



United Way of Cass County 2020 Annual Report



Give. Advocate. Volunteer.
 United Way of Cass County
www.unitedwayofcasscounty.org



United Way of Cass County



The pandemic led to many closings and cancellations, but your local United Way continued to fight for the Health, Education and Financial Stability of Cass County residents. Many people, due to the economic effects of the pandemic, had to ask for help for the first time. United Way brought in a \$225,000 COVID-19 Grant, partnered with the City of Logansport to bring in an additional \$100,000 for COVID-19 relief and \$13,000 in local funding. We partnered with several nonprofits in Cass County to coordinate funds and additional programs to assist in fulfilling the new and existing needs of our community. While the campaign looked a lot different than we had originally imagined, we were still able to raise \$532,790. \$100,000 was matched and will be used for community impact work over the next two years. We appreciate every volunteer and donor who helped to contribute to a successful 2020. The work we do could not be done without selfless community members who helped make it happen.



It was not all that long ago that I was feeling the energy of kicking off a new campaign and generating a buzz amongst our donor base. Unfortunately, a certain virus had a different plan and cast a dark cloud over not only the campaign, but also our way of life.

Early concerns focused on how we would get access to our donor base considering nearly every employer in town was operating with their doors closed. As the campaign progressed, we were happy to have been given access to some of the local businesses, most of which was prompted by business leaders realizing the importance of the campaign and the United Way to the operations of the community. Thankfully, many of our early CEO calls reinforced the fact that business leaders were still optimistic that we would meet our goals despite societal conditions. So, we trudged onward.

While I would like to take some credit for the money that has been raised, I would suggest you look no further than the two women sitting in the office who are grinding on a daily basis. I can say with some confidence that this has been one of the most unconventional campaign years on record, but the United Way staff have kept the course so that Cass County residents can reap the rewards. Thanks to the United Way staff, all the division chairs and their volunteers. Covid has battered and beaten many, but the United Way and the community programs it supports have won the fight.

No pain no gain!

2020 Board of Directors

Crystal Zinsmeister, President
Amy Cunningham, Past President
Arden Cramer, 1st Vice President
Kathy Dunderman, 2nd Vice President
Josh Reeser, Treasurer
Lloyd Knight, Secretary

Members:

Michael Busch
Lindsey Hagerty
Ruth Baker
Alesia Brown
Becky DeWitt

Our Focus Areas



Helping children and youth achieve their potential

Goals:

- Children enter kindergarten ready to learn
- School-aged children succeed in school
- Youth grow into productive adults



Promoting financial stability and independence

Goals:

- People achieve financial stability
- People gain the skills they need to be successful
- People in crisis have access to emergency food, shelter and financial assistance



Improving people's health and safety

Goals:

- People maintain healthy nutrition and physical fitness
- People overcome barriers to become mentally and physically healthy

Education



Katie Easter's class with Business Partner, Connie Erny

"I have loved partnering with the United Way and my first graders at Lewis Cass. Having a business partner from our community come in and read to my students, and spend time investing in them is such a wonderful opportunity. I'm so thankful to have people dedicated to building the youth in our community. I owe a big thank you to our business partners and the United Way for investing their time and energy to make this program great. My students love this special time each month, and look forward to the next visit."

-Katie Easter, 1st Grade Teacher at Lewis Cass Elementary

16 Boy Scouts advanced to the next rank

13,867 Dolly Parton Imagination Library books were delivered to 1,000 children birth to age five in Cass County through Reading Railroad™

39 kids aged 5-12 participated in Kids Crew Afterschool Program at the YMCA

54 community members participated in the Business Partners program through Reading Railroad™



Local Boy Scouts



Girl Scout troop with their scarecrow, which won the People's Choice Award

97 Boy Scouts completed requirements in a variety of areas, including: citizenship, personal fitness, personal safety, leadership and emergency preparedness

329 first graders from Logansport Schools received a library card through Cass County Reading Railroad™

61 Girl Scouts worked to develop a strong sense of self, positive values and healthy relationships

301 hours of community service were completed by Boy Scouts

Financial Stability



Volunteer packing a food bag for Logansport Backpack

“My life wasn’t very good healthwise until after I lost weight through weight loss surgery. And financial assistance through United Way has allowed me to maintain my weight loss through exercise at the Y. So, really, it has saved my life.”
-Cindy Haggerty, YMCA Financial Assistance Recipient

“We really appreciate having this program. It really helps especially when the end of the month comes and we might be low on our food stamps. We can always have a “Spaghetti Night!”
-Parent recipient of Logansport Backpack

162 households received financial assistance from The Salvation Army

35 military families served during an emergency by the Red Cross

31,395 rides given to the elderly and disabled through Cass County Council on Aging

360 food bags were sent home weekly during Logansport Backpack’s months of operation

63 individuals were awarded YMCA memberships through the financial assistance program



Cass County resident utilizing Cass Area Transit



National Guard & volunteers at Mobile Food Pantry

168 total volunteers dedicated time each week to support the Logansport Backpack program

12 Cass County families were assisted with emergency basic needs at disaster incidents by the Red Cross

476,054 pounds of food distributed by at no cost to food insecure families by Food Finders – serving 5,639 households, 16,459 individuals

27,307 pounds of food were sent home in 5,880 food bags through Lewis Cass Buddy Bags program

32 mobile food pantries in Cass County through Food Finders

Health



YMCA Kids Bootcamp participants

"I have lived in Logansport my entire 65 years. I presently sit on the Board of Directors for the Cass County YMCA. The Y is a non-profit organization. When I first had a vision to begin a workout program for kids which has now become the 'Y Fit Bootcamp' I had no idea how it would be funded. It is truly satisfying to know that our local United Way organization is run by civic minded people who are knowledgeable about our community and the programs offered by the YMCA. As a Board Member it is assuring to know that the local United Way continues to be supportive of the YMCA and its mission. I honestly feel like the YMCA and all it offers is an extension of our local United Way."

