

A photograph of a diverse family of three. A woman with reddish-brown hair is on the left, smiling and holding a young child. The child is wearing a green and white plaid shirt and is also smiling. A man with a shaved head is on the right, leaning his head against the child and smiling. They are outdoors with green foliage in the background.

**WE FIGHT FOR
HEALTH, EDUCATION
AND FINANCIAL STABILITY**

LIVE UNITED



United Way
of Champaign County



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Our community faces complex challenges in healthcare, education and employment. These challenges don't have easy answers and have lasted months, years, and even generations.

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 Community Impact Strategy has three parts:

- The **Community Initiative** process provides resources to launch new and innovative programming
- **Community Impact Grants** support high-quality local programs that have a track record of creating change
- **Community Building** raises awareness, mobilizes volunteers, creates partnerships, and advocates to address critical issues

Each year, more and more supporters are maximizing the impact of their United Way donation by giving to the Community Impact Fund.

Will you join the fight today?



HEALTH

Without the basic necessities and health care, life can become an unstable game of barely surviving. United Way believes that every person, family and community should have the essentials they need to have a stable, healthy life—and to thrive.

By making it easier for individuals to access mental health programs, receive quality health care and access nutritious foods, we're fighting to help everyone get—and stay—healthy.

HOW WE'RE IMPROVING HEALTH

- **Access to Healthcare**
 - Physical healthcare, counseling, and awareness of healthy behaviors
- **Access to Healthy Food**
 - Fresh food for area pantries, home delivered meals
- **Independent Living**
 - Supports for seniors and people with disabilities
- **Safety**
 - Protective care for people at risk of harm

BIG WIN: Affordable Dental Care

Preventive dental care is important for overall health. But too many of our neighbors aren't able to access care. Champaign County has a shortage of dental care professionals - and an even bigger shortage of affordable dental clinics.

To address this systemic community issue, United Way teamed up with Promise Healthcare to bring dentists and low-cost dental care to our community! Now, kids and adults can access the dental care they need, regardless of their ability to pay.



EDUCATION

Success in life begins with a quality education. And yet, thousands of children and youth lack the support they need to strengthen their literacy, stay on track in school, graduate high school and find a career.

We're fighting to shift the odds so tomorrow's leaders can build a better foundation today. With an approach to education that spans from cradle to career, we're ensuring every child gets a strong start in life, teenagers have the tools to learn and grow, and young adults thrive in the job market.

HOW WE'RE IMPROVING EDUCATION

- **Childhood Success**
 - Early childhood education, parent supports, and kindergarten readiness
- **Grade Level Success**
 - Out-of-school programming and academic support
- **High School Graduation**
 - Job training, college exploration and goal-setting

BIG WIN: Early Childhood Education

Three out of four kindergartners do not have the social-emotional, literacy or math skills to succeed when they enter kindergarten. This puts them at an increased risk of eventually dropping out of high school.

Our community has several quality early learning programs, but they were not connected to each other and parents had a hard time finding the right programming for their child. United Way has brought our local early childhood programs together through CUCradle2Career. By building a stronger, more cohesive system, we ensure more families can connect with the early education resources they need.



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Chronic unemployment. Financial illiteracy. Homelessness. In communities around the world, individuals and families are facing financial obstacles that prevent a good quality of life.

We're fighting to put every person on a path toward financial empowerment. That starts with access to services, job training, credit counseling and money management programs.

HOW WE'RE IMPROVING FINANCIAL STABILITY

- **Financial Literacy**
 - Budget and savings plans, establishing bank accounts, tax prep assistance
- **Stable Housing**
 - Supports for families in unstable housing situations, shelter services
- **Workforce Development**
 - Job skills training and career coaching

BIG WIN: Safe Shelter for All

44% of families in our community are one missed paycheck away from financial crisis. Our community did not have an overnight shelter for families experiencing homelessness - families would have to separate.

United Way teamed up with the Housing Authority and Regional Planning Commission to solve this systemic problem and establish the first-ever Emergency Shelter for Families.

The shelter has an incredible success rate. All of the families who successfully completed the shelter's programming are in stable housing, and none have returned to homelessness.

COMMUNITY IMPACT PARTNERS

This year, United Way of Champaign County has awarded \$1,402,000 in grants to 39 Community Impact Partners.

Education

Childhood Success

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission - Head Start/Early Head Start Ready! for Kindergarten
Developmental Services Center - Family Development
DREAAM House - DREAAM Kindergarten Success Program

Grade Level Success

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Illinois - Community-Based Mentoring
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Illinois - School and Community Based Mentoring
Don Moyer Boys and Girls club - Academic Support Program
Mahomet Area Youth Club - MAYC Jr. High Program
Rantoul City Schools #137 - After School Programming
Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center - Community Study Center
Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center - Intensive Literacy and Homework Assistance Program

High School Graduation

Champaign Community Unit School District #4 - Operation Hope
Urbana School District #116 DBA Urbana Adult Education - APL-GED-HSCR Program

Financial Stability

Financial Literacy

Courage Connection - Project Empower
CRIS Healthy Aging - Tax + Options Counseling
East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center - Support for Immigrant Families
Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County - Financial Capability Program
Land of Lincoln Legal Aid - Legal Help with Champaign County Public Benefits

Stable Housing

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission - Bridge to Subsidized Housing Utility Assistance Program
Champaign County Regional Planning Commission - Emergency Shelter for Families
Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Incorporated - Legal Help for Champaign County Homeowners

Workforce Development

Cunningham Children's Home - Cunningham Vocational Options Program
Urbana School District #116 DBA Urbana Adult Education - Certified Nursing Assistant Program

Health

Access to Healthcare

Promise Healthcare - Medical Care for Low Income Adults
Promise Healthcare - Medical Care for Low Income Children
Promise Healthcare - SmileHealthy Dental Center
Rape Advocacy, Counseling & Education Services - Sexual Violence Prevention Education
Rosecrance Champaign/Urbana - New Beginnings Program
The Center for Youth and Family Solutions - Family Counseling

Access to Healthy Food

Eastern Illinois Foodbank - Champaign County Food Fund
Family Service of Champaign County - Meals on Wheels
SBL Peace Meal - Champaign County Home Delivered Meals

Independent Living

Community Service Center of Northern Champaign County - The Resource Connection
Daily Bread Soup Kitchen - Assistance
Developmental Services Center - Community Living
Family Service of Champaign County - HomeCare
Family Service of Champaign County - Senior Counseling and Advocacy
Family Service of Champaign County - Senior Transportation

Safety

Champaign County CASA - Victim Advocate Program
Crisis Nursery - Safe Children and Strong Families

DID YOU KNOW?

One gift to the Community Impact Fund supports our entire Community Impact strategy - our Grant Partners, Initiatives, and Community Building Work.

It's an **incredibly powerful** way to make a difference.