

Summer 2018 Edition

# LIVING UNITED

201 W. Eldorado, Decatur, IL, 62522

CHANGING LIVES in Macon, DeWitt, Moultrie, Shelby & Piatt Counties

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

"Our Community Investment Process for 2018-2020 is complete! We are proud of our process and the volunteers that put in over 750 total hours this past spring to make sure that every dollar invested is making an impact. Our product at United Way is community change. The volunteers made sure we are on the right track to really making a difference and moving our community closer to self-sufficiency.

Through this process, we were able to welcome a few new agencies and programs. Project Read, Old King's Orchard Community Center, the Decatur Macon County Opportunities Corporation (DMCOC), and the Macon County Health Department all had programs that received investment for the first time.

United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois is a local organization. When you invest in UWDMI, it stays here to help our community. You can be a part of the solution. For more information about Community Impact and the investment process, call us at 217.422.8537.

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

- Debbie Bogle  
Executive Director, United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW VIDEO

Our newest video on the recent Macon Co. Community Investment Process is up on our website. If you wonder where your investment to United Way goes, watch the video!



## MEET OUR STAFF

As Director of Finance for United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois, I enjoy using my accounting skills to manage our financial affairs. I started at UW this past March, and so far it's a fun and challenging process learning all the in's and out's, but even more satisfying seeing the positive impact that our efforts have on the community. We have a wonderful, dedicated staff here, and I am truly honored to be a part of this organization!

HELLO  
MY NAME IS

Cheryl Marty



## COMMUNITY IMPACT SUCCESS STORY

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central IL's mentor2.0 program is a technology-enriched, curriculum-guided, mentoring program designed to impact local high school graduation rates and build crucial skills linked to college success and workforce readiness for youth that might not have those expectations for themselves. Here is a story about one successful match in Decatur:



"Darren's initial reaction to mentor2.0 was that of uncertainty. He wasn't sold on the idea of communicating with someone he did not know and did not refrain from saying so to Brady. In one of their first online interactions, Brady responded to Darren's uncertainty by writing, 'I think the program is still just kicking off, and it's tough to judge something when it's still this new. It should get better every week.'

Since then, Darren and Brady have corresponded weekly. The two were able to meet for the first time at the in-person activity in December. In preparing for the January activity, Darren was the first mentee to RSVP.

Brady challenges Darren in many positive ways. Brady prompts Darren to elaborate on certain topics and encourages him to develop plans of action for his goals. Three years later, Darren and Brady are still matched. Darren is entering his Senior year in high school and is on track to graduate. Darren is interested in welding and was accepted this summer as an intern at Caterpillar."

Mentor2.0 needs 50 new volunteers just like Brady to make successful matches like this for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year. If interested, please contact Shauna Mays at 428-4240 for more information about the program. You may start the application process by visiting [bbbscil.imentor.org](http://bbbscil.imentor.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### RUN UNITED

Your favorite point-to-point  
5K race is back

Saturday, August 25!

- Starts at Fairview Park, ends at the Oakwood Block Party
- Evening race - 5pm start
- New running route (no more W Main St. hill!)
- After party at Fleet Feet Sports until 8pm
- Oakwood Block Party featuring live music until midnight
- Call 422-8537 or visit [uwdecatur.org](http://uwdecatur.org) to sign up.

### B03K 2018

Volunteers needed



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS – July 21st

Needing a few good volunteers to help keep our B03K warriors safe.

Hours: 8:30am - 11:30am (1st heat (race) starts at 9:00am)

You can help by:

- Relaxing in a lawn chair in Fairview Park by an obstacle
- Drinking plenty of cool beverages
- Enjoying a free lunch from The Beach House
- Cheering on our warriors

TOUGH JOB, BUT SOMEBODY'S GOTTA DO IT.

[uwdecatur.org](http://uwdecatur.org)

United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois: 217.422.8537

## MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER



**Joni Zimmerman**

*Licensing & Senior Filings  
Analyst, Crop Risk  
Services, Inc.*

"Outside of my work in the crop insurance industry, I have a passion for making a positive impact on my community."

I served on the Big Brothers Big Sisters Macon Co. Regional Board for 4 years and I also became a mentor for their mentor2.0 program. I also enjoy volunteering time with United Way including at Ride United, BO3K, and on the community investment panels. I'm excited to continue serving my community."

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to those who volunteer their off time to help us. Stay tuned to our Facebook page (United Way of Decatur & Mid Illinois) to help us celebrate our Volunteers!

Find volunteer opportunities by visiting our Volunteer Portal at [uwdecatur.org](http://uwdecatur.org).

## MACON COUNTY COMMUNITY INVESTMENT REPORT

"The United Way of Decatur and Mid-Illinois (UWDMI) successfully completed its Macon County Community Investment process for 2018 with Board of Director approval of all Line of Effort recommended investment amounts on June 5th. With the Board's approval, United Way implemented the Common Community Approach (CCA) for the first time this investment cycle. The CCA promotes positive, transformative community change focusing on raised awareness, shared understanding, integration, respect, outcome based thinking, a unity of aim, proactive community engagement, and shared responsibility that enhances community interaction. The CCA was designed to address our community's problem that a significant percentage of our population is not self-sufficient, which affects their current and future well-being, and that of our community. The Lines of Effort created to address this problem are Youth Education; Adult Education, Job Skills Development, and Income Resilience; Health; and Safety. United Way also invested in Essential Service programs (providing food, clothing, and shelter) that provide linkages to programs designed to move individuals out of crisis into a more stable, thriving lifestyle.

Each Line of Effort investment recommendation was made by a panel of eight to ten community volunteers who received in-depth presentations by agencies requesting investment. The volunteers rated each program based on its effectiveness, efficiency, and community integration. The highest rated programs received the most investment. Each Line of Effort investment process lasted approximately one week and required making extremely difficult decisions. The result is that we truly believe our community invested in the most effective, efficient, and integrated programs that make the greatest impact on our community. While we won't solve our identified problem overnight, we feel that we are on the right path towards making Macon County more self-sufficient."

- James Keith, Community Impact Director, UWDMI

United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois: 217.422.8537

## HAVE YOU BEEN ON A UNITED WAY PARTNER AGENCY IMPACT TOUR?

Many local businesses sign up for an Impact Tour which gives their UW campaign committees a

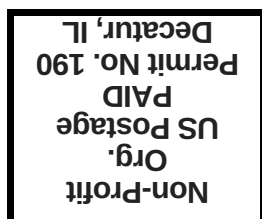
behind-the-scenes look at many of our partner agencies. This isn't simply a tour of the facility. It is a comprehensive look at how they run their United Way funded programs on their turf.

- You may visit Growing Strong and view their powerful parade of t-shirts, designed by survivors of sexual assault
- See Crossing Healthcare's gardens and all the healthy lifestyle choices promoted there
- Hear Jeff at the OASIS talk about how they help the homeless

Call Stan or Ryan today to schedule your company's Impact Tour. Tours can run from 1 ½ to 2 hours. We'll provide the transportation and pick you up at your door.

[uwdecatur.org](http://uwdecatur.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois  
201 W. Eldorado St.  
Decatur, IL 62522

Thank you for your continued support.