



UNITED WAY FOR SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

WASHTENAW COUNTY MID-YEAR MERGER REPORT

UNITED FOR A *Brighter future*



United Way
for Southeastern Michigan

LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Community leaders, volunteers, and staff from Washtenaw County powered the merger between United Way for Southeastern Michigan and United Way of Washtenaw County, and they continue to move us forward. After officially merging on October 1, 2023, the following six legacy Washtenaw board members began a new six-year term on the United Way for Southeastern Michigan Board of Directors:

- Erik Bakker, Bank of Ann Arbor
- Rich Chang, Clean Fun
- Gregory Dill, Washtenaw County Government
- Michael Rein, University of Michigan
- Nicole Kontyko, KeyBank
- Dr. Brandon Tucker, Washtenaw Community College

Thank you for extending your service and leadership in support of United Way and Washtenaw County.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

Our 2023-24 Annual Campaign is led by co-chairs Rich Chang, Founder of Clean Fun, and Ralph Gilles, Chief Design Officer at Stellantis. Our goal is to raise \$45 million and secure 45,000 volunteer hours. This year's Campaign Town Hall event, held at the Eastern Michigan University Student Center, welcomed nearly 250 guests. It featured a panel discussion regarding the merger, moderated by Bridget Herrmann, Senior Director of Collective Impact with United Way for Southeastern Michigan. Panelists included members of the Preferred Futures Sub-Committee, including United Way for Southeastern Michigan Board Members Rich Chang and Dr. Brandon Tucker, former United Way of Washtenaw County President and CEO Pam Smith, and United Way for Southeastern Michigan President and CEO Dr. Darienne Hudson.



Bridget Herrmann, Pam Smith, Dr. Darienne Hudson, Dr. Brandon Tucker and Rich Chang participate in a panel discussion at the Annual Campaign Townhall event.

PHILANTHROPIC GROUPS & GIVING SOCIETIES

Our giving societies have benefited from uniting the legacy committees of both organizations to grow and amplify our support and outreach. The Emerging Philanthropists group, co-chaired by Richard Glover, Liz Garza of Adams Outdoor, and Megan Mazurek of Reinhart Realtors, once again hosted their Annual Cornhole Tournament at Adams Outdoor in October. The event brought together 100 guests and raised more than \$11,000. The tournament winners were Ryan Ducharme and Brad Ekonen, from the Hylant team.



Liz Garza, Ryan Ducharme, Brand Ekonen and Megan Mazurek participate in the Emerging Philanthropist Cornhole Tournament.

LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER IMPACT



Leadership Giving Day of Service donors make 100 literacy kits at the United Way for Southeastern Michigan Community Fulfillment Center.



Emily Moore-Marshall and Tim Marshall excite the crowd at the Tocqueville Society Celebration.

The Leadership Giving Society is co-chaired by JPaul Dixon of Hylant, and Dana Williams of Detroit Employment Solutions. As one of their first activities as a combined group, the Leadership Giving Committee hosted a Day of Service in April at 180 Church, a fulfillment center run by United Way. Leadership donors assembled 100 literacy kits which included books, flashcards, and writing materials to promote literacy and learning in ALICE homes.



JPaul Dixon and Dana Williams, at the 2024 Power of the Purse event.

The Tocqueville Society Committee led by Karen Chapell, Retirement Income Solutions, and Kathy Sample, Argus Farm Stop, alongside David Foltyn of Honigman, and Elyse Foltyn, hosted our first combined major donor event at Eastern Market in Detroit in September. Honorees included Emily Moore-Marshall, Telling It, and Tim Marshall, Bank of Ann Arbor, for their leadership of the 2022-2023 United Way of Washtenaw County Campaign and their longstanding commitment to the community.

POWER OF THE PURSE

Our 16th annual Power of the Purse event was held in March and SOLD OUT four weeks prior to the event. We enjoyed record-breaking attendance of more than 300 guests and raised over \$85,000 thanks to our Power of the Purse committee and its chair, Dr. Lynette Findley. We were thrilled to honor Alfreda Rooks, Director of Community Health Services, Michigan Medicine, in recognition of her accomplishments in business innovation, local food systems, philanthropy, and volunteerism.



Dr. Rose Bellanca, Alfreda Rooks, Dr. Lynette Findley, Dr. Darienne Hudson and Kathy Sample at the Campaign Town Hall event.

TAX SEASON BRINGS BACK VITA WORK

Under the direction of Bob Mull, longstanding lead volunteer and esteemed Tocqueville Society donor, our team of dedicated volunteers embarked on the 2024 tax season by officially kicking off operations in January. Last year, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) contributed to the return of \$1.37 million in tax returns and credits to Washtenaw County people. This impact was made possible by our steadfast volunteers, who generously donated a collective 1,500 hours, putting much-needed resources back into the pockets of working families and into our local economy.



VITA volunteers Bob Mull, Dennis Bush and Lisa Hanson

David Fair continues to host WEMU's "Washtenaw United" in partnership with United Way for Southeastern Michigan. This show was created nearly six years ago to explore the people, organizations, and institutions that are creating opportunity and advancing equity in our area. The Michigan Association of Broadcasters recognized "Washtenaw United" as the "2022 Best in News Special."



Dr. Darienne Hudson, David Fair and Pam Smith receive the 2022 Best in News Special award.

