

# LIVE UNITED

GIVE.

ADVOCATE.

VOLUNTEER.

FIND HELP.



United Way  
of Central Missouri

October 2022

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

## Let's Shine A Good Deed For Our Neighbors



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

The end of October is a busy time for our United Way as we near the conclusion of the Community Campaign. Businesses are wrapping up their campaign efforts, volunteers are working hard to help those businesses with whatever they need to finish strong. Campaign Co-Chairs Kyle Shimmens and Cassandra Atchison are speaking almost daily to community businesses and their employees to share the good work of the United Way, and United Way staff is working hard behind the scenes to finalize the campaign.

The United Way Campaign takes place over several months and can be thought of in two phases. The Pacesetter Campaign is considered

'Phase One' of the campaign and takes place in August and the rest of the community finishes strong in September and October for 'Phase Two'. Our Pacesetters include about 30 businesses who not only lead the United Way Campaign with fun, energetic, robust campaigns—but also raise about half of the overall campaign goal. At the end of August we hosted the Community Campaign Launch where we announced Pacesetter results, and we were thrilled to share our Pacesetters raised a record breaking \$1,162,172, or 50.5% of the overall \$2.3 million campaign goal. What a great way to kick-off the Community Campaign!

This year, we've seen a lot of Oompa Loompas, chocolate bars, golden tickets and more! The campaign theme is Willy Wonka and our slogan is 'So Shines a Good Deed'. Our community has had fun with the whimsical silliness of Willy Wonka but has also connected with the serious, heart-felt message behind the slogan. In the movie, the rest of the phrase continues 'So shines a good deed... in a weary world' and this certainly resonates with our community when we think of the last few years that has brought on challenges we have not seen before... the EF3 tornado, the terrible flooding, the global pandemic and even now, inflation. But our community is strong, we are resilient and we know the United Way is there to help our neighbors and friends in times of

hardship.

That is why we are counting on our community to help us finish the campaign strong. If your workplace does not currently participate in the United Way Campaign, I invite you to contact the United Way of Central Missouri office for information on how to become involved. We would be glad to visit with you on how to execute a successful, fun-filled, Willy Wonka-themed campaign, like so many of our businesses are doing this year. It always feels great when you are able to raise money for such a great cause AND have a lot of fun along the way.

Thanks to the wonderful success of our Pacesetters, we have a great start to our \$2.3 million goal, but we need the support of our community to get there, finish strong and help us cross that finish line! I encourage you to think of the thousands of people in our community who will be helped thanks to your selfless generosity that you consider to give.

Thank you to the many, many hand raisers and game changers in our community who are giving, advocating and volunteering for the United Way of Central Missouri. Together we are truly helping people live their best possible lives by fighting for the health, education, financial stability and basic needs of every person in our community.

## Capital City Housing Conference Will Provide Insight into Current Housing Challenges and Opportunities



**Ann Bax,**  
**United Way President**

United Way of Central Missouri fights for the health, education, financial stability and basic needs of every person in our community. As part of that work, we are proud to be part of the Capital City Housing Task Force working to bring awareness and help move the needle around housing in our community.

The recently released Housing Study performed by RKG Associates confirmed what we in the social service field have known for many years, there is a lack of housing in our community—especially affordable housing. Our work in health and human service has made us well aware of the negative impact a lack of quality affordable housing has on a community and its members, and we see the ripple effect every day. Our community has experienced a shortage of affordable housing for years, but that shortage was exacerbated due to the tornado that tore through our community in 2019, impacting over 150 properties, 95% were rental properties. Most of those rental units have not been brought back

In order to educate and bring this important conversation forward, the Capital City Housing Task Force

Registration required. General Admission \$20. Hardship Scholarships available.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/400315543567>

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)



become a fan

## Rusty Drawing - We're Your Car People

By Amanda Riley & Ashley Wilde,  
Rusty Drawing Chevrolet Buick GMC  
Cadillac & Rusty Drawing Toyota



From left to right, Nathan Baysinger, Senior Nutrition Council; Stephanie Johnson, Special Learning Center; Rusty Drawing, President of Rusty Drawing Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac & Rusty Drawing Toyota; Amber Brondel, United Way; and Kelly Marshall, Boys & Girls Club.



Rusty Drawing 'and the Car Factory' participate in United Way's Willy Wonka hat decorating contest.



