



Dear Community Partner,

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Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the word “unprecedented” is frequently being used and is utterly apt. These truly are unprecedented times that the Pettis County community and the rest of our world face.

Working from home, unemployed, home-schooling, cancelled plans, and so much more have left almost everyone feeling uncertain. And while staying at home was safer for our community, it brought unexpected hardships for many families and individuals. For some,

- Staying home meant no escape from an abusive parent or partner.
- Staying home meant visiting a food pantry for the first time.
- Staying home meant not being able to pay rent or utilities.

One thing is for certain-the impact of COVID-19 will be with us for years to come.

Throughout this crisis, United Way has been doing what we do best-convening organizations, individuals, and business to take on big challenges in our community. Disruptions like COVID-19 are too big for any one organization to tackle. That is where we come in, we have decades of experience working with donors like you. And we are counting on you to continue to fight for the education, financial stability, and health of everyone in our community. This is the same approach we have taken for years to our core mission of uniting people and resource to improve lives in Pettis County. COVID-19 is testing our resiliency as a community and the demand for social services is increasing. It is not an overstatement to say that your gift is needed now more than ever.

In 2020, United Way of Pettis County and our Funded Partners provided services to 34,390 Pettis County individuals (81% of the Pettis County population). Our collaboration with these organizations allows us to reach across sectors to surround our community’s most critical problems. Because no one can solve them alone. By giving through the United Way, you are reaching the largest number of people through organizations that are doing the very best programming in the region, and who through our board of directors are held accountable for results.

While our mantra may be, “Live, Serve, Recover United,” it will be a new challenge for all of us to recover and rebuild while additional waves of the virus may be hitting this fall and winter. Together we will overcome this health and economic crisis. United Way is unparalleled in our power to convene partners, providers, and resources to address the needs of communities in crisis. This has never been more important than now. COVID-19 is a new challenge for us; but we’re up for it. United Way was built for this. But we can’t do it without you. The stronger the sense of connection-local people working together-the more resilient the community. That is why United Way brings frontline community agencies together with business leaders, local governments, and donors to coordinate efforts and efficiently and effectively fill gaps in services.

Your gift today to United Way of Pettis County strengthens and sustains 17 local agencies and programs, providing frontline services, directly supporting the vulnerable in our community. By working together, we ensure community members can access much needed support, during times of stability and times of crisis.

We will recover. There is hope for the future. Please give if you can. For your family, for your friends, and for your neighbors.

With gratitude,

Catterina Riddle
Executive Director

Kim Birdsong
Campaign Chair

Tonja Hascall
Campaign Co-Chair