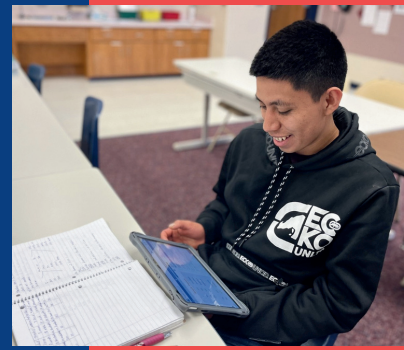
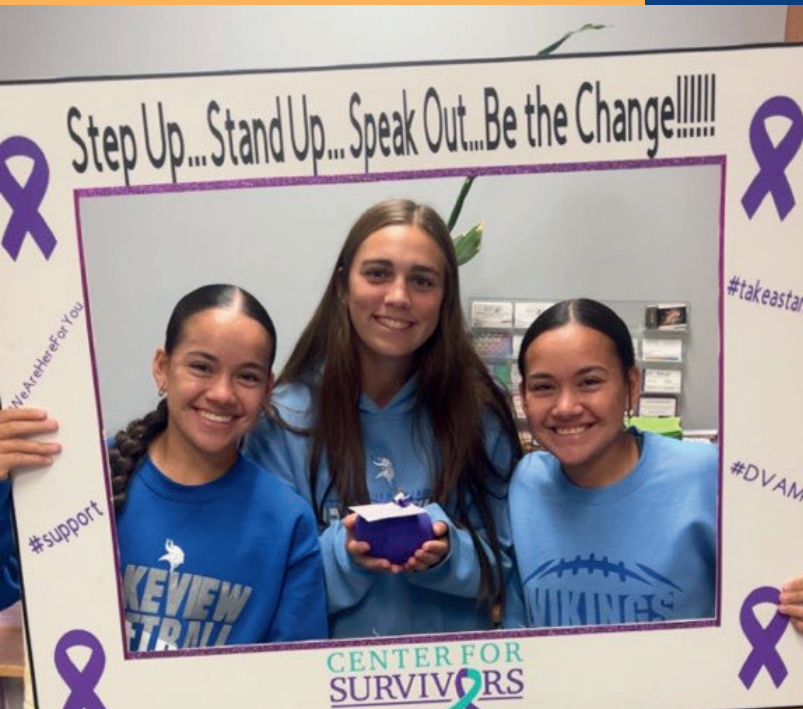
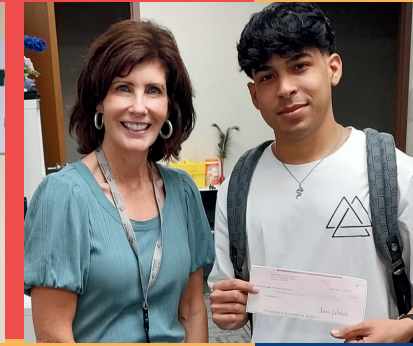




# Columbus Area **UNITED WAY**

## 2025 Annual Report



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*AS WE REFLECT ON A YEAR OF PROGRESS AND PURPOSE AT THE COLUMBUS AREA UNITED WAY, WE ARE FILLED WITH GRATITUDE.*

Serving as President, I, Dr. Chip Kay, have been honored to help guide our organization through a year of transition, growth, and meaningful community impact. Alongside Drive Chairman Ahren Uhlig, we celebrate what can only be described as a remarkable year.

*THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR GRACIOUS COMMUNITY AND THE STEADFAST LEADERSHIP OF OUR PACESETTER ORGANIZATIONS, WE ARE PROUD TO REPORT TOTAL GIVING OF \$926,700.*

These dollars directly support vital programs and partner agencies that strengthen lives across our area. This achievement reflects not only financial commitment, but a shared belief in the power of collective impact.

This year was defined by intentional progress and thoughtful restructuring. Our Board of Directors committed significant time and energy to reorganizing our governance structure to better align with best practices and position our organization for long-term success. We also advanced a focused strategic plan designed to strengthen community impact, enhance accountability, and clarify our priorities. Most importantly, we worked diligently to ensure that more dollars go directly to our partner organizations and into programs that serve individuals and families in our community. These efforts reflect our shared commitment to stewardship, transparency, and measurable results.

We are pleased that Hope Freshour will remain as our Executive Director, providing steady leadership and continuity as we move forward.



