

United Way of Sandusky County

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2022-2023

United
Way



United Way
of Sandusky County



OUR MISSION

We unite people and resources to build a stronger community.

OUR VISION

We will be champions of our community, empowering individuals and improving lives, while striving for ideals that facilitate lasting, positive change.

MESSAGES FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

UNITED WAY OF SANDUSKY COUNTY BOARD CHAIR

Dear Supporters and Community Members,

I am delighted to share with you the remarkable achievements of the United Way of Sandusky County over the past year. Your support has allowed us to make a significant impact on our local community, and I am proud to present our annual report.

Annual Campaign: Through the collective efforts of businesses, employees, and the residents of Sandusky County, the annual giving campaign garnered an impressive \$663,228. This financial support is a testament to our community's commitment to uplifting one another.

Investing in Local Programs and Services: We strategically allocated a total of \$429,771 to 27 vital local programs and services. These funds have played a pivotal role in addressing critical needs, supporting vulnerable populations, and fostering positive change throughout our county. From education to health, housing to hunger relief, each program represents a lifeline for those in need.

Strategic Planning and Community Engagement: Our Board of Directors embarked on an essential journey by updating United Way's Strategic Plan. We initiated this process through two Community Stakeholder Engagement meetings, ensuring that community voices actively shape our future direction. Your input and insights have been invaluable as we chart our course forward.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commitment: As part of our unwavering commitment to "LIVE UNITED," our Board of Directors completed ongoing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training. We recognize that a diverse and inclusive approach strengthens our ability to serve all members of Sandusky County. By fostering an environment of understanding and respect, we can create lasting change.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, we recognize that none of this would be possible without your support. Whether you volunteered your time, made a financial contribution, or advocated for our cause, you are an integral part of our United Way family.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to improve lives and create lasting change. Together, we can build a stronger, more resilient Sandusky County.

Sincerely,



Anthony Walker
2023 BOARD CHAIRPERSON

BOARD MEMBERS FY 2022-2023

Anthony Walker
Board Chair

Fremont City Schools

MaLinda Gibbs
Vice Chair

AMSOIL Inc.

Lee Vivod
Secretary

Huntington National Bank

Kristin Zilles
Immediate Past Chair

Caputo & Associates

Amy Witter
Treasurer

Fifth Third Bank

Kerry Adkins

Great Lakes Community
Action Partnership

James Andrews

Whirlpool Corporation

Kelly Beeker

Sandusky County Job
and Family Services

Bethany Brown

Sandusky County
Public Health

Nancy Lipstraw

Green Bay Packaging

Daniel Michaels

Whirlpool Corporation

Jill Simpson

United Way
of Sandusky County

Tiffany Tipple

Firelands Counseling
and Recovery Services

UNITED WAY OF SANDUSKY COUNTY CEO & PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude for the unwavering commitment of our community. United Way of Sandusky County has been at the forefront, tirelessly working to address the critical needs of our neighbors. Together, we have made a lasting impact, touching thousands of lives.

Through United Way of Sandusky County's grant process, we allocated funding to 18 local agencies to provide programs spanning education, health, safety, housing, and hunger relief. Each program represents a lifeline for individuals and families facing challenges.

In addition to the grant funded programs, our dedicated staff continue to serve our residents through a range of impactful internal programs. Let me share some highlights:

First Call for Help: Our First Call for Help program serves as an essential information and referral service. It directs individuals to vital resources during their times of need, ensuring that basic necessities are met. Whether it's food, shelter, or other critical support, we are here to connect our neighbors with the assistance they require.

Cancer Care Fund: The Cancer Care Fund program provides crucial financial assistance to our family and neighbors who are undergoing cancer treatment. By alleviating some of the stressors associated with medical expenses, we contribute to their financial stability during challenging times.

Annual School Supply Project: Our commitment to education shines through our Annual School Supply Project. We equipped 1,600 students with the necessary tools to succeed in their academic journey. Ensuring that every child starts the school year prepared reflects our shared vision of a thriving Sandusky County.

