Year after year, United Way unites people and resources to improve the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our communities. We provide leadership and resources to improve the quality of life by generating revenue, creating awareness, and engaging volunteers. We are committed to our values.

With a foundation rooted in collaboration, compassion, and innovation we come alongside our community partners to serve our neighbors and tackle the most daunting needs. The tough work needed to help people recover from the pandemic is the very work of United Way. We bring the right people and resources together to ensure children succeed in the classroom, people obtain jobs to provide for their families, and our communities’ basic needs are met.

When you give to United Way, you support a network of community partners and agencies who collaborate to address the needs of local individuals and families. It takes all of us working together to create a stronger, more vibrant tomorrow.

In the following report, you will see the collective work that we have accomplished this year. Our success is a testament to our high-performing team of employees and the leadership of our visionary Board of Trustees. We could not do our work without the generous support of our Signature and Community partners, along with the many supporters within our communities.

Every day we experience how amazing our community is. We truly care for each other and are stronger because of it.

Thank you for Living United,

Annie Sanders
President/CEO

TO OUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS,

2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR IN REVIEW

We accomplished a lot in 2021-22, and you made it all possible. Here’s a look at some highlights during our fiscal year.

July 1, 2021
- Hosted our annual Golf United event in support of Stuff the Bus.
- Celebrated 20 years of Stuff the Bus! $35,238 was raised to sponsor every elementary school classroom in Gratiot & Isabella Counties!
- Welcomed Tiffany Eisenberger to our team as our new Database & Administrative Support Coordinator!
- The crew from Wolverine Pipeline helped us install new benches at the Wilcox Non-Profit Center!
- Hosted an outdoor-themed Holiday Raffle and raised nearly $10,000.

June 30, 2022
- Hosted our 7th annual PITCH-ER THIS! Youth Venture Competition — over $15,000 was invested in the top three competing student teams for their bright ideas!
- Announced we raised $1,365,771 during our 2021-22 Community Campaign! An inspiring 136.6% of our goal!
- Partnered with Mercantile Bank of Michigan to distribute Summer Adventure Kits to every 1st grader to help combat the “Summer Slump”!
- Distributed $8,973 in Educational Mini-Grants that were awarded to teachers of various academic levels. The grants were for field trip funding, literacy programs, books and more.

Alma College raised record-breaking funds at Art’s United — $82,000 was raised for United Way!

Hosted our annual Live United Awards in person for the first time since 2019!

Distributed 8,973 in Educational Mini-Grants that were awarded to teachers of various academic levels. The grants were for field trip funding, literacy programs, books and more.

Hosted Read United to help improve literacy rates. For all 31 days of March, volunteers recorded a video of themselves reading a children’s book that we streamed on our YouTube channel. We also partnered with our local Rotary Clubs to distribute over 3,000 books to every K-2 grade student.

Partnered with My 104.3 for their annual “Fill-A-Mayflower” 12-hour long food drive, raising nearly $18,000 & collecting over 7,000 food & personal care items.

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CAMPAIGN RECAP

Our Community Campaign officially closed on March 31, 2022.

TOTAL RAISED:

3,301 donors throughout both counties
11.94% growth over last year’s campaign total

$1,365,771

EMPLOYEE WORKPLACE CAMPAIGNS

Aircraft Precision Products, Inc.
Alma College
Alma Heritage Dentistry
Alma Public Schools
Alpha Custom Extrusions, Inc.
Aludyne
American Mitsuba
AT&T
Avalon Pontoons
Bandit Industries
Barberi Law
Bay City Public Schools
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Great Lakes Bay Region
Bridgeview Community Schools
Central Michigan District Health Department
Central Michigan University
Child Advocacy-Gratiot County
City of Alma
City of Mt. Pleasant, MI
Commercial Bank
Community Mental Health for Central Michigan
Consumers Energy
Dow Chemical Company (Dupont, Corteva, Trinseo)
DTE Energy
Fifth Third Bank
GARR TOOL
General Agency Company
Grafix County
Grafix-Isabella REID
Hendrick Sémiconducteur Corporation
Isabella Bank
Isabella Citizens for Health, Inc.
Isabella Community Credit Union
Isabella County
KMG Premix
Larson-Gracia Center, Inc
McLaren Central Michigan
Major
Members First Credit Union
Mercantile Bank of Michigan
Michigan Masonic Home
Mid Michigan College
Mid Michigan Industries (MMI)
Mid Michigan District Health Department
Mcrichigan Health
Mountair
Mt Pleasant Agency, Inc.
Mt Pleasant School District
Mid Michigan University
Mt Pleasant Public Schools
MyMichigan Health
Newark
Mt. Pleasant Agency, Inc.
Mt. Pleasant Public Schools
Northwood University
PADNOS Central Michigan
Plasti-Paint, Inc.
PNC Bank
Robert F. Murray & Company
Shepherd Public School District
Sparrow Health System
St. Louis Public Schools
State of Michigan
Target Store - Mt. Pleasant
Three Rivers Corporation
TJ Maxx
UPS
United Way of Gratiot & Isabella Counties
Valero Energy Corporation
Walmart
Walmart
West Midland Family Center
Wolverine Pipeline

Revenue

- Campaigns
- $1,264,837
- Events
- $135,268
- Rental
- $62,951
- Grants
- $56,284
- Other Income
- $48,223

Expenses

- Operating
- $155,858
- Programs
- $493,905
- Building
- $160,437
- Community Investment
- $644,251

= EXCELLENCE IN CAMPAIGN GROWTH AWARD
= CAMPAIGN EXCELLENCE AWARD (Top 5 Campaigns)

LARGEST CAMPAIGN IN HISTORY!


