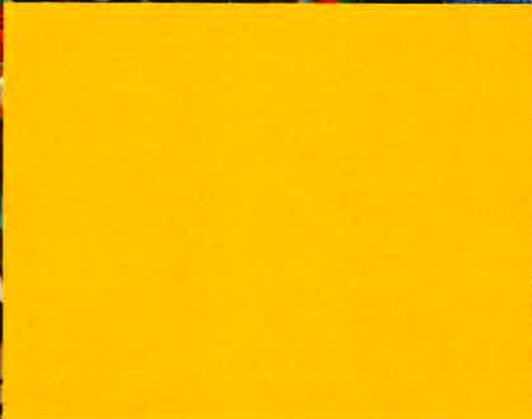




UNITED WAY
OF
GREATER FORT DODGE



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

ABOUT US

United Way of Greater Fort Dodge is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving the greater Fort Dodge community. We make grants to a wide range of human/social service organizations and causes that are focused on helping people, in particular, disadvantaged youth, families and seniors.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to serve as a catalyst for charitable giving/developing charitable resources to support important charitable organizations, services and projects that will benefit the public good and improve the quality of life of all citizens, families and youth in Fort Dodge, Webster County and north-west-central Iowa. Our major focus is helping the disadvantaged and underprivileged in our community who struggle to meet their basic living needs. Our highest priority is supporting programs and services that serve disadvantaged youth with the goal of helping them thrive and reach their full potential academically and developmentally.

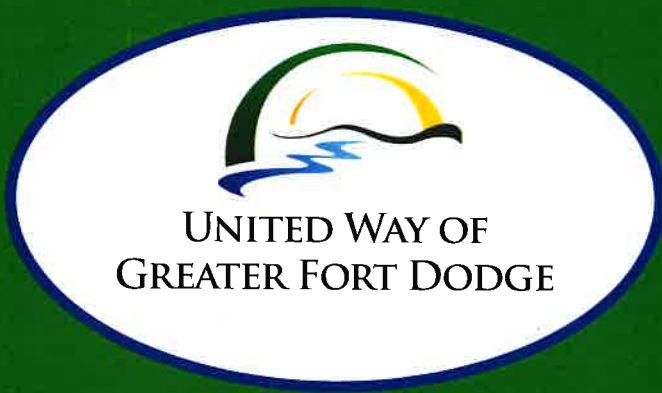
MEETS NATIONAL STANDARDS

United Way of Greater Fort Dodge meets the operational standards established by United Way Worldwide. Meeting these rigorous standards means that United Way of Greater Fort Dodge abides by the highest legal, ethical, and effective operating practices, including financial oversight, transparency and accountability for nonprofit organizations.



HISTORY OF THE UNITED WAY OF GREATER FORT DODGE

In 1928, a group of generous and committed Fort Dodge area residents established the Fort Dodge Community Chest. Frank W. Griffith, a noted local architect was the board president, C.B. Smeltzer, a member of one of Fort Dodge's founding families, was the Campaign Chair. Mrs. R.P. Atwell served as the Women's Division Chair. The campaign slogan was "Let's Put a Feather in Fort Dodge's Hat!" Red feathers were used throughout the community to signify participation in this first community-wide effort to meet local critical human needs through philanthropy. In 1956, the board of directors of the Fort Dodge's Community Chest voted to become a United Way affiliated organization and incorporated as United Way of Greater Fort Dodge. In doing so, it joined one thousand (1,000) other United Way affiliated communities around the nation. At that time, the board realized the value of becoming affiliated with the national United Way organization that could provide the Fort Dodge board and staff with organizational structure, administrative resources, and enhanced credibility. Over the past 65 years, more than \$13 million has been raised. These funds have been granted back to the community to human/social service organizations, projects and programs that support the common good and enhance the quality of life of children, families and adults of all ages in the Fort Dodge area.