Two new initiatives we introduced this year include:

Training for Non-Profit Organizations: We began a series of enlightening training by hosting a session titled "Minding the Business While Saving the World: Legal Obligations of Charitable Board Members" for other non-profit organizations. Empowering board members with legal knowledge strengthens our sector's effectiveness and ensures sound governance.

Community Resource Collaborative (CRC): Collaborating with the Sandusky County Family & Children First Council, Sandusky County Public Health Department, and the Sandusky County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board, we launched the first CRC meeting. This initiative facilitates agency information sharing and resource coordination, enhancing our collective impact across the community.

As we move forward, we remain committed to our mission of uniting people and resources to build a stronger community. Your continued support fuels our determination, and together, we can create lasting change.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Jill Simpson, CEO & PRESIDENT

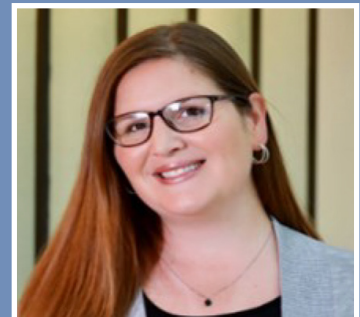
MEET OUR STAFF



Jill Simpson
CEO/President



Angelica Sanson
Administrative Assistant



Rachel McCoy
Programs/Events Coordinator

LIVE UNITED[®]

WHEN YOU GIVE TO UNITED WAY, YOUR DOLLARS GO TOWARDS TRANSFORMING LIVES AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

These funds support critical programs in areas such as education, health & safety, housing, and financial stability. By contributing, you become part of a collective effort to create lasting positive change for individuals and families in need.



CREATING LASTING CHANGE

We fund programs that demonstrate their impact on improving lives in Sandusky County. When you give to United Way of Sandusky County, you are part of something bigger than just one life touched. You are helping us do the work it takes to create real change that will endure for generations to come.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

United Way of Sandusky County funds programs that touch thousands of lives in Sandusky County every year. When you give to United Way of Sandusky County you know that you are giving a child a new chance at reading or a young family a chance at financial stability, right here in Sandusky County.



LEADING

United Way of Sandusky County is about leading our community and stepping up to tackle the real challenges that people face in Sandusky County, not just for today but, for generations to come.



KEEPING IT LOCAL

United Way of Sandusky County serves Sandusky County. Our goals and approach to the programs we fund have a singular focus of creating lasting change for Sandusky County. You are helping a neighbor or co-worker.



SANDUSKY COUNTY 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Sandusky County 4H empowers youth with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime! 4-H inspires curiosity, builds lifelong skills, fuels adventures, and grows leaders through fun, hands-on activities, that include clubs, projects, service, and camps. There have been many young leaders who have been impacted by their experience with 4-H.

SUCCESS STORY

Robert was a member of the Sandusky County 4-H Program for 11 years where he was active in both club and county-wide programming. He took on a variety of projects, but his favorites included woodworking, welding and small engines. He decided early in life that he was interested in a career where he could “work with his hands” and explored as many career areas as possible through 4-H projects, school programming and other youth organizations. As a now young adult, Robert is happily employed as a mechanic and is looking forward to being awarded his journeyman’s card soon. He says that the 4-H experiences he had helped him not only explore career areas but also learn more about working with others, taking responsibility for yourself and working until the job is done.





ACE MENTORING PROGRAM

ACE (Assisting Children to Excel) Mentoring is a school based, career mentoring program at Fremont Middle School and Fremont Ross High School. The program is designed to help students academically and offers them another caring adult as a support system.



SUCCESS STORY

Alex is an only child and being raised by his paternal grandparents. The only relationship Alex was comfortable with was the one at home which consisted of grandparents, both over the age of 60. When he was referred to ACE Mentoring, he had no desire to be matched and was resistant. However, his grandparents continued to stress to him the importance of developing relationships outside of their home.

Due to COVID, at home learning was the right choice for Alex for the majority of 2022. When school resumed, Alex decided to reach out and submit his application for an ACE mentor. He was matched with his mentor, Ricky, by the end of that week..

