WHO ARE WE?

United Way of Reno County’s mission is to mobilize the caring power of our community. We work with partner agencies, direct programs, and community partnerships to provide services focused on the building blocks for a good quality of life: Education, Health, and Financial Stability.

Funds raised during the Annual Campaign provide financial support to 24 partner agencies and 4 direct programs.

PARTNER AGENCIES

211 Help Hotline
American Red Cross
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Reno County
Boys & Girls Club
Boy Scouts Quivira Council
BrightHouse
Cerebral Palsy Research Center
Child Care Links Scholarship Program
Children’s Emergency Shelter
Circles of Hope
Dolly Parton Imagination Library
Early Education Center
FamilyWize prescription savings
Girl Scouts of Heartland of Kansas
Hadley Day Care Center
Horizons Mental Health
Hospice of Reno County
Hutch Rec
Interfaith Housing and Community Services
KCSL Healthy Families Hutchinson
Kansas Legal Services
Meals on Wheels
New Beginnings
Salvation Army
The Volunteer Center
Visions of Hope
YMCA

UNITED WAY DIRECT PROGRAMS

211: 24/7 free/confidential hotline with referrals to community resources
FamilyWize Discount Prescription Drug Program: a prescription savings program that helps people afford the medications they need
Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library: Free age-appropriate books mailed to Reno County Children from birth to five years of age
Delta Dental: dental assistance up to $3,000 basic care available to anyone in Reno County for $10 a year

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

Milestone Clubhouse: offers peer-to-peer support to help Reno County residents with mental illness
Transformational Collaborative Experiment: work with nonprofits to foster collaboration in partnership with Hutchinson Community Foundation
BrightHouse: coaching program
Interfaith Housing and Community Services: Brush Up Hutch Housing program
Visions of Hope: capacity building

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Stepping Up Community Council
Reno County Drug Task Force
Reno County Volunteers Active in Disaster (VOAD)
Health Equity Group
HEAL Reno County
Blue Cross and Blue Shield - Pathways Grant Implementation
Resilience Reno County

Yes, it’s true! Your local United Way is able to provide and participate in ALL these programs and services because of your generosity. Thank you for giving to the 2019-2020 United Way of Reno County annual campaign!
Health

The money you donate to United Way supports our local programs and agencies. Dollars raised in our community stay in your community. That helps build a better place for us all to live, work, and raise our families. I’m proud to Live United!

Brad Pryor
QueenBee Marketing
Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball
Jackson Meat
Hutchinson Community College
Probitas Wealth Management
Renae Hughes
Security First Title
USD 309
Integrated Solutions
Brad Pryor
Pryor Investments / Papa Johns Pizza

We are so glad that we were given the opportunity to give back to the community as campaign chairs. We love the mission and scope of the United Way. It was satisfying and encouraging to see so many people work together who are passionate about making Reno County a better place.

Kory & Amanda Jackson

Over the past decade, the public perception of mental illness has changed. More and more people are openly speaking about their experiences with care, such as celebrities disclosing their diagnosis to raise awareness. Nevertheless, mental health is still viewed negatively in our culture. What’s interesting is COVID-19 is actually helping reduce the stigma of mental health and helping it start to be more valued.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an equalizer of sorts during this time. Nearly everyone is self-isolated at home, trying to work while managing a household, and dealing with uncertainty and grief. To some degree, everyone is experiencing what life with anxiety is like. Though depression is already the number one cause of disability worldwide, this is the first time many employers and managers are thinking and openly talking about mental health in the workplace.

The coronavirus crisis has made clear just how interwoven mental health is with physical health. You can’t talk about a lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) without talking about the mental health repercussions, and unemployment or social isolation without talking about anxiety and depression.

We would like to use this moment to get more comfortable with talking about mental health. Let’s invest in affordable mental health supports, and let us say once and for all that having a mental illness is a disease that requires treatment, just like any other illness and give it the dialog it deserves.

United Way donations support Horizons Mental Health through the Mental Health First Aid, Personal Safety and Protection, Suicide Assist programs, and the Milestone Clubhouse.

Milestone Clubhouse has benefited me by gaining new friends, reconnecting me with old friends, and reduced my isolation. By working in the business unit, I have gained computer skills and my typing skills have improved. Milestone Clubhouse has given me purpose and I feel empowered, wanted, and needed. The COVID-19 crisis has been difficult for everyone but can be especially tough for those with a mental illness. During this trying time, I have been active with outreaching members, connecting with staff, and obtaining needed resources. The Clubhouse has connected with members and staff through Zoom Meetings and Facebook. Milestone Clubhouse is a great asset to the Reno County Mental Health Community and the greater community as well.

Jewel Murer

I am Milestone Clubhouse member here in Reno County. The Milestone Clubhouse is not your typical resource for mental health support, as it is a place for anyone in Reno County, Kansas who has a mental health diagnosis. Milestone Clubhouse is a place to come and meet other folks who have been diagnosed with a mental illness without the stigma of a mental health center. We do not focus on mental health diagnosis, but rather, focus on the strengths of each member.
We believe that early child care professionals are unsung heroes—the “brain builders” of the future. Working with children every day, they know when a child is catching on quickly or needs help to conquer a skill. They have an essential role in nurturing and caring for kids that they have been entrusted with. Child care professionals are the backbone for all other industries in our community as they provide this service so that parents can fulfill their own employment obligations.

