2024

Columbus Area United Way



# ANNUAL REPORT



## BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY....TOGETHER

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Columbus Area United Way experienced continued growth and improved outcomes both inside CAUW and outside the organization in 2024 as we continued our mission of helping those in need in the 4-county area we serve. The ability of our staff, volunteers, and communities working together to improve the well-being of others was achieved throughout 2024.

The leadership of the Columbus Area United Way into the areas of Food Accessibility, Transportation Access, and Community Well-Being were impressive. Several mobile food pantry distributions took place and weekly fresh produce food distributions took place as well. CAUW worked closely with state and local organizations to assess the need for expanded transportation in the surrounding area.

Our strategic plan created in the fall of 2023 began to be implemented in 2024. From the improvement and standardization of processes and procedures to organizational strategies to improve our ability to handle the growing needs of our service area our Columbus Area United Way staff and Board of Directors worked hard to implement many improvements in 2024. Notable achievements include:

- Formalization of several CAUW policies.
- · Organizational structural improvements.
- · Implementation of succession plans for key roles.
- Development of new ideas regarding the structure and organization of the Board of Directors.

The 2024 fundraising campaign reached a record-breaking \$954,500, demonstrating the hard work and generosity of the Columbus community in supporting those in need. This growth allows us to continue to assist the partner agencies that do so much good in our 4-county area.

It has been rewarding to serve as the Board President in 2024. A sincere Thank You to everyone who worked so hard to support the Columbus Area United Way through your efforts and your financial support. Let's all continue to grow and achieve continued success towards helping those in need in 2025.

Respectfully,

Al Starzec 2024 Board President



Joshua Johnson 2024 Campaign Chair



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **2024 LEADERSHIP**

Al Starzec

**BD** Medical President

**Chip Kay** 

Columbus Public Schools Vice President

**Jeff Heinrich** 

Pillen Family Farms Treasurer

**Hope Freshour** 

Columbus Area United Way **Executive Director** 

#### **2024 MEMBERS**

**Dallas Beshaler** 

Nebraska Public Power District

**Lora Hastreiter** 

Central Community College

Jamie Held

Caesars Harrah's Casino

**Lauren Hogue** 

Big H Home Services

Joshua Johnson

Columbus Bank and Trust

**Kevin Johnson** 

Pinnacle Bank

**Nathan Karges** 

Northwestern Mutual

Nicole Kracl

Columbus Public Schools

**Chad Kucera** 

Sunoco

Claudia Lanuza

CHI Health - Schuyler

**Jaymee Levander** 

Columbus Police Department

**Keith Luedders** 

Columbus Community Hospital

Katy McNeil VRLY Foundation

Vanessa Oceguera

Keep Columbus Beautiful

Sheila Palensky BD Medical

**Rosa Pinto** 

Heartland Workers Center

**Greg Sander** First National Bank Omaha

Jerod Trouba

Trouba Law Offices

**Ahren Uhlig** 

Edgewater Insurance

**Natasha Van Diest** 

Cargill

Megan Valorz Behlen Mfg Co.

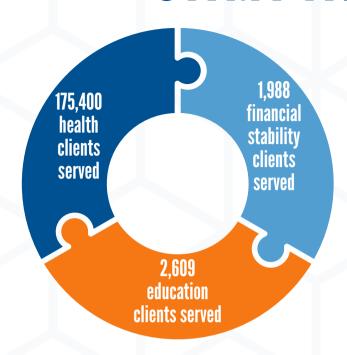
#### **COMMUNITY AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP** STEERING COMMITTEE

Anne Kinnison Chief Robert Farber Claudia Lanuza Elizabeth Rodriguez Jerod Trouba Karmen VanDeWalle Mollie Morrow Pastor Mariano Menendez Sara Colford Sarah Papa Tammy Classen

#### **ENDOWMENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Al Starzec (President) Jeff Heinrich (Board Treasurer/Finance Chair)
Dick Casey – Member at Large
Rich Aerni – Member at Large
Bob White – Member at Large
Terry Millard – Member at Large
Pat Heimes – Member at Large
Anne Kinnison – Member at Large

## CAMPAIGN IMPACT



The mission of the Columbus Area United Way is to focus resources to measurably improve the education, health, and financial stability of our community.

Your donation to the Columbus Area United Way supports the work of our Partner Agency Programs. Direct Programs, and Community Partnerships. 98 cents of every dollar you give stays in our community, and 1 in 4 community members are served through Columbus Area United Way programming. United Way donations will help thousands of our neighbors and friends who live and work in Platte. Boone. Colfax, and Nance counties.