Ricky has been an ACE Mentor for approximately four years and has many of the same interests as Alex. The situation of his mentee and the reason for referral was explained to Ricky and he was enthusiastic and up for the challenge.

Alex's referral to ACE Mentoring was not based on concerns of attendance, behavior or grades, but to build a rapport with other adults. Ricky helped Alex to open up, be excited and look forward to their mentoring session. This helped Alex increase his social and communication skills, and to trust someone other than his grandparents. Ricky listens and allows Alex to have a voice. Both feel respected by one another and look forward to continuing to learn as they build their relationship.

**Names have been changed.*

67,358
SENIOR MEALS
DELIVERED



Great Lakes
COMMUNITY ACTION
PARTNERSHIP



Great Lakes Community Action Partnership provides healthy home-delivered meals daily Monday through Thursday, which meet and exceed government guidelines for senior nutrition, to homebound seniors in Sandusky County. The program's home-delivered, nutritious meals serve as a vital nutritional life-line. A licensed Social Worker conducts an in-home Nutrition Risk Analysis based on a senior's current eating habits, which aids GLCAP in determining eligibility for the program. A healthy diet for seniors can prolong life expectancy, raise quality of life, and allows seniors to age in their own homes.

SUCCESS STORY

Norma is a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and chief cook and caregiver for her husband. She began to have difficulty cooking a whole balanced meal and could not keep up with the nutritional needs of her husband. Encouraged by her adult children she accepted Meals on Wheels for her husband, but she would not accept meals for herself. Like so many other seniors she did not want to lose her independence, and let go of the cook role that helped define her. This went on for about a year.

Finally, Norma was encouraged by the Meals on Wheels daily delivery driver to receive a meal herself. She trusted him. Norma now says that Meals on Wheels has been a true blessing. She is happy that they are both receiving healthy meals five days a week and that she is still able to maintain her independence at home. They both gave kudos to the GLCAP Nutrition Coordinator for making the meals so well rounded and healthy. They are very appreciative of the whole team and all that GLCAP does for the Seniors of Sandusky County.

**Names have been changed*



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is a national, volunteer-based organization that trains people to become volunteer advocates for children. CASA of Seneca, Sandusky, and Wyandot Counties has been serving locally abused and neglected children since 1990!

CASA OF SANDUSKY, SENECA & WYANDOT COUNTIES



CASA of SSW



SUCCESS STORY

CASA was appointed to a 1½ year old little girl, who was living in a home with her mother who was using drugs while caring for her. When Children Services intervened, she was removed from the home and placed with her aunt. While in her aunt's care, this little girl was abused and left with unsafe caregivers. She was once again removed and this time placed in a foster home until a better suited family member could be located.

She was very shy and scared. It took a long time before she would warm up to new people, especially men. However, once this little girl was placed with a new family, she showed significant improvement. Who was once a shy, guarded little girl turned into a very playful, smiley child. Her speech improved and she was starting to put words together to form short sentences towards the end of CASA's work. She was always so excited to see her CASA advocate, who was a very tall man with tremendous patience. He worked hard to build a rapport with the 2-year-old.

Her mom was in and out of jail throughout this case, and when she wasn't in jail, she was checking herself in and out of rehabilitation facilities. Her mom tried to regain custody. However, she knew that wasn't likely so she tried to get the girl placed with her significant other and other family members that were not appropriate placement options. The mother thought these people could just "give her back" after the case was closed.

The CASA advocate fought really hard to make sure that this little girl didn't get placed back with her mom to only get moved again. She was thriving in her current placement and any changes to that would have only set her back. The court took the advocate's recommendation into consideration and placed this child in the legal custody of the family members that she had been living with. There she will continue to thrive and be in a stable and safe situation for the duration of her childhood.

