



WINTER 2019 Edition

LIVING UNITED

201 W. Eldorado, Decatur, IL, 62522

CHANGING LIVES in Macon, DeWitt, Moultrie, Shelby and Piatt counties

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

"As we get closer to wrapping up the campaign year, it's a good time to look back at all the awesome things that happen year after year. We had a record amount of new campaigns join us this year. Just to name a few: DMCO, Vector Construction, DeWitt Savings Bank, Marvin Keller Trucking, and Graphic Paper. In addition to new business, we had quite a few campaigns that went above and beyond with significant increases such as Caterpillar, Ameren, Tate & Lyle, Exelon, McElroy Metals, and Hydro-Gear. We thank all the businesses, employees, and volunteers that help make our community better by investing their time and resources.

None of this matters if we aren't changing the face of our community. With current investments, we are changing lives through Youth Education, Adult Education, Health, and Safety programs. For a list of program investments, go to uwdecatur.org or request an Impact Tour and see your investment at work.

UWDMI is a local organization. Your investment stays here to help our community. A team of volunteers make the investment decisions so that you can be assured your investment will be used to create a positive, measurable impact in someone's life. Your investment in our Community Impact Fund is invested back into programs in our community that have documented, measurable outcomes that move people toward self-sufficiency and independent living. That's the value of United Way!

We are the hand raisers. The game changers. Change doesn't happen alone. Together, we must Live United."

- Debbie Bogle
President, United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois

COMMUNITY IMPACT SUCCESS STORY

United Way invests in programs in Macon, DeWitt, Moultrie, Shelby & Piatt Counties. There are success stories from every county. Here is "Jane's story" told by Moultrie County Beacon's Susan Rauch:

"Jane spent her days living on the streets. She was often seen in abandoned areas - any place she could find shelter for the night. She was known as the cat lady, a hoarder, and seen engaging in incoherent screaming fights with her fists drawn in the air - with someone who wasn't there.

Finally, someone noticed her, and an organization stepped up and took guardianship of her. She had a boyfriend who was physically abusing her, and taking what little money she had. Jane was not only being harmed...but was a harm to herself. She was in desperate need of help.

Someone knew of the Moultrie County Beacon, and decided that this was where she needed to be. Jane was dual diagnosed with a mental illness and a developmental disability. She now receives the monitored medication and counseling she so desperately needs.

Jane's transformation took over two years. She started out as a runner from her 24-hour home, screaming and arguing with imaginary people...was angry and abrasive.

NOW - Jane has lost weight, quit smoking, has a job at the Beacon, loves animals, and is a JOY to be around! The staff says she has become the "mother hen" with her housemates - a role she is proud of. But most importantly, Jane continues to evolve!"

United Way Good Shop

By choosing these businesses/individuals, you're investing in United Way Community Impact programs focusing on youth education, adult education & job skills training, health, safety, and essential services.

Herb Roberts
The Village Barber Shop
110 North Dr - Mt. Zion

Door 4 Brewing Co.
1214 W. Cerro Gordo St. - Decatur

Kenney's ACE Hardware
2880 S Mt. Zion Rd - Decatur

Tony Piraino
Brinkoetter & Associates
Ph: 217-972-2867

Patty Gogerty
Sams/Hockaday & Associates
Ph: 217-423-8000

Harrison & Peterson
Main Place Real Estate
Ph: 217-520-2085



UPCOMING EVENTS

Rock United Feb. 9



Join United Way and the Oakwood Business Association for Rock United on Saturday, February 9th! This fun night of music will feature awesome bands at four locations: Door 4 Brewing Co.; Lock, Stock & Barrel; Donnie's Homespun; and The Winery. The first band will start at 6pm and the final act wraps up at 1am. Proceeds from the night will benefit United Way of Decatur & Mid-IL. Check out uwdecatur.org/events for more details!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Rock United - Feb. 9 (see above)
Ride United - June 2
Big Obstacle (BO3K) - July 20
Run United - August 24

UW Trivia

Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for info!

uwdecatur.org

United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois: 217.422.8537

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Aric Lee

*Sports Director, Radio Host, play-by-play analyst,
Neuhoff Media Decatur*

"My connection to United Way came out of a desire to do more, and I created the UW Trivia Series in 2013, which has had a solid 5-year run, and this year will feature one or two

special nights. I also open a weekly segment of my show to UW to promote all things amazing about the organization. I chose to join the board because I fully support and believe in the entire process of United Way. From the application process for agencies, to proving the programs are working, to the public having the responsibility of investing funds, and expecting all these amazing agencies striving to improve the well being of thousands in our community, especially the march back to self-sufficiency."



Sam Brown

*Director of Operations,
HSHS St. Mary's Hospital*

"My first experience with United Way was as a student at Webster University in St. Louis. I really wanted to get involved with helping the underserved and underprivileged

so I volunteered my time at various community events. I received the opportunity to serve on the UWDMI Board when Laura Sechrest (former Board member) announced her retirement from St. Mary's. My favorite aspect of United Way is that it fosters partnerships with various organizations to drive sustainable and lasting results for those in need. The mission is something that I fully believe in, and United Way is an organization that I continually want to be involved with.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to those who volunteer their off time to help us. 2018 was very successful because of our wonderful volunteers! Be on the lookout for 2019 volunteer opportunities. We appreciate the help!

Find volunteer opportunities by visiting our Volunteer Portal at **uwdecatur.org**.

uwdecatur.org

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2019

UWDMI is looking forward to another great year in 2019. We are excited for our fun annual events, the Community Investment Process, and our annual campaign this fall. This year will feature the Community Investment Process for two counties: DeWitt & Moultrie. That process will take place this spring in April. Programs in those counties can apply for funding when the application period opens in February. We will post the application to our website at uwdecatur.org/apply-for-investment. Also, our annual investment grants will again be available for programs in Shelby & Piatt counties. That application period opens in March.

Check out the events section on the front of this newsletter to learn about upcoming events and to mark your calendars for the ones this summer. And watch our Facebook page for future event updates!

United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois: 217.422.8537

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Thank you for your continued support.

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