



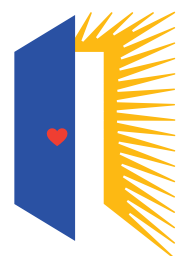
UNITED WAY
Blackhawk
Region



2025 | ANNUAL
2026 | REPORT



OPENDOORS
Strong Communities Start Here





MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

I've spent most of my career around numbers, at Baker Tilly, numbers tell you a lot about where an organization has been. But what drew me to United Way Blackhawk Region, and what keeps me showing up, isn't the numbers. It's what happens when a door opens for someone right when they need it to.

That's the idea behind this year's theme: Open Doors. It's simple, really. Somewhere in Rock County, Wisconsin or northern Winnebago County, Illinois today, someone is walking through a door that United Way helped open, a food pantry, a job training program, a dental visit for their kid, a safe place to land. I've seen it firsthand, at Day of Caring projects, at our funded partner sites, in conversations with neighbors who've been on both sides of that door. It's the kind of work that reminds you why community matters.

This year also brought a fresh start of our own. We settled into a new home at 101 N. Parker Drive, and it feels right, a space that reflects where this organization is headed: forward, together, with our doors open to anyone who wants to be part of the work.

None of this happens without you. Our donors, our volunteers, our workplace campaign partners, our board and staff, you're the reason doors keep opening across our community. I'm proud of what we accomplished together this year, and I'm honestly a little in awe of it. Real dollars, real hours, real people helped.

So here's my ask, the same one United Way has made for decades, because it still works: Give. Advocate. Volunteer. However you're able to show up, know that it matters more than you think.

Thank you for trusting United Way Blackhawk Region with your generosity. Let's keep the doors open.

United, we thrive.

Scott Fischer
2026 Board Chair
Baker Tilly

OUR MISSION
Improving lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities.

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Left to Right, top to bottom

Scott Fischer, Chair
Baker Tilly



Megan Timm, Vice-Chair
SSM Health

Pat Weberpal, Treasurer
BMO Harris Bank

Robert Jones, Secretary
Festival Foods



Derek Hahn, At-Large
Wells Fargo Advisors

Tom McCawley, Past Chair
Immediate Past Chair
Beloit Health System



Dr. Dennis Pauli
Interim President & CEO
United Way Blackhawk Region



DIRECTORS
Left to Right, top to bottom

Dawn Shaw
Edgerton Hospital

Mark Holzman
School District of Janesville

Kris Kieffer
ABC Supply Co. inc.

Nate Perry
School District of Evansville

Angela Slagle
Pepsico/Frito Lay

Kara Sankey
Mercyhealth

Renee Tarnutzer
Kerry

Tad Wehner
School District of Edgerton



OUTGOING MEMBERS

UWBR extends great appreciation to five outgoing board members in 2025, Left to Right: **Leslie Hulick** (M3 Insurance), **Sara Gehrig-Woodman** (Nowlan Law), **Kevin Lahner** (City of Janesville Manager), **Jerry Gabrielatos** (City of Beloit Manager), **Katrina Harwood** (Rock County Public Health Dept.). Thank you all for your dedicated service in these valued leadership roles.

2026 COMMITTEES



Scan to view the list of UWBR's Volunteer Committees, or visit UnitedWayBR.org/Committees.

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220
volunteers

38
partner
agencies

48
projects

2025 DAY OF CARING RECAP

On September 10, 2025, 220 volunteers from businesses, nonprofits, and community groups across the Blackhawk Region came together for our annual Day of Caring, opening doors at nonprofit sites throughout Rock County, WI and northern Winnebago County, IL. Volunteer teams tackled 48 hands-on projects for 38 partner agencies, from landscaping and painting to organizing donations and deep-cleaning program spaces, work that represented an estimated **\$50,490** in donated time. Day of Caring is one day, but the doors it opens for our nonprofit partners stay open all year long.



18
companies &
organizations

\$50,490
worth of service



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

United Way Blackhawk Region
December 31, 2025 (2025 subject to audit)

ASSETS	2025
Cash and cash equivalents	1,399,527
Unconditional promises to give, net	668,248
Prepaid expenses	13,208
Accounts receivable	2,880
Investments	3,276,902
Beneficial interest in assets held by Community Foundation of So. WI	171,970
Beneficial interest in perpetual trust	825,753
Property and equipment, net	5,042
Certificates of deposit, limited use	1,119,003
Certificates of deposit, limited use	5,200
Total Assets	\$ 7,487,734
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	9,178
Grants payable	-
Accrued expenses (Payroll & Vacations)	6,476
Due to designated agencies	20,769
Total Liabilities	\$ 36,424
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	2,528,921
Board designated	2,979,002
Temporarily restricted	829,147
Permanently restricted	1,114,240
Total net assets	7,451,310
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 7,487,734

2025 WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN AWARDS

PILLAR OF THE COMMUNITY AWARD

Workplace Campaigns that exceed \$100,000.

