United Way Fox Cities brings people together to create lasting change in our community.

This year, our community impact volunteers spent countless hours studying needs, weighing outcomes and making funding decisions. Their work will guide the investment of funds in 100 programs provided by our partner agencies – delivering help to more than 100,000 people in the Fox Cities.

Our investment work is made possible by the generosity of the community. This year’s campaign was a record-setting $8.45 million contributed by more than 17,000 donors.
Our United Way is committed to ensuring children and youth have high-quality, safe and positive developmental opportunities in the Fox Cities. We awarded a $150,000 grant to support the first four years of programming costs for a new Boys & Girls Club in Menasha. The Club facility will help a growing number of low-income children and youth thrive and succeed.

Making sure that children enter kindergarten developmentally on-track is a priority for United Way. One of the ways we addressed this priority was by granting $150,000 for the creation of the Community Early Learning Center. Because the Center houses numerous service providers, families with young children have easier access to resources and support.

We also helped fund Reach Out and Read, a program piloted by St. Elizabeth Hospital, with a $50,000 grant. Through the program, school readiness is encouraged by giving new books to children and guidance to parents in the exam rooms of pediatricians and family practitioners. The goal is to implement the program regionally, reaching an estimated 15,000 children.

In addition, United Way is supporting The Fox Valley Memory Project with a grant of $90,000. The Project was launched in 2012 to reduce isolation and make the quality of life measurably better for those with dementia. To accomplish this, the Project is serving both persons with dementia and their caregivers and providing education on creating a dementia-friendly community.

A grant in the amount of $100,000 was awarded by our United Way to assist disabled and other disadvantaged workers in obtaining employment through Thrive Academy. The goal of the project is to help people achieve self-sufficiency through soft skills and job training.

We are grateful for the support of the Fox Cities community and extend our thanks to each and every one of you who have invested in building a better life for all of us. You are truly making a difference in our community. Thank you.
Our focus on improving access to mental health services was the impetus for our United Way’s PATH for Students. This school-based therapy program is now in all 10 Fox Cities’ school districts and has helped nearly 1,000 students since 2008. The initiative is providing a prototype for other communities that want to deliver school-based mental health services to their children.

When people don’t know where to turn for help, United Way 2-1-1 connects them to health and human services through one simple phone number. Last year, more than 12,000 calls were answered in the 10-county service area; 42% of calls were for basic needs including food, shelter and clothing.
The Connector provides rides to people employed at second- and third-shift jobs so that they can work toward becoming self-sufficient. 17,000 rides per year make a big difference in the lives of employees needing reliable transportation.

Stephanie Birchfield, Case Manager, Homeless Connections

The Fox Cities Diaper Bank distributes more than 400,000 diapers each year, so that low-income families can provide a healthy change of diapers for their babies. We could not have helped so many families over the years without the 1,500 volunteers who repackaged diapers – thank you!

Cheryl Brooks, Fox Cities Diaper Bank Committee Member
Basic Needs and Self-Sufficiency Impact Area

is supporting programs that provide families with food, shelter, clothing, transportation and other basic needs as they work toward becoming self-sufficient.

Darlene Nabbefeldt,
Basic Needs and Self-Sufficiency Volunteer

Strengthening Families Impact Area

is supporting programs that give families the necessary tools to succeed, whether young families with children, older adults or persons with disabilities.

John Polansky,
Strengthening Families, Vice Chair
Health and Healing Impact Area is investing in programs to ensure mental health services, healthcare and dental care are available to all residents, and supporting programs that work with victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence.

Developing Children and Youth Impact Area is improving early learning opportunities to make sure that all children start kindergarten ready to learn and investing in programs that promote healthy youth development.
After learning that more than 60% of residents in the Fox Valley are overweight or obese, the Weight of the Fox Valley was created to build a community that achieves and maintains a healthy weight at every age. United Way Cities is serving as the backbone organization for the initiative, providing direction and support. The Weight of the Fox Valley sees residents doing more than just losing weight; the initiative is working to inspire Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago County residents to adopt healthy lifestyles that can aid in disease prevention.

Youth Board
United Way Youth Board engages area high school students who are interested in becoming more involved in their school and community. In 2014, more than 40 students participated in 170 hours of volunteer service and helped to plan Teen Symposium, an annual leadership conference for ninth graders. The conference, hosted by United Way Fox Cities and the YMCA of the Fox Cities, featured multiple guest speakers, a community resource fair and various leadership activities. The 2014 conference had more than 300 ninth grade students and adult chaperones from 18 local high school groups.

Circle of Caring
Henry Hodas was a man who cared about his adopted community and was pleased to know he would have a long-term positive effect on it. By leaving United Way Fox Cities and its Administrative Endowment Fund as the primary beneficiary in his estate, Henry will ensure that United Way can improve lives in a cost-effective manner, now and for generations to come. Thank you, Henry.

AFL-CIO
Organized labor has had a strong working relationship with United Way that spans a 60-year history. In times of layoffs, strikes or disasters, the United Way AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison Program offers seminars to connect people to available resources. In addition, special projects, like the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive helped to collect more than 2.5 million pounds of food for local pantries in 2014.
Our work addresses the Fox Cities’ greatest needs through a well-researched comprehensive approach.

To create lasting change in our community, we partner with key stakeholders and area experts to identify our community’s greatest needs and determine strategies that result in measurable change.

Our volunteers spend more than 1,200 hours reviewing programs and making funding decisions. Financial resources are then invested in initiatives, collaborations and more than 100 programs at 40 local partner agencies that work together to support our strategies.

We monitor funded programs throughout the year to ensure financial accountability and measure progress.

Through this process, we impact 1 in 3 people in the Fox Cities, building a stronger, more caring community for everyone.

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