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July 2022

Mobilizing the Caring Power of our Community | [www.unitedwaycemo.org](http://www.unitedwaycemo.org)

## A World of Pure Imagination



**Andy Fechtel,**  
Fechtels Beverage & Sales,  
United Way Board Chair

The month of August in mid-Missouri not only means hot summer days and the buzz of back to school. It also means there's 'a world of pure imagination' going on with United Way of Central Missouri's Pacesetters as they execute their Willy Wonka-themed workplace campaigns to ensure the United Way can continue to strengthen

and sustain families, respond to crisis, help youth succeed, support the aging, improve health and promote self-sufficiency right here in our own community.

These twenty-nine local businesses, and United Way and their partner agencies, set the pace for the community campaign by hosting their workplace campaigns in July and August, just before the rest of the community begins their campaigns in September and October. Pacesetters typically raise just about half of the total campaign goal, and this year they already have creative fundraisers in the works as part of the Willy Wonka-themed Campaign—many of them for the community at-wide to participate in!

For example, Missouri Farm Bureau hosted a Trivia Night on June 24, complete with a silent auction and gobstopper team shirts. Cole County Government hosted a cornhole tournament on July 22 at the JC

Memorial Airport; with prizes, custom-made cornhole boards and food trucks. SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital is hosting 'The St. Mary's Amazing Race' – which includes a race for the golden ticket with challenges, roadblocks and detours along the way. The City of Jefferson hosted a Trivia Night at Last Flight on July 28. And for the entire month of August, Rusty Drewing Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac Toyota will donate \$100 to the United Way for every new vehicle purchased or ordered!

Maybe this year we'll also see classics like pies in the face, dunking booths, and tricycle races....and maybe a good ole' pig kissing contest. And with this year's Willy Wonka theme, who knows what else will take place?! The results of the Pacesetters' energetic campaigns will be announced at the Community Campaign Launch on August 31, and we can't wait to hear what other fun these businesses had—all while raising money for the United Way.

By Sandy Henges,  
Central Bank

The 1971 movie, Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory, was completely fictional, but its ideology of changing the world can be found alive and well in the hearts and minds of people who represent the traditions behind the simple, crisp, dogwood logo.

Central Bank has deep roots in Jefferson City, dating back 120 years as a steadfast supporter of the area community. It's no surprise the bank has also been a long-time, ardent, supporter of United Way and its partner agencies.

Giving back to the community was important to Sam Baker Cook when he became president of the bank in 1905 and the legacy lives on in the generosity of the company and its employees.

New employees at Central Bank are introduced to the bank's commitment to giving back to the community during their orientation, when they are encouraged to support not-for-profits as part of their work life, even during the traditional workday.

"We believe in empowering our employees to assist with the needs of their community," said Ken Theroff, president of Central Bank. "It is important, it is encouraged, and it is woven into the fabric and history of our bank."

Central Bank's leadership as a Pacesetter and support of the United Way is evident in participation in events, activities and generous monetary donations. Hundreds of Central Bank's representatives have chaired United Way campaigns, sat on boards and committees and championed causes which fall under the United Way umbrella.

"We feel very strongly about our role in improving our community," said Dan Westhues, Executive Vice President of Marketing and Retail Banking for Central Bank company. "It's just an important piece of who we are."

Westhues said his father, Harold Westhues, taught him good bankers don't live off the community, but live with, and in support of the community. Both father and son have served as chairs of the United Way of Central Missouri Campaign, roughly 40 years apart.

The long-standing relationship has in no way been one-sided. United Way and its agencies support the communities where Central Bank employees live and work, therefore many employees have been directly impacted.

Theroff has served on the United Way Foundation Board and his family knows first-hand the benefits of United Way and its agencies. His youngest daughter attended The Special Learning Center and now works at Special Olympics Missouri.

Additional examples of the symbiotic relationship between Central Bank and the United Way partner agencies include assisting

## Woven In



Central Bank employees Nicole Switzer, Emily Kampeter, Matt Tollerton, Adam Roling, Angela Nale, Ken Theroff and Leslie Tanner, joined by some of their family members, volunteer for The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri.



Central Bank's Dan Westhues wears a top hat for a past United Way fundraiser.



Central Bank's Leslie Tanner participates in a tricycle race while donning a scarecrow costume as part of a United Way fundraiser.

with interview and career preparation for individuals who have been hired by the bank; finding supportive role models for employees' children; helping employees find safe refuge from abusive relationships; providing specialized education for a variety of learners; and providing affordable daycare and after-school and summer programs which allow employees to meet the requirements of their work schedules.

For decades Central Bank employees have helped raise funds through annual events like breakfasts, barbecues and raffles. And they've brought fun through memorable games and competitions like bicycle races, costume contests and Survivor challenges. But that's not all, the company and its employees donate through payroll deductions, annual giving, volunteering time and talent and truly caring about the communities they serve.

Ann Bax, United Way of Central Missouri President, said Central Bank employees are

special people because of their support. The company fosters a culture of being involved, taking time for others, getting to know people and going the extra mile.

This year's coordinators for the Central Bank and Central Technology Services campaign are Jolena Brown, Abbey Gober, Jamie Sigwerth and Destinee Wilson. They have already planned multiple events related to the Willy Wonka World of Pure Imagination including bubble gum blowing contests, a chocolate river dunk tank, chocolate bar sales and movie-character costume contests. Prizes are spectacular as well, ranging from golden tickets worth a day off work, jeans days and a hot air balloon ride among many others.

Central Bank is honored to be considered a game-changing company in our community. It is through the partnerships of individuals, businesses and not-for-profit teams and organizations that we can unite and make the world a better place.

## Thank you for Caring so Much



**Ann Bax,**  
United Way President

My work with the United Way of Central Missouri has opened my eyes to the unimaginable struggles that many people in our community endure on a daily basis... problems that many people don't know how to solve or cannot solve alone.

But my work with the United Way has also opened my eyes to the extraordinary people in this community who really, really care. People who care about a perfect stranger, a lonely woman, a hungry child. People willing to do what it takes to help someone sleeping in the cold find a warm bed, help a child feel safe instead of living in fear, help a man grow old without losing his passion for life.