From left to right, Ann Bax, United Way; Rusty Drawing, President of Rusty Drawing Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac & Rusty Drawing Toyota; Ashley Wilde, Rusty Drawing Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac & Rusty Drawing Toyota; Cassandra Atchison, Modern Litho | Brown Printing & United Way Campaign Co-Chair; and Stephanie Johnson, Special Learning Center.

Dealerships donated \$26,200 to the United Way in August from new car sales as part of the campaign. Additionally, our employees contributed \$33,156 to the campaign, on top of our \$59,356 overall contribution.

The success of Rusty Drawing Toyota and Rusty Drawing Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac's Pacesetter Campaign is just one of many contributions made to the United Way through local businesses. This year's United Way Campaign slogan of "So Shines a Good Deed" shines throughout Jefferson City, with many taking part in decorating Willy Wonka style hats to display outside their businesses. These gestures catch the attention of our community, with the intent of moving

those to become involved in the goals of the United Way, and there are many good deeds throughout the community that might not get the same visibility. By partnering with the United Way, it is our intent to move others within our community to recognize and act on those good deeds, regardless of the grandeur of the gesture. From the volunteer at Dreams to Reality, giving confidence to a young woman entering the workplace, to the therapist at the Special Learning Center, working to improve a child's daily life... these deeds, and more, are the ones that we hope shine brighter as more businesses and members of our community partner with the United Way.



# Family is the Greatest Gift

**By DeAnna Alonso,  
Central Missouri Foster Care &  
Adoption Association**

An 11-year-old girl, upon learning that her baby sister was being physically and sexually assaulted, decided enough was enough. She walked to the police station and told her story.

It wasn't easy, but she worked up the courage to be placed in foster care. It was a desperate move, but it broke the cycle of abuse. Still, the next few years were anything but easy. After aging out of foster care without a permanent family, she struggled for years. Eventually, she began to find hope and direction.

I was that little girl. My name is DeAnna Alonso, and I'm now the CEO of Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association (CMFCAA).

I founded the organization in 2007 by handing out items from the truck of my car after realizing the need in Mid-Missouri for clothing, backpacks and other items among foster, adoptive and kinship families.

My story eventually ended well. But that's not the case for most foster children who age out of the system without those family supports.

What happens to the 23,000 young adults who age out of the system each year? Their lives often are filled with homelessness, poverty, incarceration and unplanned pregnancies. The Midwest Study, led by researchers from Chapen Hall at the University of Chicago, provides some of the most comprehensive information to date on the outcomes of youth who exit foster care at the age of 18. Here are some findings:

- 71% of young women will be pregnant by 21.
- More than one in five will become homeless.
- 58% will graduate high school by 19 (compared to the average of 87%)
- At age 26, just half will be employed.
- One in four will be in the juvenile justice system within two years after leaving foster care.

Fifteen years after starting this organization, the need to help our foster/adoptive community is greater than ever.

That's why we expanded our services and expanded our coverage area last year from 13 counties to 24. That made Missouri the first state in the nation to be completely covered by adoption resource centers.

Just last week, our Jefferson City headquarters moved from in front of Trinity Lutheran Church to a bigger location at 1704 Christy Court, behind the CMMP Surgical Center. Here, we'll have 14,521 square feet, about triple of that at the old location. Our Rolla office, likewise, is moving to a bigger location at 1201 MO 72 in November. That location will have nearly 9,000 square feet.

We have programs for children entering foster care, aging out of foster care and everything in between. We also have a new mental health advocate to navigate mental health issues for foster/adoptive/kinship families.

For children entering the foster care system, we have a 30 Days to Family® Program. We find upwards of 80 individuals who are related to a child and help secure a placement for that child to keep the familial bonds.

For young adults aging out of the foster care system, we have Community Connections Youth Project. There's a lot to navigate at this stage of life, and it can be overwhelming without support. Our case managers have been in the foster care system themselves and know the services that youth need, both before and after leaving care. They have compassion, and they don't give up on their clients.

Despite our growth and increased efforts, the need for foster/adoptive parents is greater than ever. Missouri has more than 14,000 kids in foster care, an 11% increase over the past decade.

We need your help. We recently started a yearlong campaign to recruit foster and adoptive parents. This holiday season, as you enjoy time with your family, consider opening your home to a child who doesn't have one. To them, a family is the greatest gift. It might also be the greatest gift you give your own family. We'll be with you every step of the way. Visit mofamilies.com.

