



FALL 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

We are right in the middle of campaign season. What does this mean to you? It's your opportunity to invest in community change! United Way invests in programs in our community that provide the most effective, efficient, and integrated solutions to issues that we are facing in central Illinois. We invest in programs that are moving people from a state of crisis to stability, from stability to thriving, and from thriving to self-sufficient. If we all work together, we CAN move this community towards a self-sufficient state. Please join us in our movement to provide sustainable solutions.

There are many opportunities to learn about our community and how programming is changing how we look at issues. Join us on an Impact Tour. Invite us in to your business for a presentation. Or just simply call us. We are happy to talk about how we can help you address your community goals.

United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois is a local organization. When you invest in UWDMI, it stays here to help our very own community. You can be part of the solution. For more information call 217.422.8537.

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

WHY UNITED WAY?

- United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois invests in agency programs that have measurable outcomes that help people become and remain **self sufficient**.
- **What's raised in your community, stays in your community.** We have separate campaigns in each of our counties so your investment benefits your community.
- United Way's Community Impact Fund invests in **50 programs** among 22 local agencies (Macon Co.)
- It is easy and convenient to invest in United Way through payroll deduction, or a one-time gift

COMMUNITY IMPACT SUCCESS STORY

This story from the Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation's **Accessibility Program** is another example of impact in our community:

The Copples are an elderly couple that live in a small home on Ravina Park Rd. in Decatur. They are 83 and 85. Mrs. Copples was recently bound to a wheelchair, but unfortunately their home wasn't equipped for someone with limited mobility. The home had no wheelchair ramp and no accessibility upgrades in critical places, such as the bathroom. The Copples are on a fixed income and couldn't afford making any upgrades to their home. Mrs. Copples was forced to miss several doctor's appointments and had no medicine for 3 weeks because she was unable to leave. Mr. Copples would have to call for assistance to carry his wife out of the home, which wasn't convenient.

Currently there is only one place installing wheelchair ramps and that is DMCOOC. The Copples were put in touch with DMCOOC, and after a short assessment, DMCOOC said the couple qualified for assistance.

They quickly installed a temporary wheelchair ramp and also made necessary accessibility upgrades inside the house. The Copples are now able to freely leave their house! DMCOOC was able to put the ramp over the original front steps, so when the Copples aren't living in the home anymore, the steps can be used again. In addition, the temporary ramp can be pulled away and used for another home in need.

One of United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois' goals is to help people live independently with dignity. The Copples are able to achieve that goal thanks to DMCOOC helping them stay in their homes as well as referring them to other programs that will help with medicine, utilities, and other expenses.

In addition to the ramp and accessibility upgrades, DMCOOC found leaks in the Copples' roof. Through their Weatherization Program, a United Way invested program, DMCOOC helped the couple with a new roof, further keeping the Copples from having to leave their home.

CROSSING HEALTHCARE MOBILE UNIT - VIDEO

We are proud to have helped bring the Crossing Healthcare Mobile Health Unit to Decatur. This unit will provide medical services to Decatur Public Schools students for years to come! Check out our video at uwdecatur.org and learn more about the unit at crossinghealthcare.org.



uwdecatur.org

United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois: 217.422.8537

2019 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN TIPS

- Call us for campaign kickoff ideas
- Arrange a company **Impact Tour** of 3 agency programs supported by United Way
- Need a **video** to send around? We have a 2-minute video, produced locally, that shows United Way's impact in the community
- Need some prize incentives for payroll pledging? We have that!
- Set a deadline to finish your campaign. If not, enthusiasm for the campaign and urgency to return pledge forms will fade
- We encourage you to get us campaign totals by year end
- Don't hesitate to call (217-422-8537) or email us for assistance - sparks@uwdecatur.org rhuffer@uwdecatur.org

UNITED WAY FUNDRAISER IDEAS

- Pumpkin Carving/Decorating contest - See who can carve/decorate their pumpkin the best. Charge \$5 to enter and \$1 for votes
- Cake Walk - Have employees bake cakes or buy baked goods and hold a cake walk for a fee
- Walking taco - Set up a cart with taco ingredients and push it around during the lunch hour. Or use a bag of Fritos bag and fill accordingly
- Sports team day - Have employees pay a fee to wear their favorite sports team apparel
- Ice Cream Social - set up an ice cream bar with a variety of toppings and charge by the scoop
- Balloon pop - employees donate prizes for this event. Put what the prize is on a note inside the balloon before filling. Employees pay a fee for the number of darts they want to throw. Could fill with time off or days off, etc.
- **Call us for more ideas!**

uwdecatur.org

DINE UNITED

EVERY WEDNESDAY FOR LUNCH

September & October

and a portion of the proceeds will benefit
United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois!

Check in on Facebook,
post a picture of your meal on
Instagram or Tweet about it!
#DineUnited



More information at uwdecatur.org

Make a Difference. Be the Difference.



Participating Restaurants

- Beach House
- Black Iron Coffee Co. (MTZ)
- Decatur Coffee Connection
- Decatur Coffee Connection DMH
- Crawford's Pizza & Pub (MTZ)
- Decatur Club
- The Downtown Cafe
- El Corral Mexican Restaurant
- Lincoln Square Lounge
- Lock Stock & Barrel
- Richland Comm. College Cafe
- RCC Bistro Five Thirty Seven (Tuesdays only)
- Salsa American Burrito Co.
- Salsa American Burrito Co. - Mt. Zion
- Sloan's Calzones
- Starship Enterprise Grill
- TapRoot
- University Dogs
- And **ALL DAY, EVERY DAY** in Sep. & Oct.
use code **SUPPORT** when ordering online
at PapaMurphys.com to benefit United Way

More info about Dine United is at uwdecatur.org/events

United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois: 217.422.8537

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Thank you for your continued support.

United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois
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Decatur, IL 62522