So once again we look to our caring community and ask for your continued support to help our neighbors and friends as we embark upon our 2022 United Way Campaign. We are so excited about our fun campaign theme, Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory! You will begin to see Wonka decorated hats popping up in lawns around the community decorated by our wonderful supporters. But we always choose a theme that has a serious component, and our slogan this year is... So shines a good deed in a weary world.

"A weary world" is probably a pretty good description of our world and especially our community after what we have been through over the past several years.

We just commemorated the three-year anniversary of the 2019 tornado. United Way of Central Missouri's role in the disaster included mobilizing hundreds of volunteer deployments, and collection and redistribution of supplies and donations. United Way raised over \$340,000 in funds and over \$700,000 in material donations for disaster response and recovery.

The experts in disaster recovery told United Way staff it would be 3-5 years until every disaster survivor has returned to their new normal.

And although staff will tell you they didn't want to believe it would take that long; United Way and other caring, committed agencies and faith-based groups that make up the Cole and Miller County Long-Term Recovery Committee are still working with our last few disaster survivors.

Then there was the unrelenting global pandemic—and many vulnerable individuals and families are still trying to recover. As part of United Way's work during the pandemic, staff worked with city and county leadership to establish the Cole County COVID Assistance Helpline, served as the fiscal agent for the Central Missouri Food Service Relief Fund and the Medical Personnel Relief Fund, and provided COVID related support for 23 health and human service agencies.

And none of this would have been possible without the extraordinary support of this caring community.

Your support was critical for United Way's 28 agency partners and the 20+ other agencies that received funding through one-

time grants in 2021. Looking back over the past three years our community's incredible support allowed United Way of Central Missouri the opportunity to play a small role in the good work of 64 different agencies through 154 grants totaling over \$1.4 million. Now that's a caring community!

But the United Way and our agency partners serve people in crisis every day... long before and after the tornado and global pandemic and their work continues to be a critical safety net for our community, which is why we continue to need your help.

We understand every individual is experiencing their own challenges right now due to the increasing cost of gas, groceries... just about everything.

And we are sensitive to the fact that our business partners are experiencing the inflated cost of doing business, staffing shortages and other challenges.

Given these most recent challenges we are even more grateful for this caring community!

In the words of Willy Wonka, "If you want to view paradise, simply look around and view it. Anything you want to, DO IT. Want to change the world? There's nothing to it."

Although we all know changing the world isn't simple, changing our own little piece of the world is doable when we do it together!

Together, we can be the hand raisers, the game changers, the problem solvers.

We can be the voice for those who are struggling. Those who have been left behind or forgotten.

We can create bold, measurable change when we all work together. Every dollar counts and every person can make a difference.

So thank you for caring and helping make a difference in our world through this year's United Way Campaign!

## become a fan

Do you love knowing what's happening with United Way of Central Missouri and our Partner Agencies? Like us on Facebook for updated information at [www.facebook.com/unitedwaycemo](http://www.facebook.com/unitedwaycemo)







# An Hour a Week to Change a Life

By Lee Knernschild,  
Big Brothers Big Sisters

Do you have one or two hours free each week? Are you looking for a way to give back to the community? Have you ever thought about sharing your unique personality with others? If you answered yes to just one of these questions, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jefferson City wants to talk to you. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jefferson City has been a part of the mid-Missouri community for over 30 years. Thanks to a group of local citizens who saw the need for a structured mentoring program in conjunction with the generosity of the Jefferson City Area YMCA, our local Big Brothers Big Sisters agency was formed.

Big Brothers Big Sisters' mission is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. Most children we serve are from single parent homes and may be struggling socially or academically. Our goal is to match them with a friend they can count on to provide support, advocacy and help ignite the potential inherent within them.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jefferson City is fortunate to have many volunteers who give freely of their time to support our mission. The partnerships with our volunteers, the United Way and the Jefferson City Area YMCA is critical to our success. United Way funding provides the necessary financial support to enroll, screen, match and supervise relationships between children and volunteers. United Way contributions are directly tied to ensuring a safe mentoring program for our local youth. Operating as a sponsored program of the Jefferson City Area YMCA, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jefferson City is able to keep our operating costs to a minimum.

Big Brothers Big Sisters pairs children with mentors who spend time with them at our local schools and throughout the community. Our agency serves nearly 150 children each year who have been identified as needing a mentor in their life. Through community based mentoring, a child and mentor experience activities together in a less structured setting. Community Bigs (mentors) and Littles (children) can share moments going out to eat, attending sporting events and exploring the community. Several of our community based Bigs have even helped their Littles with college planning and securing their first jobs. The community based program provides a great opportunity for a volunteer to develop a closer connection with the child and their family.

School based mentoring offers a wonderful option for a one-on-one relationship with a child in a more structured setting. Through a partnership with the Jefferson City School District, mentoring is offered for students grades K – 12. School mentors visit their students at school only. Mentoring visits usually last between 30 to 60 minutes. Bigs in the school based mentoring program may spend time helping with class assignments,



The power of mentoring in action thanks to United Way partner agency Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jefferson City.

playing games, eating lunch and engaging in one to one conversation with their Little.

In the last year, we have worked to raise greater awareness of the Missouri Mentoring Initiative (MMI). In an effort to invest in the promise of Missouri youth, Governor Parson and Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe encourage Missouri employees to mentor a child with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Through the Missouri Mentoring Initiative, State of Missouri employees may receive the equivalent of one hour paid leave each week to mentor a child. Mentors are matched with waiting littles in our school based mentoring program.

Additionally, we are excited about a new mentoring partnership with St. Nicholas Academy. The Academy's mission is to partner with under-resourced families to break the cycle of poverty for children through supportive residential care and exemplary education. Free of charge, children receive a safe, loving and supportive living and learning experience; a quality education with St. Peter Interparish; and a year-round program with summer activities that provide many growth-filled experiences. Through this site based program Big Brothers Big Sisters has matched high school students with the boys

residing at St. Nicholas. The matched pairs have spent time together playing basketball, doing schoolwork, sharing a meal, watching movies and building friendships. This program is proving to be mutually beneficial to both the boys at St. Nicholas as well as the high school students as they learn the value of helping others. Currently, we have four active matches at St. Nicholas and look forward to expanding this program as new boys move into the home. Big Brothers Big Sisters was fortunate to receive a United Way Community Support Grant to fund the start-up costs associated with this new program.