ABC Supply Co. inc.

LEGACY OF CARING AWARD

Workplace Campaigns that exceed \$75,000 or campaigns with 60% participation and \$125 per capita giving.

Wegner CPAs LLP
Boomerang Home Rentals
Beloit Meals on Wheels
Pieper Power
Wells Fargo Advisors
Culver's of Beloit
Johnson Financial Group
Bank of Milton
Electrol Specialties Company
Janesville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Old National Bank
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

LEADERSHIP IN GIVING AWARD

Workplace Campaigns of \$50,000 to \$74,999 or campaigns with 50% participation and \$75 per capita giving.

Kunes GMC Beloit
Mercyhealth
Beloit Health System
Cotta, LLC
American Control Electronics
LifeCircle

COMMUNITY COMMITMENT AWARD

Workplace Campaign of \$25,000 to \$49,999 or campaigns with 40% participation and \$50 per capita giving.

Baker Tilly US
Fairbanks Morse Defense
Regal Rexnord Corporation
BMO Harris Bank
Frito-Lay Incorporated
Alliant Energy-MAIN Account
Ecolab Inc
JP Cullen
Welders Supply Co.
Festival Foods
Beloit Box Board Co., Inc.
ECHO, Inc.
The Rock Bar & Grill
Forward Janesville
Janesville Community Day Care Inc

100% PARTICIPATION AWARD

Workplace Campaigns with 100% employee participation.

Baker Tilly
Wegner CPAs LLP
Boomerang Home Rentals
Beloit Meals on Wheels
Kunes GMC Beloit
PremierBank

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

William J. Cronin Foundation
Herb Kohl Philanthropies
Boudreau Giving Fund
Neese Family Foundation
Parker Foundation
Robert W. Baird Foundation

PEGGY & EBBIE NEESE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Workplace Campaigns that achieved \$500 or more in per capita giving.

Baker Tilly US, LLP
Wells Fargo Advisors



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO



Every year, I get to see what happens when a community decides to open doors instead of walking past them.

That's what your generosity does. Whether it's a monthly payroll gift, a one-time check, hours spent volunteering, or goods and services donated in kind, every gift becomes a door opened somewhere in our region. A door to stable housing. A door to a child reading at grade level. A door to a family that finally catches its breath after a health crisis. None of that happens without you.

I want every donor to know this. There is no gift too small to matter and no form of giving that counts less than another. A truckload of donated materials opens a door just as surely as a five figure check. An afternoon of volunteer time opens a door just as surely as a corporate sponsorship. Whether you give twenty five dollars or twenty five thousand, every gift makes a difference. United is the Way we find strength and share hope, and it's the way we create lasting change together.

Our region is stronger, healthier, and more hopeful because you chose to open a door for someone you may never meet. On behalf of United Way Blackhawk Region, thank you. I mean that with everything I've got.

United is the Way.

With gratitude,

Dr. Dennis Pauli
Interim President & CEO
United Way Blackhawk Region



2025 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE DONORS

ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY

The Tocqueville Society deepens the understanding, commitment and support of United Way's most generous and community-minded investors. Membership in the Society is granted to those who contribute at least \$10,000 annually.



MEMBRES DE LA SOCIÉTÉ \$10,000 - \$24,999

Dennis & Carol Alt
Dennis Conerton
Ed & Lynn Gardinier
Mark & Merry Beth Gliebe
Derek & LaSonda Hahn
Henry & Susan Kneuppel
James & Nancy Packard
George & Nancy Parker
Dan Piche'

GOLD LEVEL \$5,000 TO \$9,999

William & Joyce Albright
Lisa Barton
Dave & Milly Babcock
Jim & Karel Cripe
Leo & Sue Johnson
Tom & Peggy Lang
Tom & Arra Lasse
Tim & Lisa McKevelt
Aaron & Tracey Mueller
Jim & Cindy Packard
Ms. Phyllis Pierson
Tom & Kerry Ramsden
Steve & Patty Schumacher
Scott & Kathy Weiser
2 donors chose to remain anonymous

