

Justin Welner
Spirit AeroSystems

Bradley White
Textron Aviation



CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

We are proud to partner with many organizations committed to a future where every person can rise to their potential. Special thanks to these companies and their employees for leading the way.

Enduring Legacy Award

For over 80 years, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik (AGH) has built a globally recognized accounting and advisory firm rooted in values that have driven growth and success while fostering a legacy of care in our community. AGH staff have long supported United Way by serving on committees and boards, volunteering through the Volunteer Center, mentoring third graders through Read to Succeed, reviewing grant applications, and sorting donations at the Give Items of Value warehouse. Through their philanthropic efforts and annual workplace fundraising campaign, AGH continues to create pathways to opportunity for all. **In recognition of their continued generosity and service, AGH received United Way's most prestigious Enduring Legacy Award in 2024.**



Above: AGH Senior Vice President Aron Dunn accepts the Enduring Legacy Award from United Way of the Plains President & CEO Pete Nájera at the Impact on the Plains celebration.

Spirit of Caring

This premier recognition is reserved for companies that rank among our top 25 campaigns, demonstrate exceptional generosity with at least 5% of donors giving \$1,000 or more, and achieve an average employee gift of \$250 or higher.



Top Corporate Campaigns

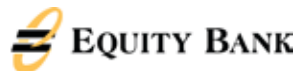
Our leading corporate partners raise significant funds for United Way through employee giving, corporate matches, and special events, earning special recognition among the hundreds of workplace campaigns that run each year. Collectively, the top 15 organizations raised \$5,028,271 during the 2024 fundraising campaign.



Million Dollar Supporter:
Spirit AeroSystems



Million Dollar Supporter:
Textron Aviation





Above: United Way President and CEO Pete Nájera (center) presents The Law Company President Dennis Kerschen (left), and CEO and Chairman Rich Kerschen (right) with a Top Campaign Award for their workplace fundraising efforts in 2024.

Workplace Campaign Awards

Special thanks to these companies for their support of the community through their outstanding workplace fundraising campaigns.

PLATINUM LEVEL

Employee participation of 80% or more. Employee per capital gift is \$80 or more.

Burns & McDonnell
 Forvis Mazars, LLP
 RCB Bank
 United Way of the Plains

GOLD LEVEL

Employee participation of 70% or more. Employee per capital gift is \$50 or more.

Allen Gibbs & Houlik
 BTCO
 CPRF
 The Law Company, Inc.
 Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas

SILVER LEVEL

Employee participation of 60% or more. Employee per capital gift is \$40 or more.

Credit Union of America
 Daland Corporation
 Davis-Moore Auto Group
 Equity Bank
 Fidelity Bank
 JR Custom Metal Products
 LS Industries
 Prella Eron & Bailey Attorneys at Law
 Stinson LLP
 White Star Machinery & Supply

BRONZE LEVEL

Employee participation of 45% or more. Employee per capital gift is \$25 or more.