### HEALTH

608 youth attended suicide prevention presentations and/or support groups

907 youth educated about healthy relationships

90% of youth served avoid or reduce risky behaviors

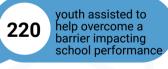
575 youth reported strong connections to family, friends and/or community support

38,000 individuals educated on healthier lifestyle choices

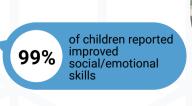
### **EDUCATION**

youth assisted to 220 help overcome a barrier impacting

### FINANCIAL STABILITY



individuals reported meaningful 96% relationships with adults and/or peers



**(** 

individuals and/or 1,487 households provided basic needs of food and/or shelter

> of participants identify additional client community resources

individuals 155 completed an adult education class

students report improved behavior/discipline

individuals served earned job-relevant 20 licenses, certificates and/or credentials

## ENDOWMENT IMPACT

IN 2024, 9 AGENCIES WERE ALLOCATED A TOTAL OF \$77,112

6,165

participants
identify additional
client community
resources (82%)

115

individuals reported improved self-sufficiency (91%) 6,151

individuals were provided with basic needs of food and/or shelter

117

children reported improved social/emotional skills (91%)

\$1,500,000

COLUMBUS AREA UNITED WAY ENDOWMENT IMPACT DOLLARS PROVIDED BACK TO THE COMMUNITY AS OF 2024





## IMPACT GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Omaha, Inc. Emergency Food Assistance (Boone, Nance, Colfax, and Platte counties)
- Colfax County Food Pantry Emergency Food Assistance
- Columbus Area Children's Museum STEAM Camp
- CAUW Circle of Security Early Childhood Intervention Program
- CAUW Marigold Lanes Transitional Housing
- Fullerton TeamMates Mentoring Program
- GracePoint Mental Health Support
- Heartland Workers Education and Outreach programming
- Platte Valley Literacy Association Integration Class

## **OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS**

### THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING PACESETTER COMPANIES!

Companies become Pacesetters by conducting a minimum \$10,000 United Way campaign within their organization.





























### **WORKPLACE CAMPAIGNS**

Many businesses in our local community work hard to support Columbus Area United Way and its partner agencies. We are so grateful for the participation from these companies and their employees! Below is a list of these amazing donors based on percent of employee participation, with a minimum gift of \$500.

### **GOLD LEVEL SUPPORTERS- 60% WORKPLACE PARTICIPATION**























































### SILVER LEVEL SUPPORTERS- 50% WORKPLACE PARTICIPATION









**Tessendorf & Tessendorf, P.C.** 



**Tremel Surveying, Inc** 

### **BRONZE LEVEL SUPPORTERS- 40% WORKPLACE PARTICIPATION**

Behlen Mfg. Co. Columbus Catholic Schools **Fakes Office Solutions** 

Mountain View PMT Nebraska Public Power District



Thank you to the following iPLEDGE members for helping raise dollars and awareness of Columbus Area United Way. iPLEDGE provides the opportunity to partner with a business or service as a mechanism for impact and change.

#### iPLEDGE Leadership: \$1,000+



**Legacy Express Wash** 



**Applied Connective** 



**Daniels Produce** 



Shae Spitz-eXp Realty

iPLEDGE Pillar: \$500-\$999

**Erin Nahorny** Jasper Owens Crissy's Desk

iPLEDGE Supporter: \$100-\$499

**Broken Mug** Big Apple Bagels **Tropical Smoothie Homegrown Nutrition**  iPLEDGE Supporter: \$100-\$499

El Tapatio Rustic Lux Sweet Harvest Popcorn **Terrace Books** Olga's Shop

## **AGENCIES YOU SUPPORT**

Your gift supports our nonprofit partner agencies and community programs impacting our three focus areas!