*Chip Kay*  
**2025**  
**Board President**

We also extend our sincere gratitude to Jo Sues for her years of service and dedication to seeing our organization grow, thrive, and serve.

*TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING MOMENTUM. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY, LEADERSHIP, AND BELIEF IN OUR MISSION.*

*THE IMPACT OF \$926,700 WILL BE FELT THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY IN THE YEAR AHEAD.*



*Ahren Uhlig*  
**2025 Campaign**  
**Drive Chair**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## 2025 LEADERSHIP

### Chip Kay

Columbus Public Schools  
President

### Jeff Heinrich

Pillen Family Farms  
Vice President

### Keith Luedders

Columbus Community Hospital  
Treasurer

### Hope Freshour

Columbus Area United Way  
Executive Director

## 2025 MEMBERS

### Dallas Beshaler

Nebraska Public Power District

### Nathan Karges

Northwestern Mutual

### Rosa Pinto

Heartland Workers Center

### Jessica Caban

Center for Rural Affairs

### Chad Kucera

NuStar Energy

### Greg Sander

First National Bank Omaha

### Lisa Cherry

Alpha Media

### Claudia Lanuza

CHI Health - Schuyler

### Al Starzec

BD Medical/Pharmaceutical

### Dr. Kathy Fuchser

Central Community College

### Leslie Larson

Aksarben Mortgage

### Jerod Trouba

Trouba Law Offices

### Jamie Held

Caesars Harrah's Casino

### Jaymee Levander

Columbus Police Department

### Ahren Uhlig

Edgewater Insurance  
Campaign Drive Chair

### Joshua Johnson

Columbus Bank and Trust  
Pacesetter Chair

### Katy McNeil

VRLY Foundation

### Adam Urkoski

Pinnacle Bank  
Assistant Drive Chair

### Kevin Johnson

Pinnacle Bank

### Sheila Palensky

BD Medical/Pharmaceutical

### Megan Valorz

Behlen Mfg Co.

## COMMUNITY AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE

Tammy Classen

Sara Colford

Chief Robert Farber

Claudia Lanuza

Mollie Morrow

Sarah Papa

Elizabeth Rodriguez

Jerod Trouba

Karmen VanDeWalle

## ENDOWMENT BOARD MEMBERS

Rich Aerni

Dick Casey

Hope Freshour

Pat Heimes

Chip Kay

Anne Kinnison

Keith Luedders

Terry Millard

Robert White



# CAMPAIGN IMPACT



At Columbus Area United Way, our mission is to focus resources to measurably improve the education, health, and financial stability of our community. Your support powers meaningful change. Donations to Columbus Area United Way strengthen our Partner Agency Programs, Direct Programs, and Community Partnerships, helping meet critical needs and create opportunities for local families.

98¢ of every dollar you give stays right here in our community, directly supporting neighbors throughout Platte, Boone, Colfax, and Nance counties. Through these efforts, 1 in 4 community members benefits from Columbus Area United Way programs each year.

Together, we are helping thousands of friends and neighbors build stronger, healthier, and more stable futures.

## EDUCATION

2,498

youth/adults served who avoided or reduced risky behaviors

2,319

individuals were educated about healthy relationships

1,328

participants reported they had a plan for safety

467

participants attended a suicide presentation and/or support group



## FINANCIAL STABILITY

1,450

individuals and/or households served with basic needs of food and shelter

1,000

participants can identify additional client community resources

183

adults improved job relevant skills

167

participants completed an adult education class



## HEALTH

2,048 families or caregivers were provided with information, resources, tools, trainings and/or teaching skills

221 youth were assisted to help overcome a barrier impacting school performance

208 children improved their social/emotional skills

181 youth reported meaningful relationships with adults

# ENDOWMENT IMPACT

IN 2025, 9 AGENCIES WERE ALLOCATED A TOTAL OF \$79,628

6,707

individuals served with basic needs of food and/or shelter

1,829

individuals were educated about healthier lifestyle choices

234

individuals participated in physical activity and/or healthy food access/nutrition programs

65

low-income or at-risk children assisted financially in accessing early childhood education programs

