2020 was a memorable year to say the least. While there were big changes in nearly all areas of life due to the COVID-19 pandemic, what did not change was United Way's commitment to making a positive impact on our community. We continued to invest in amazing programs, as 2020 marked the last year of our former focus on the broad pillars of education, financial stability, and health. In addition to our program investments, we are proud of the other impacts that we were able to have during this tough year.

Last year, our Kids First Fund provided over $21,000 to help over 1,100 students either participate in activities or get what they needed to be successful in the classroom. The food rescue program saved almost $500,000 worth of food from the landfill and got it to local food pantries where it could help feed people in need. In 2020 alone, nearly 20,000 hours of volunteer time were logged through our volunteer website, volunteermuscatine.org, with a value of almost $500,000 given back to the community. Whether it was working with Muscatine Power & Water and the Muscatine Community School District to support remote and hybrid learning by subsidizing internet access for families who could not otherwise afford it, or teaming up with the Muscatine Food Pantry to deliver over 140 grocery bags each week to Muscatine residents who were homebound for health or safety reasons, we worked with community organizations to fill gaps and provide support to those who were struggling during this difficult year.

As we shift our focus to our bold goal of increasing the number of self-sufficient households in Muscatine by 20% by 2030, we will be investing in programs that will help people achieve self-sufficiency by focusing on education and training to meet workforce demand, affordable and sustainable housing, and household stabilization needs. As our community continues to recover from COVID-19, it will be more important than ever that we all work together to help people support themselves. As always, thank you for helping us to reach all the outcomes you will read about in this report!

SHANE ORR
Executive Director

KATHIE ANDERSON-NOEL
2020 Board President
Retired Community Member
UNITED WAY'S WORK DURING COVID-19

Social service organizations began having weekly or bi-weekly calls, primarily hosted by Aligned Impact Muscatine County (AIM) to coordinate a response for those affected by the pandemic.

Shortly after the calls started, in coordination with MCSA, The Salvation Army, Kent Corporation, and others, we began providing volunteers to deliver meals and groceries to people who were homebound and unable to get food on their own. This program has still been delivering grocery bags to around 130 people each week. A similar program has been providing cleaning and hygiene supplies to families in Muscatine County.

We've also been involved in several other problem-solving groups. We've supported solutions to provide internet access to families as schools transitioned to remote learning models. We've joined other organizations to trouble-shoot housing and utility assistance needs.

- We contributed $20,000 to CFGM's Community Continuity Fund and are partnering with them on the granting process to assist nonprofits in Muscatine who are meeting community member’s immediate needs created by interruptions in services, potential shortages, and gaps in nutrition during this unprecedented time.
- We donated around 60 cases of N95 particulate respirator masks to UnityPoint Trinity Muscatine and Muscatine County Public Health. The Salvation Army helped us deliver them.

That’s just some of what we’re doing to serve the community during this difficult time. Looking at the list, you can see that there’s a common theme. In each case, we’ve partnered with other organizations to better serve people in need. COVID-19 is just one more example of a problem too big for any one organization to tackle on their own. I'm excited to live in a community that knows the value of working together to make things better. As the community moves forward, and even after COVID-19 is gone, it'll still be important for organizations to work together to address needs. You can be sure that United Way will be a partner in making this community better. Now is the time to get involved and give back to your community. Contact our office if you’d like to volunteer or make a contribution to support our work.
**DIRECT SERVICE PROGRAMS**

**THE KIDS FIRST FUND**

Started in 2009, the Kids First Fund helps Muscatine students be involved in activities by paying for activity registration fees or equipment. The fund also helps students be successful in the classroom by paying for anything that will eliminate barriers to learning. The Kids First Fund has paid for everything from softball and baseball registration and soccer equipment to school supplies, shoes, and testing fees. In 2020, the Kids First Fund provided $21,216 to help 1,153 students. The major fundraisers for this fund are an annual Vintner's Dinner and quarterly pancake breakfasts. Because of COVID-19 we were unable to host these events in-person. A letter campaign was done in place of the Vintner’s Dinner.

**IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF MUSCATINE COUNTY**

The Imagination Library of Muscatine County is a project designed to develop a love of reading, improve literacy skills, strengthen family relationships and increase school readiness among children ages 0-5. Each month, children are mailed an age appropriate book, from the time of their enrollment through their fifth birthday. This is provided at no cost to the family. By mailing high quality, age appropriate books directly to home, we will help improve childhood literacy and children will have accessibility to books regardless of their family's income or situation. This proven successful program was established in 1996 by the Dolly Parton Foundation, who administers the program for a cost of approximately $25 per child per year. Since November 2015, Imagination Library has grown to 1,259 children receiving books with 1,344 children graduated.

**AIM ALIGNED IMPACT MUSCATINE**

United Way of Muscatine serves as the fiscal agent and one of twelve partner organizations for AIM. AIM is an initiative that uses the collective impact framework to increase post-secondary attainment in our community. Aligned Impact Muscatine's Leadership Council and community partners have been hard at work evaluating community data, surveying local programs and collaborations, and building strategy networks. Based on community data, AIM is focusing on early education, academic success, post-secondary completion and the training of adults to meet workforce demands. For more information, please visit alignedimpactmuscatine.org.

**ALMONER FUND**

The Almoner Fund is a fund supported by local churches and private donors. It is used to pay for things that Muscatine County money can't assist with such as rent and utility deposits or work shoes. The main use of the fund is to help Muscatine County Community Services clients to be more self-sufficient by assisting them to obtain housing or items necessary for employment. Through United Way's administration of the Almoner Fund, the program provided $4,588 to assist 29 families in 2020.

**MUSCATINE HOUSING CLUSTER**

State housing dollars are brought into the Muscatine community each year through the Muscatine Housing Cluster to help with housing related needs for low-income residents. These funds are used to subsidize emergency home repair, provide first-time home buyers with down payment assistance or to help pay for staffing for housing related programs. As the fiscal agent for the Muscatine Housing Cluster, the United Way distributed $68,622 in 2020.
VOLUNTEER CENTER

CHILDREN & ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)
In January of 2016, we started working with CACFP through the state to provide healthy snacks to enriched after-school programming at Sunset Park, The Salvation Army, and at Flickinger Learning Center sites.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE
The school supply drive takes place with a partnership with Community Action of Eastern Iowa and helps Muscatine County students start the school year with the tools they need for learning.

#GIVINGTUESDAY
We have a day for giving thanks. We have two for getting deals. Now we have #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. Hygiene items are collected in November and delivered to the Muskie Lockers.

FOOD RESCUE PROGRAM
The Food Rescue Program came out of the Blue Zones Project Food Policy Group and started at the end of April 2014. This program has volunteers pick food up from local grocery stores and restaurants and delivers to one of 3 local food pantries. The quality food they deliver was formerly being thrown away. In 2020, this program collected $491,214 worth of food. As of December 2020, the program had collected $3,097,813 worth of food.

THANKSGIVING IN JULY
Data shows that in Muscatine County we have 4,486 people who are food insecure and about 1/2 of those are children. We are working to reduce the number of people who don't know where they will find their next meal. To meet these needs, United Way of Muscatine worked with Chef Ron from Iowa City to help stock the shelves of The Salvation Army of Muscatine and Muscatine County Food Pantry by holding Thanksgiving in July.

COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER
In April 2020 we held our fifth annual Community Baby Shower. Baby items were collected and given to Trinity Muscatine Public Health, Muscatine YMCA Family Services, LSI HOPES Program, and MCSA Domestic Violence Shelter.

DAY OF CARING
As a result of the tremendous growth in participation the Day of Caring has seen, we have continued with separate Day of Caring events for students and adults. By hosting several annual events we are able to help more in our community and have more volunteers participate. We host one in the fall for adults, one in spring for students, and one in the summer for interns. For 2019, 3,248 people participated in 171 service projects across the Muscatine community. Volunteers worked with non-profit agencies, helped to clean up city parks and worked on many homes for seniors. Due to COVID-19 we had to cancel Day of Caring in 2020.
EDUCATION

Boy Scouts
  Youth Development
Flickinger Learning Center
  Afterschool
Girl Scouts
  Muscatine Girl Scouts
Iowa JAG
  Jobs for America's Graduates: Muscatine
Mississippi Bend AEA
  Imagination Library
Muscatine Community YMCA
  Big Brothers Big Sisters
  Character Development
  Family Services
The Salvation Army
  Youth Development

