

WORKING TOGETHER IMPACTING LIVES

United Way is helping build healthy youth, stronger families, and a vital community.

The Affliction of Child Homelessness

Today in Fort Dodge, it is estimated that over 400 children experience homelessness at some time during the year and 1 out of 5 children live in households that are at risk of becoming homeless.

Homeless children must cope with toxic stress that negatively impacts their learning, their behaviors, their mental health and their overall development. When children are homeless, they miss numerous days of school, are often hungry and undernourished, and at times must use public restrooms to wash their hair and brush their teeth before school.

UNITED WAY IS REDUCING AND PREVENTING CHILD HOMELESSNESS BY:

- Helping families avoid eviction and stay in their homes
- Providing emergency shelter at a local motel for homeless women and children
- Helping homeless families attain stable housing

UNITED WAY GIVING CARD

Supporters of United Way that donate or pledge \$150 or more will receive the United Way Giving Card. Our Giving Card provides attractive discounts at over 40 local businesses, retailers and restaurants. These discounts are available for a full year with no limit on the number of times they can be used. Visit www.unitedwayfd.org for a full listing of participating merchants.

Giving youth hope for a bright future.

Scan the QR code to learn more.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR LASTING CHANGE

United Way is committed to helping youth succeed, stabilizing families, and empowering lives. By providing families with a "helping hand" during difficult times, United Way's assistance is giving hope to those feeling scared and hopeless.



A BRIGHTER FUTURE – A foundational principle of United Way is – every child deserves a chance to grow up with a true sense of hope. Caring citizens can impact the lives of impoverished children and give them hope for a happy and bright future by donating to United Way.

How to Donate

- Mail your donation check to United Way of Greater Fort Dodge
- Donate online at: www.unitedwayfd.org
- Use payroll deduction through your employer

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United Way of
Greater Fort Dodge



2026-2027 UNITED WAY COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

Building Hope - Changing Lives



OFFERING HOPE for a BRIGHTER FUTURE

LIVE UNITED®

www.unitedwayfd.org

Programs

Beds for Kids

Over the past 15 years, United Way has distributed over 1,800 beds to children who lack a bed and were sleeping on couches or drafty floors.

Hope for Healing Fund

United Way helps low-income families with transportation costs to get seriously ill children to specialists in Iowa City, Des Moines or Rochester.

Personal Needs

For children lacking important staples of life, United Way helps meet these needs. Be it for coats, clothing, shoes, eyeglasses, or personal hygiene items, United Way helps.

Food Assistance

United Way helps food insecure families when children are hungry and in immediate need of food.

Wheels for Work Program

United Way accepts donated vehicles and gives them to families with children in desperate need of a car for work and to run family errands.

Bridging the Gap

United Way accepts gently used furniture and household items and distributes them to families in need to help make their apartments a home.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels provides daily nutritious meals and safety checks to homebound seniors and individuals with disabilities who lack the ability to cook nutritious meals for themselves.

100%

**of every donation to the
United Way Campaign
stays in Fort Dodge and
Webster County.**

UNITED WAY WORKS TO CREATE LASTING CHANGE

Offering Hope for Kids



Preventing Child Homelessness

United Way works hard every day to prevent children from becoming homeless. In the past twelve months, United Way has helped over 140 families and over 350 children avoid becoming homeless or having their utilities disconnected. Many homeless children are forced to sleep in a different place every night or two, sleeping on couches or on drafty floors at a friend's apartment or house. Some sleep in a car with their parent and other siblings. United Way provides homeless families with children with safe emergency shelter in a local motel and then helps them attain stable housing.

Unstable Housing

Some families live in a house or apartment without running water; no water for drinking, cooking, cleaning, showering, or toilets. Over the past year, United Way has helped over 70 families with children with their water bills so their water could be reconnected to their homes.

Basic Needs for Youth

20% of our children and teens live in poverty or close to the poverty level and often lack their most basic living needs to learn, grow, and develop in a healthy way. Unfortunately, too many must face the challenges and social ills of poverty every day. Be it the lack of food, shelter, transportation, clothing, medical care, or personal hygiene items, United Way works with impoverished youth and their families to help them meet their basic living needs.

Helping Families Cope with the Aftermath of a House Fire

United Way provides emergency support for families facing a major crisis due to a house fire. These families with children often lose everything they own, and they vacate their burning homes with only the clothes on their backs. United Way helps these families with temporary shelter, food, clothing, and other items and then help them find new housing and bring stability back into their lives.

Supporting Single Mothers with Referral Services and Case Management

Hundreds of women in our community are single parents raising their children on a single income. Even though they are working one or even two jobs, their incomes remain below the poverty level. These mothers are trying to raise one to four or more children while facing the stress of paying their rent and utilities, and feeding and clothing their children. Inflation has been devastating for them. United Way helps these women by providing emergency financial assistance and guidance to other available resources. United Way staff assist them with family budgeting and guidance to help them get on a path to stability and financial self-sufficiency.

Supporting our Senior Citizens

In the Fort Dodge area, it is estimated that 15% of our senior citizens are living in poverty and struggle to meet their basic living needs. Many live on small Social Security stipends of \$500 to \$1,500 a month. These senior citizens need help with housing, food, transportation and other critical needs. United Way supports our seniors through our Meals on Wheels program and other assistance to prevent homelessness and to help them meet other basic living needs.