



Ann has been a resident of the Fox Cities for over 35 years. She is a mother of two, a successful businesswoman, and a long-time donor to United Way Fox Cities. Ann is one of many donors who Live United in support of the work that United Way does for the community. She began giving to United Way while working for Associated Bank, who actively promoted the annual campaign and the local impact of the organization. Despite a change in employers, Ann has continued to be a yearly donor. “Although I now work for FIS, I continue to contribute to United Way Fox Cities through my employer.”

There is a good reason why Ann is inspired by United Way and continues to give. “One of the agencies that United Way supports is ARC, of which my niece Laura was actively involved in.” She has a personal connection to one of the 41 partner agencies that United Way supports in the Fox Cities. In addition to this, Ann supports United Way because of its community focus. “I prefer to contribute funds to an organization that supports efforts within my local community where I can visibly see the results.”

Ann feels that the breadth of local organizations that United Way covers is impressive. “I am grateful that they can help young and old, those less fortunate...” She feels that active, widespread involvement in the area is the most important impact that United Way has on the community. Ann praises Fox Cities United Way for the number of opportunities that are available. “There are so many ways that individuals within the community can volunteer their time to help others and make a difference.”

Ann is thankful for the focused local impact of United Way, and for the strong alliances with agencies that contribute to the reach of the organization. In the future, we hope Ann will continue to be inspired by United Way efforts and will Live United by maintaining her contribution to the United Way Fox Cities. How will you LIVE UNITED?



Carol is an enthusiastic, young at heart 68 year-old, who has been a resident of the Fox Cities for over 40 years. She has been using the services of “Making the Ride Happen” for the last two years. This program is provided by Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, one of the 41 partner agencies that United Way Fox Cities supports. Carol calls for a ride every week and uses the program mainly for going to the doctor and running errands. She is a loyal Packer fan, enjoys meeting up with her friends once a month and would love to start volunteering to give back to the community.

“Making the Ride Happen” provides affordable and timely transportation options for older adults who are unable to drive, which enables them to stay active, independent, and involved in the community. Carol mentions that the drivers are so good about being on time, and that they don’t want you to have to wait. She says that she can tell that they enjoy volunteering and enjoys having a conversation with every one of them. She is grateful for their service and looks forward to who will be picking her up for her next ride. She says that this program enables her to get out of the house and stay active.

Carol uses the “Making the Ride Happen” program on a weekly basis, and without the impact of this program, getting around would be tough for her. She says it makes her feel more independent and she knows she doesn’t have to feel guilty about asking for a ride. Carol says that “Making the Ride Happen” is a Godsend for her. According to the program manager, without access to this program many people would be left without options for transportation. Due to limitations caused by her health, without this service, Carol wouldn’t have the option to go out when she needed to. This program, sponsored by United Way Fox Cities, has a significant impact on the lives of Carol and many other elderly community members. Contributions made to United Way Fox Cities aid this program and others like it to continue to make a difference in the community.

John is a practicing physician for ThedaCare in the Fox Cities area and a proud supporter of United Way Fox Cities. He is a well-respected doctor and community leader, and is a loyal donor to the United Way campaign. He understands the impact of the efforts of United Way Fox Cities on the community and believes in the programs that it supports.

John has a good reason for standing behind United Way Fox Cities. “My wife and I have always believed in the value of teaching people to fish, as opposed to giving them fish.” He believes that United Way Fox Cities is focused on supporting organizations and initiatives that provide the “life skills and environment to help people overcome adversity and thrive.” John says that “this is what makes this community a great place to live with a viable economy and individuals with skills to sustain and grow what we have,” and believes that United Way Fox Cities is a part of making that a reality.

John feels strongly about the initiatives on which United Way Fox Cities chooses to focus their efforts. He says that he is “in full support of the themes and support of children, mental health, poverty, and life skills,” and because of this, could not single out a program or service that he feels is especially important. United Way Fox Cities sponsors programs in each of the areas that he feels are essential.

As a physician, John strongly believes in the mission to “improve the health of the community”, and says that “the focus and efforts of the United Way Fox Cities are critical and complementary to those efforts.” These efforts have inspired John to Live United and to continue to be a loyal supporter of United Way Fox Cities throughout the years.



Staying in my home is everything, and this program is the best thing that ever happened to me. The meals are excellent, and we get a great variety that gives all the nutrients I need. It has been a God send, and I feel very blessed.” **Jane** is a home-delivered meals recipient who has been able to live independently with the help of a United Way-funded program. She has battled emphysema for about 10 years and was self-sufficient until she fell. “It was great to get the meals delivered after my surgery, because I didn’t have the strength to do what I had done before my fall.