\$1,500,000

COLUMBUS AREA UNITED WAY ENDOWMENT IMPACT DOLLARS PROVIDED BACK TO THE COMMUNITY AS OF 2025



## IMPACT GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Boone Beginnings Early Childhood and Family Development Center - Childcare Tuition Assistance
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Omaha, Inc. - Emergency Food Assistance (Platte, Colfax, Nance and Boone counties)
- Center for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Survivors - Revolution Program
- Fullerton's Future, Inc. - Childcare Tuition Assistance
- Mental Health Action Team DBA: Hopeful Horizons - Mental Health
- NXXTEPS, inc. - Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities
- School District of Columbus Foundation Inc. - Adult GED Program
- Schuyler Ministerial Association DBA Colfax County Food Program - Emergency Food Assistance
- TeamMates Schuyler - Mentoring Program

# OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

## THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING PACESETTER COMPANIES!

Companies achieve Pacesetter status by leading an employee giving campaign and raising \$10,000 or more within their company.



# WORKPLACE CAMPAIGNS

Many local businesses generously support the Columbus Area United Way and its partner agencies. The companies below are recognized for their contributions and are listed by employee participation rate, with a minimum gift of \$500.

## GOLD LEVEL SUPPORTERS- 60% WORKPLACE PARTICIPATION



# SILVER LEVEL SUPPORTERS- 50% WORKPLACE PARTICIPATION



Tremel Surveying, Inc

# BRONZE LEVEL SUPPORTERS- 40% WORKPLACE PARTICIPATION

Columbus Family YMCA  
First Interstate Bank  
Gene Steffy Ford

Nebraska Public Power District  
Schumacher, Smejkal, & Elm  
Tessendorf & Tessendorf PC



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+



Broken Mug



Shae Spitz - exp Realty



Jasper Owens - Nebraska Realty



Legacy Express Carwash



Applied Connective



Gregg Young Toyota of Columbus

## iPLEDGE Pillar: \$500-\$999

Erin Nahorny  
Rustic Lux  
Schuyler Scooter's  
Grace Jewelry

## iPLEDGE Supporter: \$100-\$499

Big Apple Bagels  
Homegrown Nutrition  
El Tapatio  
Tropical Smoothie

Sweet Harvest Popcorn  
Terrace Books  
Westbrook Lanes

# AGENCIES YOU SUPPORT

Your gift supports nonprofit partner agencies and community programs advancing our three focus areas.

## EDUCATION

## HEALTH

## FINANCIAL STABILITY

- 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 ■
- Community Prevention-Coaching - CAUW ■
- Colfax County Food Pantry ■
- Elevated & Equitable Early Childhood Access ■
- Faith Regional Child Advocacy Center ■
- Free Little Pantry ■
- Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska ■
- Habitat for Humanity ■
- Imagination Library - CAUW ■
- JAG - Jobs for America's Graduates ■
- Platte Valley Literacy Association ■
- Royal Family Kids ■
- Student Health - CAUW ■
- TeamMates of Columbus, Fullerton, and Schuyler ■
- The Arc of Platte County ■
- Women United (CAUW local chapter) ■
- Youth and Families for Christ ■



# COMMUNITY AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

Community and Family Partnership (CFP), an initiative of the Columbus Area United Way, provides direct supports and coordinated services to strengthen children and families across our region. By working with local partners, CFP connects individuals to critical resources and addresses emerging community needs.

## 2025 Highlights:

- Implemented the FindHelp referral platform, a nationally used system that improves coordination among service providers and helps families access community resources with dignity and ease. The platform also strengthens data collection, allowing us to better understand needs and measure impact.
- From March-December 2025, 729 adults and 391 children were served via Navigation providing for 783 referrals. 96 referrals were provided for Community Prevention Coaching providing for 95 households.
- Through federal funding partnerships with local producers, CFP helped distribute fresh food to area pantries, including 5,800 dozen eggs, 5,300 pounds of ground meat, and 828 pounds of cheese, increasing access to nutritious food for families in need.
- Supported the launch of Strong Starts Schuyler, a new nonprofit focused on improving childcare quality, expanding childcare capacity, and helping address the childcare gap for working families.
- Partnered with agencies across the region to recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month, raising awareness through community displays, proclamations, and outreach efforts.
- Continued promoting literacy through Community Book Gardens in Schuyler, where five locations provide free books to children and families, expanding access to reading materials in the community.

