



STORIES OF IMPACT

In This Issue:

In this first issue, we introduce you to new faces, share how your generosity is making a difference right here in Fostoria, and highlight opportunities to get involved in the months ahead. We are glad you are with us.

Quarterly Impact:

3,879 touch points

(see page 4 for Quarterly Impact agency breakdown)

Issue Highlights:

New Partnership, p. 2

Staff Spotlight, p. 3

Your Gifts, p. 3

Agency Resources, p. 4

Quarterly Impact Report, p. 4

Upcoming United Way &

Agency Events, p. 5

Unitedwayoffostoria.org



Message from our Director

Libra Tedrow, Executive Director

Hello friends and supporters, It is a true privilege to step into the role of Executive Director at United Way of Fostoria. Many of you know me from my years with First

Call for Help, where I saw — up close and every day — what it looks like when a community chooses to take care of its own. That spirit is exactly what brought me here, and it is exactly what will carry us forward together.

Fostoria is a community with real challenges, and real people meeting those challenges with resilience. The work of United Way exists to make sure that when a family hits a crisis, a child needs a safe place to learn, or a neighbor needs a hand up, the help is actually there. That's only possible because of donors and partners like you.

This newsletter is our commitment to keeping you close to that work. We want you to know the families your generosity touches, the programs your dollars make possible, and the progress we're making together. Transparency and trust matter to us — you deserve to see your investment at work.

Thank you for believing in Fostoria. I look forward to sharing this journey with you.

With gratitude,
Libra Tedrow

Executive Director, United Way of Fostoria



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Fostoria
EMPOWERMENT HUB
Support Starts Here

Connecting You to the Resources You Need—All in One Place.

Funded in part through a Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services LSTA grant awarded by the State Library of Ohio.

Feature Story

NEW PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS ACCESS TO RESOURCES IN FOSTORIA

United Way of Fostoria has partnered with Kaubisch Memorial Public Library to launch the Fostoria Empowerment Hub—a new, community-centered space designed to connect residents with essential resources, technology, and support.

Funded through a grant from the State Library of Ohio, the Hub provides a centralized location where individuals and families can receive help navigating everyday needs, including food, housing, employment, and healthcare. Through United Way's First Call for Help, residents are connected to a network of local services while receiving personalized guidance along the way.

The Hub also expands access to workforce and digital skills support, offering assistance with job searches, resume development, and online applications, along with monthly workshops focused on life skills, financial literacy, and wellness.

This partnership reflects a shared commitment to strengthening community connections, increasing access to opportunity, and ensuring individuals and families have the support they need to move forward.

MAY EVENTS AT THE HUB:

May 8, 12, & 22: Fostoria United Way & First Call for Help

May 18: Great Lakes Community Action Partnership, Financial Opportunity Center

May 20: Phillip Wylkan, Attorney at Law, Estate Planning

May 27: Hancock County Ohio Means Jobs



We are pleased to welcome Rachel Burleson as the new Program Coordinator for First Call for Help. Rachel brings a wealth of hands-on experience in case management, recovery support, and community-based services — and a deep, genuine commitment to the people she serves.

A credentialed Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant (CDCA) and Qualified Mental Health Assistant (QMHA), Rachel has spent years walking alongside individuals and families navigating substance use and mental health challenges.

Most recently, she served as a Case Manager in Fostoria, coordinating care with community providers, courts, and child welfare agencies. Her background also includes administrative work at Serenity Christian Counseling and more than five years of leadership with Celebrate Recovery — a testament to her long-standing roots in faith-based, community-centered support.

Please join us in welcoming Rachel to this role. We are glad she is here.



Rachel Burleson

YOUR GIFT STAYS LOCAL – AND CHANGES LIVES RIGHT HERE IN FOSTORIA

When you give to United Way of Fostoria, your donation doesn't travel far. It stays here — funding for youth programs, and health services that Fostoria families rely on when life gets hard.

"No community is immune to hard times. But when neighbors choose to invest in each other, the difference is real and lasting."

United Way of Fostoria distributes funds thoughtfully and accountably, with local decision-makers who know this community and are committed to making every dollar count. We publish an annual report detailing exactly where contributions go, because we believe donors deserve that transparency.

When you give, you are not simply writing a check. You are choosing to be part of the safety net that holds this community together. You are fueling hope, stability, and possibility for the families and individuals who need it most.

Thank you for being part of this work. We would not be here without you.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller



United Way of Fostoria is excited to introduce a new quarterly workshop series designed specifically for agency partners.

This initiative will provide ongoing education, practical tools, and shared resources to strengthen organizational capacity and support long-term sustainability. Through these sessions, agencies will have opportunities to learn, collaborate, and enhance their ability to fulfill their mission and deepen their impact in our community.

FUNDING FORWARD: BUILDING GRANT-READY AGENCIES

Strong agencies mean stronger outcomes for Fostoria families. That's why United Way is investing in the organizations doing the work on the ground — starting with Funding Forward: Building Grant-Ready Agencies, a learning session for our network of community partners. Is your agency positioned to pursue the funding it deserves?

On Friday, June 12 at 9:00 AM, agency staff and leaders are invited to come together to build the skills and systems that make organizations more competitive for grant funding. From crafting a strong case for support to understanding what funders look for, this session equips local nonprofits to grow their impact and sustainability.

Because when our partners thrive, our whole community benefits.

Quarterly Impact: 3,879 touch points

This quarter, your support made a meaningful impact across our community. Here's a snapshot of the many touchpoints where United Way agency partners are meeting needs, strengthening lives, and creating lasting change.

First Call for Help: 165 new clients new served

Getting Ahead: 9 participants

Red Cross: No fires reported yet for this year

HOPE in Fostoria: 7 events, 1,000 individuals reached

Habitat for Humanity: 9 families housed

St. Vincent De Paul: 123 individuals served

Patchworks: 75 clients served

NCAT: 1,081 Fostoria trips

Girls Scouts: 30 Outreach Participants

Scouts: 24 Youth event attendees

Day Break: 42 client sessions

FACTS: 28 clients served

First Step: 21 clients and outreach served

Senior Citizen Center: 548 Visits

Fostoria Learning Center: 152 GED & High School Students

Geary Family YMCA: 143 New Member, 127 enrolled in swim lessons, 302 enrolled in youth sports



COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

May 2, 10 a.m. - Noon Fostoria Memorial Stadium, Jackson Park, & Church of the Nazarene

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

May 7, 10 a.m. Good Shepherd Home Chapel; 6:30 p.m. Downtown Green Space (corner of Main & Tiffin St.)

FOSTORIA WOMEN EMPOWERING WOMEN

May 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Geary Family YMCA Annex

VETERAN & FIRST RESPONDER RESOURCE FAIR

May 29, 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Fostoria Learning Center

FOSTORIA EMPOWERMENT HUB @ KAUBISCH MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

May 8, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. United Way Fostoria & First Call for Help

May 12, 1-3 p.m. First Call for Help

May 18, Noon - 2 p.m. Great Lakes Community Action Partnership-Financial Opportunity Center

May 20, 3 to 5pm, Phillip Wylkan, Attorney at Law, Estate Planning and Wills

May 22, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Fostoria United Way & First Call for Help

May 27, 10 a.m. - Noon Hancock County Ohio Means Jobs-Resumes & Employment Assistance



Stay connected and be part of the impact—follow [***United Way of Fostoria***](#) on Facebook for the latest event details, community updates, and stories that show your support in action.