Report to the Community
2017

LIVE UNITED
Each year, our work positively impacts 1 in 3 people in the Fox Cities, thanks to support from donors and partners across all sectors.

But, even with all the great work happening throughout our community, we know there is still much to do...

Recently, we embarked on a journey to reach four goals by 2021. We recruited people and organizations with the expertise and passion to set these goals and to develop strategies to move our efforts forward. In the following pages, you can read about the goals, why we picked them, and what we are doing as a community to move closer to the target.

Reaching our goals will not be easy, and we cannot do it alone. United, we can find new solutions to old problems and fight for those who need a voice. Together, let’s go for the goals and LIVE UNITED.
challenge
39% of renter households in the Fox Cities spend more than 30% of their income on housing. These households are considered “cost burdened,” and may need to make difficult choices forcing them to forgo other basics, such as meals, medicine, child care, or heat.

2021 target
We aim to stabilize more working families by reducing the number of renters experiencing housing cost-burden to 36%, which will impact 960 households.

OUR GOAL
BUILD FINANCIALLY STABLE INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

strategy
Not just waiting to enter shelter
A $200,000 United Way grant will help Homeless Connections to implement their Diversion Program. The program targets individuals and families who have already lost their permanent housing but have not yet entered shelter. Rather than going on the shelter waiting list and postponing intervention, the Diversion Program will immediately provide services that may shorten their homeless episode or prevent them from having to enter shelter entirely.

big picture
In 2017, we supported 20 programs with $958,123 to provide families with food, shelter, transportation, and development of job and money management skills.

Donna Evers,
Basic Needs Impact Volunteer
challenge
53% of our third graders are not reading proficiently at grade level. Children who cannot read at grade level by the end of third grade are four times less likely to graduate from high school.*

2021 target
We aim to secure a brighter future for more of our children by making sure 60% of third grade students read at or above a proficient level.

OUR GOAL
MAKE SURE ALL CHILDREN ARE ON TRACK TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

strategy
Learning to read starts at home
We know the best opportunity to influence a child’s future is in the first five years, a critical window when 90% of brain development occurs. We are promoting early literacy skills by supporting the expansion and programming of Reach Out and Read Partners – Fox Cities. Through Reach Out and Read, pediatricians give a free book to patients ages six months to five years and, at the same appointment, educate caregivers on the benefits of reading to their children.

big picture
In 2017, we supported 11 programs with $712,632 for early learning opportunities.

*Annie E. Casey Foundation

Donna VanVreede,
Children & Youth
Impact Volunteer
challenge
Locally 39% of youth and 31% of adults experience three or more poor mental health days per month. Research shows that poor mental health days can lead to an inability to perform usual activities such as going to school and work.*

strategy
Managing stress at an early age
With help from a $92,165 United Way grant, the Community Early Learning Center is implementing a mindfulness-based kindness curriculum in preschool and four-year-old kindergarten classrooms. This curriculum was developed by Dr. Richard J. Davidson at the Center for Healthy Minds, associated with UW-Madison. The best time to teach the mindfulness and kindness skills that really change the way people approach stressful situations later in life, is when children are very young.

2021 target
We aim to foster a healthier community by decreasing by 20% each, the youth and adults struggling with three or more poor mental health days per month.

big picture
In 2017, we supported 10 programs with $1,036,217 for mental health counseling and support services.

OUR GOAL
FOSTER A COMMUNITY OF MENTALLY HEALTHY CHILDREN, YOUTH & ADULTS

Cheryl Spindler, Health & Healing Impact Volunteer

*America’s Health Rankings
challenge

In 2015, there were 1,959 child abuse and neglect cases screened-in for investigation in the tri-county area, involving a total of 3,062 children. Research shows that children who experience repeated abuse and neglect are more likely to have mental health issues and be diagnosed with chronic health problems as adults.

2021 target

We aim to help keep our children safe by reducing the number of screened-in cases of child abuse and neglect by 23%.

OUR GOAL

ENSURE CHILDREN ARE FREE OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

strategy

Intervening to build strong families

We awarded a $270,438 grant to Community Connections, a collaboration between Family Services and Outagamie County, Department of Health and Human Services, Children, Youth and Families Division. The rapid-response program provides voluntary, pro-active services to families not currently involved in the child protection system that are at risk for child maltreatment. Through the program, families are taught protective strategies and address immediate needs such as housing, mental health treatment, and substance abuse treatment, all of which are known drivers of child abuse and neglect.

big picture

In 2017, we supported 5 programs with $361,753 to give families the necessary tools to succeed.
MISSION STATEMENT
United Way Fox Cities improves lives by bringing diverse people together to build a stronger, more caring community for everyone.

VISION
The Fox Cities is a diverse and dynamic community, where people willingly share the responsibility of ensuring a safe and healthy community for all.

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