



2025-2026

IMPACT REPORT



UNITED WAY
South Central Michigan

WHO WE ARE



At United Way of South Central Michigan, we believe that communities thrive when every person has the chance to succeed.

That's why we engage the entire community through partnerships, direct programming, advocacy and grantmaking. Together, we strengthen community resilience, help families achieve financial security, and ensure that people can meet their most urgent needs.

Our Mission

We bring together the people, ideas and resources to lead with our communities and create a flourishing, equitable life for everyone.

Our Vision

Strong, caring communities where every person is valued, thriving, and connected for the common good.

Our Values

Equity, Integrity, Collaboration, Compassion, Community, Results

Our Priority Areas

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OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

United Way of South Central Michigan is strongly committed to investing in our team, our organization and our communities to advance equity so that every person – especially those who have faced discrimination and harm – can access the resources they need to thrive.

There are principles of inclusivity, justice, antiracism, empathy and trust woven into every program, every partnership and every investment detailed in this report, and we remain firmly committed to this work.

Scan to learn more about our commitment to equity, and flip to page 18 in this report to see it in action through our 21-Day Challenges.



UNITED WAY
South Central Michigan

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

“I had no idea United Way was doing all that.”

It's a phrase I hear often in conversation with partners, community members and donors. In many ways, it captures both the challenge and the opportunity in front of us. **The work happening across our region – connecting people to basic needs resources and helping build pathways to financial security – is deeply impactful, and goes beyond the common perception that United Way is only a fundraiser.**

This Impact Report tells the story of that work - our commitment to equity, the direct programming we deliver, the people and partners involved, and the growing need in our communities we strive daily to address.

This work is happening at a time of significant change for the nonprofit sector. Funding cuts to healthcare, food assistance, housing and other essential supports threaten individuals and families already on the edge of stability. This is proving catastrophic for the communities that we live in.

At United Way of South Central Michigan, **we believe communities thrive when people are connected to one another and recognize that we all have a role to play**, whether that be through financial investment, volunteering, advocating for better access to resources, or simply learning more about the needs that exist around us.

What energizes me are the things you'll find in this report – stories of resiliency, partnership and impact. You will see the ways UWSCMI works alongside nonprofit partners, businesses, volunteers and donors to strengthen the networks and services people rely on every day.

Thank you for being part of this work. Together, we can continue to build strong communities where no one has to face hardship alone.



Chris Sargent
President & Executive Officer
United Way of South Central Michigan

UWSCMI Executive Leadership Team

Jen Hsu-Bishop, Executive Impact & Equity Officer
Teresa Kmetz, Executive Development & Marketing Officer
Heather Garcia, Senior Director of Finance
Natalie O'Hagan, Senior Director of Strategy & Culture
Jamie Rugg, Senior Director of Operations
Bethany Stutzman, Senior Director of Community Impact

UWSCMI Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Maureen Keene, Chair, Jackson County ISD
Jamie Rabe, Immediate Past Chair, Andrews Hooper Pavlik
Lisa Garcia, 1st Vice Chair, Western Michigan University
Kim Carter, 2nd Vice Chair, Battle Creek Public Schools
Todd McDonald, Treasurer, CSM Group
Rick Smearman, Secretary, General Motors

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Bill Beekman, Michigan State University
Derek Dobies, Michigan AFL-CIO
Becky East, Bronson Healthcare Group
Stacy Flathau, WK Kellogg Co
Marcus Glass, Bronson Healthcare Group
Mike Grisdela, Henry Ford
Unaa Holiness, Michigan Education Association
Mike Huerta, UAW Local 602
James Johnson, Jr., IBEW Local 252
Isabell Nazar, Homer Community Schools, retired
Andy Richards, Duncan Aviation
Carrie Schneider, Consumers Energy
Shane Williamson, Albion Community Foundation
Ashlee Willis, Michigan Premier Events LLC & Lansing Mosaic LLC
Ted Ykimoff, Consumers Energy



DOLLARS FOR IMPACT

Your gift is an investment in lives changed. For every \$1 you give, UWSCMI generates and invests another \$3.17 into our communities through grants, government funding and volunteerism.