If you can't foster or adopt, there are many other ways you can support our organization and help us to do more for the youth and families that we serve.

Consider donating your time or joining our \$12 for 12 Club. Please visit this link: [mofosteradopt.com/give](http://mofosteradopt.com/give).

Also, attend our Mint to be Gala from 5:30-8:30 pm on November 1 at Capitol Plaza Hotel. It's our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we'd love to have you there. You can get the details here: [mofosteradopt.com/gala](http://mofosteradopt.com/gala).

Thank you for your support of CMFCAA. It means so much to us, and it means the world to those we serve.



Jodi Orton (Front, center) is pictured with seven of her 10 adopted children. She was named "Foster Mother of the Year" previously and is the subject of an award-winning documentary. She will be one of the featured speakers at the CMFCAA November 1 Mint-To-Be Gala at Capitol Plaza Hotel.

## Cole County Area Mobile Food Pantries

October 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, OCTOBER 1

Catholic Charities  
1015 Edmonds Street in Jefferson City  
9 - 11 a.m.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

Boys & Girls Club  
1105 Lafayette in Jefferson City  
4 - 6 p.m.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Trinity Lutheran Church  
13007 Route C in Russellville  
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

St. Martins Catholic Church  
7148 St. Martins Avenue in St. Martins  
4 - 6 p.m.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

Knights of Columbus  
1822 Tanner Bridge in Jefferson City  
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

Annunciation Catholic Church  
310 Mills Street in California  
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

Capital West Christian Church  
1315 Fairgrounds Road in Jefferson City  
8:30 - 10:30 a.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 for distribution instead of standing in line
- Clear space in your trunk or back seat to receive food



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

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



X

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:



# What's Happening



United Way of Central Missouri and Women United members are hosting the sixth annual Power of the Purse on Thursday, November 17 at 5:30 pm at the Jefferson City Country Club. This event includes a silent purse auction, a live auction of experiences and purses (modeled by men in our community!), a jewelry pull, wine pull and Women United t-shirt sales. Get your tickets now at [www.unitedwaycemo.org/pop](http://www.unitedwaycemo.org/pop).



The Minority Business Council, Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of Central Missouri hosted a mixer in early August at the Linc to make connections and enjoy one another's company.



In early October, United Way hosted Kids United FunFest, a free carnival for families served by United Way and partnering health and human service agencies. Thank you to Scholastic, Hawthorn Bank, Fechtel Beverage, Hy-Vee, Central Dairy and Boys & Girls Club for making this event possible!

Lots of fun was had at the Big Brothers Big Sisters annual Chili Cook-off and Cornhole Tournament on October 13.



River City Florist's annual Flower Cards are on sale! Benefiting United Way and the Jefferson City Downtown Association, you can purchase a card for \$29.95 and you will receive a monthly bundle of flowers for a year! Thank you River City Florist!



Bartlett & West hosted a trivia night fundraiser in mid-October, raising \$3,790 for the United Way!



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

### October

All Month: Dine United for United Way  
Oct 20: Capital City CASA Raise Your Glass Fundraiser  
Oct 21: Lezends Bank BBQ Fundraiser for United Way  
Oct 25: Capital City Housing Conference  
Oct 27: RACS Masquerade Gala  
Oct 29: The Sneaker Project Haunted Hustle 5K Fundraiser

### November

Nov 1: CMFCAA Mint To Be Gala  
Nov 3: United Way Victory Celebration  
Nov 12: United Way Power of the Purse Fundraiser  
Nov 19: Little Explorers Discovery Center Princess Party Fundraiser

### December

Dec 6: Missouri River Regional Library Craft & Bake Sale Fundraiser for United Way

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

The Capital City Housing Task Force presents

## CAPITAL CITY HOUSING CONFERENCE

**Jefferson City's Challenges & Opportunities**

Tuesday, October 25th, 2022  
9 am to 4 pm

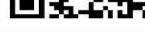
Join us for a thought-provoking conference regarding the state of housing in our city.

