

THE UNITED WAY OF DOUGLAS COUNTY

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



645 VERMONT ST. #590, LAWRENCE KS, 66044



FIGHTING FOR THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND FINANCIAL STABILITY OF EVERY PERSON IN DOUGLAS COUNTY.

We bring diverse organizations together to solve our community's most complex social problems. Your investment in the United Way supports these community organizations who are working for a thriving, healthy, and resilient Douglas County.

| Health Investments | |
|---|----------------|
| Ballard Community Services Emotional Wellness Program | \$20K |
| Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence Healthy Lifestyles Programming | \$63.7K |
| Douglas County Dental Clinic Child Dental Disease Prevention/Education | \$74.4K |
| Headquarters Counseling Center Youth Empowered to Protect Peers Program | \$15K |
| Heartland Community Health Center Integrated Care for the Uninsured * | \$50K |
| Senior Resource Center Senior Rides | \$20K |
| Success By 6 Coalition Parent-Infant Bonding Project | \$19.4K |
| The Sexual Trauma and Abuse Care Center Underserved Population Outreach | \$20K |

| Education Investments | |
|--|-----------------|
| Ballard Community Services Family Connections Program | \$45K |
| Big Brothers Big Sisters Community Matches | \$25K |
| Child Care Aware of E. Kansas Improving Early Childhood Education Quality | \$55K |
| Communities in Schools Mid-America Kennedy Elementary Integrated Student Support | \$27K |
| Community Children's Center Inc. Trauma-Informed Early Childhood Community | \$40K |
| Independence, Inc. Job Training for Youth with Disabilities | \$21,850 |
| Positive Bright Start Child Care Tuition Scholarships * | \$53,019 |
| Success By 6 Coalition Parents as Teachers | \$25,631 |
| United Way of Douglas County Readers & Brainfood Programs | \$1K |

| Financial Stability Investments | |
|---|----------------|
| Ballard Community Services North Lawrence Food Pantry | \$10K |
| Catholic Charities of NE Kansas Inc. Financial Literacy | \$25K |
| Housing & Credit Counseling, Inc. Housing & Financial Counseling | \$28.5K |
| Just Food Food Pantry * | \$39K |
| Lawrence Community Housing Trust Housing & Stability Support Services | \$75K |
| Lawrence Community Shelter Emergency Shelter | \$70K |
| Willow Domestic Violence Center Domestic Violence Survivors Shelter | \$45K |

* Read more about these great programs and agencies in the client stories featured.

To learn more about all of our partner agencies & donate to help us support them please visit: unitedwaydgco.org

Testimonials and Data:

HEALTH

I always felt secure with my place in life. I loved my job, was able to travel, and could provide a comfortable life for my loved ones. Everything seemed on track - until it wasn't. After my father suddenly fell ill, our family realized that not only would he likely never recover - but he was rapidly developing dementia. My mom and I were left with the choice of turning over his care to a skilled facility or attempting to look after him at home. We chose the latter. I left my job and all of its benefits and began searching for medical insurance to cover myself - a Type I diabetic since childhood.

I couldn't locate a single doctor willing to take me on. My own doctor of several years wouldn't even return my phone calls. The attention I needed to be giving to my family was being absorbed by anxiety about my own medical condition. Overnight I had become one of the 100,000+ individuals throughout the state that was uninsurable. I came face-to-face with the realization that I might not be able to stay alive long enough to help my father as he neared the end of his journey. Coworkers suggested that I move to another state. Others told me to let my parents figure out their own future and ask for my job back. My mind filled with thoughts of my childhood, and how my family encouraged me to not be afraid of life due to my Type I diabetes. I was not about to turn my back on them now.