Research has proven time and again that mentoring programs work and make a tremendous impact on kids who participate. Mentoring promotes healthy and positive relationships between mentees and mentors which in turn builds the child's capacity to develop other healthy relationship with peers and adults. Mentoring activities promote literacy, other academic skills, builds self-esteem and improves listening skills and social appropriateness. Mentoring can also assist a child with managing conflict appropriately.

People may think they are too young or old to volunteer. Our mentors range in age from

16 to 80. They are retired persons, current & former educators, engineers, doctors, attorneys, military, executives, professionals, grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles...all sharing a common thread. They are someone who cares, who

listens, and who will spend a little quality time each week with a child to let them know they are not alone.

There are children waiting right now, waiting for someone like you to step forward and spend a little time with them.

An hour a week is all it takes to make a big difference in a child's life. Please call Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jefferson City at (573) 634-3290 or contact us online at [www.bbbsjeffersoncity.org](http://www.bbbsjeffersoncity.org) to learn more.

## Capital City Housing Task Force

presents



## Let's Talk about HOUSING

Finding it difficult to find housing in our city?  
High rents? Poor quality? Application rejected?

### Help us identify the real issues!

Make your voice heard at one of three town halls!  
Questions? Contact [susan@rivercityhabitat.org](mailto:susan@rivercityhabitat.org) or 635-8439

Tuesday July 19th @  
6:00 pm at  
Building Community Bridges  
(213 E. Ashley Street)

Tuesday August 2nd @  
4:00 pm at Missouri River  
Regional Library  
(214 Adams Street, upstairs)



Saturday September 10th  
@ 11:00 am at the  
Community Room at Capital  
Mall (3600 Country Club)

## Cole County Area Mobile Food Pantries

August 2022

The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri will be providing food at no charge to those in need at the following locations. Please note any location, date and/or time changes for this month. Schedule subject to change.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6**  
Catholic Charities  
1015 Edmonds Street in Jefferson City  
9 - 11 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17**  
Boys & Girls Club  
1105 Lafayette in Jefferson City  
4 - 6 p.m.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 9**  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
13007 Route C in Russellville  
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20**  
Capital West Christian Church  
1315 Fairgrounds Road in Jefferson City  
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 11**  
Knights of Columbus  
1822 Tanner Bridge in Jefferson City  
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24**  
St. Martins Catholic Church  
7148 St. Martins Avenue in St. Martins  
4 - 6 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 25**  
Annunciation Catholic Church  
310 Mills Street in California  
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

### Mobile Food Pantry Tips:

- Stay home or sending a proxy to pick up food for you if you feel ill
- Remain in your vehicle before distribution instead of standing in line
- Clear space in your trunk or back seat to receive food



United Way  
of Central Missouri



Questions? Call The Food Bank at 573-474-1020

✂

**YES! I want to support our community! My total annual gift is \$ \_\_\_\_\_.**

Gifts to United Way of Central Missouri are tax-deductible. For information about the tax advantages for including United Way in your will and estate planning, please call 573-636-4100. United Way provides no goods or services in consideration for this contribution.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to remain anonymous in any publications regarding my donations to United Way of Central Missouri.

**Payment Option 1: Cash or Check**

**Include your cash/check donation with this cutout and mail to the United Way of Central Missouri at 205 Alameda Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109.**

☐ Please use my donation to benefit all of the United Way of Central Missouri partner agencies, allowing me to make a greater impact in our community.

☐ **DESIGNATIONS:** Please designate my donation to the following partner agency(s). Minimum designation amount is \$25.00. Designations to agencies not a part of the United Way of Central Missouri network will be directed to our general campaign fund.

**Payment Option 2: Online**

**Make your donation online by going to our website at [www.unitedwaycemo.org](http://www.unitedwaycemo.org) or scanning the QR code below:**

To support our community cut out the form, complete the information, and mail it to the United Way of Central Missouri at **205 Alameda Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109.**

**Partner Agencies**

4-H Youth Program

ABLE

American Red Cross

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Boys & Girls Club

Boy Scouts

Capital City CASA

Capitol Projects

Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association

Community Health Center

Compass Health Network

Council for Drug Free Youth

Dreams to Reality

Girls Scouts

Homemaker Health Care

Jefferson City Area YMCA Child Development Center

Little Explorers Discovery Center

Osage County Community Living

Rape and Abuse Crisis Service

Salvation Army

Senior Nutrition Council

Special Learning Center

The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri

The Sneaker Project

Tri-County YMCA



# What's Happening



United Way of Central Missouri held a social for Women United members at BarVino in late July. Women United is a social group of giving women with a cause and is an opportunity for women of all ages and backgrounds to come together and further the mission of the United Way of Central Missouri. To join, visit [unitedwaycemo.org/womenunited](http://unitedwaycemo.org/womenunited).



The Boys & Girls Club hosted a news conference in late June to announce details regarding its new Club location at 1123 Charm Villa Drive. This new facility will have the capacity to serve 175 children on the west end of Jefferson City and will include a hot nutritious dinner every day for the Club kids.

Donate a new or gently used fan to the KOMU 8 Fan Club to help those in our community battling the heat this summer. Fans can be taken to the Jefferson City Westlake Ace Hardware store. These fans will be collected by United Way partner Salvation Army and distributed to residents in need. Need a fan? Contact the Salvation Army at (573) 635-1975.



Thank you Wren Solutions for the generous gifts to the Rape & Abuse Crisis Service!



United Way's Amber Brondel and Kerrie Delaney host a maraca-making station at Jefferson City Arts Foundation's Ice Cream Splash. Thank you Scholastic for donating the booth space and books to United Way!



In the month of August, Rusty Drawing will donate \$100 to the United Way for every new vehicle purchased or ordered. Thank you Rusty Drawing Toyota and Rusty Drawing Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac!



Thank you Missouri Farm Bureau for hosting a Trivia Night fundraiser in late June to benefit the United Way!



The Food Bank hosted its first inaugural Hope for Heroes 5K in late June and raised over \$28,000! This event benefits their VIP Veteran Pack Program, which provides additional nutrition and toiletries to food-insecure veterans.

City of Jefferson hosted a Trivia Night at Last Flight on July 28 to benefit the United Way. Thank you City of Jefferson!



SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM - FREE LUNCHES FOR KIDS

## FOOD 4 KIDS

**July 5 - August 19, 2022**

Starting July 5, FREE sack lunches will be distributed at the following locations:

**Monday - Friday, 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM**

- Apache Manor Mobile Home Park, 5101 Business 50
- East Elementary School Parking Lot, 1229 E McCarty Street
- Corner of Edmonds & Elizabeth Street
- Calvary Baptist Church, 1436 Hough Street

**Wednesday & Thursday, 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM**

- Church of God in Christ, 616 Locust Street

Food 4 Kids is a free summer feeding program that provides children with nutritious food during the summer when school is not in session. Children under 18 eligible. One sack lunch per child.

Proudly Sponsored By



Mark your calendars for November 17 for the 6th annual Power of the Purse! Hosted by Women United, this event will benefit the United Way and will include a silent and live auction of purses, a wine pull and jewelry pull and more!

## United Way of Central Missouri & Partner Agencies Events Calendar

**July**  
All Month: Food 4 Kids Summer Feeding Program  
July 28: City of Jefferson Trivia Night Fundraiser for United Way at Last Flight

**August**  
Thru August 19: Food 4 Kids Summer Feeding Program  
All Month: \$100 Rusty Drawing Donation Deal for United Way  
August 1: Council for Drug Free Youth Ice Cream Social  
August 2: Capital City Housing Task Force Town Hall Meeting  
August 4: SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital Amazing Race Fundraiser for United Way  
August 12: Big Brothers Big Sisters Golf Outing Fundraiser (Oak Hills)  
August 12: Compass Health Network Golf Tournament Fundraiser (Old Kinderhook)  
August 29: Dreams to Reality Putt'n Noon to Five Ladies Golf Tournament (Oak Hills)  
August 31: United Way Community Campaign Launch

**September**  
September 8 & 9: United Way Days of Caring  
September 10: Capital City Housing Task Force Town Hall Meeting  
September 12: Boys & Girls Club Cork, Fork & Brew Fundraiser  
September 14: Boy Scouts Barrels & Beats Fundraiser  
September 16 - 19: Able/Missouri River Regional Library Book Sale Fundraiser  
September 24 & 25: Girl Scouts Tents & Toasts Weekend Getaway

For additional information, please visit [www.unitedwaycemo.org/calendar](http://www.unitedwaycemo.org/calendar).



# Meet an Agency Leader: Rebecca Gordon, American Red Cross



**Tell us about you**  
I began my career in the nonprofit sector as an AmeriCorps VISTA working for Prevent Child Abuse Missouri. Since then, I have served over 24 years in the industry as a

development director, executive director and consultant. I have been a national trainer on advocacy, board development, cause marketing, raising money, generational communications, social media, brand development and the nonprofit sector. Recently I completed eight years serving as the Executive Director of Friends of the Missouri Governor's Mansion. I am currently an adjunct professor at the National Criminal Justice Training Center, where I teach a public health approach to preventing child sexual abuse in communities. In May of 2022 I joined the team as the executive director of the Central and Northern Chapter of the American Red Cross. What inspired you to apply as the new Executive Director for

**American Red Cross**  
I was introduced to the local chapter of the Red Cross when my mother served on their board. I was in awe of Melissa Friel, their director at that time, who deployed to New York during 9/11. When the opportunity to apply for this position came up, I knew it was the right time to get back to my roots of directly supporting our communities in times of need. Tell us about American Red Cross & the different services it provides The American Red Cross, through a strong network of volunteers (90% of our workforce is volunteers) and partners, respond to all types of disasters providing care, shelter and hope. We have responded to more disasters across the country in

the last five years than in the past 50 so we are focused on bringing resiliency to our communities who are at high risk. We are focused on making sure everyone has access to lifesaving blood and blood products. The American Red Cross supplies 40% of blood and blood products in the United States. As an organization, we are committed to making sure our Armed Forces and their families find support and comfort whenever needed and we are focused on making sure that there are always trained individuals nearby ready to use their Red Cross skills to save lives. Tell us about the latest happening at American Red Cross There is always something

happening at the Red Cross, but this year our board is focused on going back to the basics: evaluating, building and implementing a plan that allows us to maintain a high level of preparedness while also looking at how we can support the communities we serve through resiliency. What is your favorite thing about American Red Cross My favorite thing about the American Red Cross is its people and its culture. Our mission is to prevent and alleviate human suffering. I cannot think of a higher goal to focus on in these challenging times. Do you have any upcoming events/programs? We are currently planning our volunteer appreciation awards set for September.

**What is a fun fact about you?**  
I love to cook; it is my creative outlet, and nothing makes me happier than having the time and bandwidth to get creative in the kitchen. Also, I am obsessed with my 10-year-old Pomeranian, Lucky. What's at the top of your bucket list? I am ready to get back to traveling; I have a trip to Ireland set for October and my greatest wish is to visit Prague. Where is the coolest place you have visited? This sounds cliché but the coolest place I have visited is Paris. I am definitely someone who could get used to the Parisian Café culture.

## Transformational Housing Helps Families Toward Self-Sufficiency

By Mark Kiekhaefer, Transformational Housing

Transformational Housing began as a response to the loss of rental space after the 2019 tornado. A group of concerned people from area churches listened, talked and prayed during that summer. In the fall we were presented with the offer of a historic building that had become uninhabitable due to a fire. We determined this would be a starting point for our efforts. We would rehab the building at 203 Cherry Street while developing a volunteer support network to come alongside residents to build the skills for self-sufficiency. Our non-profit organization was officially recognized in April of 2020. We began rehab efforts on 203 Cherry a few weeks later. In retrospect, that project and the time required was a like an incubation process. As a team, we learned about each other and began developing a philosophy of coaching for our future residents. This included reading the book "When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor" by Brian Fikkert and Steve Corbett. The discussions that came as we read undergird our philosophy that we want to empower our residents by helping them identify goals and encouraging them toward their fulfillment. This means there were standards of accountability and expected progress. All this is to be carried out in a relational framework. We learned that poverty is as much relational as it is material. We want to use real estate (apartment units) to build relationships (with coaches and local church congregations) to help individuals move toward a sustainable life. The rehab of 203 Cherry Street unfolded over a 20-month period. We were supported by generous financial gifts from local churches, concerned individuals and four area banks. The project cost about \$350,000; most of this was completed with volunteer labor. Over 100 volunteers worked on the project with a core of about 20 who met weekly to "do the next thing." In January and February 2022, we held open house events to showcase the rehab. We are grateful for the outcome. We anticipate that many will be helped over the upcoming years by the opportunity to live for a time at 203 Cherry Street. Meanwhile, our family selection committee and coaches were meeting to decide on our first occupants and gain equipment for supporting them. In March we welcomed them. Our coaches and supporting churches are learning what it means to walk with our residents. This includes weekly meetings with the coaches and the tenants and monthly meals sponsored by the supporting churches. As we neared the completion of 203 Cherry Street, we discussed a long-range plan which calls for 35 housing units over the next 7-10 years. A second apartment building