**Total investment for
April 1, 2025-
March 31, 2026
\$25,618,736**

Here are the ways we invest time and resources for impact:

**211
\$365,104 | 1.43%**

Resources that UWSCMI invests to support 2-1-1 Information & Referral System for those in crisis or seeking resources

**Volunteer and In-Kind Staff Time
\$156,520 | 0.61%**

The value of time contributed by UWSCMI volunteers and staff through collective impact initiatives

**Dollars Managed
\$3,872,185 | 15.11%**

Funding that UWSCMI helps local non-profits access by serving as an intermediary

**Community Investments
\$5,316,172 | 20.75%**

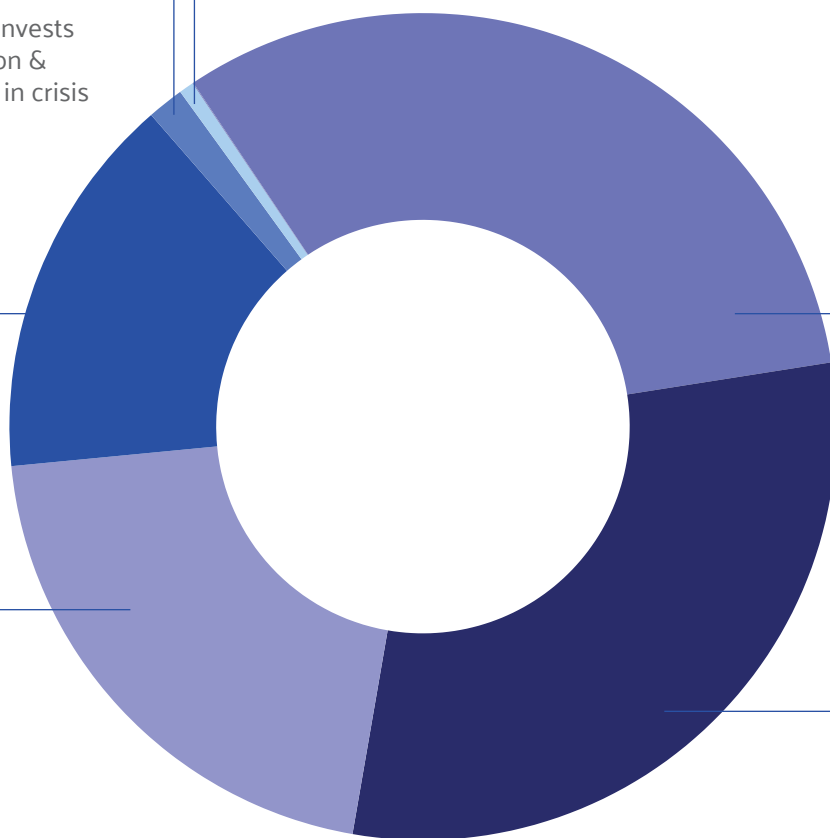
Resources distributed to nonprofits using investments from UWSCMI donors

**Direct Assistance
\$8,169,851 | 31.89%**

Financial assistance and resources provided by UWSCMI-operated programs that improve financial security for households in our region

**VITA
\$7,738,904 | 30.21%**

The value of tax returns completed, home heating credits earned, and preparation dollars saved through our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program





WHY DOES UNITED WAY INVEST THIS WAY?

One word: ALICE. That's Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – working people struggling to make ends meet. Financial hardship is the thread that runs through virtually every social issue. The needs of ALICE families are complex. United Way focuses on the ones where our expertise, resources and partnerships can give ALICE opportunities to succeed. And when ALICE succeeds, communities thrive.

Here's where our investment meets community needs:

Youth Opportunity \$298,158 | 1.16%

- Early childhood education
- College and career readiness
- Out-of-school time programming
- UW program
 - Capital Area College Access Network

Healthy Communities \$1,532,410 | 5.98%

- Food security
- Health care access
- Mental health
- Personal necessities

Financial Security \$21,165,309 | 82.62%

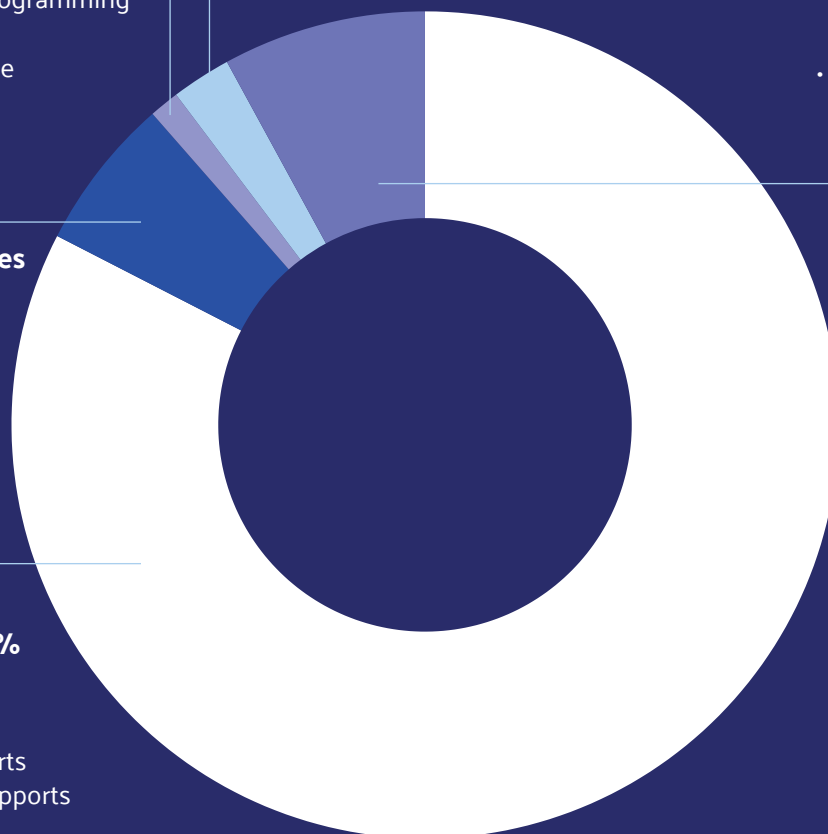
- Employment services
- Asset-building
- Small business supports
- Housing and utility supports
- UW programs
 - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
 - Program Assistance Center
 - Kalamazoo Micro-Enterprise Grants
 - Continuum of Care
 - JobSTAR