COMMUNITY IMPACT


69,951
MEALS SERVED


3,535
YOUTH PROVIDED SAFE & POSITIVE
DEVELOPMENTAL EXPERIENCES


2,004
INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED SAFE
& AFFORDABLE HOUSING

EDUCATION

Camp Fire Sandusky County
Programs (Club, Self-Reliance, and
Preschool) and Summer Camp

**Council for Developmental Disabilities
of Sandusky County**
Summer Recreation Programs

Fremont City Schools
ACE Mentoring Program

Gibsonburg Exempt Village Schools
Reading Mentoring Program

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio
Troop-Based Girl Scout
Leadership Experience

**Ottawa County Family
Advocacy Center, Inc.**
TNT Mentoring Program

Sandusky County 4-H
Community Clubs and Junior Camp

Terra College Foundation
Reach Program

United Way of Sandusky County
School Supply Project

YMCA of Sandusky County
Child Development Program



SAFETY & BASIC NEEDS

**American Red Cross of Northwest Ohio
Chapter - Sandusky County**
Disaster Services and Services to
the Armed Forces Program

**CASA of Seneca, Sandusky,
and Wyandot Counties**
CASA of Sandusky County

Liberty Center of Sandusky County
Shelter Program and Domestic
Violence Advocate Program

New Housing Ohio
Emergency Housing

**Sandusky County Family & Children
First Council**
Wraparound Program

Sandusky County Share & Care Center
Family Financial Assistance Program

United Way of Sandusky County
First Call for Help

Village House of Northwest Ohio, Inc.
Supervised Parent/Child Visitation



HEALTH

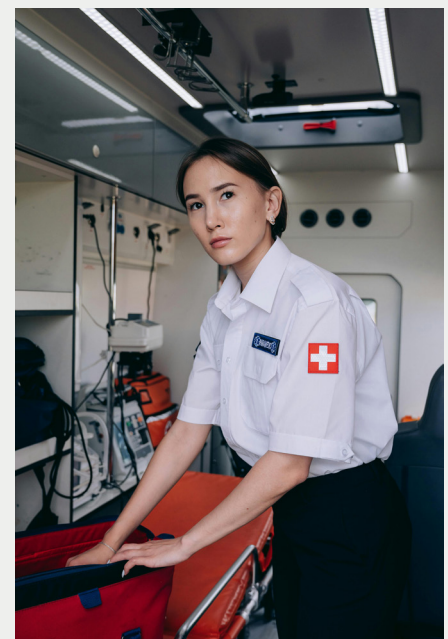
**Great Lakes Community
Action Partnership**
Senior Meals-on-Wheels

ProMedica Memorial Hospital
Hospice of ProMedica
Memorial Hospital

Sandusky County Public Health
Welcome Home Visit/
Crib for Kids Program

United Way of Sandusky County
Cancer Care Fund

YMCA of Sandusky County
Membership Financial Aid
(Scholarship)

