



# UNITED WE SOLVE TOUGH PROBLEMS.

LIVE UNITED

**E**very day, people in our community struggle with issues that may seem impossible to solve. Limited access to health services. Lack of education.

Financial instability. These are tough problems that threaten the future of individuals and of Champaign County. But there is hope. **There's United Way.**

We are so much more than a fundraiser. We are the problem solvers, the hand raisers. We surround Champaign County's most critical problems—and we fight.

At United Way, we have changed our approach to community problem-solving, investing more resources than ever towards finding permanent solutions to the most pressing community problems. We will continue to provide support for Community Essentials - food, shelter, clothing and more - but we also know it's past time our community addresses the underlying issues which cause families to struggle.

No one can solve these problems alone - so in addition to our resources, we are galvanizing nonprofits, government, individuals and businesses around these challenges. That's how we Live United.

What are the most persistent problems? Our recent survey of Champaign County residents shows the community is concerned about early grade success, child well-being, violence, and jobs. The data backs up residents' concerns:

- **Up to 40% of kindergartners aren't prepared for school**, leading to long-term educational achievement deficits which will impact our workforce. The persistent achievement gap for our students of color is especially critical.
- **Violence statistics** - in particular domestic, gun, and child abuse - have risen significantly in the past few years. No community members should live in fear of violence.
- **Jobs that pay a living wage** are central to our community's future. Today, 44% of residents don't earn enough to make ends meet- 20% earn below poverty level, and an additional 24% earn more than the federal poverty line but still cannot afford basic household essentials.

No other organization can bring together the people, organizations and resources needed to solve these tough problems. United Way is leading the charge, fighting for solutions to the toughest problems facing Champaign County.

95%

of community  
members agree  
United Way needs to  
put more resources  
into finding permanent  
solutions to our  
community's most  
persistent problems.

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United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community. We have one life. To live better, we must LIVE UNITED.



United Way  
of Champaign County