- Presentation regarding the City of Jefferson's recent housing study
- Two nationally acclaimed speakers who will discuss the state of housing in our town as well as solutions to move us forward
- Panel discussions featuring business leaders, developers and citizens impacted by housing

Capital West Christian Church Event Center  
1315 Fairgrounds Rd, Jefferson City, MO

Registration required  
General Admission \$20  
Hardship Scholarships Available  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/400315543567>

[www.capitalcityhousingtaskforce.org](http://www.capitalcityhousingtaskforce.org)



## Willy Wonka Hat Contest Winners

United Way of Central Missouri is grateful to Septagon Construction for providing the Willy Wonka Hat Contest templates. Area businesses and United Way partner agencies accepted the challenge to decorate them to show their support for the United Way and raise awareness for the 2022 Willy Wonka-themed Campaign. Decorated hats were eligible to enter in the United Way of Central Missouri's Hat Contest, with five winning categories: Overall Best, Most United Way, Most Decorated, Most Unique and Most Wonka-themed. Congratulations to the winning hats, and thank you to all organizations that decorated one all in good fun for the United Way!

### ALL DECORATED HAT LOCATIONS

Visit the following organizations to see their Willy Wonka-themed hats!

- ABLE
  - Bartlett & West
  - Boys & Girls Club
  - Brown Printing/Modern Litho
  - Capital Region Medical Center
  - Capital City CASA
  - Capitol Projects
  - Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association
  - Council for Drug Free Youth
  - Central Bank
  - Central Technology Services
  - City of Jefferson
  - Cole County Government
  - Community Health Center
  - Compass Health Network
  - GFI Digital
  - Huber & Associates
  - JCMG
  - Jefferson Bank
  - Jefferson City Area YMCA
  - Mid America Bank
- Missouri Farm Bureau
  - News Tribune
  - Osage Ambulances
  - Rape & Abuse Crisis Services
  - Rusty Drawing Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac Toyota
  - Schnucks
  - SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital
  - The Salvation Army
  - The Special Learning Center
  - Three Rivers Electric
  - Wallstreet Group

**OVERALL BEST**

The Overall Best hat was created by Missouri Farm Bureau. It features a vibrant, colorful display of candy canes, lollipops, and other Wonka-themed decorations. The background shows a modern building with large windows.

**MISSOURI FARM BUREAU**

**MOST UNITED WAY**

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF JEFFERSON CITY

**MOST DECORATED**

Special Learning Center

**MOST WONKA THEMED**

SEAL OF THE CITY OF JEFFERSON 1825

**MOST UNIQUE**

THE CENTRAL MISSOURI FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION ASSOCIATION

**TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH GOOD**

Together we can create a community where every person and every family thrives. We are fighting for a community in which no one lives in poverty, that every person has the tools and resources they need to succeed in school and beyond, everyone has a home and food to eat, and every person has access to quality healthcare and a supportive neighborhood.

Together we can break the cycle of poverty. Together, we can give everyone an equal chance at quality education. Together, we can meet our neighbors' basic needs. Together, we can build strong, healthy communities.

But change doesn't happen alone. If united we fight. United we win.

**WILL YOU JOIN US?**

**2022 Campaign Goal \$2.3 MILLION**

**1 IN 2** People are touched by a UNITED WAY AGENCY

**\$ .90** of every dollar donated goes DIRECTLY TO SERVICES

**119,739 PEOPLE SERVED**

Southern Callaway 10,157  
Moniteau 6,489  
Morgan 5,015  
Cole 49,992  
Miller 10,202  
Osage 6,367  
Camden 19,014  
Maries 1,263  
Phelps 11,240

**WE HAVE ONE LIFE. TO LIVE BETTER, WE MUST LIVE UNITED**

**We are the CHANGE MAKERS and we are the DREAMERS OF DREAMS**

Scan to learn more about how we are changing lives!

**So SHINES A GOOD Deed,**

**UNITED WE WIN**

If we make our neighbors' struggles, our struggles. Their victories, our victories. 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.