UNITED WAY OF
GREATER FORT DODGE

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Fort Dodge, IA 50501
515.573.3179 • www.fd-foundation.org

ORGANIZATIONS THAT RECEIVED GRANTS IN 2020

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Blanden Art Museum
Blanden Charitable Foundation
Boone Forks Recreational Fund
Brushy Creek Honor Flight
Dragoon Etching Trail Project
Floyd of Rosedale Project
Fort Dodge Fine Arts Association
Fort Dodge Firefighters Fund/Association
Fort Dodge Police Foundation K-9Fund/Assoc
First Covenant Church
First Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church
Fort Dodge Choral Society
Fort Dodge Community Rec Center
Fort Dodge Fine Arts Association
Fort Dodge Mountain Bike Association
Fort Dodge Public Art
Fort Dodge Public Library Foundation
Fort Dodge Rec Center
Fort Museum Historical Foundation
Freedom Rock
Gowrie Area Arts Council
Gowrie Development Commission
Grain Silo Mural Project
Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance
Holy Trinity Parish
Humane Society of Northcentral Iowa
Iowa Central Community College Foundation
Iowa Public Radio
Main Street Fort Dodge
National Parks Foundation
New Covenant Christian Church
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
PICA
Saab Heritage Museum
St. Francis of Assisi
Serving Our Servants (SOS)
Special Olympics of Iowa
Stage Door Productions
Veterans Memorial Park Project
Webster County Crime Stoppers
Webster County Sheriff's Department
Emergency Communications System
Webster County Trails

FAMILY SUPPORT

Fort Dodge Housing Agency
Fort Dodge Prosper/Strengthening Families
Upper Des Moines Opportunities
VITA/Volunteer Tax Preparation
Wheels for Work
YWCA

EDUCATION/YOUTH SUPPORT

AFES
Boy Scouts of America
Character Counts
Community Early Childhood Center
Dodger Academy
Dowling Catholic High School
F.D. Community Schools Foundation
Fort Dodge Community Schools
Fort Dodge Public Library free online tutoring
Foster Grandparents
Friends of St. Edmond
Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa
Iowa Central Sim Lab
Iowa JAG Inc.
Jaguar Little League
Joy of Reading
Little Free Libraries
St. Edmond's Catholic School Foundation
SITA Foundation
Webster County 4H
Webster County Extension/
Strengthening Families
Widening the Stage-
Musical Instrument Grant

MENTAL & PHYSICAL HEALTH

ALS Association Iowa Chapter
Alzheimer's Association
American Cancer Society
American Heart Association
Catholic Charities
Children and Families of Iowa
Community and Family Resources
Community Health Center
Emma Goldman Clinic
Friendship Haven
Gateway to Discovery
Hope for Healing
LinksWay Foundation
Lutheran Family Services
Marian Home
Prescriptions for Kids
St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital
Trinity Health Foundation
Univ. of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital
Webster County Public Health
YWCA

EMERGENCY NEEDS

American Red Cross
Backpack Buddies
Beacon of Hope Ministries
Bridging the Gap/Beds for Kids
D/SAOC
Elderbridge Agency on Aging
Food Bank of Iowa
Fort Dodge Housing Agency
Holy Trinity Parish Food Pantry
Homeless Fund
Lord's Cupboard
Lotus Community Project, Inc.
Meals on Wheels
Montana Food Bank Network???
Salvation Army
Upper Des Moines Opportunity
Webster County Covid Disaster Relief
Webster County Public Health
Wheels for Health

SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2020, 61 students attending 16 different colleges and universities received scholarships from the Fort Dodge Community Foundation including:

- Allen College
- Central College
- Culver Academies
- Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC)
- Des Moines University
- Drake University
- Grandview University
- Iowa Central Community College
- Iowa State University
- Kirkwood Community College
- Minnesota State University/Mankato
- Missouri Valley College
- Simpson College
- University of Iowa
- University of Northern Iowa
- Wartburg College