2-1-1 - CAUW

A Place At The Table

Big Pals-Little Pals

Boy Scouts of America

**Bridges Out of Poverty - CAUW** 

CASA Connection

**Center For Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Survivors** 

**Columbus Emergency Relief** 

**Columbus Family YMCA** 

Communities for Kids - CAUW

**Community Prevention-Coaching - CAUW** 



Habitat for Humanity

Imagination Library - CAUW

Mental Health PSA - CAUW
Platte County Food Pantry

Platte Valley Literacy Association

**Royal Family Kids** 

Student Health - CAUW

TeamMates of Columbus

The Arc of Platte County

**Youth and Families for Christ** 





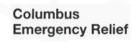






























**Platte County Food Pantry** 













## **COMMUNITY AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP**

- On behalf of Nebraska collaboratives and NCFF leadership, the CFP Collective Impact Director, Community Prevention Director, and Colfax County Attorney presented to 80 Nebraska County Attorneys at the Northeast Nebraska County Attorney Convention. This event highlighted the impact of collaboratives in communities where attorneys are involved.
- DHHS funding for a stronger Community Prevention (CP) system has enabled CAUW/CFP to hire a Community Prevention Director, Kate Wythers, and partially subsidize key CP roles, including Navigators and Coaches.
- New funding for small local food producers allowed us to purchase and distribute eggs and cheese to
  public and faith-based pantries, as well as Housing Authorities in our four-county area. Ground beef
  distribution is forthcoming.
- Schuyler continues efforts to improve childcare quality and capacity, addressing the gap for children in need. A new 501(c)(3), Strong Starts Schuyler, has been established to advocate for expanded childcare services.
- Child Abuse Prevention education in April has expanded to all four counties, with proclamations, pinwheels, lawn signs, and social media campaigns to raise awareness.
- Active teams meet monthly to address key topics: Food Insecurity, Elevated & Equitable Early Care & Education, and Thriving Families, Safer Children.
- Schuyler now hosts a writer's workshop and Community Book Garden, offering free children's books at
  five local sites, including CHI, the African Store, WIC, Schuyler Public Library, and Soak 3 Times
  Laundromat. A ribbon-cutting event at the Laundromat drew nearly 20 community members, our
  funder, and a national representative from Unite for Literacy.
- A team of nine Schuyler and Colfax County representatives attended the Thriving Children and Families
  conference in Kearney. The team received recognition for their strong participation, and their feedback
  on the childcare gap was shared with Congress by two staff members.
- An Early Childhood Landscape Assessment meeting brought together 41 partners from three counties
  to discuss early childhood care, mental health, basic needs for families, and education services.
- CFP continues to build relationships and partnerships as we address complex societal issues, many of which are social determinants of health.

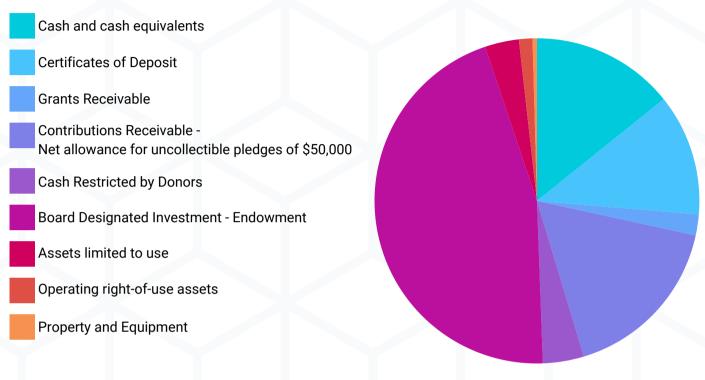




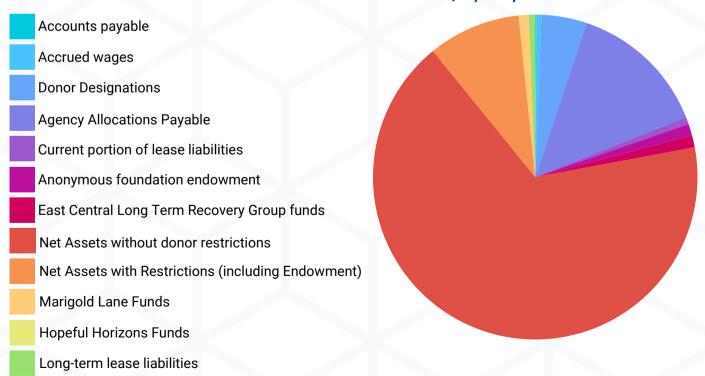


## **2024 FINANCIAL REPORT**

**TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS: \$4,181,507.00** 



### **TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES: \$4,181,507.00**



As of December 31, 2023, excerpted from audited financial statements reported on by AMGL. A copy of the audit report can be viewed on our website at www.columbusunitedway.com. As of December 31, 2024, is an unaudited report.