Community Resiliency \$594,451 | 2.32%

- Crisis or resource hotline
 - UW programs
 - Disaster Relief Fund
- County Response Consortiums
 - Labor partnerships

Mixed \$2,028,408 | 7.92%

- Investments directed by donors
- Capacity-building
- Volunteerism



ALICE®

Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

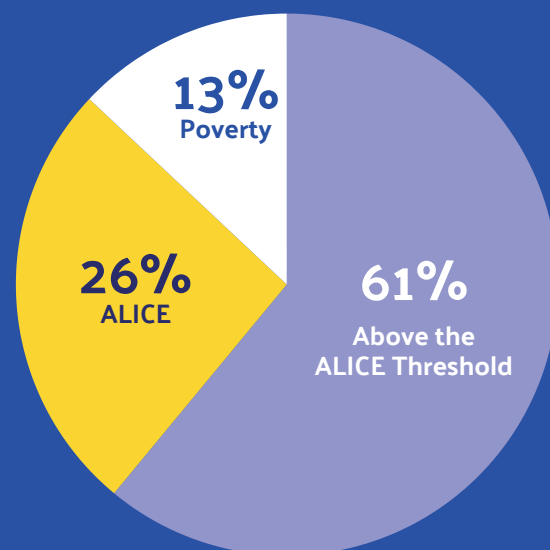
The latest data on financial hardship reveals what we already know: ALICE families still struggle to make ends meet. In our six-county region, 39% of households live below the threshold of financial stability. UWSCMI continues to lead initiatives, build partnerships and invest in programs to give ALICE hope for a better tomorrow.

ALICE Survival & Stability Budgets In Our Region

HOUSEHOLD	SURVIVAL	STABILITY
1 Adult		
Monthly Expenses	\$2,535	\$4,437
Annual Expenses	\$30,420	\$53,244
Full-Time Wage Needed	\$15.21/hour	\$26.62/hour
2 Adults/2 Children in child care		
Monthly Expenses	\$6,745	\$11,470
Annual Expenses	\$80,940	\$137,640
Full-time Wage Needed	\$40.47/hour	\$68.82/hour

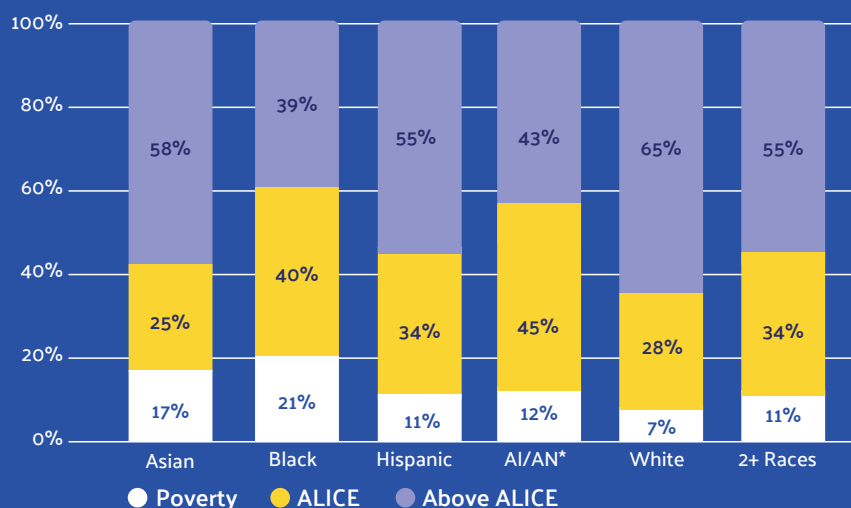
The Survival Budget estimates the bare minimum cost of household essentials to live and work, while the Stability Budget adds additional costs needed for a financially stable household. This includes a 10% savings category.