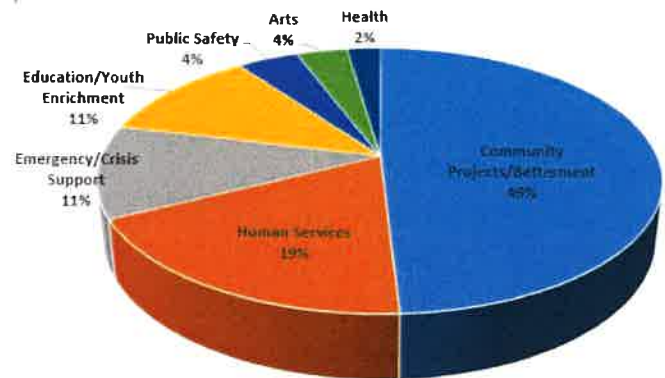
2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

FORT DODGE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION + UNITED WAY OF GREATER FORT DODGE CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION* (As of December 31, 2020)

	2020
ASSETS	
Pledges	\$ 167,807
Cash/Investments	\$ 19,613,243
Net Equipment & Other	\$ 6,903
Other	\$ -0-
Total Assets	\$ 19,787,952
LIABILITIES	
Agency Funds & Other Liabilities	\$ 1,028,815
NET ASSETS	
Total Net Assets	\$ 18,759,137
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 19,787,952

FORT DODGE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION + UNITED WAY OF GREATER FORT DODGE CONSOLIDATED INCOME/EXPENSES* (As of December 31, 2020)

	2020
REVENUE	
Gifts, Grants & Pledges	\$ 4,283,231
Investment Income	\$ 3,414,102
Managed/Affiliated Funds Activity	\$ 798,121
Other Revenue	\$ 219,201
Total Revenue	\$ 8,714,656
EXPENSES & GRANTS	
Grants & Program Support	\$ 2,270,340
Fund Management & Bank Fees	\$ 147,767
Managed/Affiliated Funds Activity	\$ 517,652
Operating Support	\$ 314,449
Total Expenses	\$ 3,250,209
Net Income	\$ 5,464,447
Unrealized Gain/Loss	\$ (1,643,196)
CHANGE IN FINANCIAL POSITION	\$ 3,821,251
2020 CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	
Net Assets as of 12/31/19	\$ 14,937,887
Audit Adjustment	\$ - 0 -
Net Assets as of 1/1/20	\$ 14,937,887
Net Assets as of 12/31/20	\$ 18,759,137
Total Change in Net Assets in 2020	\$ 3,821,251



2020	
Community Projects and Betterment	\$901,627
Human Services	\$337,241
Emergency/Crisis Support	\$207,512
Education/Youth Enrichment	\$207,029
Public Safety	\$76,783
Arts	\$64,639
Health	\$41,891
Total:	\$1,836,722

Learn and Celebrate our Fort Dodge History and Culture

Fort Dodge and Webster County is blessed with a dynamic history, a vibrant culture, rich traditions and interesting nostalgia. Learning about and celebrating the history of our community is important because it allows us to know our past, understand our present and shape our future. It helps us appreciate the context of how our community's history was so notably integrated into the history and development of our state and the pioneer movement that built and expanded our nation.

Our history provides us with insight into our community's culture, traditions and folklore. It details the progress and growth of our community and how it happened. Celebrating our history helps us gain greater understanding, appreciation and respect for the amazing leadership, commitment and sacrifice that early Fort Dodgers made to build and grow our community from its beginnings in 1850 through 2020. Knowing about our community's interesting and inspiring history will create greater appreciation for the place we call home.



Fort Dodge is blessed with a very significant number of amazing people that made a significant impact on our community. This website has over 100 biographies of iconic Fort Dodgers and we will continue to add to this list of distinguished people. We also have narratives on the periods of our community from our beginnings up to 1940. We will continue to add more historical and nostalgic information on the decades that followed.

This website (www.fortdodgehistory.com) encourages people of all ages to learn, embrace and enjoy the robust history, abounding culture, and fond memories of our community. Plus – reading about our community's history and nostalgia is just plain interesting and enjoyable.