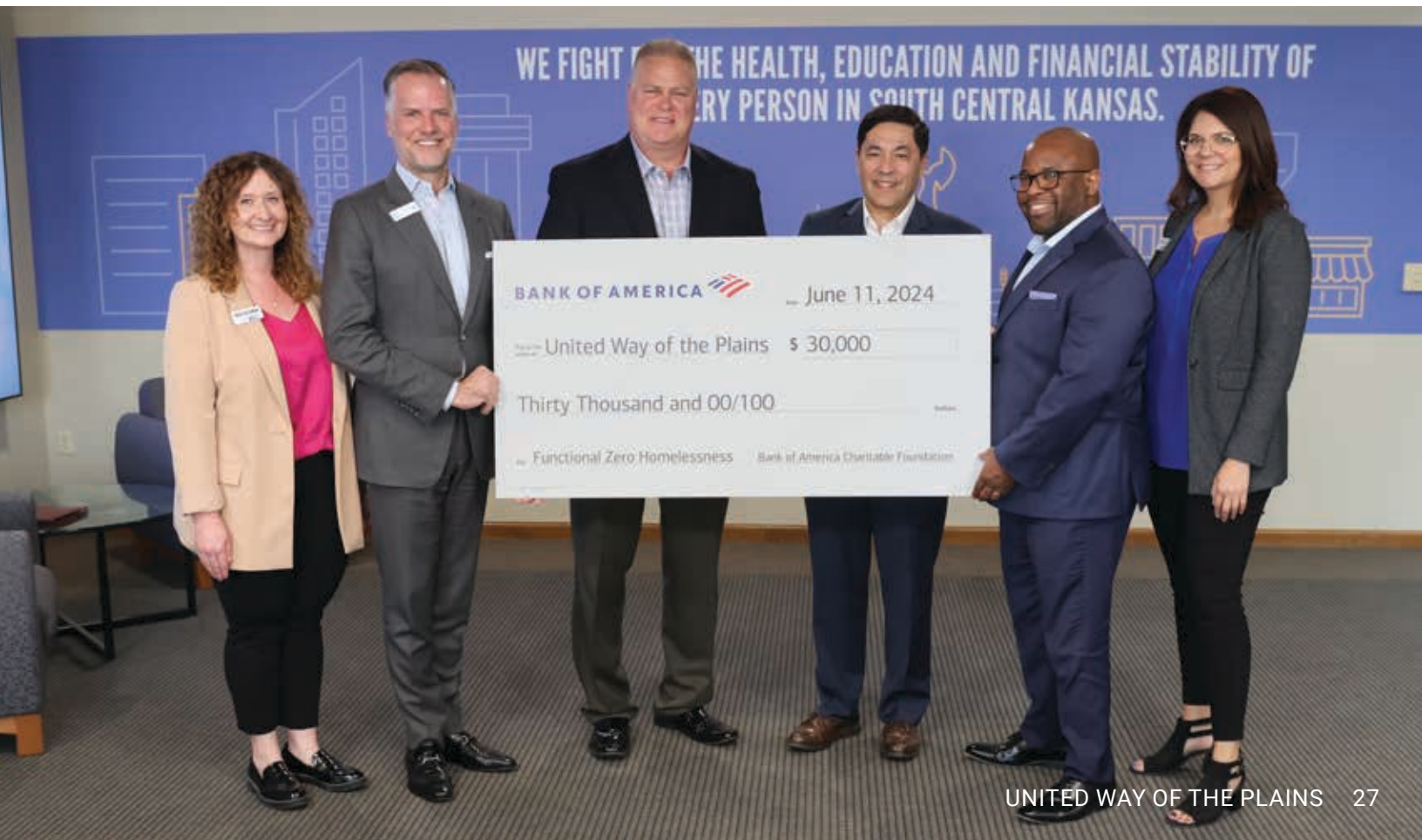
Aero Space Controls Corporation
 Capitol Federal
 Center Industries Corporation
 Citizens State Bank of Cheney
 City of Winfield
 Commerce Bank
 Dillon Stores
 GT Midwest
 INTRUST Bank
 Kansas Gas Service
 Legacy Bank
 Lubrication Engineers
 Orion Education and Training
 QuikTrip Corporation - Wichita Division
 Visit Wichita

Program Supporters

Special thanks to these companies for investing in the community by financially supporting United Way's programs and initiatives.

