

UNITED WAY OF COLES COUNTY

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Mattoon, IL 61938

217.234.8022



October 1, 2019

Dear Friend:

At United Way of Coles County we are focused on two things: Helping people in crises and helping people improve their lives and become self-sufficient. We provide funding for programs that positively impact these areas.

The goal for people living in crises is to survive. Our goal is to provide a lifeline. We provide funding for local food pantries, shelter for people who are homeless, medicine, disaster relief, and for adults and children who have been abused.

The goal for people who struggle, who are living in poverty, who belong to low income families, who are survivors of domestic and sexual abuse, and seniors who find themselves alone, is to improve their circumstances. Our goal is to provide them the tools to help them accomplish that and help them become self-reliant. We are funding programs that focus on at-risk children, programs that teach life-and-social skills for children and adults, daycare programs, and services supporting seniors and survivors of abuse.

Here are a few examples of how United Way helped to fund support services that were provided last year:

- 850 children received school supplies, clothing, and transportation through the Children's Assistance Fund.
- 160 people with disabilities were able to express themselves through art therapy with CTF.
- 1,674 meals were served and wellness-checks were completed through Peace Meals.
- 300 domestic violence victims and their children received counseling, and 100 public education programs were provided in Coles County to facilitate healing and to break the cycle of domestic violence.

United Way funded programs are administered by local non-profits. Our United Way board of directors, comprised of volunteers, vets these organizations and the programs the agencies request funding for to ensure viability and the maximum impact and purpose. United Way funding also allows many of these agencies to receive matching funds through other grant sources, which doubles the impact of a gift from United Way.

Our 2019-20 campaign begins today and we ask you to consider making a contribution. Your gift will support a network of programs that work together to improve the health and well-being of our neighbors, provides tools for more financially secure futures for local residents, and reduces hunger and homelessness. A brochure is enclosed with a list of our partner agencies and a pledge card. Gifts can also be made through our website at www.colesunitedway.org. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol Deeken
2019-2020 Drive Chair