Reasons Why Learning, Embracing And Celebrating Our History Is Important

1. **It Helps us Understand Fort Dodge and its Culture:** One of the most important reasons to know our community's history is so we can understand our community and culture today by knowing who and what created it. Learning about and understanding the events and people that built and shaped our community is incredibly important. Knowing about and understanding the positive and negative events of the past can teach us a great deal about addressing the challenges of the future.
2. **It Helps us Understand Change:** The events that led to change in our community helps us understand how and why our community progressed through the decades. Knowing this can help us advance change for the better for our community today and tomorrow.
3. **It Helps us Relate our own History to our Nation's History:** When we learn about the stories of the pioneer settlers that risked everything, including their lives, to migrate across the uncharted territories and difficult terrain to come to Fort Dodge, we gain a much greater perspective and appreciation for our own history. And, it brings to life the history of our great nation.
4. **It Helps us Preserves Stories:** It is important to know about the stories of those before us. It is important to understand what those before us had to say, how they thought, and why they did what they had to do to survive and advance. We need to hear their stories, preserve them, and pass them down to those that will follow us.
5. **It Inspire Us:** Hearing the stories of those before us can inspire us to take action in our own lives and community. Our past can have a huge impact on our future, and we need that inspiration to teach us that.
6. **It Helps Us Be Better People:** Some people view history as a boring and unimportant, but one of the most critical reasons to study history is that it will make us better people. We will have a better understanding of our community and culture and how it shaped us into the community we are today.
7. **It Offers us Memorable Nostalgia:** Memories of our past, especially the good times – the fun times, can truly enrich our lives. These memories warm our hearts, they bring smiles to our faces, and they even inspire us. The fun and heart-warming events of the past helped form our character and our identity. They are important to us and need to be appreciated, embraced, enjoyed, and never forgotten.

Wheels for Work is Changing Lives

United Way's mission is to help the less fortunate in our community that could use a helping hand. Our Wheels for Work program does just that – it provides families that have no personal transportation with a donated car so they can have reliable transportation. Having a car helps families in so many ways; getting to work and back home, trips to the grocery store, and transporting children to and from school, to youth activities, medical appointments, etc. It provides families with greater opportunities and more stability.

In April of 2020, a sweet young family recently received a nice car that was donated to Wheels for Work. The mother, Sara, and her two young children had fled an abusive situation. They had been living in a domestic abuse shelter for two years. They are now in a better situation. Sara has a job and she and her children are living in their own apartment, but without transportation.



Without a car, Sara would walk three miles to her job, and the same to get back home, no matter the weather conditions. Sara and her children would walk to the grocery store and carry their grocery bags back home. They would use DART when they could, but that too would get costly.

Sara was on our waiting list for a donated car for some time. When a car is donated, we contact our partner organizations (such as Upper Des Moines Opportunity and Fort Dodge Housing) to scrutinize every candidate, verify the need and make sure the family is qualified to receive a car and can assume the financial responsibilities that come with owning a car.

With Sara, we were given an enthusiastic YES when we asked if she was the right candidate to receive a car. It was wonderful to call Sara to tell her we had a very good car for her and her children.

At no expense, Fort Dodge Ford -Toyota does a thorough check of all donated vehicles to make sure they are safe and in good running condition. Sara met us at the Fort Dodge Ford -Toyota's dealership to receive the car. She was given a very nice car, donated by the estate of a local family. Sara was ecstatic! She hadn't told her children that they were selected to receive a car and she was really looking forward to surprising them when she would pick them up from school that day in their new car. We wanted to take a picture of Sara in the car, but she declined for safety reason; she didn't want her abuser to know anything about her.



Wheels for Work has been operating for over fifteen years in partnership with Fort Dodge Ford Toyota. Since that time, over 120 vehicles have been donated to United Way of Greater Fort Dodge's Wheels for Work program. There are many families in our community who struggling to get by and pay their bills. They are living paycheck to paycheck and they lack personal transportation. Unfortunately, this need is much higher than the number of vehicles donated each year. Currently, we have numerous families on our waiting list for a car.