### **BRIDGEBUILDERS**

#### Tocqueville Society \$10,000+

One Anonymous Donor Mathew Threadgill Governor Jim & Suzanne Pillen

· Platinum Level · \$5,000-\$9,999 John & Julie McClure

#### Gold Level Givers - \$2,000-\$4,999

Patty Baker

Keith & Kathy Bamesberger

Chris & Amy Blaser

Royce & Joan Campbell

Joe & Bobbi Fehringer

**Brian Ferland** 

Jan Fremarek

Mitch & Hope Freshour

**Bob & Kristi Hackett** 

Michael & Colette Hansen

Jeff & Lynn Heinrich

Sam & Alyssa Hogeland

Laura Kapustka

Logan & Anne Kinnison

Aaron & Shannon Kosch

Aaron Luneke

Doug & Karin Rieger

Mike & Danika Rowe, Jr

Kurt & Kim Shevlin

Joe & Shelly Steffensmeier

Neal & Jo Suess

Jerod Trouba & Sarah Pillen

Karmen & Michelle VanDeWalle

**Bob & Lee White** 

Jennifer Wieck

#### **Silver Level Givers - \$1,000 - \$1,999**

Drs. Kip & Deb Anderson Dennis & Coni Grennan

Bob & Wilma Arp

Dr. John Beauvais Jaime Beiermann

Jason & Amy Bell

**Dallas Beshaler** 

Nick Beyer

Nic & Nicole Blaser

Jimmy & Eva Childers

**Evelyn Chittenden** Brian & Sue Christensen

John & Marlene Cimpl Dr. Richard & Nikki Cimpl Meghan Matteson

Kendall & Robin Curry

Don & Kathy Dreesen

Keith & Sue Evans Jeff & Jill Fremarek

Chad & Liz Gonka

Martin Gomez

Eight Anonymous Donors Dr. Jeff & Tammi Gotschall

Harold Hans

Dennis & Terri Hirschbrunner

John & Lauren Hogue

Robert Hotovy

Jeff & Kathy Johnson

Joshua & Breanne Johnson

Vivian Johnson Sean Jones

Tim & Lisa Kacena

Chad & Tracy Kucera

Abbi Lindgren

Scott & Michelle Messersmith

Joe & Roberta Miksch

Terry & Beth Millard

Jason Miller

Jeanmarie Nelson Paul Nelson

Bob & Peg Niedbalski Matt Niedbalski

Marty & Terri Nore

Steve & Cammy Otten Jordan & Tonya Paitz

Tom & Linda Paitz Melinda Palmer

John & Dr. Kendra Pavlik

Tony & Sharon Raimondo, Jr. Tom Tremel **Brett & Marissa Rains** 

Joshua Rodgers Jonathan Rohwer

Jose Roio

Jason & Kellie Rosenkranz

Dr. Dan & Janice Rosenquist

**Emily Royer** 

Jeff & Jane Schneider

Rachel Shafer Jeff & Arlene Sieck

**Dann & Stacy Smith** 

Jeromy Smith Michael Spencer Allan & Lori Spenner

Shae Spitz

Al & Joni Starzec

Ron & Donna Starzec **Brad & Michelle Stirek** 

Jeff Switzer

Chad & Lori Van Cleave

Jason Vanek Tom Veik

Art Wiese Doug & Randi Williams

Walt & Pam Williams

Todd & Rhonda Wyatt

#### **BRIDGEBUILDERS CONTINUED...**

#### **Bronze Level Givers - \$500 - \$999**

Fourteen Anonymous Donors Rich & Edie Aerni Nicole Aquallo Jenna Alas Jose Alvarado Steve & B. J. Anderson Jose Andrada Jr. Sergio & Guadalupe Arcos Mark & Kara Asmus **Deb Augustine** Tracy Augustine Dean & Pam Babcock Carol Balerud Wayne & Lisa Ballentine William Ballentine Anne Baptiste **Brad Barrs** Morris Baustert **Brian Beck** Sharon Becker Matthew Behlen Larry & JoAnne Beiermann Kerry & Colleen Belitz Tom & Lois Bertsch Dave & Tammy Bichlmeier Andy Bird Del Birkhofer Jonah Blase Doug & Brenda Blatchford Randy Bloomquist Tom Boal Lori & Terry Borchers Rory Bowen Zoann Braasch Corey & Nancy Briggs Lucas Briggs Shawn Brock Jed Brunken **Dawson & Taylor Brunswick** Jim & Karen Bulkley Jason & Monica Buss Dick & Paula Casev Derrick & Kellie Ceder Crystal Cegielski Francisco Cerros Scott Chaphe Lisandra Chavez Monica Chavez Bryan & Erica Chochon

