



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



# WHAT WE DO

In 2021, you helped us create impact by mobilizing local resources. We measure that progress to change lives in Bartholomew County. We focus on improving our entire local system of human services. You helped us create more change than we could ever do alone.

1

## Mobilize Resources

**Financial Resources**  
**Volunteers**  
**Community Engagement**  
**Advocacy**

2

## Build Stronger Communities

### **Direct Services and Supports**

Support the work of local nonprofits by funding programs that help children, families and individuals access the supports they need to live stable, healthy lives.

### **Systems Improvement**

Connecting public, private and social sectors together to improve our entire human service system.

3

## Change Lives

### **Improved Childhood and Youth Success**

School Readiness  
Social and Emotional Development

### **Improved Economic Mobility**

Achieve Financial Stability  
Increase Wages

### **Improved Access to Health**

Healthy Relationship  
Healthy Lives

# NOTE FROM MARK

I am excited to share our annual report with you, where you will directly see the impact you had on our community in 2021.

With you by our side, we've invested in long-term solutions to the greatest challenges facing our neighbors. We are solving the toughest issues faced by people we live and work next to.

We couldn't do what we do without your incredible generosity, advocacy, time, and support. It is no secret that the last few years have been challenging for everyone across the world. The social services sector was dealt with accelerated, crushing need. The trials of the ongoing pandemic and its reverberating results fostered partnerships and inspired incredible kindness to meet people where they are.

As always, Bartholomew County and the advocates, donors, and volunteers that I am proud and lucky to serve, came through in ways I never imagined.

You stepped up to ensure that families are financially stable; that children have the early childhood building blocks they need to get a wonderful education, and that everyone in our community has access to resources that will enable them to live healthier lives. Your support has allowed us to continuously reach 1 in 3 of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Through partnerships, missions, and programs, we have continued to strengthen and grow on our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion journey. We are proud to say that our Board of Directors and their unique perspectives, backgrounds, and cultures now reflect the unique diversity of our community.

Your support has allowed us to create the lasting change that will make Bartholomew County stronger for generations to come.

Thank you always for your effort to LIVE UNITED.



Mark Stewart  
President



## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to mobilize people and strengthen lives in our community.

## OUR VISION

We envision a community where every child is supported in and outside of the classroom, every family has their basic needs met, and every individual leads a stable, successful life.

# IMPACT AT A GLANCE



## Childhood & Youth Success

**97%**

passed the Kindergarten  
readiness test

**2,499**

youth participated in out  
of school programs and  
individual mentoring

**99%**

achieved normal grade  
level progression



## Economic Mobility

**5,874**

received basic needs

**58%**

of people increased  
their wages

**21%**

of people moved into  
financial stability



## Access to Health

**422**

individuals served with  
access to healthcare  
services

**90%**

of individuals improved  
their mental health

**94%**

of individuals who  
improved their healthy  
behaviors and  
relationships



# MORE IMPACT AT A GLANCE



## Childhood Success

428

children who were enrolled in early childhood programming

99%

of children reached developmental milestones

2,511

children received literacy support



## Economic Mobility

215

individuals received job skills training

90%

of people gained employment

1,026

individuals enrolled in Avenues to Opportunity



## Access to Health

823

people who received a hot meal

99%

of adults/children who eat healthier, increased their physical activity and moved toward a healthy weight

93%

Individuals improved their social or emotional health

# PARTNER AGENCIES

**LIFEDesigns**



Our certified agencies are at the heart of the work that we do. These incredible organizations help address our community's most critical needs and serve our most vulnerable populations. United Way certified agencies are creating lasting change for thousands of our friends and neighbors each year in Bartholomew County.

# NICOLE'S IMPACT STORY

The mother of three was homeless, jobless and didn't know where to turn.

Nicole's children lived with family members, and she was desperate to get back on her feet and move her life forward after living with nothing.