-Suzy Wamsley, YMCA Kids Bootcamp Instructor

986 households received groceries from The Salvation Army

28 children aged 8-15 participated in the Y Fit Bootcamp program at the YMCA

810 wellness visits were completed by Peak Community Services clients

1,304 units of blood collected through the Red Cross Biomedical Services Program

97 Boy Scouts completed requirements including nutrition and physical fitness education



Robert Dayberry, who advanced to Eagle Scout in 2020



YMCA Kids Bootcamp participants

89% of youth who participated in Y Fit Bootcamp showed a decrease in BMI, Body fat %, and waistline at the end of the program

28,401 meals served through The Salvation Army

100% of those monitored by Red Cross Biomedical Services Program demonstrated improved health

118 specialist visits were attended by Peak Community Services clients

Live United® Day

LIVE UNITED® DAY brings together members from the community from all backgrounds, skills, demographics to complete projects for those in need. While COVID-19 did add obstacles to this annual event, Cass County still came together to volunteer. A little over 200 volunteers from various organizations donated their time and skills to help complete 30 projects throughout the county.



- Installation of playground at Camelot Care Center
- Clean up of 18th street from Woodlawn to Little Turtle entrance
- Fence repair for individual in Cass County
- Landscaping and window maintenance at Ivy Tech
- Playground equipment installation at Huston Park
- Mobile Food Pantry at All Saints
- Mural completed at Little Turtle Waterway by LHS Art Club
- Construction of new shelter at Dykeman Golf Course in honor of the late Mike Dingo and Mike Anderson
- Multiple projects for Emmaus Mission Center, including painting and revamping of storage room
- Mulching of south playground at Spencer Park
- Sanitizing and cleaning of Lewis Cass Buddy Bags packing room
- Enclosure of overhang at Cass County 4-H Pavillion
- Installation of new playground at Pioneer Elementary School
- Personal hygiene drive at Carter Fuel
- Mini Downtown Green & Clean Day



UW Impact



FamilyWize, a prescription drug card, allows those with a card to receive discounts on prescriptions at participating pharmacies. These cards helped 158 Cass County residents, saving a total of \$10,877. 42% of those who benefited from FamilyWize cards were 65 or older.



Our VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program completed 250 total tax returns for Cass County residents in 2020. 135 volunteer hours were dedicated to the success of this program.



2-1-1 received 1,237 calls from Cass County residents in 2020. The top five needs were: Food Pantries, Electric Service Payment Assistance, Rent Payment Assistance, Adult Protective Services, and Housing Search and Information.

Covid Response

In a partnership with the Lilly Foundation and Indiana United Ways, we received \$225,000 in grant funding. We were able to provide nonprofits in our community with additional funding to assist with the needs of the pandemic. The following organizations received funding through this grant: The Salvation Army, YMCA, The State Theater, Family Services of Howard County, Felix's Pantry, Neal Home, and Food Finders. We also partnered with the City of Logansport to get a \$100,000 grant for COVID relief. Through this partnership, we worked with Felix's Pantry and many volunteers to provide meals made by local restaurants for those in need in June & July. This also enabled the Logansport Backpack Program to continue providing weekly supplemental food through June and July. Area Five, United Way, Logansport Schools, and several volunteers collaborated to ensure the food bags were delivered each week. The Emergency Food and Shelter Program was coordinated through the United Way office and \$31,023 was allotted to The Salvation Army and Emmaus Mission Center with this funding.



Community Leaders



Rotary Club of Logansport,
2020 Live United Award



Steinberger Construction, Inc.,
2020 Pacesetter of the Year



Kailin Bauman,
2020 Volunteer of the Year



Brad Rozzi,
2020 Campaign Chair

Campaign Cabinet Chairs:

Leadership - Jennifer Musall

Large Business - Bryan Martinez -

Small Business - Sally Markham

Health Care - Crystal Zinsmeister

Professional - Joyce Mayhill

Education Co-Chairs - Lindsey Hagerty,

Paige Woodhouse, Joyce Bower, Bryce McDonald

Nonprofits - Jane Horner

City - Janet Fawley

Residential Co-Chairs - Jerry Miller & Carol Sue Hayworth

Retired Teachers Co-Chairs - Shannon Jones, Nancy Cottrell, Dennis Richey

Town & Country Co-Chairs - Paige Woodhouse & Ruth Baker

Pacesetters:

Steinberger Construction

Logansport Memorial Hospital

Lewis Cass Schools

Myers Spring

Logansport Savings Bank

Consolidated Union

Pepsi

Cole Hardwood

City of Logansport

Total Raised: \$70,980

Community Investment

Committee:

Alesia Brown - Chair

Jane Horner

Marc Vendl

Kailin Bauman

Bailey Record

Hairo Ortega

Brad Deane

Malinda Galloway Jackson

Lora Redweik

Chris McCloskey



United Way of Cass County