Rick & Tracie Chochon

Bailey Christensen James Colby Shane Condreav John Connelly Jr Adriana Cruz John & Deb Curry Amy Czarnick John & Martha Davidson Roger & Cheryle Deal Jeffrey DeFreece Bill & Sue Devke Dr. Matt & Krystal Dinslage Cory & Cheryl Ditter Billy Dittmer Christopher Dozier Shureese Drummond **Gregory Eickmeier** Kim Eisenmann Janet Eisenmenger Bill & Heather Flton Bob & Verdella Emerson Jerry & Glenna Engdahl Tyler Engstrom John & Michelle Ernst Dr. Ron & Ann Ernst Melinda Evans Cory & Tricia Faust Alexander Fehringer Jim & Korene Fehringer Kandie Fiala Bill & Charleen Flint Dave & Carol Foster Dan & Nora Fuchs Maria Galarza Torres Pat & Lisa Garrett Ruth Garza Nicole George Sabu George Darin Glenn Janice Gone Alida Gonzalez Clark & Marcia Grant Dan Grant **Christopher Gray** Jose Gutierrez Aaron Haake Eric & Karla Hall Linda Hanak

Dr. Rick & Julie Haney

Mitchell Hansen Lisa Hardison Jennifer Harsh Daniel Hartman Erik & Mindy Hash Amy Haynes Jon & Elissa Heibel Don & Pat Heimes James & Jamie Held Jim & Connie Hellbusch Aaron Hendrickson Amanda Henry Rick & Shawna Hilbert Travis & Tara Hill Trevor Hill Shawn Hinman Kimberly Hoadley Tim Hofbauer Erin Holtzen Holly Hopkins Christopher lenn Roger Imler Guadalupe Isordia Jesse & Wendy Jackson Andy & Jenny Jakubowski Doug & Janelle Janssen Nathan & Meghan Jantzi Greg & Kim Jarecke Jacob Jarecki Colleen Jennings Kyle & Amanda Jensen Lon & Sandra Jochens Ethan Johnson Kevin Johnson Rob & Linda Johnson Cecil & Janet Hibbs-Jones Maurice & Teena Jones Doug & Anne Kallesen Nathan & Ashley Karges Kody Kasik April Keezer Caroline Kiepe Tyler Kime **Tobias Kiuntke** Amy Kleeb Brian & Heidi Klevemann Jory & Jen Knowlton Lisa Kobza Justin & Amber Kohl

Scott Kohler Kathy Korte Kevin Korte Neal & Shirl Kratochvil Tom & Danelle Kratochvil Matthew Krohn Dan & Kathy Kruse Michael Ksiazek Angela Kucera Craig & Jenny Kucera Jay Kula Dr. Rex & Liz Kumpf Ron & Charlotte Lambert Nick & Leslie Larson Kathi Lenser Cheryl Lieberman Lora Lighter **Dustin Ligon** Matt & Sarah Lindberg Steven & Kristine Line Tom & Deb Loseke Mike Lovell Andrew Luce Keith & Amanda Luedders Yaimara Luis **Troy Lutt** Jose Macias-Zacarias Javier Magana Mike & Mary Maguire Bellyni Maldonado Elvia Martinez Guerra Janet McCollum John & Linda McPhail Bill & Bonnie McPhillips Mari Melcher Michael Mellas Scott & Cristal Menke Mary Jo Meyer Michelle Meyer Craig Mickey Dawn Miller Robert Miller Tim Mohrmann Rod Molt Mateo Monroy Kayla Morton Scott & Pat Mueller Matthew Mundil Jessica Munford Chris & Erin Nahorny

### **BRIDGEBUILDERS CONTINUED...**

#### Bronze Level Givers - \$500 - \$999

Griselda Navarro Garcia Susan Nemec Carroll & Jane Novicki John & Dr. Nila Novotny Peggy Novotny Mauricio Ochoa-Contreras Jeff & Deb Ohnoutka Michael & Hollie Olk Tammy Osten Tim & Denene Owens Tyson & Jasper Owens Joshua Paracsi Ray Parga Tim Parker Mary Kay Peck Braden Peters Alan Peterson Tom & Debbie Pillen Francisco Pineda Hernandez Janiffer Pineiro Dagda Lorena Pocwierz Craig & Betsy Potthast Janelle Preister Mark Prososki