**TOGETHER WE CAN LIVE UNITED**

Our Agency Partners	
4-H Youth Program	573-634-2824
ABLE	573-636-5558
American Red Cross	573-635-1132
Big Brothers Big Sisters	573-634-3290
Boy Scouts	573-449-2561
Boys & Girls Club	573-634-2582
Capital City CASA	573-893-2272
Capitol Projects	573-634-3660
Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association	573-298-0258
Community Health Center	573-632-2777
Compass Health Network	573-634-3000
Council for Drug Free Youth	573-636-2411
Dreams to Reality	573-681-9675
Early Childhood Initiative	573-636-4100
Familywise Prescription Drug Program	573-636-4100
Girl Scouts	877-312-4764
Homemaker Health Care	573-635-6603
Jefferson City Area YMCA	573-635-6665
Child Development Center	
Little Explorers Discovery Center	573-636-6461
Osage County Community Living	573-897-0330
Rape and Abuse Crisis Service	573-634-8346
Salvation Army	573-635-1975
Senior Nutrition Council	573-634-8020
Special Learning Center	573-634-3070
The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri	573-474-1020
The Sneaker Project	573-619-5588
Tri-County YMCA	573-348-9230
United Way Missouri 2-1-1	211 or 800-427-4626



United Way of Central Missouri

205 Alameda Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109

Phone: 573-636-4100 | Fax: 573-636-8077

Email: info@unitedwaycmo.org

www.unitedwaycmo.org

@unitedwaycmo

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## Meet Our Campaign Co-Chairs



**Cassandra Atchison,**  
Modern Litho | Brown Printing

I am a Jefferson City native and alumni of St. Peter's School, Helias and University of Missouri-Columbia where I graduated with a degree in Communications. I met my husband, Brandon Atchison, also a Jefferson City native and alumni of Jefferson City High School and Columbia College, while working across the hall

from each other at the Capital Mall over 15 years ago. Brandon currently works for the American Public Works Association in the Conference and Education Department and is pursuing a Masters of Public Affairs through MU. We've been married for 13 years this October and have two sons, Liam (8) and Leif (5). The boys attend school at St. Joseph Cathedral where Brandon and I are active parishioners. We enjoy being active outdoors, whether it's walking at Runge, coaching the boys sports teams or playing golf together as a family.

**Occupation:**

My current role is Vice President of Marketing. Marketing and communications have always been a passion for me, and I've had the honor of serving Modern Litho | Brown Printing in this capacity for the last 14 years.

to have been raised in central Missouri and thrilled we moved back in 2016. Our families are both in the area and having their support with our kids and their activities is incredible.

**Occupation:**

President, Osage Ambulances Community Involvement: Along with United Way, I've been involved with St. Peter Parish Council, Helias Foundation, Food Bank Buddy Packs Program, St. Peters Catholic Cemetery Association and Youth Sports Coach.

**Why are you passionate about the United Way?**

The sheer number of people directly impacted by United Way and its agencies is what drives me to support the United Way's mission. Over half of the people in central Missouri rely on services those agencies provide. The ability to impact that many lives is incredible and something that is not overlooked. Where else can you say you're supporting over 120,000 individuals in central Missouri?

**Why did you say YES to the role of United Way Campaign Co-Chair?**

I said 'Yes' last year because Ann made me, of course! But it's truly an honor to be asked again to represent the \$2.3 million campaign with Cassandra this year. Helping others in our home community

**Community Involvement:**  
Zonta Club of Jefferson City Board Member and Committee Chair; St. Joseph Cathedral Home and School Board Member; Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals and former Board Member, Membership Drive Volunteer, Jefferson City START program coordinator/speaker, Leadership Jefferson City; United Way Board Member, Power of the Purse Host Committee and Chair, Pacesetter Campaign Coordinator, Marketing and Special Events Team, Women United Council Leader, Dine and Shop United Chair, Campaign Leadership Team and now Campaign Co-Chair.

**Why are you passionate about the United Way?**

Let me count the ways! There are many reasons to love our United Way; but for me it comes down to trust. Having volunteered

and working to better their lives is exactly why the decision to say yes was easy.

**Favorite fun fact about the United Way:**

I find it incredible the origins of the United Way started almost 100 years ago as a part-time committee of the now Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce. That shows how giving and thoughtful central Missouri individuals have been over the past 10 decades.

**Favorite part of Campaign so far:**

Hearing the daily experiences of our agency partners' leaders and the stories they get to tell local businesses during their campaigns. Some are funny, others are thoughtful and certainly emotional, but they all express why the United Way dollars are so important to create stability in people's lives.

**Favorite Willy Wonka scene:**

After Charlie gets the golden ticket and runs home, he tells his mom & grandparents he has one of the coveted golden tickets. This leads to his Grandpa Joe, who has been bedridden for years, to get out of bed and dance around. It's a fun scene showing the hope his family has after Charlie gets the golden ticket.