Jane has meals delivered to her home Monday through Friday. Most days, the lunch brought to her is her main meal of the day. “It is good for people who are alone, because it’s hard to cook nutritious meals for one person. Without this program, my nutrition wouldn’t be as good as it is.”

Two years into the program, Jane can't imagine living without it. "Not only are the meals great, but you can chat with the driver and someone is making sure you're ok." She is pleased that the meals are the only thing she needs right now to stay in her apartment. "Independence is very important to my psyche," she said. Having meals delivered means that Jane isn't as reliant upon her family; she feels it takes the pressure off her daughter.

Sixty percent of home-delivered meals recipients are able to remain in the comfort of their homes long-term, living independently. "You don't know about programs until you need them," Jane notices. "My daughter found out about it when I was in the hospital, and I'm so glad she did. You can't put a price on independence. I'm lucky to still be in my home. There are lots of people who aren't so lucky."

Simon is a loyal campaign volunteer for United Way Fox Cities, resident of the community, and former employee of Appleton Papers, a contributing company to United Way. He believes that "we gain great fulfillment from giving, more so than receiving," and puts this philosophy into practice, proven by his continuous support of United Way initiatives, through both monetary donations and volunteer work.

Simon understands that when he gives to United Way Fox Cities, his contribution will stay within the community to help those who are in need. "If I want my money to reach and help as many needy people as possible, giving to the United Way is one of the best ways to accomplish that." He feels that the programs that United Way sponsors "help others help themselves" and he is actively involved in supporting this cause. He believes that this mission is "the common thread that binds the organization."

Simon believes that the dedicated focus of the volunteers and operational employees of United Way Fox Cities, through good times and bad, "speaks volumes about the character of the organization and its goals." Simon is passionate about the mission of United Way and is feels that the United Way 2-1-1 program is particularly important. He says it "is one of the most critical community support programs available," and hopes that resources will be devoted to educating the population about what is available to them. He understands the importance of the help that this program provides in connecting people with vital resources in the community.

Although the economy and the quest for employment are uncertain, Simon says that he will continue to volunteer as needed and will make sure that the team he joins "is fully committed to supporting the United Way." Simon is a strong advocate for United Way Fox Cities, and he Lives United through his enduring support of the causes that it sponsors. How will you LIVE UNITED?



Stacy is an active, dynamic 25 year-old who grew up with the influence of United Way in her life. Stacy has lived in Appleton for nine years now and she loves the area and the community. She works as a floor leader for Convergys, where she began contributing to the United Way Fox Cities campaign five years ago. She says it was an "easy decision" to make an automatic donation from her paycheck, knowing that her contribution would go towards a good cause right in her community.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fox Valley Region is one of 41 partner agencies that United Way supports in the Fox Cities. Stacy feels especially passionate about this program because of the difference it made in her life

when she was younger. She says that if she hadn't had her Big Sister, she doesn't know where she'd be. It is important to her that United Way makes such an effort to focus on the kids in the community and works hard to get involved with families and their children.

Stacy especially wants to make a difference at Christmastime, when she gathers gift packages for families in the area. She mentions that some years, her family "had Christmas because of United Way." In addition, Stacy attended the United Way Fox Cities banquet in 2008 where she was announced as the winner of the United Way Car Sweepstakes. She had just recently purchased a new vehicle, so she sold the car back to Bergstrom Automotive and donated \$1000 to Fox Cities United Way. Stacy's generosity is a model of excellence for young people who want to make a difference in the community.

Stacy is passionate about the work that of United Way Fox Cities and understands the how big the impact is on the community. "If United Way were to cease and desist, people don't realize how big of an impact it would really have." She says that she continues to contribute because United Way helped her family out so much, and she knows that United Way Fox Cities will work to have the same influence in the lives of other members of the community. Stacy feels that the work the United Way does is amazing and is inspired to Live United through her continuous support to the cause.



Wilma, who goes by Willy, has been a permanent resident of Appleton since 2003. In 2002, she was diagnosed with macular degeneration, eliminating her ability to drive a car. She has been using the services of "Making the Ride Happen" since they began in 2005. This program is provided by Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, one of the 41 partner agencies that United Way Fox Cities supports. Wilma is a high-functioning visually impaired person, and stays active in the community despite the struggles with her eyesight. She is involved at the Thompson Center in Appleton, where she attends the VIP visually impaired support group meetings monthly, and also volunteers at St. Vincent DePaul once a week.

Making the Ride Happen provides affordable and timely transportation options for older adults who are unable to drive, which enables them to stay active, independent, and involved in the community. Wilma recognizes the importance of calling well in advance for a ride, because the ride schedule fills up quickly. She says it makes a big difference for her to be able to go out, get to the doctor's office, or see a friend. She describes "Making the Ride Happen" as a "great service" and says that the drivers are "fantastic, helpful, and talkative. Wilma acknowledges that "one of the hardest things to do is ask for help," but is grateful for the services that are available to her.