## Leadership and Community Collaboration:

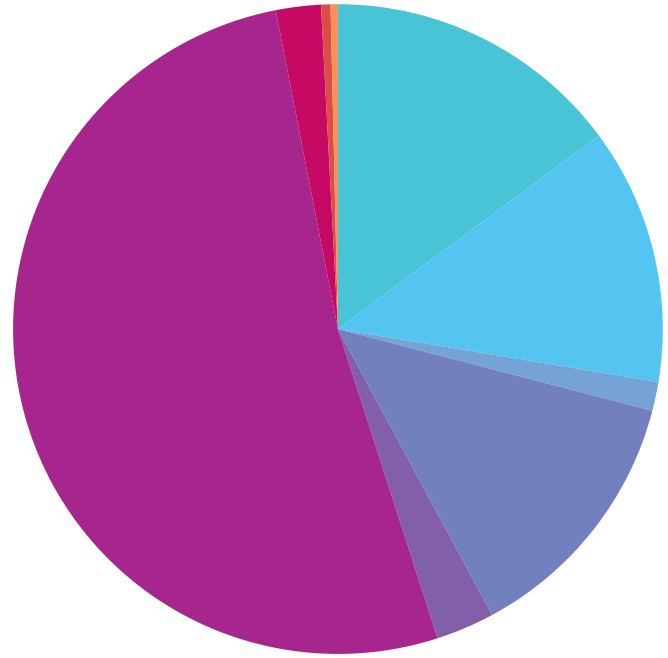
- The CFP Collective Impact Director and Community Prevention Director presented at the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association annual meeting, sharing insights on Community Prevention and Unified Impact: A Path Forward for Youth and Families.
- Building strong relationships remains at the heart of our work. CFP strengthened partnerships with both existing and new organizations across our service area to enhance coordinated support for families.
- CFP was one of two collaboratives statewide selected to pilot a new translation system to better serve non-English speaking individuals. While the tool did not meet expectations, participation highlighted our commitment to equity and access in all programs.



# 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

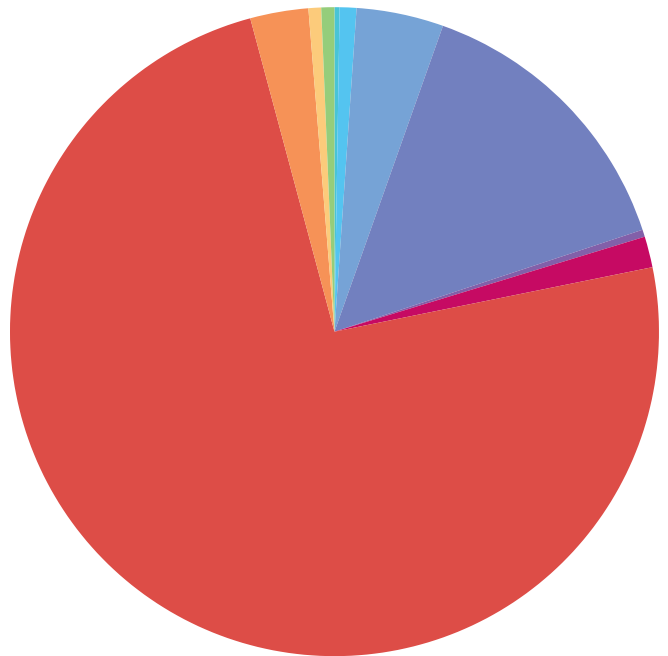
## TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS: \$4,092,892

- Cash and cash equivalents
- Certificates of Deposit
- Grants Receivable
- Contributions Receivable -  
Net allowance for uncollectible pledges of \$50,000
- Cash Restricted by Donors
- Board Designated Investment - Endowment
- Assets limited to use
- Operating right-of-use assets
- Property and Equipment



## TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES: \$4,092,892

- Accounts payable
- Accrued wages
- Donor Designations
- Agency Allocations Payable
- Current portion of lease liabilities
- Anonymous foundation endowment
- East Central Long Term Recovery Group funds
- Net Assets without donor restrictions
- Net Assets with Restrictions (including Endowment)
- Marigold Lane Funds
- Hopeful Horizons Funds
- Long-term lease liabilities



As of December 31, 2024, excerpted from audited financial statements reported on by AMGL CPA's & Advisors. A copy of the audit report can be viewed on our website at [www.columbusunitedway.com](http://www.columbusunitedway.com). As of December 31, 2025, is an unaudited report.

