

Dear **United Way** Supporters,

When we come together with a shared purpose and deep commitment to the well-being of every person in our community, we create powerful, lasting change. I am continuously inspired by the generosity and compassion of donors like you – leaders who give, volunteer and advocate to build a future rooted in stability, opportunity and prosperity for everyone.

Thanks to you, United Way remains a vital force in Southeastern Michigan. Your support allows us to respond swiftly and effectively – helping families avoid eviction, providing seniors with access to food and utility assistance, connecting households with children to meaningful learning opportunities, and so much more. Together, we are not just meeting urgent needs. We are helping our neighbors move from crisis to stability, and from stability to prosperity.

Behind every gift is a story – a child who now has access to quality early education, a family who found stable housing after months of uncertainty, and a job seeker who gained the skills and confidence to start a new career. Your incredible generosity and leadership have once again allowed United Way to earn Charity Navigator’s highest honor – a four-star rating for exceptional financial health, accountability and transparency. That recognition is a reflection of the trust you place in us and the care we take in honoring your investment.

Because of your support – and the collective strength of our philanthropic community – we were able to invest more than \$51 million in impactful partners and programs across Southeastern Michigan last year. Together, we funded 197 local organizations and reached 837,692 individuals with the help they needed.

But impact is more than a number – it is about creating lasting change. Meaningful progress requires us to address root causes, not just symptoms. Through advocacy and public policy - and through partnerships with community, business, and government, you are helping us address systemic barriers and expand opportunities for all.

The real story is that your giving makes it all possible. Children are learning in safe, supportive classrooms; families are finding stable housing; and individuals are gaining access to transportation, technology and job training – all because of you. You are helping build lasting pathways to stability for neighbors who might otherwise be left behind.

Whether you give, volunteer or advocate, you are creating lasting change. Thank you for choosing United Way as your partner in your vision for a stronger, more equitable community. We are honored to work alongside you and deeply grateful for all you make possible. United is the Way!

In partnership,



Darienne Hudson

Darienne Hudson, Ed.D.

President & CEO

United Way for Southeastern Michigan



YOUR IMPACT BY THE STORIES

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT

Over the years, United Way Social Navigator Theresa Trowell has answered thousands of calls to 2-1-1. **But there's one that always sticks with her.**



Scan the wQR codes to learn more about how your giving has made a powerful impact throughout the past

BECAUSE OF YOU

United Way has distributed 33,830 books to students across our region.



"This book fair just feels more equitable – everyone gets the same amount," said Kelly Mickel, principal at Erickson Elementary. **"And it makes it exciting for the whole school as opposed to just the students who can afford to buy books."**

WITH YOUR HELP

"It's way easier to do and submit assignments on the Chromebooks," said Arath, an eighth-grade student at the school. **"It's really a relief that the sixth graders can use these computers, instead of just having to borrow one."**

More than \$360,000 worth of devices and supplies were delivered to local students – bridging the digital divide one child at a time.



YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE

United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program helps families maximize their refunds.



"I'm on Social Security disability, so it's great to have a resource like this close to home," said Joyce R., a Ypsilanti resident. **"My refund will help me get ahead on my bills."**



YOUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



MEETING BASIC NEEDS

690,000+ individuals received food, health care and housing support.

150,000 rides were provided for 4,000+ individuals through Ride United since 2019.

274,640 individuals received help through our 2-1-1 helpline.



CREATING YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

33,830 books were distributed to 6,766 children through My Home Library.

19,000+ students enrolled in summer enrichment activities through Summer Discovery.

6,000+ backpacks were distributed to students throughout the



FOSTERING ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

3,600+ individuals were uplifted through financial literacy, employment, and income support initiatives.

23,000+ households were supported through VITA, which returned more than \$30 million in refunds to community members.

700+ individuals accessed job training and career coaching through Centers for Working Families, increasing their average net worth by \$10,225.