Robert Reigle Tammy Reigle David & Barb Rich Morgan Riha Audrey Robertson Reve Rodenbaugh Tim Rogers Dr. David & Karla Rohwer Wendy Rosol Prent & Peggy Roth Yanet Rubio Christa Ruth Chuck & Linda Sahs Tom Salvard **Greg Sander** Bryce & Sharyle Sands Brenda Sanne Kimberly Saum Timothy Sazama Laurie Schilling Gene & Chris Schumacher Steve & Theresa Seipel Terry & Cheri Sjuts Dana Sliva

Dennis & Chris Smith Shaun Smith Sheila Smith Richard & Jamie Snyder Jared & Amber Spiegel Jack & Robyn Sprunk Dr. Andrew & Cherie Stadler Annie Staverman **Bob & Chris Steinke** George & Glenda Steinsberger Steve & Jan Stevens **Brian & Paula Stuart** Jill Tate Rick Terry Ryan & Jaci Tessendorf Dr. Travis & Abbie Tessendorf Tom & Kendra Thiem Trent Tobiason Mary Trevino Matthew & Sydney Troshynski Nicole Turner Ahren Uhlig Adam & Mandy Urkoski

Megan Valorz

Tara Vasicek Andra Visoso Kevin Vondruska Steve & Cathy Wadas Eric Warden Mike Wederquist **Brad Wegner** Erik Weinmeister Sean Wemhoff Joseph Weverka Nicole Whitmore **Bob & Jean Wick** Lisa Willson Kathryn Wythers Jacob Young Dr. Milt & Kathy Zadina Dr. Dale & Jill Zaruba Philip Zegers Casey Ziemba





### **UNITED WAY DIRECT PROGRAMS**



#### The Imagination Library

The Imagination Library mails books to children from birth through their 5th birthday. Each month a new, carefully selected book will be mailed in your child's name directly to your home.



#### The Born Learning Trail

The Born Learning Trail captures ten fun outdoor games on engaging signs throughout Pawnee Park East to help parents and caregivers create learning opportunities for young children.



#### **Little Free Libraries**

Little Free Libraries are a free community book exchange program. Libraries are located in the Columbus Area United Way office building, in front of Head Start, Columbus Housing Authority, Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership, and St. Luke's Preschool.



#### **SingleCare Discount Prescription Drug Program**

SingleCare cards are available free through United Way and honored by 95% of U.S. pharmacies and offer average savings of 35% on retail prescription process.



#### **Online Service Directory**

The United Way Online Service Directory is a tool to find detailed information on local health and human service agencies. The directory is located at columbusunitedway.com. Over 350 programs and hotlines are listed.



#### **Mental Health PSA**

Join us in creating conversation and providing education and information to community members to receive access to services. Access the toolkit at the Columbus Area United Way website and click on the tab titled "Mental Health Matters."



#### **Equitable Early Childcare Access**

Schuyler's Communities for Kids+ work is that of increasing the quality and capacity of childcare, elevating the profession of childcare providers and increasing awareness of this work in the community.





Pantries aim to help fill the gaps by providing non-perishable foods that are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They are available to everybody with a "take what you need, leave what you can" philosophy. The pantries are located at Columbus United Way in Columbus, CNCAP-Head Start in Schuyler, Fullerton Food Pantry in Fullerton and Boone County Food Pantry in Albion.

#### **Bridges Out of Poverty**



Bridges Out Of Poverty is a workshop the United Way provides to the community. This powerful set of concepts gives insight on the differences between our basic economic classes; it provides an understanding of the issues and strategies related to reducing poverty.

#### MyFreeTaxes.com



MyFreeTaxes.com is an easy, safe, and free way to file your taxes online. Households can file both state and federal returns for free.

#### Student Health (Medical Financial Assistance) Program



Student Health Fund provides dental, medical and vision health care for students in grades K-12 who do not have family insurance, who do not qualify to receive government funds or who are financially unable to provide for health care. Students are screened by school nurses or counselors and parents are contacted to ensure student is eligible for funds.

#### 2-1-1 Resource Hotline



2-1-1 is a free, multilingual, confidential service available by dialing 2-1-1. The service helps individuals locate community-based and government agencies for services such as counseling and help with utilities and rent.

#### Community and Family Partnership – Community Prevention program



Community Prevention (CP) is a system of support and services for children, youth, and families to prevent unnecessary entry into the child welfare system and/or other high-end systems of care.

#### Columbus Area United Way





