ALICE In Our Region



164,543 households live below the income threshold to afford basic essentials

ALICE Households by Race/Ethnicity in Our Region



*AI/AN = American Indian and Alaska Native

Source: United For ALICE, 2026 ALICE Report (2024 data). These are averages across UWSCMI's six-county region; local budgets can vary significantly.

Read the full
2026 ALICE report



5 Occupations with Highest % Below ALICE Threshold

OCCUPATION	% BELOW AT	MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE
Cashiers	47%	\$13.91
Janitors/Cleaners	43%	\$19.04
Cooks	42%	\$14.64
Waiters/Waitresses	41%	\$14.59
Teaching Assistants	38%	\$14.64



ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE



The most powerful thing we can do for families isn't always a program. Sometimes it's changing the conditions that were holding them back in the first place. That's why United Way of South Central Michigan partners with community leaders, local programs, government officials, and state legislators to push for policies that make it easier for families in our region to find stable housing, access quality child care, get a good education and build financial security.

Our advocacy is driven by what we see and hear in our community every day – grounded in ALICE data, which gives a clear view of what it actually costs to get by in our region. Below is a look at our priorities and the progress we saw this year.

At the end of April, UWSCMI President & Executive Officer Chris Sargent and Director of Community Impact-Public Policy Michele Strasz joined more than 300 United Way leaders from across the country in Washington, D.C., for United Way Worldwide's annual Advocacy Forum and Hill Day.

Progress highlights from 2025



UWSCMI supported the expansion of RxKids, a cash prescription program for pregnant women and babies designed to strengthen family financial stability during pregnancy and early infancy. We convened community partners and stakeholders, approached potential funders to match state funding, and advocated for continued funding in the state budget. The program started in Flint and has expanded into Kalamazoo, Jackson, Albion, Battle Creek, Galesburg and Springfield, as well as Blackman, Oshtemo, Wakeshma and Sheridan townships.

MICHIGAN
Achievement Scholarship



Both the Michigan Achievement Scholarship and the Michigan Reconnect program saw funding increases in the state budget, an important result of advocacy by UWSCMI and many other partners.



We continued to see progress with the expansion of the MI Tri-Share Child Care Program, an innovative approach to increasing access to high quality, affordable child care, with the cost of care split between an employer, the employee and the State of Michigan.

OUR POLICY PRIORITIES

Safety Net

Accessing transitional and stable housing

Ensuring basic needs provision and healthcare

Expanding education opportunities

Financial Security

Addressing disparities and fostering inclusive policies

Supporting economic mobility and opportunity

Tips for communicating with elected officials.
Want to help?



PRIORITY AREA

FINANCIAL SECURITY

Financial hardship looks different in every household. The reasons are complex and interconnected, often with no single cause or solution.

That's why United Way of South Central Michigan works in many ways to create opportunities for families and individuals to move from barely getting by to thriving. We use every tool at our disposal – from programs and partnerships to advocacy and education – to change conditions that keep people from getting ahead.

HOUSING & UTILITY

Reducing Homelessness

United Way of South Central Michigan is home to the **Continuum of Care (CoC)** – in both Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties - partnering with local organizations and individuals with lived experience to reduce homelessness.

In September 2025, the CoC hosted its very first housing forum. “Housing Kalamazoo: Collaboration for Housing Equity” brought together more than 25 partner organizations, 157 attendees, and 40 panelists and speakers for collaboration, connection and education for housing solutions in Kalamazoo County.

The CoC's RentAble program is another tool for helping families stay housed, offering one-time financial assistance for costs including application fees, security deposits and rent increases.

Utility Assistance and Wraparound Services

Our **Program Assistance Center** provides households with direct financial assistance to pay heat and electric bills. By taking immediate pressure off, families can get back on the path to financial security. Our experienced PAC team also offers a needs assessment to each client, connecting them with other non-energy services that may help them. PAC serves all of Michigan and is part of the Michigan Energy Assistance Program with additional support from Consumers Energy and DTE.

PAC Impact

- Direct assistance: \$6,025,198
- Households provided with financial assistance: 5,140
- Households provided with assistance and other services including referrals, budget coaching, and communication with utility vendors to avoid shutoff: 5,491
- Total counties served: 63

Kalamazoo County

continuum



OF CARE



CALHOUN COUNTY
Continuum
of Care

RentAble

served 318 households
in Kalamazoo County
and distributed
\$439,919 in assistance.

(Data from April 2025–
March 2026)



Heaven's Story

Kalamazoo resident Heaven started a new job this year with Housing Resources, Inc. (HRI) as an Intake Specialist. The journey to get where she is hasn't been easy, but she's had some transformative experiences along the way.

