GET AHEAD. WORK HARD TO IT’S SIMPLE:

COMMUNITY GRANT FUND
When you give to United Way, your gift supports the Community Grant Fund, powering life-changing programs at 47 local agencies in six major issue areas here in Kent County.

HOUSING
Stable, Affordable, Safe

FOOD SECURITY
Sufficient, Equitable, Nutritious

MENTAL & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Access to Quality Services

FAMILY CRISIS
Violence Prevention, Diversion, Intervention

FINANCIAL SECURITY
Opportunities for Economic Advancement

YOUTH EDUCATION
Improved Science and Math Performance

AGENCY PARTNERS
Access of West Michigan
Ador Circle
Bethany Christian Services
Camp Blingord
Catholic Charities Of West Michigan
Catholic Charities
Christian Women’s Advocacy Center of Kent County
Community Food Club with Home Repair Services
Community Rebuilds
Court Appointed Special Advocates of Kent County
D.A. Blight - St. Johns
Disability Advocates of Kent County
Expanded Learning Opportunities Network
Flat Communities Coalition
Family Promise of Grand Rapids
General Nutrition Corporation
Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity of Kent County
Hispanic Center of Western Michigan
Hope Network
Independent Family Life
Irwin City Christian Federation
Justice˙Strengthen
Kent County Tax Credit Coalition
Kent Interfaith School District
Legal Aid of Western Michigan
Liberty Center of West Michigan
Micca
Meek Family Services
Mich. Foster Parent Association
Migrant Legal Aid
North Kent Connect
Our Kitchen Table
Pike West ChristianMental Health Services
SCGC Management Center
Samaritan Neighborhood Services
The Other Way Nonprofit
The Pasta
The Refuge Education Center
The Salvation Army Social Services of Kent County
United Church Women’s Ministry
Wellspring
Well House
West Michigan Asian American Association
West Michigan Center for Arts & Technology
Women’s Resource Center
YWCA West Central Michigan

88% OF EVERY DOLLAR GOES DIRECTLY INTO THE COMMUNITY!

YOUR GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY GRANT FUND TEARS DOWN BARRIERS. TRANSFORMS LIVES.

HOUSING PROVIDES $15/week
TRANSPORTATION PROVIDES $3/week
CONNECTIONS PROVIDES $5/week
FOOD PROVIDES $1/week

TOTAL: $24/week
“IT’S SIMPLE: WORK HARD TO GET AHEAD.”

GET THE FACTS

“Pull yourself up by your bootstraps.” It’s a well-worn phrase. The reality is not everyone starts in the same place or faces the same barriers. Race, parents’ income, school district—even the neighborhood you grew up in—all factor into where you’ll end up.

In Kent County, unemployment is twice as high for African Americans as it is for Whites.

JASMINE’S STORY

When you’re homeless, you need someone to give you a chance. But employers looked at me and saw a single mom in her 20s with twin boys, living in a shelter and working temp jobs, and they probably thought that’s all I could ever be. WMCAT gave me a second chance at life when others wouldn’t. They didn’t judge me when others did. When I started the pharmacy tech program, they said, we got you. We can help you with those barriers. As I’m telling you this, I’m smiling and I’ve got tears in my eyes because Habitat was exactly like WMCAT. It was so much work, doing my 275 sweat-equity hours and working my full-time job, but Habitat gives you the tools. They want to see people in careers and not jobs; to see people in homes, not apartments.

Today, I’m a full-time medication history technician, and we’ve been in our own home for over a year. With two boys and a mortgage, money is tight. I’m still a member at the Community Food Club to get fresh vegetables and things like that. We make it stretch. And I’ve got college tuition for my boys that I’m saving. My drive is about them alone, and what I hope is for them to go up and beyond, to strive and work for it. I want to make sure they know no matter what, I’m always here to support them.

WMCAT and Habitat helped me see what I could become. Now, I know I can do anything.

TOGETHER, WE FIGHT FOR THOUSANDS LIKE JASMINE.

At Heart of West Michigan United Way, we are champions for ALICE, the thousands of people who, like Jasmine, are working yet still struggling to meet their basic needs. From housing to food security to job training and much more, your gift to United Way funds grants to our partner agencies who work to ensure that all families in Kent County have what they need to succeed.

When Jasmine Succeeds, Our Community Thrives.