SILVER LEVEL \$1,500 TO \$4,999

Jim Agate
Greg & Sandra Ardrey
Larry & Karen Arft
Gerry Behan
Cindi Benson
Gordon Beyerlein
Julie Bies
Jim & Tammy Bird
Mary Buelow
Zach & Joy Carr
Julie Christensen
Martin & Lisa Christofferson
Kevin J Claudy
Annie Collins
Gustavo Contreras
Sharon Cox
Stephen & Julia Donahue
Jamie Eley
David & Julie Jacobs Feingold
Paul Fernbaugh
Rebecca Flippin
Scott & Toni Fischer
John & Corinne Franks
Maury Frey
Hector & Ladondra Gonzalez
Zach & Lisa Goswick
Jane & Hagen Harker
Dave Heiliger

Rob Hessler
Dan Honold
Stacie Jinks
Jeff & Susan Johnson
Derek & Jan Klaehn
Tony & Chris Kleeman
Chad Klemencic
Jeremy Krapp
Casie LaChance
Barb & Dave Lange
Bill & Linda Lock
Brian Losching & Jordan Engelstad
Kyle & Jessica Mair
Bill & Dori MacFarlane
Allison & Tom McCawley
Mike Meinholz
Julie Michaelson



2025 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE DONORS

Urban Miller
Gail Monahan
Tim & Susan Monahan
Dennis & Leola Mowry
Ed & Shelly Mueller
Joe & Karen Nemeth
Scott Nicholas
Lyndon Opdyke
John & Diana Pearse
Jeffrey & Linda Perrigo
Peter & Jennifer Petruzzello
Christine & Doug Rebout
Steve Reuter
Diane Rezagholi
Matt & Molly Ryan
Erin C. Samuelsen
Mary & Mark Scharenbroch
Michael Schaller
Dave & Jean Schollmeier
Joe & Marcia Schwengels
Todd & Janie Slatter
Craig & Jennifer Stauss
Ryan Steuck
Elle & Logan Swart
Steve Taylor
Ryan & Tracey Trezek
Denise Webb
Patrick & Heather Weberpal
Mr. Chester S. Wilson
Margaret Zweck
3 donors chose to remain anonymous

BRONZE LEVEL \$600 TO \$1,499

Mr. Michael Aldrich
Tony Astin
Daniel & Karen Atwood
Jacqueline Bagley
Joel & Nancy Bailey
Shelby A Bartle
Richard P Bencini
Lawrence Beck & Kirsten Almo



UNITED WAY
BLACKHAWK REGION
INVESTS IN PROGRAMS
THAT ENSURE
INDIVIDUALS AND
FAMILIES HAVE ACCESS
TO THE RESOURCES
THEY NEED.

2025 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE DONORS

Charles & Victoria Berget
Matthew Bowen
Donald Brovick
Whitey & Leslie Brunsell
Gina Buckles
René Bue
Ms. Wendy S. Bumgarner
Kevin Bush
Amanda-Lynn Bushey
Rodney Burzinski
Jesse & Sandy Calkins
Ms. Pat Carlson
Ambra Caruthers
Donald & Pearl Casanova
Robert Cassiday
Ellen Chen
Carrie Clark
The Conlon Family
Ryan & Jamie Crackenberger
Robert Cullen
Kayne & Inga Cushman
Erin Daskam
Miguel Delgado
Robert Derby
Wanda Diderich
Tina Dirksen
Alan and Betty Dunwiddie
Scott Erickson
Ed Espinoza
Mary Fanning-Penny & Jake Penny
Jeff Farrell
Loren Fellows
Thomas Felstead
Laura Fiorucci
Christopher Fordell
David & Christina Fray
Kelly Garcia
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Megan Gillis
Cynthia Grassl
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Mary Groessl
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Mark & Julie Gregory
Yaffa L. Grossman
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Dr. Patricia Hernandez
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Laura Huibregtse
Nicole Hutchins
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Breeze Jacobson
Clifford Jacobson
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Timothy & Deborah Krug
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Kevin Lahner
Emily Landphier
Gus Larson
Karie & Brian Larson
Jennifer Lester
Ryan Lewiston
Kristine Linde
Helen R. Link

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Elizabeth Magnus
Ryan Marheine
Tom Marshall
Ryan Marshick
Tracy Mayer
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Jennifer & Kevin McCarthy
Nick & Judy McCleary
Aidan McMahon
Patrick and Laura McGowan
Kasy Mentink
John Menton & Vivien Sheehan
Mr. Calvin D.W. Merath
Michelle Meyer
Glenn & Rebecca Miller
Jim Mortonson
Ned Moser
Therese Mueller & Steven McLain
John & Judy Nelson
Wendy Nelson
Dr. & Mrs. Dennis & Jean Nosek
Mike & Patty O'Brien
Mitch & Louise Pelsue
Drew Pennington
Mr. & Mrs. John Perino



