We lost a long time United Way supporter this year. Jon’s legacy will live on with the Jon Caswell United Way Fund for Literacy.
Dear Friends,

The release of the 2019 Michigan United Way ALICE Report (for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), provided us with a greater understanding of the struggles and hardships of our hard-working families in Montcalm and Ionia counties and the conditions that define their financial hardship. **In Montcalm County 49% and in Ionia County 43% of our families are ALICE families, meaning they are one crisis away from poverty.** The key to helping these households is prevention – finding ways to keep people from falling off the edge, either into ALICE or from ALICE into poverty. Our goal is to place a clear lens on the ALICE population and to provide supports to drive IMPACT to make change.

United Way Montcalm – Ionia Counties has been able to achieve great success by working collaboratively with agencies, collaboratives, government officials, community foundations, and our local businesses to ensure we have strong educational programs, provide access to quality health and preventative care, and continue to help families reach financial stability.

Some of our accomplishments this year include:

- Re-introducing and increasing awareness of our 211 program.
- Preparing over 120,000 meals that were delivered to local pantries.
- Over 730 volunteers lending a hand to make a difference in our community.
- Partnering with the Greenville Area Community Foundation for the 2nd year to provide the Nonprofit Learning Exchange to help our area nonprofits become more sustainable.

In 2018, United Way Montcalm – Ionia Counties transitioned from an agency funding United Way to an Impact funding United Way, an approach to address the root cause of community problems. Two areas were identified by our donors to be of most importance – Education (birth to 3rd grade, and literacy) and Basic Needs (access to food, access to shelter, and access to medical transportation). Together we can make change.

We invite you to join us by becoming a volunteer, sending a gift, or simply taking the time to advocate for the changes needed to improve our community.

**Kindest Regards,**

Terri Legg
Executive Director
United Way Montcalm - Ionia Counties
ALICE represents the men and women of all ages and races who get up each day to go to work, but who face tough financial choices. ALICE is not an individual, but a conceptual blending of all those in our community who bring home a paycheck that doesn’t stretch to cover household needs. A rent hike, a family illness, the need for new car tires, things that the rest of us see as an inconvenience, are a crisis for ALICE all across our nation.
TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN

Learn about how United Way is bringing together our community to tackle our greatest challenges.

Agenda for Change

Uniting to inspire change and build thriving communities

More working families meet their basic needs

Focus Areas
- Health
- Education
- Basic Needs
- Income

Impact Areas
- Health: Familywise, Healthy Montcalm, Family Counseling, Infant/Maternal Resources
- Education: Literacy, College Readiness, Nonprofit Learning Exchange
- Basic Needs: 211, Emergency Food & Shelter, Benefits Access

Strategies
- Community/Volunteer Engagement
- 211 Community Investment
- Donor Relationships
- Public Policy
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Inclusion
- Resource Generation
22,103
People served

$163,054
Total invested

$54,294
Allocated to funded programs

$25,352
Allocated to Emergency Food and Shelter

Funded Programs:

Relief After Violent Encounter (RAVE)
Domestic abuse shelter

Have Mercy
Transitional Housing

Enrich of Ionia
Basic home needs for families

Montcalm Habitat for Humanity
Brush with Kindness

Days of Caring (United Way Program)
Community service project(s)

Im Kids 3rd Meal
Meals for food insecure elementary students

Montcalm Casa
Child advocacy program

Alpha Family Center
Earn While You Learn program

Benefits Access (United Way Program)
Basic needs assistance

Annual Coat Drive (United Way Program)
Coat collection and distribution
Imagine a world that fosters hope and opportunity for everyone. A world where all children receive a quality education that offers a pathway to a brighter tomorrow.

Funded Programs:

SPONSOR A CLASSROOM (United Way Program)
$100 for K-3 teachers

NONPROFIT LEARNING EXCHANGE (United Way Program)
Local nonprofit education

WE CARE FOR KIDS COUNCIL
Safe Touch Program for 1st & 3rd Grades

DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY
Books for children age 0-5

MONTCALM AREA READING COUNCIL
Adult Tutoring Services

MONTCALM COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL
College exploration days

MONTCALM IONIA COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK
Student college readiness

15,105 People served

$39,641 Total invested

$19,932 Allocated to funded programs

$23,600 raised for classroom supplies in 12 school districts.
Imagine a world that fosters hope and opportunity for everyone. A world where everyone receives effective health care that improves quality of life.