# BRIDGEBUILDERS

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

Governor Jim & Suzanne Pillen  
1 Anonymous Donor

## - Platinum Level - \$5,000-\$9,999

John & Julie McClure  
Neal & Jo Sues

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

1 Anonymous Donor  
Patty Baker  
Keith & Kathy Bamesberger  
Jaime Beiermann  
Chris & Amy Blaser  
Joe & Bobbi Fehringer  
Jan Fremarek  
Mitch & Hope Freshour  
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Michael & Colette Hansen  
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Aaron & Shannon Kosch  
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Mike & Danika Rowe, Jr  
Kurt & Kim Shevlin  
Joe & Shelly Steffensmeier  
Jerod Trouba & Sarah Pillen  
Bob & Lee White  
Bob & Jean Wick  
Jennifer Wieck

## Silver Level Donors - \$1,000 - \$1,999

8 Anonymous Donors  
Rich & Edie Aerni  
Sergio & Guadalupe Arcos  
Bob & Wilma Arp  
Wayne & Lisa Ballentine  
Dr. John Beauvais  
Lori Beiermann  
Jason & Amy Bell  
Dallas Beshaler  
Jonah Blase  
Nic & Nicole Blaser  
Evelyn Chittenden  
Brian & Sue Christensen  
John & Marlene Cimpl  
Dr. Richard & Nikki Cimpl  
Kendall & Robin Curry  
Don & Kathy Dreesen  
Todd Ford  
Jeff & Jill Fremarek  
Richard Godejohn

Dr. Jeff & Tammi Gotschall  
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Rich Hornik  
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Chad & Tracy Kucera  
Nick & Leslie Larson  
Cheryl Lieberman  
Abbi Lindgren  
Skip MacRae

Scott & Michelle Messersmith  
Joe & Roberta Miksch  
Terry & Beth Millard  
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Jeanmarie Nelson  
Paul Nelson  
Matt Niedbalski  
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Steve & Cammy Otten  
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Tony & Sharon Raimondo, Jr.  
Laurie Reagan  
Andrew Roberts  
Joshua Rodgers  
Vanessa Rodriguez Lopez  
Jason & Kellie Rosenkranz  
Emily Royer  
Rena Schmidt  
Jeff & Jane Schneider

# BRIDGEBUILDERS CONTINUED...

## Silver Level Donors - \$1,000 - \$1,999

Dann & Stacy Smith  
Jeromy Smith  
Michael Spencer  
Shae Spitz  
Al & Joni Starzec  
Ron & Donna Starzec  
Steve & Jan Stevens

Brad & Michelle Stirek  
Jeff Switzer  
Tom Tremel  
Matthew & Sydney Troshynski  
Chad & Lori Van Cleave  
Karmen & Michelle VanDeWalle

Tom Veik  
Eric Warden  
Art Wiese  
Doug & Randi Williams  
Walt & Pam Williams  
Todd & Rhonda Wyatt

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

14 Anonymous Donors  
Rocio Aguilar  
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Jheyler Aleman Aguilar  
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Nicole Anderson  
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Brad Barrs  
Morris Baustert  
Sara Baustert  
Brian Beck  
Sharon Becker  
Matthew Behlen  
Jennifer Behnk  
Larry & JoAnne Beiermann  
Kerry & Colleen Belitz  
Bruce Benne  
Tom & Lois Bertsch  
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Randy Bloomquist  
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Joan Brezenski  
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Lucas Briggs  
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Dawson & Taylor Brunswick  
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Jason & Monica Buss

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Crystal Cegielski  
Monica Chavez  
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Edward Christman  
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Adriana Cruz  
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Dr. Matt & Krystal Dinslage  
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Tyler & Cheyenne Engstrom  
Tyler & Jill Erickson  
John & Michelle Ernst  
Dr. Ron & Ann Ernst  
Cory & Tricia Faust  
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Kandie Fiala  
Bill & Charleen Flint  
Maria Flores De Martinez

Dave & Carol Foster  
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Ruth Garza  
Nicole George  
Sabu George  
Darin Glenn  
Alex Gomez  
Janice Gone  
Matthew Graham  
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Dan Grant  
Christopher Gray  
Marco Gutierrez Grave  
Aaron Haake  
Eric & Karla Hall  
Linda Hanak  
Dr. Rick & Julie Haney  
Mitchell Hansen  
Kevin Harris  
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Erik & Mindy Hash  
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Don & Pat Heimes  
Gordon & Linda Heins  
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Connie Hellbusch  
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Amanda Henry  
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Trevor Hill  
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Holly Hopkins  
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Jesse & Wendy Jackson  
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Colleen Jennings  
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Lon & Sandra Jochens  
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Kevin Johnson  
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Tobias Kiuntke  
Amy Kleebe  
Brian & Heidi Klevemann  
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Michael Ksiazek  
Angela Kucera  
Craig & Jenny Kucera  
Dr. Rex & Liz Kumpf  
Kathi Lenser  
Matt & Sarah Lindberg  
Kyle Lindstrom  
Steven & Kristine Line  
Mandy Loeffler

