

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018

We remember the past year for the lives we changed and the community we strengthened, for the leaders we helped to grow and the opportunities we created. This annual report shines a light on many of the people we helped, as well as those who made it possible.



United Way  
of DeKalb County



# A YEAR OF SUCCESS AND SIGNIFICANCE

Thank you!

Whether you donate your time or your treasure, you make an impact. You understand that when we Live United, DeKalb County is a more vibrant place for all.

You are the backbone of United Way of DeKalb County. With your support and generosity, we were able to fund programs at 17 partner agencies and award grants to over 20 various community partners last year. We were also able to fund numerous United Way Programs including 2-1-1 and K-Camp. With your donations of time, we helped residents and other not-for-profit organizations with various projects and initiatives around DeKalb County.

As we reflect on the success of the past year, we are energized about the year to come. We look forward to funding programs with our partner agencies and are excited to contribute more than ever through our community impact grants. We are also prepared to provide quality early learning opportunities for all children across DeKalb County.

Most of all, we are thankful for YOU, our donors, advocates and volunteers. Your generosity continues to mold DeKalb County into a more vibrant place for all to live and play.

THANK YOU to United Way of DeKalb County supporters and donors, volunteers, board members and staff for helping us all to Live United, because we all understand that United we win.



Zach Washler,

Executive Director

## YOUR LOCAL TEAM & BOARD MEMBERS



Brooke Wyant, Resource Coordinator

Zach Washler, Executive Director

Kirby Cool, Community Impact



Ian Mercer,  
President



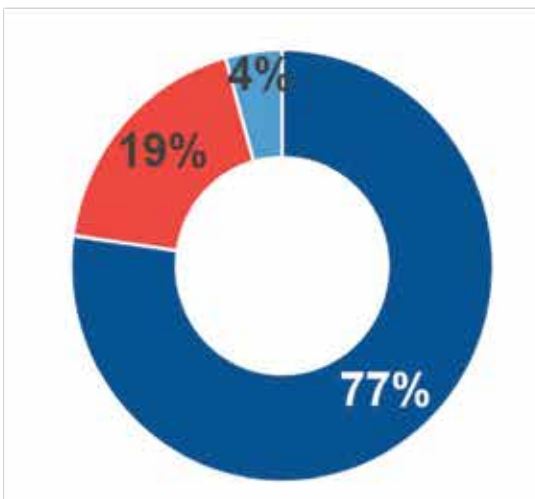
Bret Claghorn,  
Vice President

Dave Bunn - Secretary • Chris Clear - Treasurer  
Lori Casiano • Nick Scheumann • Chris Stark • Julie Hook • Sue Carpenter • Kristen Payne  
Kyle VanOver • Al Wleklinski • Tonya Weaver  
Jennifer Kasmier • Zach Lightner  
Melissa Eshbach • Kristina Brockhouse  
Tyler Cleverly • Rebeca Ackermann

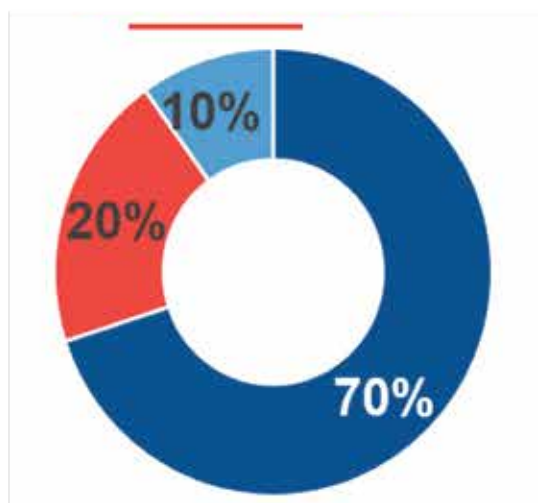
# BY THE NUMBERS

## REVENUE

Contributions & Grants	\$671,667.72
Program Services & Other	\$160,346.73
Investment Income	\$37,622.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$869,636.96</b>



## EXPENSES



Program Services	\$546,520.29
Management & General	\$156,739
Fundraising	\$77,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$780,859</b>

## OUR FOCUS

At United Way, we believe that health, education and financial stability are the building blocks of stronger communities. When a child is healthy, he goes to school. When a student receives a good education, she gets a job that provides for her and her family. Our community-based approach would not be impossible without the assistance of our corporate, community, labor and government partners. Deeply rooted problems require the time and talent of a range of individuals and organizations, and we are incredibly grateful for their support.

We know tough issues require tough work, and that change doesn't happen alone. It takes everyone fighting and pulling as one. To all of our partners, donors, advocates and volunteers, thank you for being in the trenches with us this year. With your help, we will continue fighting to create lasting change that impacts countless lives, makes our world a better place and leaves an enduring mark on our community.

United we fight. United we win.