Wilma says that she is blessed to have the services provided to her by "Making the Ride Happen," and feels that we are blessed in this community to have such a service. According to the program manager, without access to this program many people would be left without options for transportation, and because of their limitations wouldn't go out, including to the doctor. This program, sponsored by United Way Fox Cities, has a significant impact on the lives of Wilma and many other elderly community members. Contributions made to United Way Fox Cities aid this program and others like it to continue to make a difference in the community.

Melissa, like many other 27 year olds, is happy to have her own apartment, a cat, and the freedom that living on her own provides. She enjoys volunteering in the community, spending time with her friends, scrapbooking,

and painting. She works out at the Y five afternoons each week and likes cooking for her family. Melissa faces challenges that other women her age don't have, because she has mental illness.



Diagnosed with mental illness when she was in eighth grade, Melissa is very proud of the progress she's made and her independence. Initially unable to attend school or be home alone, she is lucky she was able to continue her education while receiving treatment and could graduate with her class.

Treatment for her illness creates difficulties for her. She needs to take at least twelve different pills each day; many of them to counteract side effects so her mental-illness medication can work. As a result, she is often very tired and has gained weight. It is common for people to gain at least 60 pounds when they begin to take these medications, as their metabolism slows down and their appetites increase. No matter how much people exercise and restrict their diets, they still gain weight.

Having mental illness is very frustrating for Melissa, and she counts herself very lucky to have such a supportive family. She still spends a lot of time with her parents, and they are able to help with things like grocery shopping and keeping track of her finances. Thanks to a supportive employer, her mom was able to take off of work after her initial diagnosis when Melissa couldn't be home alone.

Melissa feels the pressure to get a job, but she is currently not able to because of anxiety issues. Because there are no overt, noticeable signs of her illness, people might not realize her challenges as they would other physical challenges. People with mental illness want to be able to do everything others can, but they can't get their brains to do what they are supposed to do.

Luckily for Melissa, she found Friendship Place. Her face glows when she talks about how Friendship Place has added to her life. Melissa loves her bi-monthly watercolor painting class and is thrilled that three of her paintings were recently exhibited at the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum in Neenah.

At Friendship Place, she has found a social network that has opened new worlds for her. She said that many of the people are like a second family for her and give her the support she needs to feel good. "There is no judging here, and that's a big thing. They are supportive, even when I'm having a bad day."

As she is responsible for most of her own meals, Melissa relishes Diner Days, when FP clients choose a restaurant and have a meal together. The days when staff members Candy and Julie make a home-made meal are also very special.

Currently in rehearsals for *Children of Eden*, Melissa has been part of four different theatrical productions at St. Timothy Church. Melissa is proud that she volunteers in the community and would like to do more in the future. Through Friendship Place, she serves lunch regularly at St. Paul's Church, worked bingo at retirement communities and at the local clothes closet, organized Advocap's food pantry, and volunteered at Beaming, an equine therapy program. She was one of the best fund raisers for Friendship Place's participation in the Human Race 5K walk. Last year she raised more than \$800 and is on her way to exceeding that total this year.

Friendship Place has one of ten programs in which United Way Fox Cities invests its money to provide access to and delivery of mental health services. Melissa and her family also got a lot of help from the local chapter of the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI), another United Way-funded agency.

We all succeed when people enjoy good health, and access to mental health services is one of the top priorities of the Promoting Health, Healing and Crisis Intervention Impact Area.

Vivian is a 21 year old single parent of two girls ages 3 and 2. She has been in a Housing Partnership duplex since June 2009 and had been on the waiting list for over a year. Prior to that, she was living with her grandmother and aunt through foster care.

Vivian currently works at a minimum wage job in a retail store, but is planning on going back to school. She is an example of using multiple resources in the Fox Cities to improve her family's' quality of life. The thing that impressed me most is that she recognizes her role, responsibility and hard work it will take to become self-sufficient in the future.

She is very thankful to the Housing Partnership because only 30% of her income goes toward rent. They provide weekly check-ups, assistance with supplies and help her keep on track with budgeting and goals.

Her motivation to graduate High School in 3 ½ years is something she is very proud of even though there was enormous family pressure to drop out of school and get married.

Two agencies that Vivian has been in contact with for future support are FISC (Financial Information and Service Center) and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). She was very adamant that she did not want to depend on any community services long-term. She is hoping to use her experiences in the future to assist others and is very appreciative of the help she has received along the way.