FINANCIAL STABILITY

American Red Cross
  Emergency Services
Muscatine Center for Social Action (MCSA)
  Domestic Violence Shelter
  Shelter Program
  Homelessness Prevention
Muscatine Legal Service
  Civil Legal Assistance
  Domestic Violence
  The Salvation Army
  Emergency Disaster Services
  Social Services

HEALTH

Diversity Service Center of Iowa
  Minority Senior Program
Family Resources
  Survivor Resources Domestic Abuse
  Survivor Resources Sexual Abuse
  Counseling & Therapy
Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI)
  HOPES
Mississippi Valley Child Protection Center
  MVCP Center
Muscatine Community YMCA
  Special Olympics
Senior Resources
  CHORE
  Home Repair
  Outreach
  Adult Day
  Meals on Wheels
Trinity Muscatine Public Health
  Dental Sealant
  Maternal Health
  Adolescent Sexual Health
United Way of Muscatine takes seriously our commitment to be accountable for the dollars you entrust in us.

**WHERE DONATIONS GO**

Community Volunteers review local grant applications, determine funding levels and hold agencies accountable.

**Did you know...**

- **Fundraising**: 24%
- **Designations**: 21%
- **Management & General**: 19%
- **Health**: 15%
- **Income**: 14%
- **Uncollectibles**: 3%
- **Education**: 15%
OUR $169,500 INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION HELPS...

2,443 children receive access to enriched afterschool and summer programs.

45 students facing barriers were assisted in graduating high school and transitioning to continued education and careers.

189 children have access to a mentoring program, helping them increase self confidence, improve their attitude towards school and improving relationships with their peers.

54 special needs students receive placement in work experience programs to develop skills and self worth.

1,039 children receive access to character and leadership development programs.

244 mothers and fathers have access to parenting education support groups.

Funded Program Story:
YMCA’s Character Development

"Kari" has many struggles and mental health issues. Her home life is complicated, her coping skills involve self-harm and she struggles with peer relations and anxiety. With communication from the school principal and grandma, we know that "Kari" has her Y Person, but more importantly she does talk to the her person about what is going on home or at school everyday. Her outlet for stress is in Youth Indoor Cycling, which she looks forward to every week. When her Y person sees she is getting frustrated or overwhelmed at times, she will guide her to a productive coping skill of walking the track or leaving the room for a few minutes. Again, these may seem small, but to "Kari" it is so valued and needed. She needs her Y staff and the activities that keep her coming back to the Y.
OUR $210,775 INVESTMENT IN HEALTH HELPS...

555 low income and underinsured children have access to a school based dental prevention program.

3,471 adolescents have access to pregnancy prevention education.

229 women and infants with limited access to health services have access to quality maternal health preventative services.

479 individuals receive access to domestic abuse and sexual abuse counseling, advocacy, and educational programming.

764 seniors receive access to services that assist them in staying healthy and independent.

293 children with intellectual disabilities participate in a variety of athletic and educational programming, enhancing their skills and personal development.

78 parents and children receive access to in home prevention service programs that help keep children safe from abuse, healthy, and connected to their families.

436 adults and children have access to counseling and therapy services.

Funded Program Story: 
Child Abuse Council

The Center recently provided services for a child sexual abuse victim referred by law enforcement and Department of Human Services (DHS). The child had previously attempted to disclose the abuse she endured to her caregivers, but was not initially believed. At the Center, the child was given the opportunity to provide significant details during a forensic interview, which was observed live by DHS and law enforcement. The multidisciplinary team worked together following the child’s interview and were able to corroborate many of the details she disclosed. Her offender has been charged with sexual abuse and is currently awaiting a pre-trial hearing.

In addition to the child's forensic interview, she was given the opportunity to receive medical and advocacy services during her visit at the Center, which includes screening for mental health related risks. The child reported many concerns, including suicidal plans, which she stated that she had attempted to tell her caregivers about, but was never taken seriously. Child Protection Center staff and the investigating multidisciplinary team were able to develop and provide the child with a safety plan and immediate referral to the University of Iowa, where she was able to receive the emergent mental health care she needed and deserved.
OUR $189,725 INVESTMENT IN FINANCIAL STABILITY HELPS...