Hundreds of people are experiencing homelessness in Kalamazoo at any given time – the 2025 Point in Time Count identified 791 unhoused individuals on one January night. Heaven has been among them.

While working with Open Doors – an organization that helps local families achieve housing success - Heaven learned about and eventually was hired onto United Way of South Central Michigan's Continuum of Care (CoC) team as a community consultant.

“I liked the fact that they wanted people with lived experience to give their input,” Heaven said. “I’ve been able to help a lot of people learn about different opportunities or resources here in town.”

She connected with HRI during her involvement with the CoC, which eventually led to her new employment. Grateful for this new opportunity, Heaven acknowledges CoC's role in helping get her to this point.

“I’ve learned a lot,” Heaven said. “It completely changed my life.”

Data from October 1, 2024 to Sept 30, 2025

INCOME, EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

i Free Tax Preparation

Taxes can be stressful, and poor preparation can leave money on the table. During the 2025 tax season, 167 IRS-trained volunteers helped simplify the process for 4,419 households with free tax preparation through our **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program. Volunteers saved households \$972,180 in tax preparation fees and helped ALICE families maximize their returns, keeping more of their hard-earned income.

"I'm on a single income and every little bit helps," said Regina, a VITA client for six years. "I leave knowing that every penny I'm supposed to get, I'm getting. When they take the time to answer questions and make sure you really understand, I feel supported. It's like coming to talk to a friend."



Federal returns:
\$3,201,822

State returns:
\$3,416,118



VITA Impact

Partner locations 19	Number of Volunteers 167
Tax clinics held 189	Mobile Unit locations 18
Hours of Volunteer Time 3,312	Mobile clinics held 53

“

**1,652
referrals
made**

I am more than happy with JobSTAR and its impact on our employees. Based on these impacts, we estimate 3-4 individuals are successful in retaining their employment each year. Our Success Coach has developed a good reputation with our employees and regularly helps individuals with accessing services they were not even aware existed. Although not everyone will access JobSTAR, for those who have or those who will, JobSTAR will continue to be a great benefit for our employees.

– Doug Scott (Industrial Steel Treating Co.)

Support For Employees

In Jackson County, our **JobSTAR** (Support Talent And Retention) program is a key resource helping employers support their workers with needs that can affect productivity and attendance. An on-site Success Coach provides confidential guidance, connecting workers to a wide range of services and support for things like food assistance, government navigation, transportation, insurance, and housing. The results include a stronger workforce, financially stable families, higher productivity and a more vibrant local economy.

**877
employees
served**

**20
participating
companies**





Small Business
Investment:
\$500,000



Small business growth

When small businesses survive and grow, they create a ripple effect that strengthens the entire local economy. In 2025, we awarded \$5,000 Micro-Enterprise Grants to 100 qualifying small businesses, with a focus on the historically under-resourced Eastside, Edison and Northside neighborhoods – building lasting wealth where it's needed most. Our Small Business Program is a partnership between the City of Kalamazoo, United Way of South Central Michigan, and the Foundation For Excellence.

Samson's Haircare is a grant recipient through United Way's Small Business Program. Read more about co-owner Adam Muncy, how KMEG helped his business, and his advice to business owners in Kalamazoo.



ALICE at Work

Launching in 2026, ALICE at Work is a comprehensive program our team has been building to help business leaders understand their workforce through the lens of data and human experience, which fosters dignity, resilience and opportunity. ALICE at Work is designed to help employers build strategies to reduce turnover, increase retention and boost engagement.

**2 cohorts
planned for
2026**



Cash for Birthing Parents and Babies

We joined community partners across our region to champion and invest in RxKids, a cash prescription program designed to strengthen family financial stability during pregnancy and early infancy. This phase of life is both economically challenging and tremendously important for child development. RxKids came to Kalamazoo in 2025, and this summer expands to Jackson, Albion, Battle Creek, Galesburg and Springfield, as well as Blackman, Oshtemo, Wakeshma and Sheridan townships.

**Scan to find program
impact, research and
dashboard information.**



PRIORITY AREA

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

Every child deserves the chance to reach their full potential. That's why we create pathways for young people to reach their goals, from early childhood education to college and career success.



Creating a College-Going Culture

Our **Capital Area College Access Network** team served 1,365 seniors during the 2025/26 school year, working to increase college and post-secondary readiness, participation, and completion. The network brings together representatives from education, higher education, business, nonprofit, philanthropy and government stakeholders to make post-secondary education an achievable reality for all residents, especially low-income, communities of color, and first-generation students.