2025 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE DONORS



Jeff Powers
Brent & Tracy Racine
Nick & Lori Radean
Hal & Tracey Ramsey
Mark and Tami Rand
Scott & Tammy Ramlo
Nicholas Redieske
Jeff and Kristi Reuter
Pennie Ritter
Eimear Robertson
Linda Ross
Melissa Rossman
Celestino & Emily Ruffini
Kaylee Ryker
Jean Schmidt
Jamie Kent-Schneider
Mr. Ron Schrader
Martha & Frank Scott
Tania Shirley
Tom Signor
Penny Simpson
Jerry Skuta
Brandon Smith
Debra Smith
Jake & Amanda Smith

Alan Sorenson
Mark & Sandy Sorenson
Amos and Amanda Sookraj
Brian Spielmann
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Sprigler
Mary Squire
Dana & Justin Stadler
Chris Stanislawski
Paul Steinke
Bruce & Shari Strohm
Christine Stolz
Mike & Kate Stormes
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Wade & Lori Stottler
Stacey Swinney-Sharp
Roger Thomas
Megan Timm
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Glen Turner
Katie Udell
Dr. & Mrs. James Vogel
Derrick Warner
Jack & Janice Warner
Tom & Mim Warren

Daniel & Robin Washkoviak
Mary Washington
Peter Wautlet
Tad Wehner
Michelle Wetzel
Dan & Jen White
Brandi Whitt
Rick Winkeljohn
Katie Yaunke
Jennifer Yeadon
John & Pat Zimmerman
Mark & Sandy Zimmerman
William Zitzke
20 donors chose to remain anonymous

PLEASE NOTE:
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list, as of August 2026. United Way Blackhawk Region values all donors and strives to recognize their generosity. Please call to our attention any inadvertent omissions or errors.



2.1.1

United Way
Blackhawk Region

United Way's 211 is free, confidential, and available 24/7. From hello to help, trained specialists can connect you to local health and human services.



MINUTES
SERVING
CLIENTS:
~31,000+



TOTAL
REFERRALS:
~3,771



TOTAL
CONTACTS:
~3,299

TOP 2 REFERRALS:

Housing (1,159) Food/Meals (1,078)

GET HELP NOW!

DOWNLOAD THE 211 APP.



DOWNLOAD THE 211 WISCONSIN APP TODAY!

211 Wisconsin



- Call 211
- Text your zip code to 898211
- Online 211wisconsin.org



211 is funded by United Way Blackhawk Region, powered by 211 Wisconsin, and grant supported by Rock County Health & Human Services.

WI ADDICTION RECOVERY HELPLINE

The Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline is a statewide resource for finding substance use treatment and recovery services. Call 211, text your zip code to 898211, or visit [AddictionHelpWI.org](https://www.addictionhelpwi.org).

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

United Way supports programs to help residents of Rock County, WI and northern Winnebago County, IL enjoy healthy lives by:

- > Increasing awareness and access to health care resources.
- > Providing preventative dental services to children and families.
- > Promoting healthy lives through education and activities.

In the July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027 grant cycle, United Way Blackhawk Region approved **\$458,695** community dollars for healthy community; **\$229,347** was paid in 2025.

Healthy bodies and healthy minds help prepare us all for success. This grant cycle continues United Way's focus on access to care and preventative treatment for children and families across the Blackhawk Region.



Scan to view the list and descriptions of funded Health programs, or visit UnitedWayBR.org/Healthy-Community.



YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

We envision a region where all children and youth have supportive learning and development opportunities to grow into responsible adults by:

- > Supporting children and youth through early learning and care services, before- and after-school programs, and character and leadership development.
- > Emphasizing academic success for children of all ages.
- > Expanding opportunities for children and youth to connect with peers, mentors, and positive role models.

In the July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027 grant cycle, United Way Blackhawk Region approved **\$1,133,000** community dollars for youth opportunity; **\$566,500** was paid in 2025.

Education begins at birth, and with the right supports in place, every child can thrive and reach their full potential. High-caliber programs produce measurable outcomes and lay the groundwork for a bright future for all.



Scan to view the list and descriptions of funded Education programs, or visit UnitedWayBR.org/Youth-Opportunity.

FINANCIAL SECURITY

United Way is focused on ensuring individuals and families have their basic needs met and achieve self-sufficiency by:

- > Connecting people with critical resources for emergency or basic needs.
- > Assisting in identifying and overcoming obstacles and barriers to self-sufficiency.
- > Increasing access to skills training, education, and other support systems that enable people to achieve self-sufficiency.