Three years after working with several United Way partner agencies, partner programs and with direct assistance; Nicole is living with her children, is renting a home on the northside of Columbus, works hard at a job she loves and is saving so she can buy a home of her own.

None of it would have been possible without the support of United Way, she said.

"Things were so hard, I didn't have a lot of options," Nicole said. "Without them I would have never made it." The United Way of Bartholomew County helps bring organizations and people together to work on some of the toughest issues faced by the people of Bartholomew County. United Way is in a unique position to direct funds that help people like Nicole get financial stability and quality programming for her children.

"(My financial coach) taught me a lot of different ways to save my money and the ways my money needed to be spent to be successful and to have the next step available to me," Nicole said. "They helped me with everything."

United Way's support system is meant to help coach people to self-sufficiency, a goal Nicole wanted so she could live a better life with her three sons.

"It was for my kids, definitely," she said.

Nicole's life began to turn around when she was connected to a United Way financial coach through Human Services, a United Way partner agency.

Human Services also directed her through the Housing First Program so she could have a home for her teenage son and twin boys. And their Energy Assistance Program helped keep the utilities on until she found stable work.

Getting a home was the best step in helping her get on her feet and to fight for financial stability. "Once I was in a home, I got a better job and a stable vehicle."

Her job at a local manufacturing company is now helping her support her family and she was relieved her 8-year-old twin boys could go to Columbus Youth Camp through Foundation for Youth while she worked over the summer.

"I would not be employed, because I have never been able to keep a steady, dependable babysitter (without FFY)," she said.

And her job is helping her save for a home of her own through a state program that matches some funds in a savings account.

'Without them,  
I would have  
never made it'



# VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

In 2021, your volunteerism enriched our community.

Partner agencies got projects done they would otherwise struggle to complete; children received school supplies and holiday assistance; and much needed money was returned to our community through free tax preparation. Your continued commitment of your time, talent, and treasures was inspiring.

Because of you, the annual Day of Caring and Day of Service helped our partner agencies with projects that helped our neighbors and had an impact on their daily lives. These days saw **681** volunteers step up to help our community. Their labor was worth **2,200** hours, with an economic value of **\$54,670**.

Faurecia volunteers wrote a grant which helped launch our new Ramp Up program. This program helps ensure that folks in Bartholomew County who have mobility issues have a ramp that will make their lives easier and healthier day after day.

United Way volunteers completed **1,000** tax appointments, which helped bring more than a million dollars back into our community.

Volunteers helped register **1,700** children for the Bartholomew County School Supply Assistance Program, which ensured those children had the supplies they needed to start school. In addition, volunteers helped ensure **2,700** children received holiday assistance through holiday programs such as Columbus Firemen's Cheer Fund, Shop with a Cop, and Toys for Tots to name a few.

Thank you for stepping up when our neighbors needed you the most.





# RAMP IT UP WITH NICOLE

Since 2017, Nicole Broaddus has had a routine for when she needed to leave her home by herself.

Nicole, who is a double leg amputee, would leave her northside Columbus apartment by crawling through the door and down her apartment stairs while dragging her wheelchair behind her.

Leaving the apartment alone was so strenuous, she rarely bothered. Doctor's appointments were the only times she felt the need to make the long trek from her apartment to her car without assistance.

"It was my only way in or out," she said. "I could get in and out myself, but it was a struggle to do so."

Thanks to two days of hard work from 17 volunteers from Faurecia and the United Way of Bartholomew County, Nicole has a new accessible ramp outside her apartment that will make it easier and safer for her to leave her Columbus home.

"I am able to get in and out myself. I can be more independent," she said.

The Faurecia Foundation and United Way of Bartholomew County are on a mission to help Bartholomew County residents like Nicole with the recently formed Ramp Up with United Way program. Ramp Up with United Way is an initiative to build accessibility ramps for people in our community who have a mobility impairment or who use wheelchairs.

