

LIVE UNITED



United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois

WINTER 2020 Edition

LIVING UNITED

201 W. Eldorado, Decatur, IL, 62522

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

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Gary Genenbacher

Partner, CPA
BKD LLP



"I have been a contributor to United Way since moving to Decatur in 1998 after moving from Quincy, IL upon graduation from Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. I have always

been comfortable as a donor that United Way was a good steward with donations. Over the past several years, my interest was further piqued learning of their focus upon "impact" in our community. I am looking forward to continuing to learn and witness positive outcomes that can be traced to the mission of United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois, which will benefit all of our communities well into the future."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rock United 2020

Feb. 22

Rock United is back!! Join United Way and the Oakwood Business Association on Saturday, Feb. 22, for a great night of live music at four locations: Door 4 Brewing Co., Lock Stock & Barrel, The Winery, and Donnie's Homespun Pizza. Here is the music schedule:



- Door 4: **Matt Livasy** 7PM
- LSB: **Lunar Jive Machine** 8:30PM
- The Winery: **The Jason Gotts Band** 9:30PM
- Donnie's: **The Barnyard Revival, The HAWK** 9:30PM

Proceeds from the night will benefit United Way. Keep watch at uwdecatur.org/events and our Facebook page for updates and more details!

2019-2020 COMMUNITY IMPACT RESULTS

Programs that apply for United Way funding during our Community Investment Process are asked to show how they will be impacting the community by providing outcomes. United Way keeps in contact with all of the agencies that received funding and ask they report back on their proposed outcomes. Here are just a few results from 2019-2020.

- **American Red Cross**
 - The local ARC chapter assisted with 27 home fires and 2 storm-related cases, helping to stabilize individuals/families in crisis.
 - Installed 241 smoke detectors in neighborhoods identified as "high risk" by the Decatur Fire Department. This will help protect 253 people in 100 households.
- **Macon County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)**
 - This year, CASA has helped close 137 cases involving abused and neglected children in Macon County. CASA volunteers are essential in placing children experiencing trauma in a safe and permanent living situation. Of those cases, only 4 have reopened. That statistic increases when CASA is not involved!
- **Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation (DMCOC)**
 - 378 children received free preschool at Anna Waters Head Start. 100 percent of these children came from low or no-income families. Without Head Start, these kids would not have access to preschool.
 - 97 percent of those Head Start students transitioned to kindergarten "kindergarten ready." Being ready for kindergarten means having well-developed preschool skills, and being academically, socially, and physically ready for the transition. This establishes a strong foundation for future academic success.
 - 7 of 9 students enrolled in the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Training Certification class received their certificate of completion and/or CDL.
 - All 7 students that received their CDL went on to get a job 90 days post-graduation. They went from earning less than a living wage and receiving government assistance to becoming self-sufficient by earning a living wage with benefits!
- **Catholic Charities - Meals on Wheels**
 - 668 clients served, 94,000 meals delivered
 - 100% of clients had access to fresh produce
 - 87% of clients felt less isolated because of daily contact with MOW volunteer who deliver meals
 - 93% of clients are able to stay in their own home and remain independent because of delivered meals.

UNITED WAY HAS A BIG IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY

United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois is the leader in community transformation through effective, efficient, and integrated solutions that empower everyone to be self-sufficient.

Our focus is on how we effectively invest resources into community programming. Our work doesn't stop there. More importantly, we are constantly assessing our community's needs and service gaps, and identifying barriers that we as a community must overcome to move individuals - and thereby the community as a whole - towards a greater degree of self-sufficiency. What's important is the amount the community invested, the connections and collaborations provided, the service gaps filled, and the barriers that have been overcome, all have a measurable impact in the lives of those in our community living in crisis or threat of crisis. That impact is what we celebrate!

So how do we do all this? By our investment decisions, we manage defined and measurable outcomes that didn't exist prior to our development of the Community Community Approach (<https://uwdecatur.org/Community-Impact-Approach>). By connecting the community's needs with resources through our five-county 211 Service. By connecting volunteers, a critical community resource, to agencies that need them (<https://volunteermidillinois.galaxydigital.com/>) through our Volunteer Portal, in partnership with the Community Foundation of Macon County. By our leadership and involvement in several community-level committees, such as the Overdose Prevention Education Network, the Youth Health Coalition, the DeWitt County System of Care, the Piatt County Community Conversations, just to name a few. No single agency knows our community and its challenges - and is working to overcome those challenges - better than United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois.

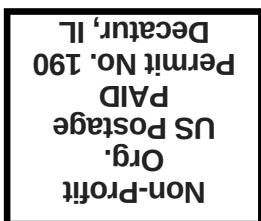
What are our results to date? An example of our impact on the community is that a \$40,000 investment we made in a local agency moved 100 children out of foster care into permanent, supportive housing, by either a return to their biological parents or into an adoptive home. The outcome is that 100 children now have a stable environment to heal from past trauma and to build a future successful life. This is priceless. The financial return on this investment is that one child in foster care costs the state of IL \$60,000 per year. 100 children no longer in foster care saves the state approximately \$6 million. The impact of that \$40,000 is staggering! These are the programs we are looking to invest in. This is the impact we strive to make in our communities.

This is why we ask for your investment in United Way. Thank you for your continued support!

uwdecatur.org

United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois: 217.422.8537

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Thank you for your continued support.

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Decatur, IL 62522