

LIVE UNITED



United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois

SUMMER 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

What is 211? 211 is an easy-to-remember telephone number assigned by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to streamline access to health and human services. 211 is a 24-hour hotline to connect residents to a wide variety of human services or social services.

If someone needs information or referral services but has little or no prior knowledge or experience, dialing 211 is much simpler than other options. Once a person dials 211, a professional Information and Referral specialist will then either refer or connect that caller to the correct agency based on the services needed. Callers to 211 can get LIVE assistance with needs such as: food, shelter, counseling, income supports, employment, healthcare, and services for specialized populations such as the elderly and persons with disabilities, and much more.

All calls are free, anonymous, and confidential.

If you or someone you know is in need and you are not sure how to help, call 211. This could be the first step towards changing someone's life in our community.

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 a part of the solution. For more info, 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

**BO3K
July 20**

Challenge yourself at our 2019 BO3K on Saturday, July 20 at Fairview Park, 9am-noon! BO3K is a timed, 1.8 mile obstacle course with strength and endurance challenges. Competitive, non-competitive, and kids heats available.



Visit uwdecatur.org/events or our Facebook page for more info on our events.

Run United 5K is a unique, point-to-point 5K starting in Fairview Park and finishing at the Oakwood Block Party. This race includes a post party at Fleet Feet Sports, then stick around for the Oakwood Block Party! Race starts at 5pm. More info and register at uwdecatur.org.

**Run United
Aug. 24**



COMMUNITY IMPACT SUCCESS STORY

This story from Project READ Plus Executive Director Julie Pangrac is another example of impact in our community:

Jerome came to Project READ Plus because he wanted to improve his math in order to qualify for employment at a job that would allow him to provide for his family. He was on parole after having served more than 16 years in prison for crimes related to drugs and fighting. Jerome said, 'I did a lot of wrong, but I've learned my lesson, and now I have the drive to do right. But I'm here because I need your help.'

Jerome had dropped out of high school after 10th grade, 'and then I ran the streets,' he told us, adding that he got into a lot of trouble. While in prison, he obtained his high school equivalency diploma. 'But I can't score high enough on the math tests to get any good jobs,' he explained.

Jerome was matched with a tutor, and he attended sessions regularly, was always on time, asked questions, and completed his homework—all while he was working several part-time jobs. In a little over two months, he achieved the highest possible score on a national standardized test, and he had mastered decimals, fractions, percents, ratios, proportions, integers, and basic algebra. He had gained almost 5 grade levels. With new skills, he was soon employed by a local company and was earning more than minimum wage. Within 8 weeks, he was offered a permanent full-time position along with a raise.

Jerome attributed his success and increased confidence to Project READ Plus, helping him improve his math as well as his organization and time management skills. Jerome tells us that his life is changed, and he believes that having a job that allows him to be self-sufficient and independent will be instrumental in his not going back to prison. In addition, he is proud that he is a role model for his 7 children and 10 grandchildren.

Project Read Plus is a Decatur-area literacy program that helps adults change their lives. With one-on-one tutoring in reading and math, students gain skills to qualify for job training, complete post-secondary education, and gain certifications and degrees that lead to employment.

Are you a **LEADER**? Do you think of yourself as a **GAME CHANGER**? A **HAND RAISER**? Then we need **YOU** to run your company's United Way campaign this fall. Would you consider being an Employee Campaign Leader (ECL) and helping your business make a difference in your community? We can't do what we do without the help of our ECLs. They are our "in-house" champions and we are very appreciative that they are willing to take on the task. Just call 422.8537 and we will set you up. Who knows...you may even become our ECL of the YEAR (for 2019) and you & your business could be recognized at our Annual Meeting & Awards Dinner next year!

uwdecatur.org

United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois: 217.422.8537

THANK YOU, CHRIS!

Chris Harrison

Realtor, Main Place Real Estate



United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois owes a special thanks to our friend Chris Harrison. Chris has - and continues to be - a great supporter of United Way and the community. Chris started his connection with United Way as a volunteer on a fund distribution panel. From then on, Chris was frequently one of the first people to volunteer

for anything UW needed. He began his service on the Board of Directors in 2010 and served until May 2019. During that time, Chris contributed leadership as Campaign Vice Chair (2010) and Campaign Chair (2011). He continues to support UW by having Main Place Real Estate as a United Way Good Shop and frequently sponsors our BO3K. So once again - **THANK YOU, CHRIS!**

Volunteers Needed



We are seeking volunteers for our BO3K (July 20) & Run United (Aug. 24). BO3K volunteers will be covering an obstacle to watch over our runners. Volunteers will be needed from 8:45am-noon. Run United volunteers will help direct runners along the 5K course. Run volunteers will be needed from 4:45-6:30pm. Call us at 217.422.8537 if interested!

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT REPORT - MOULTRIE & DEWITT COUNTY

UWDMI completed its Community Investment Process in DeWitt and Moultrie counties for 2019-2021. This was the first year UW implemented the Common Community Approach (CCA) in these counties. The CCA is a systematic approach to move members of our community on a path towards self-sufficiency. This approach not only strengthens individuals, but also our community.

Investment recommendations were made by a panel of community volunteers. These volunteers rated each program based on its effectiveness, efficiency, and community integration. Community investment occurred in programs along four Lines of Effort (LOE): Youth Education; Adult Education, Job Skills Development, & Income Resilience; Health; and Safety. Investment was also made in Essential Service programs that linked individuals to Line of Effort programs.

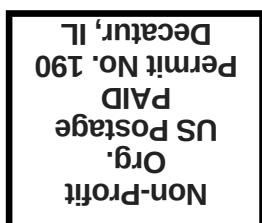
The DeWitt and Moultrie County Community Investment volunteer panels did a great job investing in local programs that will definitely increase the capacity of individuals in our communities who are experiencing life challenges.

- James Keith, Director of Community Impact, UWDMI

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Thank you for your continued support.

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