**Funded Programs:**

- **Cherry Street Health**
  Drug free middle & high schools
- **Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired**
  Support for vision loss
- **Community Hope Christian Counseling Center**
  Counseling services
- **Spectrum United Lifestyles**
  Maternal Infant health resources
- **Ionia County YMCA**
  3rd grade swimming
- **Girls On The Run**
  Physical fitness
- **Four Health Family Resource Center**
  Counseling services
- **FamilyWize (United Way Program)**
  Free prescription card

**Numbers:**

- **5,710** People served
- **$145,669** Total invested
- **$19,749** Allocated to funded programs
- **$125,737** FamilyWize card savings
  - $52,031 in Ionia County
  - $73,706 in Montcalm County
Imagine a world that fosters hope and opportunity for everyone. A world where the cycle of poverty and financial dependence ends, and productive livelihoods begin for even the most disadvantaged.

**FUNDED PROGRAMS:**

**VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)**
Free tax preparation (United Way Program)

**FINANCIAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY** (United Way Program)
Financial resources through community programs

**MY FREE TAXES** (United Way Program)
Free online tax filing

966
People served

$394,862
Total invested

$4,050
Total grant funding received

31
VITA Program volunteers
June 1, 2018 - 211 goes live. When our residents need help with childcare, mounting bills, shelter for the night and more, 211 offers a one-stop connection to thousands of local agencies and resources that can help.

751 people contacted 211 for assistance in Ionia County

1,157 people contacted 211 for assistance in Montcalm County

1,908 CONTACTS IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS

MAKE THE RIGHT CALL

CALL 9-1-1 FOR LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCIES
• Home Fire
• Medical Emergency
• Abduction
• Robbery
• Report Domestic Violence
• Suspicious Activities
• Heart Attack or Stroke
• Impaired Driving

CALL 2-1-1 FOR HELP WITH EVERYTHING ELSE
• Housing & Utility Services
• Food Pantries
• Fraud & Identity Protection
• Disaster Relief
• Tax Preparation
• Veterans Services
• Counseling Services
• Childcare
• Alcohol Treatment
• Job Assistance
• Legal Services
• Healthcare
• Credit Counseling
• And Many More!

211 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 day a year

MOST REQUESTED INFORMATION
• Tax preparation
• Electricity Services
• Housing/Rent assistance
• Shelters
• Food Pantries
• Heating/Fuel Payment Assistance
• Water Services Payment Assistance
• Gas Services Payment Assistance
• Non-Emergency Medical Transport
United Way Montcalm-Ionia Counties
2018 Program Priorities

SPONSOR A CLASSROOM
Providing Kindergarten through 3rd grade teachers with money to purchase additional classroom supplies.

263 Kindergarten through 3rd grade classrooms sponsored
$23,600 Raised in our communities

NON PROFIT LEARNING EXCHANGE
Helping local nonprofits become more sustainable.

20 Hours of sustainability training to 18 nonprofits
$64,800 Leveraged training dollars

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT
Engaging individuals and companies to create and be a part of solutions that drive IMPACT in our communities.

739 Volunteers in 2018
$125,049 Leveraged volunteer hours

UNITING TO INSPIRE CHANGE AND BUILD THRIVING COMMUNITIES
Campaign Companies

AT&T
ADAC Automotive
AGA Marvel
Aggressive Tooling
Belding Area Schools
Bissell
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Cargill Kitchen Solutions
Chemical Bank
Cherry Health
City of Belding
City of Ionia
Commercial Bank
Consumers Energy
Custer, Inc.
DTE Energy
EightCap, Inc.
Fifth-Third Bank
General Motors
Greenville Area Community Foundation
Greenville Public Schools
Greenville Tool & Die
Hungerford Nichols CPAs + Advisors
Huntington National Bank
Independent Bank
Ionia County Intermediate School District
Ionia County
Ionia Public Schools
Isabella Bank
J C Penney
Kellogg Company Fund
Meijer-Greenville
Meijer-Ionia
Mercantile Bank Ionia County
Mercantile Bank Montcalm County
Michigan One Credit Union
Michigan Works!
Mid-Michigan District Health Department
Montcalm Care Network
Montcalm County
Montcalm Community College
Montabella Community Schools
Montcalm Area Intermediate School District
Paragon Die and Engineering
Parker Hannifin Corporation
PFCU
Relief After Violent Encounter
Sidney State Bank
Sparrow Health System
SpartanNash
Spectrum Health United & Kelsey Hospitals
Sparrow Hospital Ionia
Sparrow Hospital Carson City
State Employee Charitable Campaign
Steelcase
The Right Door
Tri-County Public Schools
UPS (United Parcel Service)
Vestaburg Community Schools
Walker, Fluke, & Sheldon, PLC
Wal-Mart-Greenville
Wal-Mart-Ionia
Wolverine Worldwide, Inc.
In-Kind Media Sponsorships:
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Stafford Media Solutions-Daily News
Print Sponsors:
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Community First Credit Union
Michigan One Credit Union
Montcalm Community College
PFCU
Walker, Fluke, & Sheldon

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