**Words to live by:**

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit." Harry S. Truman

in several roles, I've seen how decisions are made. I know donations are utilized where they can have the most impact in our community. I've seen the needs that come to the doorstep and how our United Way addresses each one with compassion, dedication and diligence. I've learned that many people in our community make up the United Way, not just the staff, but hundreds of volunteers that give time, talent and treasure to make our community better. Everyone benefits from a strong United Way because these are our co-workers, neighbors, friends and family we are helping to live their best possible lives.

**Why did you say 'Yes' to the role of United Way Campaign Co-Chair?**

It's an absolute honor to represent the United Way; to be entrusted with such an important role is truly humbling. It's a chance to

grow personally, to get to know the wonderful people and businesses in our community better and to inspire others. Also, I'm a little competitive...I want us to hit that goal!

**Favorite fun fact about the United Way:**

Benjamin Franklin said, "If you want something done, ask a busy person." There are forty-one members on our Campaign Leadership Team this year. And these team members happen to be some of the busiest people I know! They are picking up the torch from the Pacesetters and seeing that we finish the Community Campaign strong.

**Favorite part of Campaign so far:**

It's difficult to pick just one, so here are my top three: meeting the passionate and energetic campaign coordinators at numerous businesses and organizations who make

their workplace campaigns happen year after year; feeling the overwhelming support our community has for the United Way and its twenty-eight partner agencies; and being able to thank long-time supporters and volunteers while inspiring others to become one.

**Favorite Willy Wonka scene:**

Of course, it must be the scene where Violet Beauregarde chews the gum and turns into a blueberry!

**Words to live by:**

I'm an eternal optimist, something I'm proud to say I get from my parents. My dad has often told me "Carpe Diem," Latin for "Seize the day." I've always thought of it as a directive to make the most of life and your experiences. It's why I usually say "yes" when I'm approached with a new opportunity. I have never regretted it.

## A Critical Voice For Central Missouri Children & Youth

By Gina Clement,  
Capital City CASA



Capital City CASA moved to its new location at 600 Monroe Street, Suite 100 in Jefferson City.



Capital City CASA uses its new facility to host a volunteer training for advocates.

for seven staff members, and an office for CASA volunteers to use for proceedings related to the child(ren). We provide luggage to children who are removed from their homes, so they don't have to move their belongings in trash bags, and our new space allows us to store that luggage on site. We also have a "CASA closet" from which volunteers can take items to use or give children when they visit them.

CASA volunteers are everyday people committed to making a difference for abused and neglected children in Cole County who might otherwise slip through the cracks. CASA provides training to these community volunteers. Once the training is complete, they are appointed by a judge to help guide one child or sibling group through the system to safe, permanent and nurturing homes. CASA volunteers only serve on one or two cases at a time. This allows them to truly know the child(ren) and give each the sustained and personal attention they deserve. A CASA volunteer serves as the voice of the child and the eyes and ears of the court in the community. CASA volunteers are critical, as they are often the only constant in a child's case, as our child welfare system is overburdened with a high level of turnover of caseworkers. Annually, Capital City CASA serves over 200 children in Cole County with seventy volunteers. These cases include children suffering from severe neglect, and physical and sexual abuse of children ranging in age from newborn to 18.

Due to the growth of our organization, we recently moved to a larger office allowing us to hold our pre-service training for potential volunteers, continuing education for active volunteers, board meetings, provide offices

We will also be highlighting three families whose cases ended in a positive way, as well as one parent whose child is still in protective custody. Each will discuss the importance of their CASA volunteer.

United Way, and other United Way partner agencies, are a vital part of our ability to serve the children of Cole County. Funding for our Volunteer Recruitment and Outreach position partially comes from the United Way. We have also received United Way Community Support Grants to assist with our recruitment efforts.

Central Missouri Foster Care and Adoption Association (CMFCAA) and Capital City CASA both serve foster children, though in different ways. CASA and CMFCAA work together to provide supplies for foster children such as diapers, formula, a dresser and more. We also work with Big Brothers Big Sisters to provide a mentor for children who may also have a CASA. United Way is a wonderful resource for our community! If you aren't involved in it some way, I would encourage everyone to contact the United Way to find out how you can help the individuals, families and children in our community.