CONTINUED COMMUNITY INVESTMENT & IMPACT



\$1 MILLION INVESTED IN WASHTENAW ORGANIZATIONS

United Way for Southeastern Michigan remains dedicated to our three-year commitment to provide \$1 million in general operating funds annually to Washtenaw nonprofits. The purpose of these community impact grants is to mitigate and disrupt the intersectional impacts of poverty, racism, and trauma - three forces that hold opportunity at bay for all people in Washtenaw County. Forty-one Washtenaw-based organizations were awarded funding this year, which include:

A Brighter Way	Interfaith Hospitality Network of Washtenaw County
Aid In Milan	Journey of Faith Christian Church
Ann Arbor YMCA	Mentor2Youth
Bad Credit Is Childish	Michigan Advocacy Program
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern Michigan	Our House
Buenos Vecinos	Parkridge Community Center @ Washtenaw Community College Foundation
Care Seats of Michigan	Peace Neighborhood Center
Child Care Network	SOS Community Services
Community Action Network	Stand with Trans
Community Family Life Centers	Student Advocacy Center of Michigan
Community Resource Center, Inc.	The Family Learning Institute
Elevation Youth Corporation	The Mutual Aid Network of Ypsilanti
EMU Foundation - Family Empowerment Program	The Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan
Fair Housing Center of Southeast & Mid Michigan	Washtenaw Alliance for Children & Youth
Food Gatherers	Washtenaw Area Council For Children
Foundations Preschool of Washtenaw County	Washtenaw Intermediate School District - Trusted Advisors
Friends In Deed	Washtenaw Literacy
Girls Group	We the People Opportunity Farm
Girls on the Run of Southeastern Michigan	Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels
Growing Hope	
Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice	
Youth Arts Alliance and Staying Power/Staying Home	

INTRODUCING THE WASHTENAW COUNTY COMMUNITY IMPACT & EQUITY COMMITTEE

A Washtenaw County community investments committee has been established, reporting to the Board of Directors, to continue to ensure regional engagement, knowledge, and representation. Community volunteers continue to review and inform recommendations for grant funding, and we thank our committee members for their leadership:

- Erik Bakker, Bank of Ann Arbor
- Aaron Sukanuma, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office
- Cepha Nixon, NSF International
- Jillian Rosen, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation
- Kyrani Reneau, University of Michigan Institute for Social Research
- Margo Davis, General Dynamics Information Technology
- Matthew Cremin, Renew Therapeutical Solutions
- Mercedes Brown, Building Movement Project
- Rich Chang, Clean Fun
- Roxane Chan, Independent Consultant
- Steve Day, CSM Energy

RACIAL EQUITY FUND GRANTS

Through its Racial Equity Fund, United Way for Southeastern Michigan invested \$225,000 into seven Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC)-led organizations in Washtenaw County to address racial inequities in February. These organizations were awarded grants ranging from \$10,000 - \$50,000 to focus on issues at the intersection of mental health, developmental disabilities, community development and revitalization, education, land ownership, financial literacy, food insecurity, maternal health, housing, and more. The list of grantees includes:

- A Servant's Heart
- Care-Based Safety
- Mexiquenses Unidos de Michigan
- Michigan Prison Doula Initiative
- Our Village
- Survivors Speak
- Youth Arts Alliance

NEW FUNDING INVESTMENTS

Learn more about these additional new funding investment opportunities here:



RACIAL
EQUITY
FUND

United Way for Southeastern Michigan

The 2021 Bridgespan Group & Echoing Green study found:

- Organizations led by people of color secure less grant money than those with white leaders.
- White-led groups are trusted more to make decisions about how to spend grant funds than organizations led by people of color.
- Groups led by Black women receive less grant money than those led by Black men or white women.
- Organizations led by people of color have significantly less revenue, smaller budgets and fewer unrestricted assets.

CONTINUED COMMUNITY INVESTMENT & IMPACT



ADVOCACY GRANTS

Through its Policy and Advocacy Grant Fund, United Way for Southeastern Michigan engages in advocacy efforts that impact households living below the ALICE threshold, reduce barriers to services, increase equity, and support voter access and engagement. In February, a \$40,000 grant was invested in the Washtenaw Housing Alliance to support their advocacy efforts targeting one of the biggest needs we see across Southeast Michigan: housing access and affordability. This grant will support the Washtenaw Housing Alliance's actions to address statewide discrimination. It will also provide Washtenaw County with research and education in support of local policy decisions that will positively impact the homeless system of care.

RESPONSIVE BASIC NEEDS GRANTS

Through its Responsive Basic Needs Fund, United Way for Southeastern Michigan invested a total of \$225,000 into seven Washtenaw organizations in February. Funding provides responsive, flexible resources to meet the increased demand for emergency food, homeless services, and Medicaid enrollment following the end of pandemic-era relief programs and the greater need for these services in the winter months.

- Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County
- Faith in Action
- Food Gatherers
- Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County, Inc.
- Shelter Association of Washtenaw County
- SOS Community Service
- Washtenaw Health Plan dba Washtenaw Health Project

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Visit United Way's newly merged volunteer portal to find local volunteer opportunities in Washtenaw, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne Counties.

UnitedWaySEM.org/VolunteerPortal



THANK YOU

We are "United for a Brighter Future" which is made possible through your generous investments of time and financial support. With your partnership, we can continue to mobilize the caring power of people in Washtenaw County and beyond to improve individual lives in measurable and lasting ways in every community we serve. Should you have any questions or feedback about how we can be better together, please contact us at the information below.



CONTACT US

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The Need in Washtenaw County



9.8% of residents

face food insecurity, but nearly **4 in 10** food insecure are ineligible for nutrition programs.

Eligible Services: Food Bank, Pantry & Community Kitchen



52% of renters

and **19% of homeowners** spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

Eligible Services: Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing & Homeless Diversion/Prevention Services



12% of residents

are insured through Medicaid. Through the "unwinding" process, households are losing coverage, even among people still eligible.

Eligible Services: Medicaid Enrollment/Redetermination Support



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