Strengthening Child Care

The Capital Area Child Care Coalition, co-led by United Way of South Central Michigan, the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, Capital Area Michigan Works!, and 70+ coalition members, received renewed funding in January to continue strengthening the regional child care system across Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties. The renewed \$100,000 investment through the Regional Child Care Coalition Grant supports the CACCC as it advances priorities focused on improving the availability, affordability, and quality of child care.



Women United

In the Capital Area, Women United brings together community members to impact the lives of female-identifying middle school students by offering supporting mentorship, leadership programming, career exploration and more. In 2025, three grants totaling \$20,000 were awarded to the following organizations:

- Southside Community Coalition: Equipping middle schoolers with essential emotional learning and coping skills to reduce incidents of physical violence in schools.
- CASA for Kids Inc: Pairs trained volunteers with children involved in court cases to provide support, connection and advocacy.
- Child and Family Charities: Offers programming to give students tools to build confidence and unlock their full potential.

Women United's signature Lighting the Path Luncheon is held each May in Lansing.

CapCAN Impact

Number of one-to-one meetings

2,433

Number of FAFSAs completed

543

Number of FAFSA workshops held

28

College Applications completed

971

College Visits facilitated

33

PRIORITY AREA

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY



No one should have to face a crisis alone – especially those neighbors and ALICE families who are already stretched thin. It often takes just one disaster to move a family into financial hardship. That's why we work hard to build community resiliency, bringing together local leaders, nonprofits, government officials, funders and businesses to build the connections and proactive plans that make it possible to survive a crisis and recover stronger.



Disaster Relief Fund

Funding is available to nonprofit organizations supporting response and recovery in instances of natural disaster and community crises that affect individuals and families below the ALICE threshold.

During the 2025 fiscal year, UWSCMI activated the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) three times:

November 2025: When millions of families were at immediate risk of losing access to benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Disaster Relief Funds were granted to nonprofits or public entities who provided food security services to residents in our region.

January 2026: Extreme cold brought into stark relief the gap in resources for people who were unhoused. Through the DRF, we provided support to local nonprofits as they worked to expand the capacity and services of emergency shelters and warming centers across the region.

March 2026: After an apartment fire in Jackson displaced more than 70 families, over \$31,000 was invested in short-term assistance and long-term recovery in partnership with local nonprofits and other community leaders.

County Response Consortiums

Our community resilience work includes the management of the County Response Consortiums for Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties, which transitioned to United Way this year. We launched a similar consortium in Lansing in January of 2026. Both Gryphon Place and 211 remain key partners in the work.

The consortiums, made up of nonprofits, government agencies and local businesses, aim to coordinate efficient, effective access to resources and improve emergency response capabilities of local human service agencies.

Renwick Ballew, Associate Director of Community Resilience, said the relationships build through the consortiums before a community crisis occurs are key to a quicker response.

“Our approach involves connecting with the people who are doing that work rather than trying to stand up an alternate process to recreate something that’s already happening. It allows us to do it faster. It allows us to do it in relationship to one another,” Ballew said. “When it comes to humanitarian aid,

there hasn’t been a structure to do that until we created one. And it’s working.”



2-1-1

United Way continues to invest in 2-1-1 partnering with Gryphon Place in Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties and Central Michigan 2-1-1 in Clinton, Eaton, Ingham and Jackson counties. 2-1-1 call center representatives connect callers with resources for almost any non-emergency need, from child care to housing, food assistance to tax preparation.



Local agencies came together in January for the County Response Consortium launch in Lansing.

PRIORITY AREA

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

When people lack access to nutritious food or quality health care, that leap from surviving to thriving can feel out of reach. Our Healthy Communities work is built on a simple belief: a community where everyone thrives is one where every person has access to the resources they need to lead healthy lives.

Food Security

UWSCMI supports efforts throughout the region that ensure families have enough to eat. That includes events like the NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive that gathers thousands of pounds of food across our region each year. It includes our team's volunteer hours at places like the Tri-County Food Pantry and Loaves & Fishes. Lastly, it includes partnerships like the one between UWSCMI, WK Kellogg Co and Post Consumer Brands, which together host several discount cereal sales open to the public each year.



FUNDING LOCAL IMPACT

One of the core ways United Way of South Central Michigan supports our communities is by directing donor funding to local nonprofits through grants, awarded by committees of local volunteers. Dollars stay in the community where they were raised and support organizations serving people facing financial hardship, including ALICE families working hard but not earning enough to cover the basics. We prioritize partners serving people who have historically had fewer resources and opportunities.

Our collective impact: \$3,365,430 in unrestricted investments across our region

Disability Network Southwest Michigan envisions a fully accessible community where disability is valued as human diversity and everyone belongs. They shared that vision and more with community members at a Breaking Barriers Breakfast.