In the July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027 grant cycle, United Way Blackhawk Region approved **\$984,650** community dollars for financial security; **\$492,325** was paid in 2025.

Empowering individuals and families to move from crisis to stability, from unhoused to housed, from struggling to self-reliant, takes tailored programming and coordinated services. United Way invests across the Blackhawk Region in services that make a measurable difference.



Scan to view the list and descriptions of funded Financial Stability programs, or visit UnitedWayBR.org/Financial-Security.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

United Way's 2025 investment in community impact was **\$1,313,172**. In addition to Community Grants, United Way's financial commitments also extend to 211, Born Learning Trails, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, emergency grants, and event sponsorships. In 2025:

- ▶ **\$65,657** was invested in the above initiatives.
- ▶ **188,284** books have been mailed through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library since 2018, with 18,838 children currently enrolled in 2025. Edgerton and Janesville School Districts share in the program cost.
- ▶ Born Learning Trails continue to serve as community gathering spaces across the Blackhawk Region.



ANNUAL MARKETING SPONSORS

Thanks to the generosity of our annual marketing sponsors, advertising and outreach efforts are expended separately, ensuring donor dollars are invested in the community.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD



PATTY SCHUMACHER
BMO BANK, RETIRED

The Geraldine Hedberg Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to an individual or group for their outstanding volunteer service to United Way Blackhawk Region.

Patty Schumacher is a steady hand, and a generous one. A Janesville native and graduate of UW Madison, with a master's degree in finance from UW-Whitewater, Patty retired from BMO Harris Bank in 2021 after 42 years in the financial and banking sector. She brings that same discipline, patience, and care to her volunteer work, always asking not just what United Way does, but whether it's working.

Patty currently serves on United Way Blackhawk Region's Community Impact Council, the volunteer body that holds our funded partners accountable for measurable, long-term results, and on the Finance Committee, helping steward the organization's fiscal health. She previously served on UWBR's Board of Directors, as well as the volunteer boards of Forward Janesville, the YMCA, and Rotary Botanical Gardens.

When United Way needed steady leadership during a presidential transition, Patty co-chaired the search committee that reviewed more than 120 applications, narrowed the field to six semi-finalists, and spent more than 20 hours with each of the finalists before welcoming a new President & CEO. It was the kind of unglamorous, detail-heavy work that rarely gets applause, exactly the kind Patty has never shied away from. That's what it looks like when United is the Way.

United Way is grateful for Patty's dedication, discipline, and heart for community. Patty is a deserving recipient of the 2026 Heart of the Community Award. United is the Way, Patty!

EXCELLENCE IN ADVOCACY AWARD

RICK MUELLER
JAX CUSTOM PRINTING

United Way's Excellence in Advocacy Award recognizes an individual that strives to create meaningful change and demonstrates measurable progress toward improving and strengthening our community. This year, we recognize Rick Mueller.

Rick Mueller, owner of Jax Custom Printing, shows us that United is the Way. As a member of our Campaign Cabinet, Rick helps shape and lead our annual workplace campaign, resources that fuel everything United Way does in the Blackhawk Region. Beyond that, he's connected to roughly 75 local nonprofits, with hands-on roles at Rotary Gardens, ECHO, the Salvation Army, and Special Olympics, among many others. Rick calls himself a "worker bee," just as likely to be coaching the Special Olympics swim team as chairing a board meeting. That spirit carries into his business too: nearly three-quarters of Jax Custom Printing's work now serves nonprofit partners. Rick's advocacy turns awareness into action, and action into lasting change, exactly what this award was created to honor.



Scan to view all UWBR-funded programs, or visit LiveUnitedBR.org/nonprofit-partners.



ACCOUNTABILITY

United Way Blackhawk Region has earned a 4 out of 4-star rating for the 12th consecutive year from **Charity Navigator**. This rating is based on the ability to demonstrate strong financial health and commitment to accountability of transparency. Only 9% of the 1.5 million charities evaluated by Charity Navigator have received at least 7 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating United Way Blackhawk Region's trustworthiness to the public by effectively executing the mission in a financially efficient way.

United Way Blackhawk Region has attained the **2026 Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid** (formerly GuideStar). Every year, millions of nonprofits spend trillions of dollars around the world. Candid finds out where that money comes from, where it goes, and why it matters. Candid's data tools are the most comprehensive in the world.





UNITED IS THE WAY TO A STRONG COMMUNITY



United Way Blackhawk Region
101 N. Parker Drive, Suite 220
Janesville, WI 53545
(608)757.3040
LiveUnitedBR.org

Stay connected with United
Way Blackhawk Region
on our social media channels!