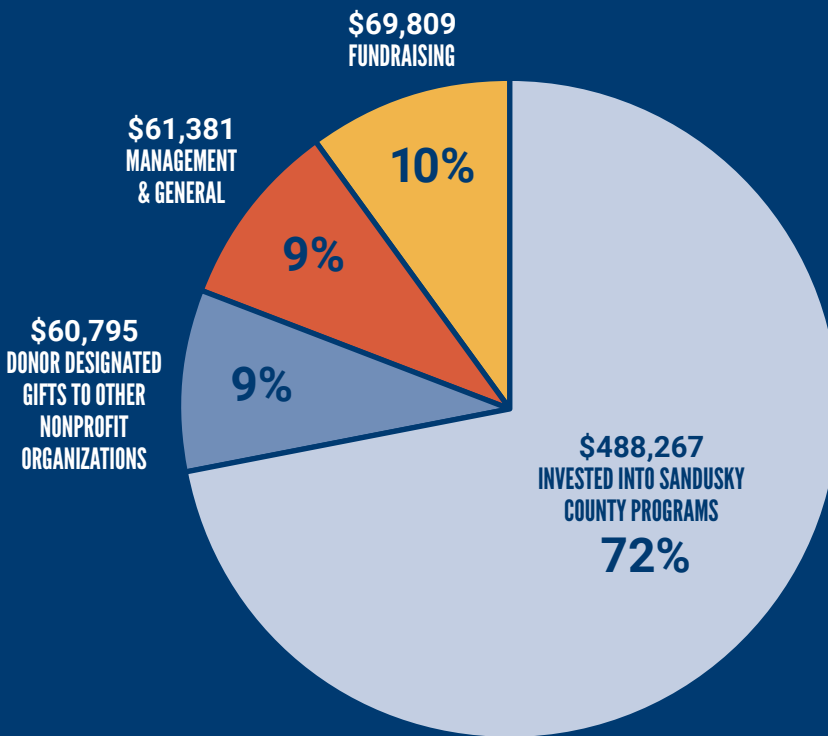
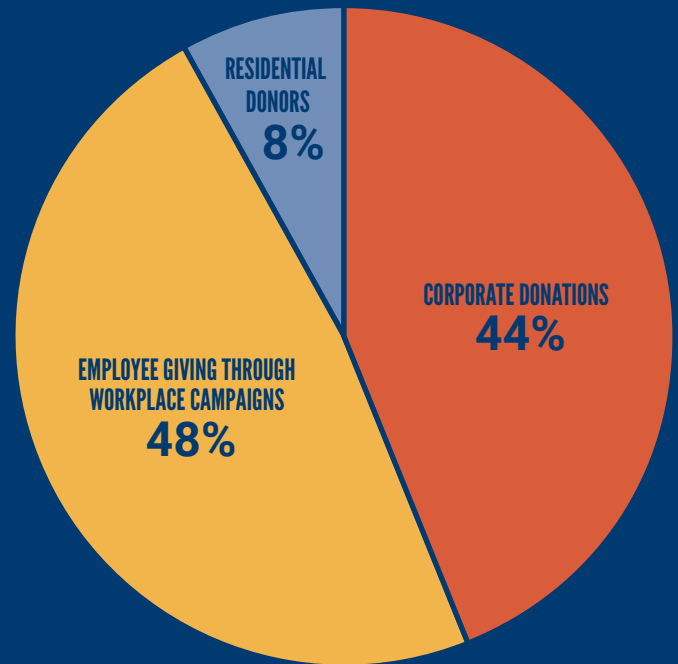


United Way of Sandusky County

2022-2023 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

FISCAL YEAR 2023 RUNS JULY 1, 2022–JUNE 30, 2023

\$638,228 2022 CAMPAIGN REVENUE



\$549,062 INVESTED BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY

Total Community Investments & Expenditures \$680,252

In fiscal year 2022-2023, 81 cents of every donor dollar was invested back into the community, which far surpasses the Better Business Bureau standard of 65 cents.



FIRST CALL FOR HELP

1,095 CALLS FOR HELP

1,103 ONLINE WEBSITE SEARCHES FOR HELP

The greatest needs were for utility, housing, and food assistance



CANCER CARE FUND PROGRAM

84

CANCER PATIENTS SERVED

\$47,355

PROVIDED IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



SCHOOL SUPPLY PROJECT

1,600

SETS OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Distributed to Sandusky County school districts

LIVE UNITED®

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS



United Way
of Sandusky County

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS FOR OVER 93 YEARS OF **SERVING SANDUSKY COUNTY.**

When you give to United Way of Sandusky County you support your neighbors living with cancer, raise awareness of the risks of drug abuse and obesity, help families in severe financial crisis, provide nutritious meals to seniors, and support the success of Sandusky County youth.



4-H SANDUSKY COUNTY



ACE MENTORING



GREAT LAKES COMMUNITY
ACTION PARTNERSHIP



CASA OF SANDUSKY COUNTY



DAY OF CARING



PILLAR APPRECIATION EVENT



United Way of Sandusky County funds programs that create lasting change right here in Sandusky County. **We are changing lives today for a BETTER TOMORROW.**



**United
Way**



**United Way
of Sandusky County**

United Way of Sandusky County
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