Transformational Housing's first rehab was a home on 203 Cherry Street, which unfolded over a 20-month period.



Thanks to a Community Support Grant from the United Way, Transformational Housing was able to repair the roof at its newest project, 101 Jackson Street, which had damage stemming from the 2019 tornado. When finished, 101 Jackson Street will house 5 apartments.



The Executive Board of Transformational Housing includes John Blosser (President), Kathy Freese (Treasurer), Karen Taylor (Secretary) and Mark Kiekhaefer (Vice President).

with three units was donated to Transformational Housing at the close of 2021. We will eventually do rehab and expansion, but at present it gives us three additional units which are currently occupied and generating a little income. Meanwhile, a "next step" was proposed to us. The Jefferson

City Housing Authority asked if we would consider purchasing the structure at 101 Jackson Street. This was one of nine properties acquired through eminent domain. Other properties had either been sold or the structure torn down; the Housing Authority needed to process this final property.

Continued on Page 6

## Focusing on the Impact of Clear Vision with KidSight

By Ian Boyd & Melissa Stephenson, KidSight

With the help of the United Way of Central Missouri, Saving KidSight is making a difference in children's lives. A great example is Lexi's story. Lexi is a vibrant and energetic preschooler who loves reading, doing puzzles and playing outside. At two years old, Lexi received a free KidSight vision screening at her daycare. In a non-intrusive span of 5-8 seconds, the screening indicated that Lexi was farsighted in her left eye and at risk for refractive amblyopia. Refractive amblyopia develops when there is a large or unequal amount of refractive error between a child's eyes. Like other forms of amblyopia (a.k.a. "lazy eye"), it can cause permanent vision loss if not treated by age 7. Unfortunately, refractive amblyopia often goes undetected because the child does not complain of blurry vision and the eyes do not look abnormal. It takes a screening, like the one provided by KidSight, to alert the family that there is an issue. After receiving the screening results, Lexi's parents were in disbelief. She had never complained about her vision, and they had never noticed any red flags. They took the KidSight packet to their pediatrician and were referred to a local ophthalmologist. The results from Lexi's full eye exam showed even more of a disparity than the initial screening. Since her vision disorder was caught early, her doctor decided to prescribe glasses to help her brain learn to use and strengthen vision in her left eye. KidSight has provided vision screenings for Missouri children, like Lexi, for over 25 years. Our mobile vision screening program goes out to daycares, schools and public events to screen children as young as six months old and as old as 18 years. Last year alone, KidSight staff and volunteers screened over 43,500 children in 102 counties in Missouri, almost 7,500 of which were in the United Way of Central Missouri service area. Many of these children would go without the vision care they need until they are much older simply because their parents do not know there is an issue. Lexi's mother said, "We would have never expected an issue with Lexi's vision. Her dominant eye is doing all the work, so she expresses no difficulties with seeing. By the time she would have been tested for the first time, her vision would be far worse." KidSight's program relies on well-trained volunteers to screen in as many schools and daycares as we are able. Training a KidSight volunteer screener takes an average of 2 months of classroom training combined with field training. Team Jefferson City is made up of Lions from the Jefferson City Host Lions Club and is one of our biggest volunteer screening teams with over 20 volunteers serving throughout the year. Led by Lions Janice and Billy Bonnot, Team



The photoscreening cameras take an accurate reading from 3 feet away, making it fast and easy to safely screen children.



When she was screened at age 2, Lexi's parents had no idea she had a vision problem. Thanks to KidSight and its early detection services, Lexi has received glasses that will help her brain learn to use and strengthen vision in her left eye.



KidSight's Executive Director, Katherine Patterson-Paronto, and Fundraising VISTA, Ian Boyd, accept a Community Support Grant from United Way of Central Missouri to purchase another vision screening camera.



KidSight Volunteers from Team Jefferson City complete follow-up paperwork after screening at a local elementary school.

Jefferson City screens nearly every student in the Jefferson City School District as well as children at 45 other partner sites in surrounding areas. Janice said, "Billy and I believe that the KidSight vision program is so important in finding potential eye problems in children. We want all children to be successful both in school and life, and good vision helps make this possible. The Jefferson City Host Lions Club has a great vision screening team, and we enjoy visiting the schools." Early detection of vision disorders is essential to early childhood learning and development. KidSight prioritizes screening children that are six months to 6 years of age in hopes of providing parents with knowledge and power before it's too late. KidSight staff and volunteers use our vision

screening cameras to quickly capture an image of a child's eyes, which immediately produces a "pass" or "refer" result. These results are recorded and sent home to the parents the same day of the screening. An important part of KidSight's program is the referral navigation we provide for at-risk children after our screenings. We know that not every family has equal access to vision care. That's why, in addition to alerting families of their child's referral, we also provide them a packet of information including next steps, FAQs and a list of child-friendly eye doctors in their area. KidSight follows up with parents via text messages, phone calls and emails to ensure their child can quickly get the vision care they need. We also work with site directors and school nurses to connect with families when

Continued on Page 6



# Meet our Board: Treaka Young, Missouri Child Psychiatry Access Project (MO-CPAP)



**Profession**  
I am a recently retired State government worker after 20 plus years of service. I currently work full time at the University of Missouri Columbia as a Program Manager in the Missouri Child Psychiatry Access Project (MO-CPAP).

