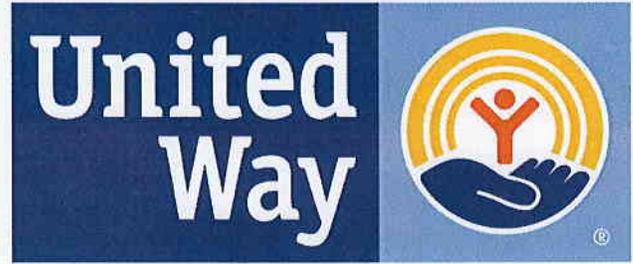


## United Way of the Mark Twain Area

3062 Highway 61 North  
P.O. Box 81  
Hannibal, MO 63401  
573-221-2761

[www.unitedwaymta.org](http://www.unitedwaymta.org)



July 2019

Dear Friend and United Way Supporter,

As flood waters recede and things begin to get back to normal, we are reminded how hopeless and fragile life can sometimes be when situations and circumstances are out of our control. For many people in our communities, they are struggling to keep afloat and feel as if all hope is lost. The United Way of the Mark Twain Area exists to help "Give Hope" to these individuals and families.

My name is Justin Gibson, and I have the great honor and privilege to serve as Chairman of the 2019 United Way Campaign. My wife, Brooke, and I are lifelong residents of Hannibal and have always been humbled and inspired by the tremendous sense of community, volunteerism, and commitment of people in this area to help those in need.

As I was deciding on what the campaign theme would be this year, I reflected on the story of Noah and the Great Flood. We all know the story: There was a man named Noah, and he and his family were instructed by God to build an Ark. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. After months of floating and drifting, the ark finally came to rest on a mountain. Noah released a dove to see if it could find any sign of dry land, but it returned a short time later. A few weeks passed, and Noah released the dove again, but this time the dove returned with a freshly plucked olive leaf in its beak. What great hope this must have brought Noah. Evidence of dry land. Another week passed, and Noah let the dove out a third time, and however, this time, the dove did not return. A sign that it was able to live on its own. What a great story of hope and restoration. There are a lot of people in our community who are in desperate need of hope. People who have fallen on hard times, are sick, hungry, abused, or have circumstances that are preventing them from meeting their full potential. The agencies that are a part of the United Way are like the olive leaf in this story; they help bring hope to folks who feel as if all hope is lost and, The United Way, is like the dove; it is a conduit or bridge by which hope can be delivered. I encourage you to join us as we "Give Hope" to those in our communities who so desperately need it.

If you have given in the past or plan to again this year, I want to personally thank you for your generosity and support. If you are new to the United Way of the Mark Twain Area and the agencies we partner with, I invite you to visit our website at [www.unitedwaymta.org](http://www.unitedwaymta.org) to learn more about the impact the United Way has in our area. Please join us this year as we work together to...

**"Give Hope."**

Sincerely,

Justin Gibson  
2019 Campaign Chairman

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