



the COMMUNITY CIRCLE

Quarterly newsletter brought to you by United Way of Washington County-East



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Hello!

As we reflect on the last few months, we're filled with gratitude for the strength and generosity of our local community. From heartfelt volunteer efforts to local organizations giving back, it's been a season of reaching out and uplifting one another.

In this edition, we're excited to share the highlights of these efforts, celebrate the difference we've made together, inform you of upcoming events, and show ways you can get involved with your local United Way.

For the latest updates, be sure to follow us on social media – @unitedwayofwashingtoncountyeast



That's a wrap on Stuff the Bus 2024!

As the school year is in swing, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to each one of you who contributed to making Stuff the Bus 2024 such a **tremendous success**. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we're thrilled to share the impact we made together for families and students in Washington County.

One of the challenges we often hear from parents is the financial strain of purchasing school supplies each year. At United Way, we recognize this need and are committed to easing that burden. When we provide essential supplies, we give students the confidence to start the school year ready to learn and succeed. It's a vital way we're working to build a stronger community, one backpack at a time.



Our goal this year was ambitious: to fill 600 backpacks with the supplies needed for students to begin the school year with heads held high—and we surpassed it, **filling 618 backpacks!** This was only possible because of the many generous donations, sponsorships, and all our incredible collection sites.

Stuff the Bus is in partnership with Community Thread, thank you for your help.

42

Collection Sites
throughout the area

618

Backpacks filled
and handed to kids

227

Registered families
who received support

3,662

Views of our interactive
donation map



Thank you so much! My children love their new backpacks and supplies

– Family Member of Stuff the Bus Recipient

Thank you to our 2024 Stuff the Bus Sponsors



Educate. Empower. Connect.

What a day You R You was!

To everyone who joined us for You R You, especially our partners at HealthPartners, FamilyMeans, and Tubman — thank you for bringing your knowledge, warm smiles, and willingness to engage with this incredible group of 70 young girls. Your support and dedication helped create a safe and nurturing space where these youth could feel heard, valued, and empowered.

Our sincere thanks as well to Hidden Pines Ranch for offering such a welcoming space and to your staff for making every detail perfect. From the beautiful setting to the warm hospitality, Hidden Pines was the perfect backdrop for this unforgettable day.

“ —

If you are thinking about going to the YRY retreat you should because it's really fun. If you are stressed about 6th grade it really helped with that and made all my worries go away. I'm now really excited about starting 6th grade.

– 6th Grade YRY Participant

United Way of Washington County-East

You R You

You R You is just the beginning of what we hope will be many empowering programs from the Women United group. We're dedicated to educating, inspiring, and building connections to tackle the tough challenges our community faces.

Thank you for being a part of this journey with us and for helping make such a meaningful impact. Together, we're lighting the path toward a brighter, more connected future.





Annual Campaign

United Way of Washington County-East

Lunch + Learn

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the kickoff of our annual campaign at Lunch + Learn! We are so incredibly grateful to have spent this time with a room full of passionate, like-minded individuals, each eager to learn more about who we are at United Way and what we stand for.

This gathering was a powerful reminder of the dedication within our community, as we were joined by local leaders, business owners, and supporters who share a vision of making a meaningful impact in our area. Among our guests was Jaculin Sparling of Cornerstone Auto, and Eric Hoffman of Datastream Connexion, *pictured to the right*, who exemplify the commitment to community that drives our mission forward.

We truly appreciate each and every one of you who took the time to connect with us, explore new ways to get involved, and share in our mission of creating positive change. Thank you for joining us on this journey to strengthen our community together!



Jaculin Sparling
Cornerstone Auto Customer Care Manager



Eric Hoffman
Datastream Connexion President

“

This event was particularly impactful visiting with so many different community members. Seeing all of us gathering around this shared desire to support our neighbors left a lasting impression.

– Eric Hoffman
Lunch + Learn attendee



Annual Campaign

United Way of Washington County-East

Leadership Breakfast

In the early morning of September 25th, community leaders and like-minded individuals gathered at the JX Venue for our Annual Campaign's Leadership Breakfast.

Together, we were moved by the stories shared by Terry Thomas, Lori Mueller, Jan Hallstrom, and Holly Corbid. Holly's heartfelt words on the impact of You R You and Women United spoke volumes, underscoring the power of community.

Alongside Kristin's inspiring message of "What will you do next?", we left energized and excited about building an even brighter future for all.



your **LOCAL** United Way team

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The future is so bright for Women United, what is our next initiative, we are going to continue YRY next year, but I can't wait to start dreaming about what's next.

– Holly Corbid

Founder/Owner, Capture Your Photos & Chair of Women United

Thank you to our 2024 Leadership Breakfast Sponsors





Annual Campaign

United Way of Washington County-East

United Way Week

Thank you for making our 5th Annual United Way Week a remarkable success! Whether you donated, volunteered, joined us for Thankful Thursday, or found a unique way to be part of this week, we're truly grateful. Your generosity and support are game-changers, making an incredible impact right here in Washington County.

Together, we achieved some amazing milestones highlighted in the numbers below. The memories and connections shared throughout the week remind us all of the power of community and the change we can make when we come together.



From left to right: Ted Kozlowski, Mike Polehna, Kristin Kroll, Annette Sallman, Chief Brian Mueller, and Chief Stu Glaser

30

Local businesses
giving back

2

Cities proclaimed
UW Week

16

Dedicated volunteers
for Harvest Fest

360

Views of our interactive
giving back map

“

United Way of Washington County-East is immersed into the community. We love being able to support this organization and it's so easy to do.

– Mande Puente

United Way Week Give Back Partner



Upcoming Happenings

Give to the Max 2024

We are participating in Give to the Max this year! Early giving started November 1st but mark those calendars for **Thursday, November 21st** as Give to the Max Day! More details to come – stay tuned!



United Way office Closed

Our offices will be closed **Thanksgiving** and the **day after Thanksgiving**. Also, **December 24 through January 1** to allow our team a chance to recharge, spend time with loved ones, and focus on their mental well-being. We'll be back on January 2, ready for a new year of making an impact together!

United Way Gala 2025

Get ready for an unforgettable evening at our 2025 United Way Gala! The Gala Committee is already in the planning stages, and we're so excited to create an incredible night you won't want to miss. Mark your calendars for **Friday, April 11, 2025** and prepare for an evening of inspiration, community, and impact.



get involved with your **LOCAL** United Way!



Youth United

Be empowered to become an active, compassionate leader. Students in grades 6-12 making change in our community while learning about philanthropy.

Committee Engagement

There are many chances for committee engagement! Whether it's the Annual Gala, Fish United, or United Way Week - we embrace diverse voices and perspectives.

Women United

Strong, passionate group of community-minded women here to connect, educate, and empower women & girls in our community. Reach out and get involved!

DEI Coalition

Aiming to create a space where diverse voices are heard, valued, and empowered. We extend a warm welcome to all participants who are committed to change.

More information about your local United Way and information on how you can get involved on our website!

[LEARN MORE](#)



United Way of Washington County-East

MISSION

Through trusted relationships, generated resources and effectively distribute funds to unite and strengthen our community.

VISION

Create new ways to develop an empathetic and engaged community and generate abundant resources to meet or exceed our local community needs

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT


We are dedicated to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion in all we do. We strive for a vibrant and equitable community.


DONATE TODAY

United Way of
Washington County-East



Celebrating 75 years

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