I am also a second-year doctoral student at the University of Missouri Columbia, pursuing my Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis. **Community involvement**  
For nearly 30 years I have been driven to give back to my community in any capacity necessary. I truly believe that people do not want to live in poverty; most times their circumstances are a result of lack of knowledge about resources. My passion is connecting people to resources, and I have been fortunate enough to work with already established programs as a platform to do so. Some of the programs in which I am currently involved

with are: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Gamma Epsilon Omega Graduate Chapter, The Links, Zonta, River City Habitat for Humanity Executive Board, The City of Jefferson-Planning and Zoning Committee, and the United Way of Central Missouri Board of Directors and Fund Allocation Panel. Over the years I have also volunteered at Rape and Abuse Crisis Service (RACS), the Samaritan Center, Dreams to Reality, Salvation Army and many other organizations that needed volunteers. **Why did you say yes when asked to be on the United Way Board of Directors?**  
I said yes to being on the United Way Board of Directors because of the great work I have

witnessed them do in central Missouri. Knowing how the funding changes the lives of those in need made it so easy to say yes. I love being a part of an agency that works to make life more bearable for those less fortunate. Life is full of challenges and can change at a blink of an eye for any of us. So, to be able to help people during their most vulnerable times in life reminds me that there are still good people in the world. No matter who you are or what you have, you cannot make it alone. We need each other. My hope is that when I am in need, there will be someone to help me. **Favorite thing about United Way**  
What I love most about

the United Way is the warm personalities of the entire United Way team. They make it so easy to serve. My other most favorite thing is hearing the updates from the agencies on how our funding made a difference. It reminds me of why I serve and gives me the drive to continue for another year. I cannot believe it has been four years now volunteering with the United Way. **Pearls of wisdom for young girls with big dreams**  
“Do the best you can until you know better, then when you know better, do better.” -Maya Angelou **Number one on your bucket list**  
The number one thing on my bucket list is completing

my doctoral program in 2024 and I will be 57 years old. This has been a lifelong goal of mine, and I believe it is never too late to make your dreams come true. My hope is that my journey inspires someone who is thinking about giving up. **Fun fact about you**  
When I am not serving my community or being with my family, I enjoy playing cards. I play Bid Whist and Spades once a month with a group of friends. **Words you live by**  
“There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they are falling in.” -Desmond Tutu

# Meet our Board: Ryann Kampeter, KMIZ/ABC 17



**Tell us about you**  
I'm a native of Marietta, Georgia but have made Jefferson City my home for the past 6 years. I am recently married to my husband, Jacob Kampeter, and we have a German Shorthaired Pointer named Truman. **Profession**  
I am the Local Sales Manager for Abc17 TV & Digital helping

local business owners with their marketing strategies and campaigns. **Community involvement**  
In addition to serving on the United Way Board of Directors, I am currently the Service Chair for Jefferson City Young Professionals as well as a board member for Big Brothers Big Sisters. I am also part of United Way's Campaign Leadership

Team and Marketing Committee. **Why did you say yes when asked to be on the United Way Board of Directors?**  
It's a privilege to be able to help serve a community that has welcomed me with open arms. I want my friends, family and neighbors to all benefit from the good work we do through United Way. I fully support everything United Way stands for and the

overall mission to fight for the health, education, financial stability and basic needs of every person in our community. **Favorite thing about United Way**  
Women United and the Power of the Purse event!! **Pearls of wisdom for young girls with big dreams**  
Exude confidence in all you believe in!

**Number one on your bucket list**  
Visit Ireland, Greece and Italy. **Fun fact about you**  
I am a die-hard St. Louis Cardinals fan since birth, even though I grew up in Atlanta Braves country. **Words you live by**  
LIFE IS GOOD!

# Ameren's Commitment to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

By Chip Webb, Ameren Missouri

At Ameren, our workforce is dedicated to keeping the lights on and the gas flowing – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We focus that same kind of dedication on building a diverse culture where opinions are shared, and the best solutions are put into action. As an essential service provider, leading employer, and contributor to the economic growth in our region, we recognize that our words have a profound impact on the communities we serve. We continue to demonstrate and affirm our commitment to our core value of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) by equipping our customers, communities and co-workers with tools that encourage them to live their values every day. These are important steps forward in fulfilling Ameren's commitment to our “All In” culture: We Care, We Serve with Passion, We Deliver, We Win Together. Our DE&I Mission: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion drives a culture of inclusion and powers the quality of life by eliminating barriers to people achieving excellence. Ameren is committed to developing our co-workers. Our employee resource groups; including Ameren Military-Veteran Employees; Ameren Network of Multi-Cultural Employees; Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Employees and Allies Network; Multi-Generational Resource Group; Powering Connections for All Abilities; Women Influencing Success in Energy and Sustainability Employee Resource Group, manage ongoing programs and events that connect co-workers with community partners, enabling them to broaden their thinking and engagement through DE&I-focused learning opportunities. Ameren is committed to serving the diverse needs of our communities and expanding economic opportunities. We engage in numerous partnerships with educational institutions and professional organizations that support minorities, the underprivileged and the underserved. We make meaningful investments and provide significant opportunities for diverse-owned businesses and suppliers. We donate millions in philanthropy and in-kind contributions to organizations that serve critical human needs, build strong communities and focus on economic opportunity. A new program to high-



Cabrera Capital Markets is a diverse supplier and one of the largest Latino-owned investment banks in the United States.



The increase in Employee Resource Group (ERG) chapter offerings helped maintain a steady co-worker participation rate, despite COVID-19.



