

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is United Way?

United Way of Huntington County is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization that partners with a network of partner agencies and other community initiatives to improve people's lives and build a stronger community. We support agencies that work in the areas of health, education, financial stability, and basic needs.

Who runs United Way?

A volunteer Board of Directors and professional staff ensure that United Way is working effectively and efficiently to improve people's lives. Local volunteers help keep United Way a dynamic, growing, and responsive organization. United Way is community owned, volunteer driven and staff managed.

How much of my contribution actually goes to program services?

Administrative and fundraising costs are kept very low because of the large number of volunteers involved in raising and allocating funds. United Way's overhead is less than 25%. Without United Way support, agencies would need to spend more of their own money and energy on fundraising.

How does an organization become a United Way partner?

To qualify for consideration as a United Way partner, an agency must be recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, led by a volunteer Board of Directors and provide health and human services to residents in Huntington County. Any agency that meets the basic requirements for partner consideration and believes it is providing services that align with United Way's Community Impact Portfolio and does not duplicate an existing program partner should contact United Way of Huntington County (260) 356-6160 for more information.

How are campaign funds distributed?

Through the United Way Allocation Day Review, volunteers consisting of United Way Board members and other community members review agency applications, and interview staff and board members. These volunteers use a structured system to evaluate community needs, program efficiency, and review program results. This helps United Way and the community to determine where to invest donations that have the greatest impact.

What is the value of giving to United Way when I can donate directly to an agency?

With nearly 60 years of experience in Huntington County, United Way focuses on people and the issues close to us: food, housing, healthcare, emergency services, children and youth, and financial stability. Services funded by United Way have a broad reach – touching 1 in 5 community members each year. Through one donation to United Way of Huntington County, you are able to help the most people. When you give to United Way, you invest in high-quality, results-oriented programs managed by United Way’s partner agencies. Because our partner agencies don’t need to spend as much money on fundraising, more money goes to services in the community.

Why do United Way funded program partners do their own fundraising activities and charge for services?

The United Way fundraising campaign does not cover any agency’s entire budget. United Way funds are used for programs and services. Therefore, portions of an agency’s budget need to be funded by other means, such as government contracts, fees and supplemental fundraising activities.

Can I designate a particular agency to receive my donation?

Donors can address a wide range of community issues with one gift through United Way. As an additional option, United Way allows contributors to direct all or part of their gift to a specific partner or non-partner agency or to a United Way in another county. Directions are on the pledge card. In order to keep processing costs low for our donors, designated gifts must be at least \$25 per organization or they will be directed to the general fund.

How much of a donation stays local?

Over 98% of your gift remains in Huntington County, helping families, neighbors, and co-workers. We voluntarily pay dues to our state and national associations in exchange for valuable information and referral services, consultation, supplies, training, and grant opportunities. Networking with other United Ways allows us to share ideas, materials, and other resources. As always, all of our decisions are made locally by staff members and a volunteer board of directors who know this community.

Does United Way have a non-discrimination policy?

Yes, the non-discrimination policy ensures that all who would benefit from the high-quality programs of our agencies are eligible to receive those services. Partner agencies cannot discriminate on the basis of race, color,

marital or familial status, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, nationality, age, disability, veteran status, gender identity, housing status, or any legally prohibited classification.

I know someone who couldn't get help from United Way. Why?

United Way of Huntington County does not provide direct service. We partner with local experienced nonprofits to provide services and support to our community. If someone was unable to get assistance from a United Way funded program, most likely, the person asked for a service the agency couldn't provide or went to the wrong agency for the services needed. Eligibility guidelines are sometimes dictated by government regulations or other funding sources. United Way is ready to look into any instance where someone feels help was unjustly refused.

Are donations to United Way tax deductible?

United Way of Huntington County is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and your donation is tax deductible as allowed by current federal and state tax law.

What is Leadership Giving?

Our giving societies are made up of gifts of \$500 or more to the annual campaign. Our leadership societies make it easy for you and your family to get involved and make a difference in Huntington County. Membership at every level offers opportunities to address our community's most pressing problems, engage your philanthropic spirit, and help you achieve your personal and professional goals. Other benefits of giving include increasing your knowledge of the innovative ways needs are being addressed, building your reputation as a community leader, and being recognized as such through your employer and United Way. Members of the same household may combine their gifts to participate in Leadership giving.

Wabash Fellows (\$500-\$999)

Quayle Fellows (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Live United Circle (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Huntington Circle (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Tocqueville Society (\$10,000 and up)

Does United Way pressure people to give?

No! We believe giving is a personal decision. United Way has a strong policy against coercion. Whether a person gives to United Way and how much the person chooses to give is up to the individual. United Way of Huntington County does not support the use of threats or coercion of any kind.

I don't benefit, so why should I give?

You, a family member, friend, or coworker may have already used the services of United Way of Huntington County partner agencies, initiatives, and programs without realizing it. But we also know our entire community benefits when children succeed in school, when families are financially stable, and when people have access to basic needs. When you support United Way of Huntington County, you help to create lasting change for all in our community.

Thank you for your support!

United is the Way!

