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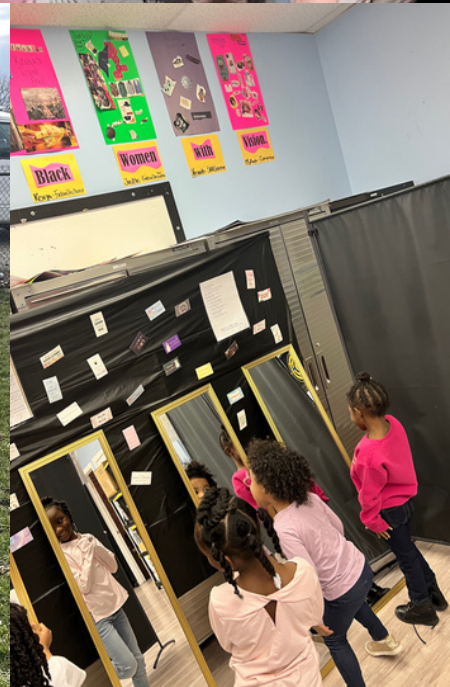
# Community Impact Fund Year End Grant Report

# 2023





**42,186  
NEIGHBORS  
SUPPORTED  
IN FY23**





# UNITED WE TACKLE TOUGH CHALLENGES.

To address our community's most persistent and systemic problems, we must have an organized, proven strategy: we call it **Community Impact**.

Through Community Impact, we are re-imagining a more equitable and resilient community - one where more of our students are graduating prepared for success at college or on the job, more local families are financially stable, and more neighbors are living healthy lives. Our commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is woven throughout this entire process - because every person deserves to thrive.



## **Community Change Grants**

These grants are highly targeted and provide multi-year funding to programs and collaborations that are working alongside United Way to solve our community's most challenging problems in health, education, and financial stability.



## **Community Building**

United Way brings nonprofits, businesses, government, and people together to innovate and find new solutions to community problems. This work often leads us to open new grant opportunities or establish pilot projects. It's hard and rewarding work.



## **Community Essentials Grants**

With 45% of our households struggling to make ends meet, our community must have a strong safety net. These grants support our most vulnerable neighbors experiencing the hardest of times through an efficient and effective safety net of services with minimal to no barriers.

# HOW WE DEVELOP OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT STRATEGY

United Way consistently asks two fundamental questions:

Who in our community is in crisis, vulnerable, and disproportionately affected by current circumstances? And how can we fund and create partnerships that will best alleviate that? Here's how we find answers to these questions:



## Community Report

The 2023 Community Report documents, in one location, an overview of data representing the human condition in our community. Titled "A Crossroads for Change", the 2023 Report finds our community at a key post-pandemic crossroads. Published twice a decade, the latest report contains 35 graphs, charts, and data visualizations. It also contains an entirely new section on Violence Reduction.

Read the full report at [UnitedWayChampaign.org/Report](https://UnitedWayChampaign.org/Report)



## Community Relationships

We do not work in a vacuum. United Way is a member of dozens of community partnerships, roundables, workgroups and coalitions. Our many relationships help us explore innovative solutions and encourage fresh partnerships.



## Community Impact Committee & Solutions Teams

A diverse group of volunteers oversees United Way's grant processes and help United Way monitor community conditions. Our Community Solutions Teams are subject-matter experts who provide deep knowledge of best practices. Both groups ensure United Way is considering all angles when setting goals and awarding grants.







## Surveys and 211 Data

The lived experiences of our community members matter deeply. We conduct periodic surveys to better understand our community's top concerns. Additionally, we utilize data from our 211 Help Line to better understand how our community's challenges are presenting in the day to day lives of our neighbors.

# BIG, BOLD GOALS

United Way works alongside local organizations and subject matter experts to set bold goals for our grant work. When you give to United Way, you can trust that we are putting resources into high quality programs led by local people who care deeply about changing our community for good.

Grant Area	Big, Bold Goals	Reporting Date
 <b>Community Essentials</b>	Prevent crisis, provide stability, and support those navigating a complex social service system.	September 2023
 <b>Child Well-Being</b>	Decrease child maltreatment Increase parent and caregiver access to supports increase capacity to serve children and adults who have experienced trauma	April 2023
 <b>Early Grade Level Success</b>	Increase kindergarten readiness by 10% Increase third grade math and english achievement among low-income and black male students by 10% Decrease chronic absenteeism by 10%	September 2023
 <b>Farmers Feeding Families</b>	Increase access to nutritious food, especially for senior citizens, rural residents, and children.	Fall 2024

# Community Essentials

\$663,000 in grants

## Impact at a Glance

114,745

home delivered meals to  
senior citizens and  
homebound individuals

298,707

pounds of nutritionally-  
dense food provided

1,388

people had assistance  
navigating complex human  
service systems and secured  
their benefits

9,804

nights of shelter provided  
to people experiencing  
homelessness

3,726

rides provided to medical  
appointments, job interviews,  
grocery stores, and other  
essential places

FOR THE GRANT PERIOD JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023



# CAROL

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## Safe, stable housing.