Battle Creek, Kalamazoo and Albion-Homer areas

\$3,375,430 invested in
63 programs at 62 agencies.

Hundreds of children and families gathered in Bronson Park in Kalamazoo last summer to celebrate National Day of Learning with Kalamazoo Youth Development Network. KYD Network works to ensure all young people have a voice in shaping safe, welcoming, and high-quality programs outside of school.

Jackson County

\$300,000 invested in
19 programs at 17 agencies.

Isaiah's Hub provides a safe and structured environment for Jackson youth with programming that builds strong academic, emotional and social foundations.

Capital Area (Clinton, Eaton, Ingham counties)

\$285,000 invested in
18 programs at 18 agencies
and 3 collaboratives.

FROM OUR PARTNERS

No one organization alone can meet every community need. When nonprofits, funders, and community members come together, something powerful happens. United Way of South Central Michigan is deeply grateful for the partners who show up alongside us every day, bringing expertise, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the people we all serve.



“Supporting United Way strengthens our community because their investment in child care scholarships helps families stay employed, children thrive in quality early learning environments, and our local economy remain strong. Their partnership ensures that families facing financial hardship can access the care they need when they need it most.”

ANNETTE SOBOCINSKI, CHILD CARE NETWORK



“United Way strengthens our community because it ensures that victims facing crisis are not navigating it alone. United Way brings partners together, aligns resources, and invests in solutions that create lasting stability for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.”

ELLEN LASSITER COLLIER, S.A.F.E. PLACE



“Our work is stronger with the support of United Way because they respond in real time to what is occurring and support the organizations that really do the work to uplift our community.”

TAKISHA JOHNSON, YOUNG KINGS AND QUEENS



“Our work is stronger because of our partnership with United Way. Their support allows organizations like ours to meet people where they are and respond to urgent needs, ensuring that seniors in our community have access to stability, support, and dignity.”

YOLANDA POPE, DAP SERVICE & RESOURCE CENTER

LABOR IMPACT ⁱ

United Way and the labor movement have worked hand in hand for decades to build stronger communities. We partner with more than 40 local labor unions across our region to make sure every person has the systems and support they need to succeed.

In our region, partnership looks like:

Learning How to Make an Impact

At the AFL-CIO Community Services School, union members spend a week learning about the partnership between United Way and Labor, as well as ways to make an impact in their communities through things like advocacy, resources, volunteering and more.

Volunteers package food at the 2026 Community Services School in Onaway, Mich.



Being in Community

Our United Way Labor Liaisons joined other local nonprofits to support community members at Hood 2 Hood in Lansing, and handed out more than 400 pairs of Bombas socks through a partnership with Michigan Association of United Ways and Bombas.

Fred Thomas meets with community members at Hood 2 Hood.



**FOOD
COLLECTED
(lbs)**

**JACKSON
14,070 lbs**

**KALAMAZOO
68,336 lbs**

**BATTLE
CREEK
19,396 lbs**

**CAPITAL AREA
55,118 lbs**



Members of the UA Local 333 Plumber and Pipefitters Union and their families volunteer during the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

Stamping Out Hunger

Each May, UWSCMI plays a local role in the NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, the largest one-day food collection in the country.

Strengthening Members and Their Communities

Annual UCAN classes educate local union members and on the history of organized labor, community organizing, and how to connect working families with critical resources.

Supporting Partners

Tri-County Labor Agency for Human Services is a nonprofit funded by United Way of South Central Michigan and the South-Central Michigan AFL-CIO Area Labor Council, as well as direct contributions from individual union members and their local unions. The Tri-County Labor Agency has served union and non-union households in our area for over 30 years.

Gathering in Solidarity

Labor Breakfasts in Battle Creek, Jackson, and Capital Area bring together local United Way and Labor leadership to celebrate partnership and impact.

Being there for Members

Our Dislocated Worker Program provides resources and services to local union members in distress.

WITH DEEPEST THANKS TO OUR DONORS

GIVING OVERVIEW

Total dollars raised:

\$6,144,552

Total number of donors

8,310

LEADERSHIP GIVING

Tocqueville Society donors

38 donors, \$765,034

Leadership Circle donors

743 donors, \$1,484,828

CORPORATE & WORKPLACE GIVING

Workplace campaigns run:

352

New workplace campaigns:

14

Top 10 workplace campaign partners

Bronson Healthcare Group

Consumers Energy

Duncan Aviation

Mars, Inc

MSU Shares

General Motors

Greenleaf Trust

**State Employees
Combined Campaign**

WK Kellogg Co

WK Kellogg Foundation



CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY

Margaux Dever's support of United Way has spanned many years and several communities, now including Jackson.