Ameren's Skilled Craft Education Program (SCEP) partners with North and South Technical High Schools in St. Louis, Missouri to recruit a diversified workforce.

light is AmerenCares Equity in the Arts. Ameren Missouri, together with the Arts and Education Council, recently launched this program, which will award one-year gifts of at least \$5,000 to historically underrepresented and underfunded nonprofit organizations that are racially and ethnically diverse at the leadership level. 2022 marks the 20th anniversary of formal DE&I efforts at Ameren. Significant growth has taken place over that time, but there is still much work to be done. We can and will continue to do more! For more, visit Ameren.com/diversity. On a personal note, I have had the honor and privilege of representing Ameren on the Board of Directors of the United Way of Central Missouri and jumped at the chance to be part of the DE&I Task Force that was recently created to sup-

port the United Way's ongoing mission. The focus of this task force is to create a roadmap for promoting and supporting DE&I within the United Way of Central Missouri, our partner agencies and beyond, into the communities we serve and support. The task force is composed of business leaders from across central Missouri who are poised to leverage their passion and the passion of the businesses they represent in support of this critically important initiative. In addition to me, our members include Ann Bax, Amy Berendzen, Bob Gilbert, Keena Lynch, Vicki Myers, Gary Plummer, Matt Tollerton, Delora Scaggs and Treaka Young. Other leaders from Ameren have stepped in to support the task force. Crystal Smith, director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Ameren virtually attended one of the first task

# Serving People in Need

By Brian Vogeler, The Salvation Army

One of the questions we get asked a lot is what does The Salvation Army do? The short answer is very simple. We serve individuals who are in need in the mid-Missouri area. The long answer is more complex but holds the same meaning. For the past 100 years, The Salvation Army of Jefferson City has worked to meet human needs in His (Jesus Christ) name without discrimination. So the next question leads to, how do you meet these needs? There are several different programs that we have available to those in our community. First and foremost, we are a church. We preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have church services every Sunday morning. We have an adult Bible Study group, women's and men's ministries, as well as project Wild for youth. The church is responsible for our Angel Tree program at Christmastime which helps children get gifts under their Christmas tree. They also host the biggest Salvation Army fundraiser of the year which is our Red Kettle Program. The thrift store is a program that not only is a source of income for The Army, but also helps provide a valuable service. We give clothing vouchers out to residents of the shelter, community members, as well as other United Way agencies. They can then go take these vouchers and find clothing that will help them be successful in whatever venture they were needing the clothing for. Whatever profit is made from the store goes back into the community by helping The Salvation Army to run its various programs. Our Center of Hope homeless shelter is probably what we are most known for here in Jefferson City. The center houses 31 residents. Our shelter is the only shelter in mid-Missouri that houses men, women and families. When someone comes to stay at the Center of Hope, they receive not only a bed and 3 meals a day, but also case management. We also provide education through our life-skills classes. We have various organizations and businesses come in and teach different topics. Some of these topics are budgeting, employment obstacles, cooking, housing/rental issues and job training. Through our case management, we are able to assess the need for other services the United Way helps to fund. Through all of us working together, we hope to make the individual successful. Our case managers also help



Megan Cassels and Kathy Holiday hand out lunch through the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen.



Renata Johnson, case manager for Salvation Army Social Services, helps clients during its food pantry.

our clients overcome different challenges they face such as physical and mental health, employment assistance, signing up for government assistance and rental applications. Last year alone the Center of Hope provided over 8,000 bed nights. The Center of Hope has provided over 270,000 bed nights since opening its doors in 1999. The Salvation Army offers a feeding program to not only our residents but the community as well. Ever day we serve a free lunch and dinner to anyone who walks into the doors. These meals are provided through a partnership with The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri as well as churches, civic groups and businesses. Last year, we served over 24,900 meals and 750,000 meals have been served since opening our doors in 1999. If your family or group is looking for ways to give back to the community, providing a meal at the Center of Hope might be the opportunity you were looking for. The Salvation Army has a food pantry that gives families a little extra food in their homes each month. On Tuesday and Friday afternoons, families can come and receive a food box full of canned goods, shelf stable food and meat. This food helps ease the cost at the grocery store. Our food pantry gives out more than 300 boxes every month. This

helps all of Jefferson City but especially the parts that are in a food desert. The Salvation Army also provides social service assistance to community members who are not a part of our shelter. We assist with paying rent or utilities when families have fallen behind. This program is essential as it helps people to stay in their homes. Through this, we also have a Pathway of Hope program. We work with families through case management to help end the cycle of crisis. We help our clients learn new techniques they can use to grow out of poverty. None of these programs would be possible without the support of The United Way of Central Missouri. The Salvation Army is one of their 28 partner agencies. Not only does the United Way support our shelter and social service programs, but they also provide special grants. One grant we received recently is to have an outdoor recreation space for our shelter residents. This will provide an appropriate area for residents to get outdoors and have a safe space to allow them to play games, have fellowship or just enjoy the sun. So again, what does The Salvation Army do? Whatever is needed to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

Continued on Page 6



# Meet Our Pacesetters and Campaign Leadership Team!



A **Pacesetter** is an organization who takes the lead or sets the standard of achievement for others. Pacesetters are a select group of exemplary businesses that take on the challenge to “jump start” the United Way of Central Missouri’s annual campaign each year. They set the standard for leadership and community support and are critical to the success of the overall campaign. United Way of Central Missouri is proud to stand United with these extraordinary partners!

Our **Campaign Leadership Team** is led by the United Way Campaign Co-Chairs. It gives us great pleasure to announce Kyle Shimmens (Osage Ambulances) and Cassandra Atchison (Modern Litho) as the 2022 United Way of Central Missouri Campaign Co-Chairs! The Campaign Leadership Team is comprised of passionate, dedicated volunteers that help the United Way reach hundreds of organizations in our community by meeting with business leaders to seek their support and assist internal Campaign leaders to plan successful workplace Campaigns. They are the face and voice of the Campaign, and we are so grateful for these volunteers!

## 2022 Campaign Leadership Team

Campaign Co-Chair: Kyle Shimmens, Osage Ambulances  
Campaign Co-Chair: Cassandra Atchison, Modern Litho  
Matt Amick, Missouri Soybean Association  
Trenton Barbour, Jefferson Bank  
Laura Bennett-Smith, Lincoln University  
Greg Benton, IBEW Local #2  
Sarah Bohl, Jefferson City Magazine & Dogwood Social  
Ashli Bowman, Bowman Realty  
Stacy Brown, Jefferson Bank  
Sarah Cain, Capital Machine Company  
Sharon Campbell, Missouri Farm Bureau  
Kayla Charlton, Wallstreet Group  
Ashley Eveler, Brown Printing  
Mindie Friederich, Jefferson City School District  
Nancy Gratz, Gratz Real Estate & Auctioneering

- Bartlett & West
- Capital Region Medical Center
- Central Bank/Central Technology Services/Central Mortgage Co.
- City of Jefferson
- Cole County Government
- Fechtel Beverage & Sales
- Genesis Company
- GFI Digital
- Hawthorn Bank
- Huber & Associates