Each ramp will be built by volunteers who are knowledgeable with ADA requirements. This new program is meant to accommodate a broad range of physical needs and requirements and to reduce the risk of falling and help maintain independence for our neighbors who have physical impairments.

Nicole has been grappling with her life as a double amputee since 2017, when both her legs were amputated because of infections following surgery. She heard about ramps that were built during United Way's annual Day of Caring and applied for a ramp to be built at her home.

With her new ramp, Nicole is now comfortable leaving her apartment more to go shopping or to visit friends and family.

"Now that I can get out better, I will go out more places," she said. "United Way and Faurecia have been awesome, I couldn't ask for a better program."



# EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: The Reality in Bartholomew County

Questions of racism and race relations touch us every day, in personal ways. Race affects where we live, where we walk, where we shop, the jobs we hold, and how we are educated. Racial and ethnic concerns and conflicts underlie many of these areas where inequity exists. With the broad awakening on the existence of systemic racism, an urgent need for deepened authentic dialogue and actions on race in our community persisted.

## Courageous Conversations: Advancing Equity by Listening and Acting

Imagine Columbus, United Way's Inclusion and Equity initiative, listened to over 300 voices to better understand those who have dealt with the challenges of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The themes that emerged in the Community Conversations were:

- An acknowledgment of systemic racism existing in Bartholomew County
- Fear is a regular occurrence for people of color
- Self-reflection supports deepening understanding and knowledge of diversity
- The power structure of privilege must be addressed
- Continuous ethnic cultural experiences are needed
- Opportunity and advancement are limited
- A dramatic increase in the diversity of leadership is needed across sectors



Community members and leaders called for a plan of collaboration. An inspirational charge of seven tangible community actions emerged to move our community toward racial equity:

1. DIVERSIFY LEADERSHIP
2. DEEPEN KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING AROUND DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
3. EXPAND MULTICULTURAL EXPERIENCES
4. SUPPORT RESOURCE-BUILDING FOR HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED GROUPS
5. CREATE EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES
6. SHARE BEST PRACTICES
7. ADVOCATE

## The Current State of Equity

Data clearly shows that people of color in Bartholomew County face disproportionate challenges in education, financial stability, and health. We believe every individual must receive equal opportunity to pursue their dreams and have the resources to thrive.

## Modeling Leadership

To model United Way's beliefs and leadership, we expanded inclusion into our grant-making process, strengthened our pipeline of diverse leaders, and championed equity across our entire portfolio of work. By year-end 2021, United Way's Board of Directors' representation stood at 38% of people of color.

## Acknowledgments

United Way of Bartholomew County sincerely thanks over 300 community conversation participants, volunteers, and collaborative partners that contributed their valued voices, views, experiences, and expertise. One thing is clear: we all have a role to play in creating a more equitable future. If you would like to be part of moving the community forward, please contact [jkling@uwbarthco.org](mailto:jkling@uwbarthco.org).



# TOP 10 CAMPAIGNS







# TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY

The members of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society are a special group of influential individuals who partner with the United Way of Bartholomew County to make us a strong and healthy community. Through their compassion and philanthropy, these individuals demonstrate exceptional generosity and leadership, and provide the momentum for lasting change in our community.

Tocqueville Society members are generous donors who support United Way of Bartholomew County with an annual contribution of \$10,000 or more.

## DONOR LIST

Ben and Pat Bush  
Chris and Shannon Clulow  
Robert and Elizabeth Crider  
Michelle Dunlap  
Dr. Kevin C. Preuss  
and Lisa A. Duret  
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The Landmark Farm Foundation,  
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The Namaste Foundation,  
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The Ward Family Charitable Fund  
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Community Education Coalition  
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German American Bank  
Horizon Bank  
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Human Services, Inc.  
Ian and Mimi Rolland Foundation, Inc.  
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Indiana United Ways  
IRS, Department of the Treasury  
IUPUI Columbus  
Jackson County Bank  
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