



UNITED WAY
Western Kentucky

IMPACT REPORT

April 1, 2025-March 31, 2026



United Way of Western Kentucky

***Serving Ballard, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves,
Hickman, Marshall and McCracken Counties.***

120 S. 3rd Street
Paducah, KY 42001



unitedwaywky.org
270-442-1691

Letter from the Board of Directors President, Oscar Harrell

The United Way of Western Kentucky experienced significant leadership and staffing changes during fiscal year 2025–2026, and our organization continued to move forward with focus, resilience, and purpose. We were pleased to welcome Kelly Channell into her new role as CEO following her promotion from COO. We also navigated a transition in the Financial Administrator position. Lisa Hoppman graciously stepped in on a temporary basis after only a brief retirement from CSI, and Stacy Canter was later hired to fill the role full time. The search continues to assume the revised position Kelly previously held.

Through these changes, Kelly and her small but mighty staff achieved remarkable results. The following highlights represent just a few of the ways United Way of Western Kentucky advanced its mission and strengthened its impact across our region during the past fiscal year.

United Way of Western Kentucky held its second annual Bourbon United Gala, which has quickly become the organization's second-largest fundraising source. This year, the event increased gross income by 10.9%, raising \$91,988. Major sponsors including Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership, Harrah's Metropolis, and Baird Private Wealth Management, played an instrumental role in making this fundraiser a significant success.

Project United also produced meaningful results for our community. During the event, an anonymous donor recognized one bottleneck in making Housing Authority of Paducah units available was the cleaning and preparation required before units could be rented. Several units were cleaned during Project United, but the donor saw an opportunity to accelerate the process by funding professional cleaning services for additional units. Through this generous gift, Office Pride Commercial Cleaning Services was contracted and has prepared more than 60 units for occupancy by Paducah residents in need.

We also hosted a Cornerstone Society event honoring Lifetime Achievement and Ladd Mathis Award recipients. Honorees included Jason & Leigh Ann Siener, recipients of the Ladd Mathis Award and Lifetime Achievement Donor and John Jr. & Kristen Williams who are also Lifetime Achievement Donors. In addition, a new donor recognition wall, located in the United Way office, was dedicated to honor those reaching notable giving milestones. This ongoing effort helps build and celebrate a strong community of givers committed to the work of United Way of Western Kentucky.

Impact Opportunity continues to grow with the support of AES US Renewables. This strategic initiative is helping United Way of Western Kentucky develop a regional focus and establish shared goals in collaboration with partner agencies. Meetings have been held in Marshall, McCracken and Graves counties, and kickoff meetings are planned for Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman and Fulton counties during August. To volunteer or learn more about this initiative, please visit the United Way of Western Kentucky website.

These accomplishments represent only a small part of the countless ways United Way of Western Kentucky and our partner agencies made a difference during the past fiscal year. None of this would be possible without the generous gifts of time, talent, and financial support provided by so many caring individuals, families, organizations, and businesses throughout our community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your partnership, your trust, and your continued support of United Way of Western Kentucky.

OSCAR HARRELL

United Way Board of Directors
President, 2025-2026



2025-2026 FINANCIAL IMPACT

Endowment Gifts	\$9,325
In-Kind Donations	\$61,909
Grant Support	\$90,700
Campaign & Fundraising	\$1,041,837

Total Financial Impact
\$1,203,771

Services Provided
22,000+



TOP 20 FINANCIAL CORPORATE PARTNERS

1. Computer Services, Inc.
2. Paducah Bank
3. U.S. Bank
4. Ingram Barge
5. Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership
6. Beltline Electric
7. Jackson Purchase Energy
8. Paducah Power System
9. Baird Private Wealth Management
10. McCracken County School District
11. Progress Rail
12. FNB Bank
13. CFSB
14. LG&E/Kentucky Utilities
15. City of Paducah
16. Swift & Staley
17. Phoenix Paper
18. Morgan Stanley-The Brown Wealth Management Group
19. Mission Conversion Services Alliance
20. Canadian National Railway

FUNDED PARTNER AGENCIES

This year, 17 partner agencies received \$500,000 in grant funding supported by campaign donors and fundraising events.