- Jefferson Bank
- Jefferson City Autoplex
- Jefferson City Medical Group
- Joe Machens Capital City Ford
- Mid America Bank
- Missouri Auto Dealers Association
- Missouri Farm Bureau
- Missouri Hospital Association
- Modern Litho/Brown Printing
- Modine Manufacturing
- Osage Ambulances

- Rusty Drawing Chevrolet Buick GMC
- Cadillac Toyota
- Schnuck’s
- Septagon Construction
- SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital
- Three Rivers Electric Cooperative
- United Parcel Service
- United Way Agencies
- Wallstreet Group
- Williams-Keepers



Madison Hamacher, High 5 Communications  
Darren Heckman, High 5 Communications  
Lori Hoelscher, Ameren Missouri  
Ryann Kampeter, KMIZ/ABC 17  
Claudia Kehoe, Community Volunteer  
John Kehoe, Osage Ambulances  
Aubrey Krcmar, Ameren Missouri  
Stephanie Lehmen, C&S Business Services  
Brenda Leydens, Mid America Bank  
Tyler Luebbert, Mid America Bank  
Doug Otto, American Family Insurance - Douglas Otto Agency  
Derek Schnieders, GFI Digital  
Zac Schoene, Wallstreet Group  
Zach Seales, Community Volunteer/Stay at Home Dad

Brad Shimmens, Clean Fuels Alliance  
Tim Sperfslage, Barr Engineering  
Cara Alexander Stark, Polsinelli and Cork & Board  
Gaye Suggett, Ameren Missouri  
Krysten Sullivan, Monarch Title Company  
Crystal Tellman, Hawthorn Bank  
Brinn Thorsten, Central Banccompany  
Lonna Trammell, Ameren Missouri  
Abbey Twehous, Special Learning Center  
Connie Vaughan, Candlewood Suites  
Leslie Verslues, Wallstreet Group  
Janet Wear-Enloe, SSM Health - St. Mary’s Hospital  
Lindsay Welch, KMIZ/ABC 17  
Alaina Winship, Capital Region Medical Center

### “Ameren” continued from Page 5

force meetings to provide guidance on structure and direction. Patrick Smith, vice president of Community and Economic Development, attended a United Way of Central Missouri Board meeting in April to engage board members in a thoughtful, yet challenging dialog around diversity, equity and inclusion. Ameren is also sponsoring a new initiative within the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce – the Jefferson City

Minority Business Council. The Council’s purpose is to help minority businesses certify, develop strategic plans, connect to available resources, educate to empower and advocate for them to grow and prosper. In a cooperative effort between the Minority Business Council, the Chamber and the United Way, a social is planned in early August to create a networking opportunity that facilitates collaboration between United Way partner

agencies and the Minority Business Council. In the short time the United Way’s DE&I Task Force has been in existence, a lot of work has been done to move the needle on how people perceive diversity, equity and inclusion – and there is still much work to be done. On behalf of Ameren, I am proud to have been part of the beginning and look forward to being a partner for the long haul.

### “Housing” continued from Page 4

We felt that this 120-year-old building could be renovated and used for apartments. We would repeat the work done at 203 Cherry Street only on a larger scale. There are different challenges, but with committed volunteers, we felt we could rehab 101 Jackson and develop five more apartments. We applied and received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that will fund much of the rehab expenses. However, given the necessary accounting for a government grant, there will be a time lag between when work is performed and when funds are reimbursed. The immediate need at 101 Jackson was roof repair stemming from the 2019 tornado. We estimated those repairs to cost about \$25,000 - \$30,000. We applied for a United Way Community Support Grant to help with this cost, and we were awarded it in early June this year. As of July 10th, we have spent \$12,000 (about 40%) to begin these repairs. We expect to use the remaining funds in the

upcoming months to complete those repairs. For now, we have abated the immediate source of water infiltration. The property is stable, and roof and gutter repairs should be completed by the end of the year. Transformational Housing is grateful for the outpouring of support from individuals, churches, banks and the United Way. Historic Preservation and neighborhood redevelopment is a side benefit to providing apartment units to help low-income families move toward self-sufficiency. There will be many challenges, for us as an organization and for the people we seek to come along side. Key to meeting those challenges is recruiting and training the volunteer coaches to work with our future residents. We welcome any who are interested in potentially becoming a coach or helping with a future rehab project. We look forward to future collaboration to make Jefferson City a great community for all of our residents.

### “KidSight” continued from Page 4

necessary. KidSight maintains several partnerships to help families pay for vision care and replacement glasses, as needed. Recently, KidSight received funding from the United Way of Central Missouri to purchase another vision screening camera, which will allow us to provide more sight saving screenings for central Missouri children. These cameras are essential to our work, allowing us to be able to quickly and accurately screen 5,000+ children a year per camera. These funds have also allowed us to seek matching funds from the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) to purchase an additional vision screening camera. KidSight has successfully applied and received funding from LCIF in the past, and we are confident we will be able to secure this match.

We are so grateful for the support of the United Way of Central Missouri! This Community Support Grant will help ensure we can continue providing this important service to the children of Missouri. KidSight Executive Director, Katherine Patterson-Paronto said, “So much of our work is dependent on whether we have the equipment available for a screening. The United Way of Central Missouri’s grant will allow us to purchase two cameras to use in one of our busiest areas of the state. We are so grateful that we will be able to screen more children and get them the vision care they need.” If you’d like more information on our work, you can visit our website [www.kid-sight.org](http://www.kid-sight.org) or find us on social media with @KidSightMO.

#### Why Give to United Way?

John is passionate that kids have a better future. He is a major donor to one agency.

At a presentation at John’s work place, he is invited to donate to United Way. John wonders: “Why should I give to United Way when I can give directly to my favorite agency?”

John’s colleague explains that United Way has the unique ability to assemble a diverse network of agencies that ALL work together to help youth succeed, strengthen and sustain families, respond to crisis, improve health, and support the aging.

United Way leverages your donation so it addresses the true complexity of community need and creates lasting change for a stronger, healthier community.

## Our family serving yours since 1961.

Philip D. Freeman and his father, Donald P. Freeman, founder of Freeman Mortuary, in 1975.

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