She previously worked in housing and community development with the City of Muncie and PathStone Corporation in Indiana – work that brought her into close partnership with Heart of Indiana United Way. Her deep interest in housing, a background in education, and appreciation for the research on ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) led her to become an ardent supporter.

So when she and her husband moved back to Jackson to be closer to family as they started their own, she sought out United Way of South Central Michigan for connection to community.

"It's been something that I think is especially important in this hyperconnected world that we're in," she said. "That was why I wanted to make sure that, as we came back to Michigan and were putting down roots here, that I was connecting and supporting local organizations through our United Way."

Dever is now a philanthropy consultant in the Jackson area and works alongside local nonprofit organizations, many of which are United Way partners. She sees the interconnectedness of the nonprofit ecosystem, and notes that UWSCMI plays many roles within that system.

"United Way is so much more than a funder," she said. "United Way is a partner, a research organization, a network - just the way that all of the different pieces of lives are connected and interconnected," she said. "United Way really uplifts those in the ALICE population both through direct support, but also through the way United Way comes together around all of the organizations doing this work, whether they're a partner or not."

"I really believe in the work that United Way does."

GET INVOLVED

COMMUNITY CONNECT ⁱ

A new online meeting place built for community, by community

Connecting people with each other and with United Way in a way that inspires meaningful relationships, provides support, drives collaboration, and ignites a shared passion for equitable change.

Scan to join Community Connect today



Who it's For

Community Members
Nonprofit & Community Partners
Corporate Partners
Donors
Campaign Ambassadors
Volunteers

What You'll Find

Discussion forums
Interest Groups
Exclusive stories of Impact
Progress Updates
Resources
Member Directory

21-Day EQUITY CHALLENGE

390 PARTICIPANTS

EQUITY CHALLENGE ⁱ

Our commitment to supporting ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households compels us to focus on equity to ensure that all community members have access to the resources they need to thrive.

Through our 21-Day Equity Challenges, our UWSCMI team, partners and community members can learn about inequities based on race, disability, gender and sexual orientation. Daily emails examine how they came to be, how they show up in everyday life, and how we can dismantle them.

In May 2025, UWSCMI led 390 participants through the 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge. Content for all challenges can be found at uwscmi.org/equity-challenge

Content for all challenges can be found by scanning



UNITED IS THE WAY™

We all have a role to play in building resilient, flourishing communities where every person has the opportunity to thrive. Find a way to get connected that speaks to you!



Donate



Become a one-time or recurring donor, help run or participate in your company's workplace campaign, join our Leadership Circle or Tocqueville Society, or make a planned legacy gift.



Volunteer



Make a difference with a one-time volunteer opportunity, or make a longer-term commitment with us or one of our partners.



Engage



Join Community Connect to participate in discussion, join advocacy efforts, connect with others.



Learn



Explore our 21-Day Equity Challenges to learn about how inequities based on race, disability, gender and sexual orientation are deeply rooted in our national, state and local systems and institutions and what we can do about it.



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South Central Michigan





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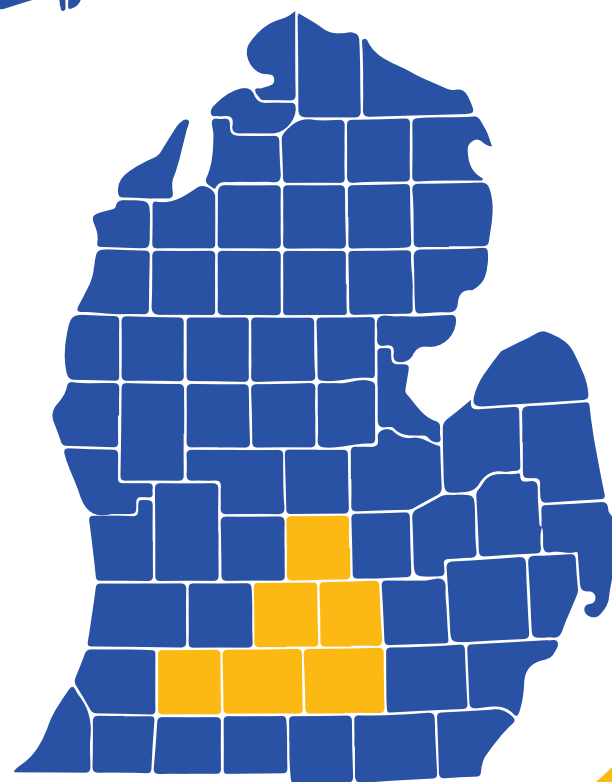
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Lansing, MI 48912

Jackson County

536 N. Jackson St.
Jackson, MI 49201

Kalamazoo County

709 S. Westnedge Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007



UnitedForSCMI.org



Join Community Connect
connect.unitedforscmi.org