# BRIDGEBUILDERS CONTINUED...

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

Tom & Deb Loseke  
David Ludwig  
Keith & Amanda Luedders  
Emanuel Magana  
Javier Magana  
Meghan Matteson  
Janet McCollum  
Brady & Katy McNeil  
John & Linda McPhail  
Bill & Bonnie McPhillips  
Mari Melcher  
Michael Mellas  
Alfredo Mendez  
Alejandro Mendoza  
Scott & Cristal Menke  
Michelle Meyer  
Craig Mickey  
Dawn Miller  
Robert Miller  
Rod Molt  
Alexander Montes de Oca Alfonso  
Karelys Mora Cruz  
Scott & Pat Mueller  
Matthew Mundil  
Jessica Munford  
Susan Nemec  
Carroll & Jane Novicki  
John Novotny  
Peggy Novotny  
Mauricio Ochoa-Contreras  
Faviola Ortiz

Tammy Osten  
Tyson & Jasper Owens  
Tom & Linda Paitz  
Sheila Palensky  
Melinda Palmer  
Joshua Paracsi  
Tim Parker  
Alfredo Payan Espino  
Clayton Pelster  
Francisco Perez Leon  
Alan Peterson  
Francisco Pineda Hernandez  
Lorena Pocwierz  
Oscar Portillo Martinez  
Tim Pospisil  
Janelle Preister  
Brett & Marissa Rains  
Tammy Reigle  
Jennifer Reppert  
Reina Reyes  
Alejandra Rios Gonzalez  
Carolina Rivas  
Addiel Rivero Perez  
Audrey Robertson  
Mitlay Rodriquez Finale  
Tim Rogers  
Dr. David & Karla Rohwer  
Jose Rojo  
Dr. Dan & Janice Rosenquist  
Wendy Rosol  
Kayla Roth

Prent & Peggy Roth  
Walt Rotherham  
Yanet Rubio  
Christa Ruth  
Chuck & Linda Sahs  
Ben Samples  
Osmary Sanchez  
Rob & Gwen Sander  
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Brenda Sanne  
Kimberly Saum  
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Greg Schneekloth  
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Trent Tobiason  
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Andra Visoso  
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Nicole Whitmore  
Lisa Willson  
Dale Wolfe  
Dr. Dale & Jill Zaruba  
Philip Zegers  
Casey Ziemba  
Allison Zollars  
William Zoucha  
Emmanue Zuniga



# 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](http://columbusunitedway.com). Over 350 programs and hotlines are listed.

## Mental Health PSA

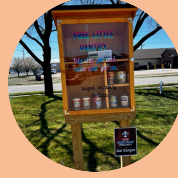


Join us in creating conversation and providing education and information to community members to receive access to services. Access the toolkit at the Columbus Area United Way website and click on the tab titled "Mental Health Matters."

## 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.



## Free Little Pantries

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.



# FOOD ACCESS 2025



Fresh Produce Distribution  
June - September

17 total distributions

26 organizations received produce throughout four counties

Served 5,200 households = 11,000 individuals



Food & Produce Boxes  
Distributed in partnership with Catholic Charities

2,532 boxes of food distributed

11,300 total served/6,100 children

300 cans of infant formula distributed

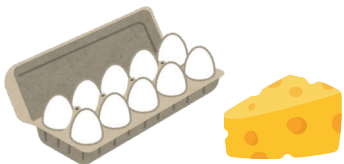


Food Boxes for Seniors (age 60+)

696 boxes distributed

1,857 total individuals served

Distributed to 15 organizations



USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance Grant

828 pounds of cheese & 5,800 dozen eggs distributed

5,300 pounds of ground beef distributed

\$75,300 spend in our four counties

## Thank You to All Donors

We are deeply grateful to our donors for supporting the programs that make our community stronger. This year, your generosity helped expand food access for more households and invest in initiatives that support education, financial stability, and health.

 402-564-5661

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