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 6 Meridian | DeVaughn James Injury Lawyers LLC | IBEW #271 | Sheet Metal Workers Local #29 |
| Allen Gibbs & Houlik LC | Emprise Bank | INTRUST Bank | SPEEA/IFPTE: Local #2001 |
| Bank of America Charitable Foundation | EPIC Insulation | IMA Financial Group | Spirit AeroSystems |
| Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas | Ernst & Young LLP | Kansas AFL-CIO | Stand Together |
| Building & Construction Trades Council | Evergry | Kansas Health Foundation | Sunflower Bank, N.A. |
| Camarena Adelante Foundation | Golden Plains Credit Union | Kansas Star Casino | Teamsters Local No. 795 |
| Cargill Wichita | Great Plains Ventures, Inc. | KT Wiedemann Foundation | Textron Aviation |
| Cordell Wealth Management | Hutton | McCownGordon Construction | United Healthcare |
| Credit Union of American | IAM & AW District Lodge #70 | Meritrust Credit Union | United Teachers of Wichita |
| Dean Norris | IAM & AW Local Lodge #774 | P.B. Hoidale, Inc. | Walmart Foundation - 1221 |
| Delta Dental of Kansas | IAM & AW Local Lodge #839 | Plumbers & Pipefitters of Kansas Local Union #441 | Walmart Foundation - 1507 |
| | | RCB Bank | Wichita - Hutchinson Labor Federation |
| | | SEIU Local #513 | |

Below: Bank of America presented a generous \$30,000 gift to support United Way's Housing Navigation program, which connects individuals experiencing homelessness with safe, stable housing. Pictured left to right: Gwen Kochman, United Way of the Plains Vice President of Philanthropy; Matt Keith, Bank of America Segment Executive - West Division; Rocky Genz, Bank of America Senior Vice President, Wichita Market Executive; Pete Nájera, United Way of the Plains President & CEO, Abel Frederic, United Way of the Plains Vice President of Community Impact; and Katie Eaton, United Way of the Plains Associate Director of Philanthropy.



Small Business United

These companies are building a community movement to help solve our neighbor's most pressing needs as members of Small Business United.

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alloy Architecture | J & J Body & Paint | Pumpkin Pants Ranch |
| B. Luxe Events | L. G. Pike Construction Co., Inc. | Schooley Mitchell – Rod Holter |
| Basis Consulting Engineers | Lamphouse Photo Booth Co. | Stoutheart Wealth |
| Chasing Dreams Real Estate | Mather Professional Services | Strike First Pest Management |
| Cheyenne Lindsey's Hair | Mayers Electric LLC | The Splash Co. |
| Children First | Neighborhood Income Tax | Trevor S Harris DDS P.A. |
| Cordell Wealth Management | Peanut & Co. | Trinity Sales & Rental |
| Flint Hills Dental Group | Pileus Technologies | West Chiropractic Clinic |
| Harmony Homes Concepts | Planet Hair | Wichita Shredding |
| Hexcode Marketing | Progression Partners | Xclusive Events |

Labor Partners

United Way and labor unions have a thriving partnership for more than 80 years. Every year, union members contribute time, skill and money to help our neighbors thrive.

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| American Postal Workers Union: Local #735 | International Brotherhood of Boilermakers | Kansas Association of Public Employees – American Federation of Teachers-Kansas | Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace/IFPTE: Local #2001 |
| Communication Workers of America: Local #6402 | International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers: Local #271, #304, #661, #1523 | Kansas Organization of State Employees | United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters: Local Union #441 |
| Fraternal Order of Police: Lodge #5 | International Brotherhood of Teamsters Union: Local #795 | Laborers International Union of North America: Local #1290 | United Association Local 669 Road Sprinkler Fitters |
| Graphic Communications Conference / International Brotherhood of Teamsters | International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers: Local #15 MO/KS | National Association of Letter Carriers: Branch #201 | United Steel Workers of America: Local #13417 |
| International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees: Local #190 | International Union of Elevator Constructors: Local #12 | Office and Professional Employees International Union: Local #277 | United Teachers of Wichita |
| International Association of Fire Fighters: Local #135 | International Union of Operating Engineers: Local #101, #119 | Service Employees International Union: Local #513 | Wichita/Hutchinson Labor Federation of Central Kansas, AFL-CIO |
| International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers: District Lodge #70, District #70 Retirees, Local Lodges – #639, #774, #839, #1989, #2799 | International Union of Painters and Allied Trades | Sheet Metal Workers: Local Union #29 | |



unitedwayplains.org
[@unitedwayplains](https://www.instagram.com/unitedwayplains)