20 homeowners with low incomes receive safety improvements (such as ramps) to their home.

2,456 adults and children are provided with basic needs, emergency and shelter services.

403 families who are on the verge of homelessness find a safe and healthy environment to live.

48 low income residents receive legal assistance with civil legal issues.

102 victims of domestic violence are provided free legal representation.

70 survivors of domestic abuse will have access to local sheltering services.

Funded Program Story: MCSA Homeless Prevention Program

A goal of the Homeless Prevention Program is to be a safe landing spot for people in Muscatine who experience an unexpected event and need assistance while they get back on their feet. This past year, a man walked into the Housing Stability Navigator's office, head hung low and shoulders drooped. A former truck driver of 20 years, he had lost his job due to poor choices. He understood the impact that he could have had on those around him and understood the reasoning for his charge, but he was now left searching for solutions and fearing homelessness. He was an older gentleman and was worried that finding another job would be a struggle due to his age. The Navigator encouraged him to utilize the resources at MCSA to learn new job skills so that he could broaden his job search. He took the initiative and signed up for our Welding Program, which was formed in collaboration with Muscatine Community College and local companies to provide skill growth at no cost to our clients. He passed with flying colors, as he was an honor student and did not miss a single class. His biggest barrier was transportation, but he was determined to attend each class, and he met his goal. In October of 2018 he graduated from the program and secured a full-time welding job in Muscatine. The transformation in this man was incredibly visual, he went from disappointed in himself to holding his head high and being confident in his ability to rebuild his life. The Navigator encouraged him and provided insight along the way, but the client had his eyes set on his goal of self-improvement, and he lead himself to success. He is still employed today and is well on his way to being back on track and making a positive impact in our community.
United Way of Muscatine is proud to partner with over 100 corporations and businesses committed to supporting their local communities. Our Top Corporate Partners recognizes organizations that exemplify the spirit of philanthropy in our area.
## 2020 Leadership Givers

### CULTURED PEARLS

**$5,000-$9,000**
- 2 Anonymous

### SEED PEARLS

**$1,000-$1,749**
- Nadine Martinez
- Mark Mathias
- Donna Meade
- Mauro Mondadori
- Lora Morgan Dunham & Stephen Dunham
- Mike & Barbara Murphy
- Brett & Christina Nelson
- Robert Otting
- Dr. Steven Paulsrud
- Jennifer Petersen
- Keith Porter
- Larry Porter
- Alyssa Pritchett
- Jon Rapp
- Maurice A. and Donna J. Reed
- Advised Fund
- Mark Ricketts
- Mark Roberts
- Mary Kay & Dan Rohde
- Ted & Stephanie Romagnoli
- Troy Ross
- Chris & Heidi Scholz
- James & Sabrina Shoemaker
- Kevin & Paula Skarich
- Edward & Michelle Spellman
- Kurt & Kristyn Tjaden
- Dennis & Micki Tripp
- Charles & Joyce Vesey
- Brian & Valarie Wales
- Scott & Kimberly Warren
- Mike Wedell
- Margie & Mike Wigans
- Barbara Woodstra
- Joshua Workman
- David Wright
- Eric Zillig
- 4 Anonymous

### MAABE PEARLS

**$3,750-$4,999**
- Nathan & Heather Brewer
- 2 Anonymous

### BAROQUE PEARLS

**$2,500-$3,749**
- Bishop “Brandon” Bullock
- Greg & Sue Kistler
- Shane & Lupe Orr
- Yvonne Orr
- Jim & Tammy Stein
- Kevin Voss

### KESHE PEARLS

**$1,750-$2,499**
- Pam Collins
- Jason Heredia
- Kevin Hoban
- Thomas & Cynthia Kautz
- Michael Kramer
- Kathleen Kuhl
- Sean & Brandy Olson
- Louis & Helen Schwartz Fund
- James & Janet Sichterman
- Randy & Janelle Spies
- Kevin & Mary Zeimet
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Aligned Impact Muscatine County

United Way of Muscatine

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