While driving my father to an appointment, I heard a Public Service Announcement on the radio. The ad spoke of the United Way and detailed many of the services they offer, including local partners. I called them and explained my situation. Within minutes I was phoning one of their partners - Heartland Community Health Center. Not only was my predicament unsurprising to Heartland, but they scheduled time for me to see a health care team the following morning! After an explanation of how the clinic is designed to work to help insured, the underinsured and even the uninsured individuals - I was placed on an expertly managed program that obtained enough life-saving medicine for me to care for my family without worrying about my own health. My Heartland team actually saved my life by showing me a new path to affordable healthcare, managed by people who offer possibilities that work - Healthcare that gives back.

- Brad Koehler



UNITING FOR HEALTH

For a Douglas County with equitable access to quality services & resources to foster complete physical, mental, emotional, & social well-being.

- Our Goals:
1. Create Equitable Opportunities for Health, Wellness
 2. Basic Coverage for Preventative Healthcare
 3. Healthy Youth and Adults
 4. Materials Health, Well-Being

OUR IMPACT:

74% say they avoided risky behavior like drinking, unsafe sex, or illegal activities.

7,274
low-income residents accessed primary dental, physical, and behavioral healthcare.

135
residents of color were engaged in targeted prevention outreach.



Testimonials and Data:

EDUCATION

My husband and I are fortunate to have four daughters, ages six, five, and twins who are two. These early years have been exciting and rewarding, but have also come with a range of struggles. One of the most insurmountable has been the financial burden of early childhood education. For my family, and many others, economic stability ensures not only vital needs, but also positive mental health and overall well-being in our day to day lives.

With the Positive Bright Start scholarship, we have been able to work toward a more stable future and feel good about the early childhood schooling experiences of our children. The doctoral program my husband and I are enrolled in at KU does not allow students to work. Without financial assistance, my husband and I would have had to delay our studies to either find full-time work to maintain the income needed for quality childcare, or care for them at home ourselves. It is likely that if we had put off our studies, we wouldn't have had the opportunity to enroll again. As I prepare now to graduate with a PhD, I know that the support of Positive Bright Start is one of the reasons I will be walking down that hill on graduation day.

I learned about the scholarship when I told our children's community early education program that we would only attend for one month before needing to withdraw due to cost. Upon applying, I found the staff at Positive Bright Start were kind, respectful, and interested in the quality of care my children received. I was happy to be able to stay with the community program of my choice. My children enjoyed going to school and were met by caring professionals each morning, which meant the world to me.

I know firsthand how vital this scholarship is to recipients. I will always be thankful for the support it offered us at a critical time in our lives, and I know it will leave a lasting impact on our futures. Ensuring that families experience economic stability as well as nurturing educational care for their young children is an endlessly important endeavor, and Positive Bright Start has done that for us.

- Anna Jenny



UNITING FOR EDUCATION

For all youth in Douglas County to have equitable opportunities to achieve their full potential through quality education.

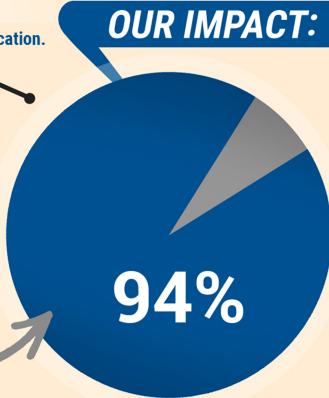
Our Goals: 1. Readiness to Achieve in School

- 2. Academic Achievement, Early Literacy
- 3. Productive and Engaged Youth

OUR IMPACT:

898 preschool children received services through United Way supported programs.

94% of students served showed grade-level reading proficiency.



OUR IMPACT:



Testimonials and Data:

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Each week my daughters (ages four and five) wait patiently for our number to be called. We check in, and our weekly shopping begins. They help me choose fresh fruits and veggies, learning the different names, taking turns with others, and sharing their preferences. They "Cook" in the play kitchen, then join me for our point tally to chat with volunteers and bag groceries. We leave with food that will not only feed, but delight our family of six.