Citizens interested in possibly donating a used vehicle that is in good condition should contact United Way of Greater Fort Dodge. The donation is tax deductible and is a very simple process that only takes about fifteen minutes. It is important to know that donating a vehicle can make life-changing impact on a family in need.

OLYVIA'S JOURNEY- A HAPPY ENDING AND A LIFE SAVED

In late December, 2018, United Way of Fort Dodge was notified by a Fort Dodge Community Schools mentor that her 16 year old student's mother had died unexpectedly. The mentor had been with Olyvia for over ten years and had developed a caring, trusting relationship with her. The mentor was the first person Olyvia called when she learned that her mother had passed away in the middle of the night.

Olyvia's father died when she was four years old, so when her mother died, she was left with no parents. Her grandparents had also passed away, her future was unknown and in crisis. The family had many challenges – poverty, marginalized health, mental illness and lack of a support system – issues many local families face every day.

Olyvia's mother died five days before Christmas. United Way worked with Olyvia to obtain birth certificates, death certificates and Social Security cards - all the documents that were needed at a time like this. But the big question was, what will happen to Olyvia? She was still a minor – where would she live? Who would be her guardian? We knew that it would be very difficult for her if she were put in the foster care system at this stage of her life.

As United Way of Greater Fort Dodge worked with Olyvia, we found out that her mother had a group of friends she had gone to high school with in the 1970's who had kept in touch with one another. These people were living in various cities around the United States, but had a very close bond with each other. When they found out Olyvia's mother had died, they raised money so a funeral could be held.

One of her mother's friends, Maria, actually flew from New York to Fort Dodge to make the funeral arrangements. United Way and the mentor met with Maria to discuss how to help Olyvia. Olyvia's mother didn't have a will and hadn't made any arrangements or provisions for Olyvia. Maria stayed in Fort Dodge for a week, having daily meetings with United Way, the mentor and with Olyvia. Maria contacted her high school friends and told them of Olyvia's dire situation.

One of her mother's classmates, Suzanne, lived in Portland, Oregon. She and her family (husband, son, daughter and grandmother) invited Olyvia to live with them. Olyvia had never met any of them – but during the week that Maria was in Fort Dodge, Olyvia became comfortable with Maria and realized that United Way and Maria had her best interests at heart. Olyvia decided to accept the invitation. United Way conducted background checks on Maria and the family in Portland. The mentor made travel arrangements to fly to Portland with Olyvia when she met the family. United Way helped to provide her with some new clothes and personal items she would need to begin life in her new home. Olyvia was even able to bring her cat with her! She left Fort Dodge with a suitcase and a backpack that held all her worldly belongings.

In the two years that have passed since Olyvia moved to Portland, truly miraculous things have happened.

Olyvia enrolled in a specially chosen school that catered to her unique situation. She took classes at her own pace. In her first semester, she received wonderful grades and was excited about school. Between the Portland parents and United Way, we were able to obtain all the documentation that allowed her to start her new life in the stable, loving and supportive home.

When Olyvia was born, she had some orthopedic problems. In Portland, she was able to have necessary surgeries and is now walking normally. She also received deferred dental work; she was also able to get braces and now has good oral health. Olyvia receives counseling on a regular basis to help her sort out all that happened to her in her short life so that she can look with promise to the future. The family she lives with has taken her on college visits; they live in a very "walk-able" Portland neighborhood, safe and easy for Olyvia to navigate on her own. Her new home is safe, stable and caring.

Olyvia graduated from high school in June, 2021. Her voice is joyful, full of hope; she is excited about the possibilities the lie ahead of her. The parents in Portland have nurtured her, helped her feel secure, safe and loved. She has hope for her future.