Carol spent 4 years living on the streets, homeless in Danville and then Rantoul. A United Way Community Essentials grant partner helped Carol with food, and assisted her through the process of applying with another agency to get housing.

*Carol is a client of Community Service Center of Northern Champaign County.*



I have been in my home since January 26th and I LOVE it! I am safe, secure, off the streets, and have privacy. I am still able to get food for myself [at the United Way program] and I get cat food for my cat, Tigger, whenever they have it in stock.  
-Carol

# MYLASIA

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## Building for her future

Mylasia entered the YouthBuild program at 17 as a single mother of one and determined to earn her high school diploma despite the many challenges in her life. As the child of an incarcerated parent, she looked forward to being the first in her family to graduate and move on to support her child through a career. She self-advocated, learned team leadership abilities, and flourished to become a class tutor, helping other members with classwork and assignments. Mylasia graduated in December of 2022 with her diploma, NCCER certification, and flaggers.

*Mylasia is a client of YouthBuild, a Housing Authority of Champaign County program.*



# Child Well-Being

\$450,000 in grants

## Impact at a Glance

166

parents of children 0-5  
increased their knowledge  
of healthy child  
development

101

children and adults  
received mental health  
services for the first time

12

new mental health staff hired  
at our grant partner programs

1,199

respite services provided  
for parents and caregivers

990

parents and caregivers served in  
our targeted ZIP Codes (61802,  
61821)

FOR THE GRANT PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2022 - DECEMBER 31, 2022





# JANE

## Growing strength and resiliency

When Jane (name changed for privacy) first started counseling, she was struggling with balancing being a single mom while also on a healing journey. She did not want to continue to repeat the same patterns she had found herself stuck in. Through learning more about boundaries and her therapist challenging some of her negative thoughts, she found strength she did not know she had. She has been able to create a better life for herself and her children.

*Jane is a client of Counseling Program at The Center for Youth and Family Solutions.*



The Child Well-Being grant allowed us to provide much needed support to families in our community. We were able to create new programs for youth and families and provide therapeutic and Wraparound support for families who would not have otherwise received this support. Our team provided home visits and visits in several schools to youths in crisis and their families. We created and facilitated community programs for the families we serve and had great success! We are looking forward to continuing the programs and services we have started in this community.

**-The Well Experience, Grant Partner**

# Early Grade Level Success

\$700,000 in grants

## Impact at a Glance

88%

of first graders  
demonstrated academic  
progress in reading

80%

of kindergartners  
demonstrated academic  
progress in math

85%

of Black third graders  
demonstrated academic  
progress in both  
reading and math

100%

of adults are engaged in  
learning or educational  
activities with their children  
birth to five

96%

of children birth to three who  
had an identified developmental  
delay demonstrated  
developmental progress

FOR THE GRANT PERIOD JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023



# CHARLIE

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## Developmental screenings turn meltdowns into curiosity and growth

Developmental screenings for infants and preschoolers are a very important piece of many of United Way's Early Grade Level Success grant programs. Screening helps parents and early learning professionals check that children's development is on track, identify strengths and needs, and plan learning activities.

When two-year-old Charlie first entered one of our grant programs, he had only one word: "No."

He did not engage with other children. He preferred to be by himself, repetitively playing with cars and dinosaurs, lining them up, and throwing everything from the shelves. He also spent his time running around various rooms. Charlie walked on his toes, did not imitate any words or actions, and did not engage in any reciprocal games. He would have a meltdown when transitioning to other rooms or events. He didn't like to be changed from clothing or even his diaper.

The great news? The program Charlie attends receives a United Way grant that allows them to provide free developmental screenings, and the staff is highly trained in early learning activities that help children grow.

As Charlie came to the program more often, the staff developed a relationship with him, and he began to show signs of growth. The program implemented the goals identified during his developmental screening, and Charlie began to build his vocabulary and interests in other things. He even placed the magnetic letters in the kitchen in alphabetical order during meal times!

Charlie is still his spunky self, developing quite well within the program, and is growing each time he attends. He gets excited whenever he comes to the program and now loves interacting with others – a key part of school readiness.

*Charlie is a client of Paving Pathways to Bright Futures program at Crisis Nursery.*



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# Managed Programs

United Way supplements our grant work with a select number of special managed programs. These programs fill a unique community need and are often funded by grants.



United Way's **Ride United: Last Mile Delivery** initiative, in partnership with DoorDash, delivers essential items such as food and other essential items to the doorsteps of area families in need.

We partner with local food pantries and nonprofits to deliver necessities at no cost to neighbors who are not able to access items on their own - including new mothers, people with disabilities, and homebound seniors.

**2,365 deliveries to over 150 households.**

United Way's **Bottom Line Diaper Bank** provides diapers free of charge to local programs serving parents and caregivers facing financial difficulties, offering a helping hand during challenging moments.

