5 great things you helped us accomplish in 2018

In 2018, your support of United Way helped us continue to fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our community.

Your investment provided shelter for families, empowered youth, helped those with addictions, provided books for young readers, and so much more. Our United Way’s PATH for Students delivered mental health counseling to 10 local school districts, the Connector provided 20,000 rides for people needing transportation to work, and the Fox Cities Diaper Bank supplied diapers for 880 babies every month.

Each year takes on its own personality and has its own highlights; 2018 was a successful year. With your help, we raised funds to ensure that our initiatives, community services, grants, and partner agency programs will help one in every three people in our community. We thank our Community Co-Chairs, Dustin McClone and Jim Kotek, Leadership Giving Chair, David G. Voss, Jr., and Emerging Leader Chair, Laura Meronk.

This report shares five of our favorite highlights from 2018. Thank you for making these results and so much more possible this year. We appreciate your ongoing partnership in our work and look forward to what we can continue to accomplish together.
STAR (Scholars on Target to Achieve Results), a new community initiative delivered by Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley, is addressing the high school graduation gap and post-secondary enrollment gap for students who identify as Black/African American.

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

This year, with your support, we were able to invest more than $360,000 in Innovative and General Grants that address community needs. The spectrum of our investment is broad: from programs that improve the academic achievement of African-American youth in the STAR (Scholars on Target to Achieve Results) Program at the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley, to providing food assistance for St. Joseph Food Program; learning why our 12-18 year olds in the Fox Cities are attempting suicide at an alarming rate; or something as simple and needed as winter boots for children through the Community Clothes Closet.
What an exciting 10 years! It began with a dream from long-time United Way supporter and founder of Emerging Leaders, Dustin McClone, who envisioned a group of young adults dedicated to philanthropy and community involvement through United Way. Since 2008, Emerging Leaders has grown from a small handful of members to more than 1,000 in 2018.

What a difference these young leaders have made. Emerging Leader volunteers have provided more than 8,700 meals to residents at Pillars Adult and Family Shelter. Ten years of hosting the Valentine's Family Festival has provided thousands of families with a free, family event that includes books, arts and crafts, carnival games, and healthy snacks. Born Learning Trails have been constructed by members in parks across the Fox Cities. The Leadership Series, hosted by Emerging Leaders, has provided wisdom and encouragement from local CEOs who are generous with their time and desire to help the next generation of leaders. We look forward to the next ten years.
Emerging Leaders gather after a leadership talk by Wilson R. Jones, CEO of Oshkosh Corporation. Mr. Jones brought a Pierce Fire Truck to the presentation.

EMERGING LEADERS

Since 2008, Emerging Leaders have invested $5,566,386 in United Way Fox Cities.
United Way supporters tackle community issues at "Turning the Curve" strategy sessions.

Turn the Curve Thinking
GETTING FROM TALK TO ACTION

Results-Based Accountability (RBA) is a disciplined way of thinking and taking action to improve the lives of children, youth, families, adults, and the community as a whole. It is a simple, common sense framework that everyone can understand and uses a data-driven decision-making process. RBA has been adopted by organizations across the globe to solve large community issues, with a step-by-step process called “Turn the Curve.”

RBA presents concepts and provides tools that will drive the next evolution of how we do our work. In that effort, we reached out to the man who created the RBA model, Mark Friedman, and brought him to the Fox Cities. With his guidance and input from hundreds of participants, we are generating action plans to help us reach our goals and improve lives in the Fox Cities.
2-1-1 WE’RE HERE TO HELP

We continue to expand our efforts to make our United Way 2-1-1 program more accessible to everyone. In July, we introduced chat and live two-way texting. United Way 2-1-1 is free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week — we need your help in spreading the word!

In August of 2018, thunderstorms, tornadoes, and flooding rains impacted 20 counties in Wisconsin. Locally, our United Way 2-1-1 handled 589 damage report calls and provided up-to-the minute information on resources available in affected communities.

This year, the Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline was developed as part of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to support people who have been impacted by the opioid crisis. People can call with questions about addictions to all substances. We are happy to be a part of the Recovery Helpline which is changing lives every day.

We continue to expand our efforts to make our United Way 2-1-1 program more accessible to everyone.
United Way 2-1-1 call specialists are helping callers 24/7. The service is free and confidential.
GIVING

5

OUR KIDS THE GIFT OF READING

More than 100,000 books have been distributed to families in our community.
Your support helped to bring thousands of books to children in our community through programs for young readers. **Reach Out and Read Partners—Fox Cities**, a United Way-funded program that provides books at the time of a child’s well checkup, reaches 87% of children ages 6 months to 5 years of age in our community. More than 50,000 books have been distributed to families. The Appleton Public Library manages the program that has been lauded by the national Reach Out and Read office as a model of community collaboration between United Way, the Appleton Public Library, and our local healthcare clinics.

Our **Books for Kids** program had an impressive first year distributing children’s books through 37 community partners, including our Fox Cities Diaper Bank.

A wonderful example is Bridges Child Enrichment Center, a United Way Partner Agency that incorporates these books into their curriculum. Hundreds of volunteers have helped to label, sort, and pack books every month.

We look forward to sharing with you in the future how, by building strong literacy skills early in life, these children enter school ready to learn.
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.

We gratefully thank the following for their generous in-kind donations in the production of this report:
Photographs by Shane Van Boxtel and Michael Leschisin, Image Studios
Design by A2Z Design, LLC
Printing by Envisionlink

ON THE FRONT COVER (L-R): Alex Elman, Nicole Mertes, Meghan Krause, Jean Maurice Boyer, Colleen Rortvedt
ON THE BACK COVER: Vaya Kiel, Michelle Wisneski