A few months ago, this wasn't our story. We were struggling to make ends meet. Our family has a single income, and our grocery list was getting shorter and shorter as prices increased. A dear friend suggested going to Just Food, but to be honest, I was unsure. Being just over the income limit for SNAP benefits, we had been unable to access food assistance. She assured me we would qualify, and much to my delight, my husband and I left Just Food that week empowered and excited for the impact this food would have on our daily lives.

Going to Just Food this year means that we can breathe. It means that we can seek out medical care for the first time in nearly a decade. It meant that I could get new glasses when mine broke. It means that we have more fruits and vegetables than ever before, many local and organic. It means that we could take out a loan to ensure that we have a vehicle. It means that my kids are excited to cook and explore new foods. It means that my grocery budget has been cut in half. Going to Just Food has opened up a world of possibilities for our family.

In a world obsessed with binary thinking - have/have not, right/wrong - Just Food continually breaks down barriers. They work to uphold and promote the worth of all persons, going above and beyond with their pantry, programming, and education. Whether you find yourself in a season of need or abundance, this place, and these people will welcome you with open arms and open hearts. Come, and be fed. Your heart, soul, and belly will be better for it.



- Emily Hartford



UNITING FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY

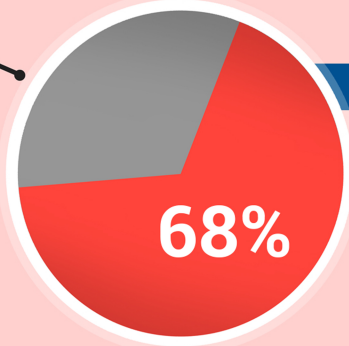
For a Douglas County with equitable access to stability and independence through quality housing, just wages, & the opportunity to build generational wealth.

- Our Goals:**
1. Affordable, Safe Housing
 2. Building Up Savings
 3. Healthy Food Access

OUR IMPACT:



987 residents received financial counselling and savings education. (That's 13.7 school busses full!)



OUR IMPACT:

68% of housing program clients relocated into permanent, affordable, and safe housing.

A LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

The United Way of Douglas County has been a trusted for almost 80 years. We've demonstrated nearly a century of rising to the occasion and 2019 was no exception. In the last year, we've achieved significant milestones that brought relief to thousands of families. We have provided our volunteers with a purpose, our advocates with a voice, and our donors with an opportunity to see how their gifts make a notable impact on our community. However, our work is far from over. What does the future look like post Covid-19, when prior to the pandemic nearly 19% of Douglas County lived below the poverty line?

The United Way is built for action. Proof is in our response to COVID-19 when we repurposed our grants to over 20 local non-profits so they could respond to the crisis. We developed direct service programs providing food, volunteer support, resource referrals, and emergency funds to people affected by the crisis. As the recovery process begins, we will again assess the needs of residents and design a response to get people working and households financially stable.

No one organization can address all of the challenges facing families living in poverty. The United Way excels at bringing together experts to find solutions to social challenges. We work closely with non-profit organizations, government offices, academic institutions, and businesses to address the issues facing our community. Our Impact and Response Funding model helps repair our safety-net, and offers a targeted approach to addressing our most pressing issues

But we can't do it without you. Without you, seniors may have to make the heartbreaking choice between a healthy meal and lifesaving medicine. Without you, children may not have quality education. Without you, adults will struggle to acquire the skills need to find employment and stabilize their housing.

Thank you for a productive 2019 and for the continued support you are offering us to tackle COVID-19.

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With respect,
Peggy Johnson



2018-2019 Board Chair

With respect,
Cornish



Jeffrey A. Cornish, President and CEO

Fundraising Expenses: \$101,058

Program Services Expenses: \$1,306,828 (~90% goes to Programing).

Management/General Expenses: \$85,761 (~5% goes to Admin).

TOTAL: \$1,212,268.00





United Way of Douglas County

Follow us online to learn more
www.unitedwaydgco.org