COVID RELIEF FUND - NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

United Way Provides COVID-19 Pandemic Relief

United Way of Greater Fort Dodge provided help for families and individuals who were negatively impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Many people lost their jobs or had their work hours cut. Research on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic showed that lower income families were often the first to lose their jobs from the pandemic and for all adults, one-in-four have had trouble paying their bills. Even if they didn't lose a job, many workers have had to reduce their hours or take a pay cut due to the economic fallout from the pandemic. The dramatic loss of income due to the pandemic put many families in a crisis situation in which they were unable to pay for their very basic living needs. These families experienced a huge amount of anxiety from the stress of coping with not being able to pay their bills. United Way offered a "helping hand" to these struggling families that were trying to deal with the burden and financial challenges they faced during this unprecedented time.

HOW IS UNITED WAY HELPING?

Food Assistance

United Way provided financial support to local food pantries that were providing free food to needy families and individuals. United Way supported the following food pantries: Lord's Cupboard, Holy Trinity Food Pantry, UDMO Food Assistance and the Salvation Army.

Utility Assistance

Many families saw their monthly income drop significantly and fell behind on their utility bills. Many faced disconnection of their electricity, heating and cooling for their homes, as well having their water shut off. This was especially devastating to families with children and also elderly senior citizens. United Way provided emergency financial assistance to these families to help them with these critical bills.

Preventing Homelessness

The loss of income put many families in jeopardy of becoming homeless because were unable to pay their monthly rent. For families with children, this was absolutely devastating. United Way provided emergency rent assistance to help keep these families in their homes.

Mental Health for Youth

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of children and teens between the ages of 5-18 was very significant. The stress they felt from the social isolation they experienced and the struggles of their families often lead to severe depression, anxiety, trauma and even thoughts of suicide. United Way provided support to make sure no child was turned away from receiving the mental health counseling they needed. United Way of Greater Fort Dodge was there to assist those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic by distributing much needed resources to nonprofit partners and public health organizations to help meet the immediate needs not covered by government programs or other traditional relief sources. It was a "team" effort, partnering with agencies in our community to help those in need during the pandemic.



OUR STAFF



Randy Kuhlman
Chief Executive Officer



Amy Kersten Bruno
Program Coordinator



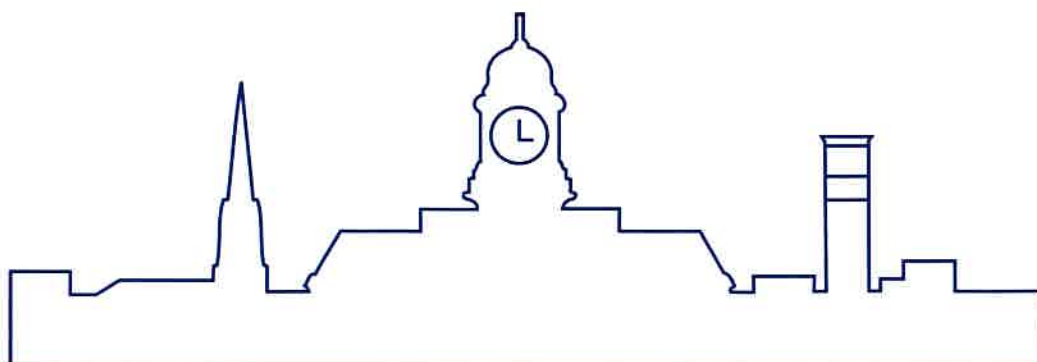
Chris Hayek
Financial Manager



Megan Patrick
Receptionist



Joe Kuhlman
Operations Manager



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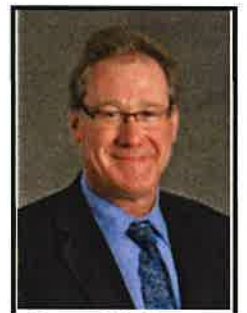
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Johnson Monument



Sarah Livingston
Attorney
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Financial Representative,
Northwestern Mutual



Troy Shaner
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Valero Renewable Fuels



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Dr. Jess Urich
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