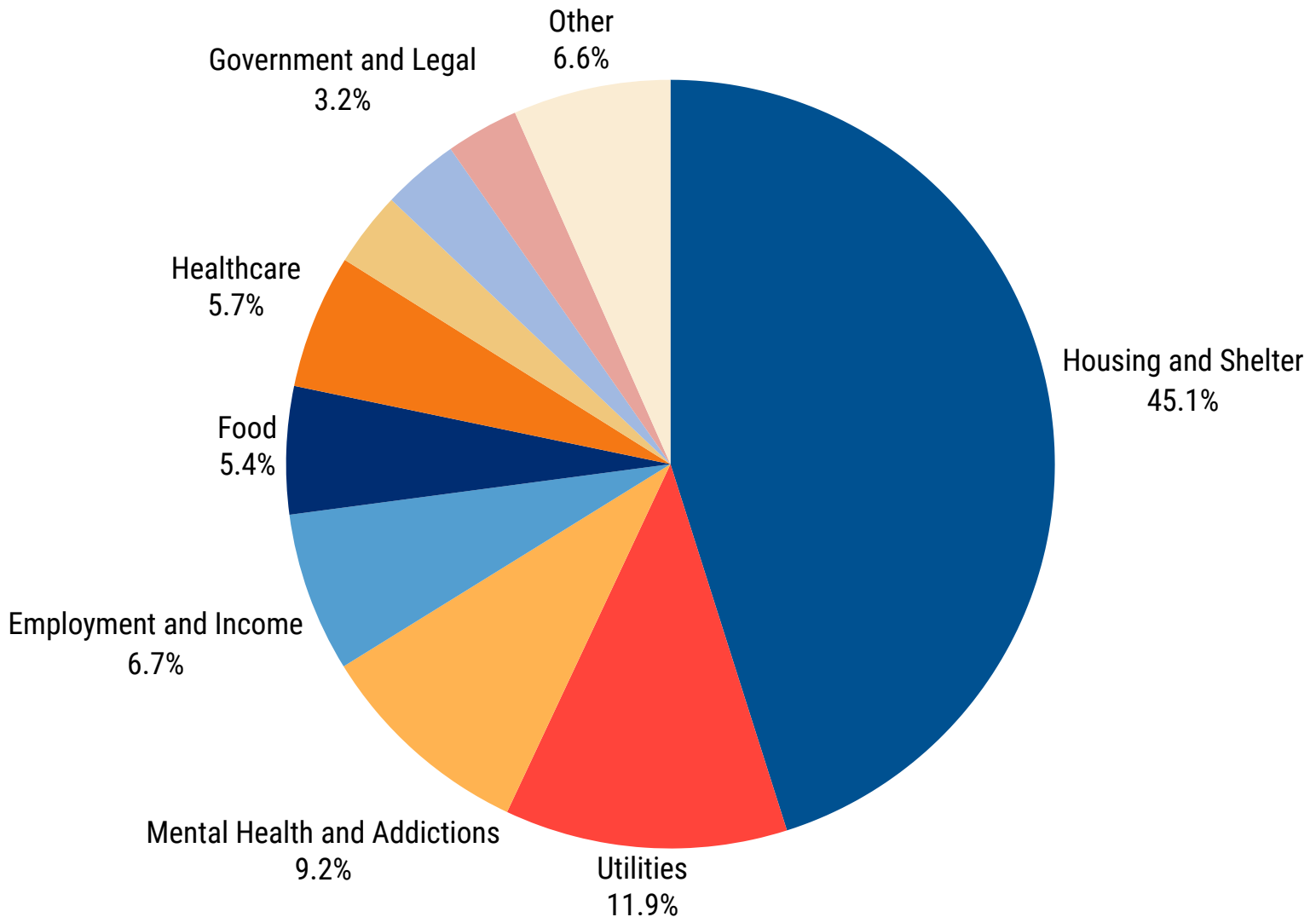
**In 2023, monthly diaper distributions ranged from 10,000 - 14,000 diapers.**



# 211 Help Line

Free, confidential help and referral provided 24/7/365.  
*A Community Essentials program.*

## Top Reasons for Contacting 211



Visit **211Counts.org** for complete reporting.

# WHAT'S NEXT?

Based on the available data, it is evident that our Community Impact strategy is effective. However, to expand and grow the most promising grant programs, additional funding is crucial. The United Way team is relentlessly working towards identifying new supporters, partners, and grants that can help achieve this objective.

Our neighbors rely heavily on United Way, and it is our responsibility to work harder than ever before to meet their needs. As one loyal supporter put it, *"United Way does so much to make our community better. I truly can't imagine our community without United Way."*



## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

We are excited to supplement our Early Grade Level Success strategy with the launch of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in late 2023. This book gifting program mails free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income. This program is possible thanks to the local donors, the State of Illinois, and the Dollywood Foundation.



## Farmers Feeding Families 10-Year Report

A comprehensive report on this unique partnership and our vision for the future will be available in Fall 2024.



## Advocacy for ALICE Families

In **June 2023**, the United for ALICE project released an updated report on the cost of living in Champaign County and the state of Illinois. With this data we will continue to advocate for policies and programs that help struggling working families keep more of their hard-earned income.





**United Way  
of Champaign County**

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**[UnitedWayChampaign.org](http://UnitedWayChampaign.org)**