Our nation’s early child care programs have been navigating cracks for years. The COVID-19 pandemic has made these cracks into crevices, putting this work at risk. If it is to recover, it will require a reimagined approach to financing and the systems that support high-quality child care.

**United Way invests in early child care and education in Reno County through:**

- Hadley Daycare Center with scholarship assistance to aid families who struggle to pay the full amount to the Center.
- Child Care Links scholarship program which helps families afford quality child care while working or going to school.
- United Way is proud to announce that the K-Ready Coalition is helping to relaunch the Reno County Child Care Coalition (RCCCC). This organization will offer education, information, and support to area child care providers/teachers. We are excited to bring this group back together so that those doing this important work can continue to grow in professionalism and knowledge.

Let’s go forward by building on what we know to help young children thrive and learn, to support families who need stable child care to go to work, and invest in early childhood professionals who must be valued with adequate pay and benefits.

**Child Care Professional**

Ramah Bird

I am not a babysitter. I never wanted to be. When I found that my first, second, and third choice of child care options were full and the waiting list long, I decided to begin researching what it would take to open my own child care home. In 2008, I made the commitment to be the best child care provider I could be for my son and other children. Knowing my skills would impact the outcome, my first decision was to learn how to become a professional, someone who understood childhood development, how to use the environment in a safe and creative way, and how to overcome challenges.

For the past 12 years, I have continued to search out best practices in early childhood development. I fell in love with observing, evaluating, and supporting children through play and exploration to reach their fullest potential. To help me learn, I became a member of RCCCC in 2008. It served as my local professional development organization, helping me grow in my knowledge and abilities. I am a professional child care provider, not a babysitter, because I have been educated, coached, and supported to endure and that is what it takes to provide long term quality child care. RCCCC supports a professional growth mindset that enables a person to endure in child care through education and group discussions, with peer support to navigate best practices in the Early Childhood Education field, and I want to see that continue in my community.

**NICKEY’S SALON AND EYELASH STUDIO**

Nickey Ward

This has just been such a blessing for me! This is going to be able to save my business and not cause me to struggle for months on end to try and catch up on a mortgage payment that I don’t have the money to pay right now. It will also give me the space to be able to get the things I need for health and sanitation for the salon so I can go back to work and start fresh! I am so grateful.
LEAVING YOUR LEGACY

A growing number of United Way contributors’ estate plans include a charitable bequest to the United Way of Reno County to ensure that United Way remains a vibrant resource in our community for future generations. Planned giving can be as simple as including a bequest in your will. Gifts to United Way will establish a permanent, sustainable avenue of support for the United Way through planned giving. Learn how you can leave a legacy that will benefit the community for generations to come by contacting United Way of Reno County.

DISASTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Lisa Gleason

United Way is made to support disasters. We feel an overwhelming responsibility to help our community respond and ultimately recover from any disaster. You can count on us to jump in when our community faces adversity. We are the first place to call, either through 211 for resource information or directly to our office. We chair the work of the Reno County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) that helps with long-term recovery after a disaster throughout Reno County.

The COVID-19 crisis was such an unusual disaster as usually people come out in support of helping others with things like mucking out a basement after a flood or clearing off burned debris at a house. This was so different; we had to stay home to help our neighbors. It did bring out our creativity and an amazing collaboration within our community with the work to create Rally Reno, a buy local give local initiative, with United Way of Reno County, the Hutchinson Community Foundation and the Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce. As of the end of May, we have raised over $150,000 for local businesses through gift card purchases that allowed these entities to have income during a time when most had to slow or halt operations. We have also now worked with over 150 individuals who were affected by the crisis due to hours cut or being laid off from their employment. These individuals were taken by surprise and still needed to support their families. Through the Unmet Needs Fund at United Way and the work of the VOAD, these individuals were given the chance to stay stable during a very unstable time. **See Nicky’s story** We hope that you can see how important collaboration is to making a deeper impact. This model should be a game changer to see what is possible when we work together for the common good of our community.

When we reflect back on COVID-19 and this crisis to our community, I hope we will see it as a turning point that encouraged more connectedness, that created a stronger sense of who we want to be as a community and a desire to be there for both friend and stranger. I hope that we will feel more compelled to shop local and support local organizations in a manner larger than we have ever done before. Lastly, my hope is that it does not take a crisis in the future to create all of this but that we do it out of kindness and thoughtfulness for a place that supports its own and inspires us all to create a community where everyone feels supported each and every day. Let’s rediscover what we have in common and build on it as we are the co-creators of our own lives and our own community.
Thank you to the following donors who make our work possible!

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- $5,000 or more

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- Merl F. Sellers
- Melinda Young and Ethan Kaplan
  - 3 Anonymous

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- 3 Anonymous

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