American
Red Cross

CAMP  GRAVES



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
CASA OF GRAVES COUNTY &
SOUTHWEST KY



Child Watch
counseling and advocacy center



KENTUCKY
LEGAL AID



LIFELINE
RECOVERY CENTER



MERRYMAN
HOUSE



OSCAR CROSS
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
of Paducah



paducah cooperative ministry



The Senior Center
PADUCAH/MCCRACKEN COUNTY

EXTERNAL GRANTS

United Way secured external grants that funded specific programs for these partners:

Ballard County Schools
Carlisle County Schools
Fulton Independent Schools
Graves County Schools
Mayfield Independent Schools
Housing Authority of Paducah

2025-2026 Board of Directors Executive Committee



President
Oscar Harrell



President-Elect
CJ Gurley
CSI



Vice President
Brent Housman
Baird Private Wealth
Management



Secretary
Gina Leeper
Ray & Kay Eckstein
Charitable Trust



Treasurer
Drew Hulette
Independence Bank



Past President
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CFSB

Board Members



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Housing Authority of
Paducah



Dallas Conner
CFSB



Rebecca Ferch
Four Rivers Nuclear
Partnership



Samantha Hargrove
First Community Bank
of the Heartland



Gale Hatton
Paducah Bank



Eric Holland
Four Rivers Nuclear
Partnership



Georgann Lookofsky
Retired-West Kentucky
Rural Electric



James Morrow
Bunge Chevron Ag
Renewables



Leigh Ann Siener



Darren Smith
Whitlow, Roberts,
Houston & Straub, PLLC

United Way Staff



Kelly Channell
Chief Executive
Officer



Stacy Canter
Finance
Administrator



Langdon Barnes
Regional Impact
Coordinator



Gail Massey
Administrative
Coordinator



Lisa Hoppmann
Interim Staff
Assistant



COMMUNITY IMPACT

For more than 70 years, United Way has served as a trusted convener, funder, and catalyst for change. While we continue to provide annual grants to local partner agencies delivering critical services throughout our region, we also operate and lead several initiatives designed to address the root causes of poverty, improve educational outcomes, and create stronger, more resilient communities.

#UnitedIsTheWay



PALS (Promoting Academics & Leadership in Schools)

Presented by Signet Federal Credit Union

PALS programs are hosted in all Paducah Public and McCracken County Schools and expanded to include Ballard County Elementary during the 25-26 school year. More than 135 students and mentors participated in the program, which provides leadership, public speaking, mentorship and educational assistance.



Project United

Presented by UBS

Project United saw more than 600 volunteers come together to provide assistance to 30 nonprofit organizations. Volunteers completed 62 projects that impacted agencies and community members across our region.



Stuff the Bus

Presented by CFSB

Stuff the Bus is a partnership event with Walmart and the local school systems to provide school supplies to students and classrooms throughout the region. Volunteers collected school supplies at both Paducah Walmart locations to impact more than 1,100 students in Ballard, Carlisle, Paducah Public and McCracken County School Districts.



Bridges out of Poverty

Presented by Mercy Health-Lourdes

The primary goal of this program is to reduce the social stigma of poverty, strengthen the local workforce, and build sustainable communities where everyone can live well.



Impact Opportunity

Presented by AES

Impact Opportunity is a collaborative initiative that brings together cross-sector leaders to identify barriers to economic mobility and develop community-driven solutions. This initiative will redefine the goals of United Way on a regional level and focus on current barriers, programs and support to help create lasting change.





Congratulations to the 2025-2026 AWARD WINNERS



Ladd Mathis Lifetime Achievement
David & Linda Curtis



Overall Campaign of the Year
CSI



LIVE UNITED Corporate Partnership
Atmos Energy



LIVE UNITED Small Business Partnership
Morgan Stanley, The Brown Wealth
Management Group



Largest Campaign Increase
LG&E/KU



Largest Campaign Increase
HB Fuller



Samuel S. Sloan Employee Campaign
Coordinators of the Year
Progress Rail



New Supporter of the Year
TempsPlus, Inc.



LIVE UNITED Impact Award - Education
Tracy Pulley, Fulton Independent Schools



LIVE UNITED Impact Award - Income
Katelynn Rowe, Signet FCU



LIVE UNITED Impact Award - Health
Ke'Onna Buckingham, Mercy Health &
McCracken County Public Library



LIVE UNITED Impact Award - Youth
Cash Menees, Ballard County



EVENT SPONSORS

Abstraction Spirits
 AES
 All Paws Inn Boarding
 Allstate Insurance - Scott Jordan Agency
 Atmos Energy
 Atomic City Family Fun Center
 Bacon Farmer Workman/Marcum Engineering
 Baird Private Wealth Management
 Banterra Bank
 Baptist Health Paducah
 Barkley Regional Airport
 Beltline Electric
 Blended Brews
 Bluegrass Event Planning
 Bryant Law Center
 B'Still Day Spa
 Bunge Chevron Ag Renewables, LLC
 Camp Graves
 CFSB
 Child Watch Counseling and Advocacy Center
 Coca-Cola
 Cornerstone of Hope, Inc.
 CSI
 Denton Law Firm
 Evonik Corporation
 First Community Bank of the Heartland
 FNB Bank
 Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership
 Gracie Youngblood, Realtor
 Harrah's Metropolis
 HDR Engineering
 Housing Authority of Paducah
 HR Consulting Solutions
 HUB International
 Independence Bank
 Ingevity
 Ingram Barge
 Jackson Purchase Energy
 JMAG, LLC
 Kentucky Farm Bureau-Doug McClure
 Lake Chem Community Federal Credit Union
 Leslie Heath, Keller Williams Realty
 Liberty Pest Control
 Lifeline Recovery Center
 Marquette Transportation
 Mercy Health - Lourdes
 Merryman House Domestic Crisis Center
 Midtown Market
 Mission Conversion Services Alliance
 Office Pride Commercial Cleaning
 Open Door Accounting
 Paducah & Louisville Railway
 Paducah Bank