United Way’s Community Investment Committee is made up of community members, board members and volunteers. Each year, they allocate grant allocations to support community-based programs and services offered through affiliate agency partners in Gratiot & Isabella Counties.
SUCCESS STORIES

CERA Program
From April 2021-March 2022 MSHDA had federal funds available to help tenants facing pandemic-related hardships avoid eviction while also ensuring landlords can recoup owed rent through the COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) program. MSHDA administers CERA through its statewide network of local nonprofit agencies.

United Way of Gratiot & Isabella Counties partnered with EightCAP to process applications in our local areas. We were proud to be able to bring this program to residents in our communities to help restore housing stability. In total, we distributed $2,165,304 dollars in rental assistance and helped 415 households avoid eviction.

Fill-A-Mayflower
Since 2014, we’ve partnered with My 104.3 WCZY and Ric’s Food Center in Mount Pleasant to collect nonperishable food items to help local families through the holiday season. This 12-hour food drive has turned into an annual event that takes place the Friday before Thanksgiving. We collect and distribute thousands of nonperishable food items and personal care products to help stock the shelves right before the holidays!

Fill-A-Mayflower 2021 at Ric’s Food Center had a record-breaking year! Over 7,000 items were collected and donated to five local food pantries (Community Compassion Network, Potter’s House, Salvation Army, REAP St. Vincent De Paul) and all personal care products were donated to the Clio Care Store. In addition, nearly $18,000 was raised for food insecurity in our community.

Record-Breaking Year at Alma College’s Arts United Event
Arts United was back in-person for the 2022 event and it was the most successful one yet — raising over $82,000 on March 3rd. Arts United is a fundraising event that benefits United Way of Gratiot & Isabella Counties. During the show, attendees enjoyed a variety of music, instrumental, dance and theatrical performances from both the local and Alma College communities. The eight dance teams that performed that night worked so hard not only on their dance routines, but fundraising efforts as well. Team Goggin earned the top spot for raising an incredible $33,721.

PITCH-ER THIS! Youth Venture Competition
On February 26, 2022 at the College of Medicine Auditorium, teams presented their ideas to improve the community in front of an audience and a panel of judges at the 7th Annual PITCH-ER THIS! Youth Venture Competition. United Way is excited to be investing nearly $15,000 in funding each of the top three winning teams! Congratulations to “Rylee’s Closet” from Beal City Middle School/High School for receiving first place, “The Good Neighbors” from Ithaca High School for receiving second place, and “Healthy Huskies” from Breckenridge Community Schools for receiving third place!

The closet was up and running in September of last year, it has everything from clothes and shoes to shampoo and soap — all free for anyone who has a need.

“While it is confidential, you know, there’s always that ‘oh no, I need help, but I’m really embarrassed about it. But I think we need to push the idea that there’s no shame in getting help, and it’s okay to reach out and be like ‘I’m, I’m struggling, I need, I need something’,” Sisco said. “The support from our community is just, it’s overwhelming the amount of people we’ve had, just giving to us, and everything like that. And we’re actually getting our room now. So, we’ll have a Rylee’s Room, maybe we can upgrade the title.”

Sisco is taking the winnings and putting all of it toward her closet and a care fund at the school.

When Sisco, a junior, graduates, student council will take over the closet, ensuring students for years to come have a place to get the necessities.

Stuff the Bus Celebrated 20 Years
THE 20-YEAR HISTORY
The Stuff the Bus campaign has changed and grown significantly throughout the course of 20 years. In 2001, Stuff the Bus started as a one-day school supply drive in the old Mt. Pleasant Kmart parking lot. From the backpacks collected, about 80-100 backpacks were made and handed out at the Mt. Pleasant Community Services Fair.

The model changed in 2013 to a month-long collection drive at numerous locations, collecting thousands of school supplies and engaging hundreds of volunteers to help sort and distribute. From 2013-15, over 40,000 items were collected and donated to teachers!

In 2016, United Way of Isabella County merged with United Way of Gratiot County and our impact expanded into Gratiot County classrooms. We also migrated to a sponsorship model—allowing us to buy in bulk and maximize our donors dollars.

Stuff the Bus continued to develop and in 2019 we supplied every elementary school teacher with a $50 gift card and the top 3 most requested items (tissue, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes).

When the pandemic hit in 2020, supplies were limited and the model changed to handing out 80 backpacks to children in need to a $38,000+ impact in Gratiot & Isabella Counties. What a difference 20 years can make, thank you for your continued support!

Stuff the Bus

东西的公交车

20-年的历史

这个Stuff the Bus活动已经发生了显著的变化。在2001年，它从一个在Mt. Pleasant Kmart停车场举行的一天学校用品募捐活动开始。从收集的背包中，大约80-100个背包被制作并分发给Mt. Pleasant Community Services Fair的受惠者。

2013年，模型改为一个月的收集活动，地点在多个地点，收集数千件学校用品，并动员数百名志愿者帮助分类和分配。从2013-15年，收集了超过40,000件物品，并捐赠给教师!

2016年，Isabella County的United Way与Gratiot County的United Way合并，扩大了我们的影响范围。我们还转向了赞助模型——允许我们批量购买并最大限度地利用捐赠者的捐款。

Stuff the Bus继续发展，并在2019年，我们为每名小学教师提供一张$50的礼品卡和3种最受需求的物品（纸巾，洗手液和消毒湿巾）。

当2020年疫情来袭，供给有限，模型变更为向儿童分发80个背包，获得了$38,000+的影响力在Gratiot & Isabella Counties。20年的时间，非常感谢你的持续支持！