Contact us today, 260-927-0995 or [kirby@unitedwaydekalb.org](mailto:kirby@unitedwaydekalb.org), to learn how you can become more involved in the United Way of DeKalb County.

# OUR IMPACT AND INFLUENCE

## LET'S TALK

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Research shows a child's early years matter the most when it comes to "hard-wiring" his or her brain for success in school, work and life. Last year, roughly 400 new members of the community were born at DeKalb Health. The United Way launched a Let's Talk Gift and Milestone mailer to nearly 98% of those families in DeKalb County and followed it up with nearly 200 newsletters at three and nine month milestones.

After school and throughout the summer, children were invited to participate in twenty-four sessions of Let's Talk Book Buddies, which took place over an eight week period at the Children First Center, JE Ober and the Garrett Public Library. This program was able to reach 29 children of various ages ranging from one—thirteen. United Way funded this program and partnered with Early Childhood Alliance (ECA) to ensure each participant received a book and manipulative from each session they attended.

United Way also equipped in home case managers at the Children First Center, Bowen Center, GKB Early Head Start, and Early Childhood Alliance Parents as Teachers with 140 story bags that included age appropriate books and manipulatives for families with kids ranging from infants— five years old.



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**Did you know?** Our local United Way handed out 1,092 books during the DeKalb County Fair and nearly 300 books at DeKalb Health's Healthy Halloween last year.

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**We ensure that children get a strong start in life by helping them achieve crucial developmental milestones and start school ready to succeed.**

## **KINDERGARTEN COUNTDOWN CAMP**



United Way of DeKalb County is working to give kids a strong start with Kindergarten Countdown Camp, a readiness program. The four-week program is offered at two different sites in DeKalb County, DeKalb Central and Garrett, and has helped more than 80 students. How successful is it? Last year, Kindergarten Countdown Camp achieved a 17% gain in pre-literacy skills.

Students received a complimentary book each day of class totaling twenty new books per child as well as a backpack loaded with school supplies for the upcoming year. We are grateful for the generosity of Mike and Jeff Lauer of Anytime Fitness in Auburn for their handmade bookshelf donation to every child who participated in K-Camp.



**We are more than just fundraisers. We are a global vehicle for volunteers, donors and advocates who seek to change lives and strengthen communities through service, collaboration and impact.**

## **POWER OF THE PURSE**

April 20, 2018 marked the 12th annual Power of the Purse fundraising event at the ACD Museum in Auburn . Approximately 550 attendees gathered for a chance to win one of the 132 donated purses. This event raised more than \$50,000 and will assist in funding Community Impact Grants and Early Learning initiatives for all of DeKalb County. These programs are instrumental in funding Story Bags, Born to Read mailers, Maternity Ward visits, Kindergarten Countdown Camp and Early Learning Staff Training to name a few.



## **DAY OF CARING**



United Way's Day of Caring brought together more than 450 energetic volunteers from 35 companies to take on 43 service projects throughout DeKalb County. Volunteers spent their time painting, landscaping, building ramps, and much more, adding over \$22,000 in value to the community. Day of Caring is the single largest one-day, community-wide volunteer event in Northeastern Indiana.

**1 DAY OF CARING 43 PROJECTS 455 VOLUNTEERS**  
**\$22,841 IN VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY**

# FUNDED PARTNERS AND AWARDED GRANTS

**\$374,750** Was awarded to the following organizations

Alliance Industries	Girl Scouts
Boy Scouts	GKB Head Start
Big Brothers Big Sisters	JAM Center
Butler Youth	Northeast Indiana CASA
Cancer Services	RISE, Inc.
Catholic Charities	St. Martin's Healthcare
Children First Center	Serenity House
DeKalb Council on Aging	YMCA of DeKalb County
	YWCA

**\$13,000** in Community Impact Grants were awarded to eight programs in DeKalb County

McMillen Health, BRUSH!.....	\$1500
Hoosiers Feeding the Hunger, "Meat" the Need .....	\$3000
DeKalb Central Schools/Country Meadow, Robotics.....	\$2000
Garrett High School, GeoRocks!.....	\$600
James R. Watson Elementary, Sensory Support.....	\$1580
Butler Public Library, Senior Stretch and Move.....	\$1000
Children First Center, Local Prevention.....	\$2000
Children First Center, Play.Learn.Soar.....	\$1000

**UNITED WE FIGHT. UNITED WE WIN.**

**LIVE UNITED**

**We are a vehicle for volunteers, donors and advocates who seek to change lives and communities through service, collaboration and impact.**

**We are the hand raisers, the game changers. We are the problem solvers. We know that change begins when we LIVE UNITED, and that building a better tomorrow starts today.**



**United  
Way**



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208 South Jackson  
Auburn, Indiana 46706

United Way  
Of DeKalb County

Place  
stamp  
here