Paducah Battery Supply
 Paducah Cooperative Ministry
 Paducah Day Nursery
 Paducah Diversity Advocacy Board
 Paducah Power
 PFGW Architects
 Pizza Inn
 Purple Toad Winery
 Ray & Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust
 Regions Bank
 River's Edge Veterinary Hospital
 Sara Gipson Group, eXp Realty
 Signet Federal Credit Union
 Suzy Gilland, Better Homes & Gardens Fern Leaf Group
 Swift & Staley
 Tenacity Training LLC
 TownePlace Suites by Marriott
 Turner Land Title & Escrow Services, LLC
 TVA
 U.S. Bank
 UBS
 VUE Magazine
 Walker Hall Event Center
 Whitlow, Roberts, Houston & Straub
 Williams Williams & Lentz
 Woodmen of the World - Earl Davis
 Worthington Industries
 WPSD Local 6



OUR SUPPORTERS

Lifetime Achievement Donors

Those donating a combined total of more than \$100,000 in their lifetime.

Jason & Leigh Ann Siener

John Jr. & Kristin Williams

Tocqueville Society Donors

Those donating more than \$10,000 annually.

Jamey & Jordan Brown

Jason & Leigh Ann Siener

John A. & Vivian Williams

Brent & Sarah Housman

John Jr. & Kristin Williams

Community Champion Donors

Those donating between \$5,000-\$9,999 annually.

Jackie East & Valerie Pollard

Kent & Julie Price

Myron & Sherry Wessel

Steve & Nancy Powless

Darrin & Marie Rudolph

Leadership Level Donors

Those donating between \$1,000-\$4,999 annually.

Leanne Adreon

David & Dianna Hampton

William E. & Anita Pinkston

John Jr. & Amy Anderson

Doug & Heidi Handley

Andy Pollard

Sherry Anderson

Oscar & Zulema Harrell

Peyton Porter

Crystal Balentine

Austin & Alyssa Harris

Lucas Powell

Jeffrey Beck

Gale & Brad Hatton

Kevin & Charlene Ray

Kenny & Stacey Blankenship

Virginia Hawthorne

Bill & Myrna Redfield

Vicki L. Brantley & Tim A. Bonner

Jacob Hayes

Jesse & Beth Riddle

Kay Bottoms

Bob & Lisa Hoppmann

Jared Riley

Terry M Bradley

Zach Hosman

David Ruckstuhl

George & Angie Bray

Drew & Angie Hulette

Richard Rumsey

Brian & Becky Brown

Michael & Ashley Johnson

Ashley Simmons

Daniel & Mykala Brown

Tricia Jordan, PhD & Daron Jordan

Kim & Scott Skipworth

Jim & Brenda Brown

Ashley Kearney

Angel & Donald Smith

Patrick & Erin Brumley

David & Alyson Kelly

LaChelle Telfair

David & Jaclyn Burnett

Steve & Caroline Korte

Mark H. & Gretchen M. Thompson

Nancy Diane Byrd

Liz & Kevin Latta

Tim & Kelly Thurman

David C. Carroll

Bob & Gina Leeper

Allen & Melanie Townsend

Micah & Kelly Channell

David & Barbara Logsdon

Lee & Sheri Tucker

Troy & Tammy Courtney

Dr. Levi & Maegan Mansfield

Matthew Turley & John Park

Adam Chustz

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Heather Coffie Grubbs

Gayle Martin

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Kerri Eads

Brian & Vicki Morgan

Eric & Wendy Watts

Stan & Missy Eckenberg

James & Jessica Morrow

Majors Richard & Ginny Watts

David & Cheryl Edgin

G. Todd Myers

Cindy & Scott White

Bob Ezell

Joe Nelson

Autumn Whitlock

J. Scott & Elizabeth Frame

Chris & Lesley Owen

Cody Wiles

Joe & Jeane Framptom

Charles Owens

Ashley Williams & Theodore Qualls

Catherine & Bradford Fuller

Derrick & Shannon Pace

Sandra S. Wilson

Joey & Susan Gibson

Jenni Partin

Bobbie Wiseman

Greg & Denise Grissom

James & Leigh Ann Paxton

Stephen & Susan Ybarzabal

Charles Gurley

Mark & MaryAnn Peat

Thank you to our Anonymous Donors

To those who give quietly but generously - thank you.