It doesn't take a lot of time to make someone's life better!

## An Inclusive, Supportive & Diverse Culture

By Darla Young,  
Compass Health Network



At Compass Health Network, our mission to Inspire Hope and Promote Wellness guides our work every day. We are a non-profit health care organization with a vision of full, productive, healthy lives for everyone. This includes our team members, who we encourage to maximize their potential and bring their whole selves to work every single day. Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging efforts within Compass are focused on our greatest asset, our employees.

At Compass; diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging are integral to our mission. We embrace diversity of identity, experience and thought, and actively strive for inclusive behaviors and policies across our organization and our work. By promoting these values, we aim to create a positive work experience that encourages a sense of belonging. At Compass, we understand everyone has value. We are all at our best when we know our ideas, presence and contributions are truly valued. Compass continues to cultivate a culture of trust, belonging and respect for differences through education, resources and dialogue.

A few of the ways Compass shows our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) efforts include an active Accessibility and Inclusion committee that evaluates the organization's level of cultural proficiency, provides training for all employees regarding the value of a diverse workforce, and works with diverse populations to reduce barriers to access service. With the guidance of the committee, we celebrate monthly observances, recognize educational opportunities surrounding DEIB, create subcommittees to focus on specific needs as necessary, and are launching Employee Affinity Groups to continue to create a sense of community and belonging.

In a recent employee survey, it was apparent that our team members are responding to our efforts. When asked to share three words to describe Compass Health's culture, the top three results were inclusive,

supportive and diverse. We contribute this result to a continuing focus on DEIB efforts making Compass not only a great place to work, but a safe place to work. We will continue to be the example for inclusion to our employees and will remain focused on how to best support not only our team members, but the communities we serve.

Compass Health Network is one of 28 partner agencies for the United Way of Central Missouri. Our partnership not only provides funding to support our mission, but also gives our organization an avenue to partner with other nonprofits in the central Missouri community. Additionally, United Way and agency partners work together in other ways—such as through Board Development Trainings or critical discussions regarding DEIB. We are a proud partner of the United Way, and we look forward to continuing to change lives in central Missouri together!

## Meet Our Board: Amy Berendzen, Department of Economic Development



I'm an open book and my life's story can be summed up like this: Purpose defines me. Passion fuels me. Pride drives me.

### Profession:

With 20+ years in the public relations, marketing and communication fields, I have been blessed to have held positions in non-profit, health care, public education and state government. And thankfully, every job has kept me right here in the hometown I know and love! Currently, I am the Communications Director for the Missouri Department of Economic Development. The State of Missouri is an amazing team of really great people who work hard every day to serve Missouri. That is absolutely the case at DED! It is incredibly rewarding to come to work

each and every day knowing that we are doing important work that helps our fellow Missourians prosper!

### Community involvement:

I am a United Way Board Member, DEI Task Force Member, Campaign Leadership Member, and overall supporter for 25+ years! I also am a Big Brothers Big Sisters Advisory Committee Member and a very proud Big Sister to Alexis since 2015; Vice President, Jefferson City Cosmopolitan Club (The Club that Fights Diabetes); and Board Member, Jay Pride Alive (JCHS Alumni Association).

**Why did you say yes when asked to be on the United Way**

### Board of Directors?

I have always tried to align and associate myself with people who enjoy making a difference by giving back to their community while having fun doing it. When Ann asked if I would join the board, it was an immediate yes! I didn't even need to give it any thought because through the years, I have admired the way board members of the United Way of Central Missouri give of their whole hearts for the common good, connecting people with causes that they care about...all in effort to help our friends and neighbors meet life's challenges. Being

a member of this board will forever be one of my proudest accomplishments.

### Favorite thing about United Way:

Together, we help make our community stronger, healthier and a more compassionate place to live, work and play!

### Number one on your bucket list:

A big risk-taker I am not, but a dreamer? You bet! My lifelong dream was to be a Momma. Brooke and William are definitely all of my dreams come true! But, if I had to choose an adventure, it would be to hike Montana's Glacier National Park in its entirety.

### Fun fact about you:

I am a group fitness instructor at the Sam B. Cook Healthplex. I started this side hustle almost four years ago after being a dedicated and devoted class participant for 15+ years. My goal is to grow bold, not old, and thankfully our members help me achieve this every time I strap on that headset! My fellow instructors and members are family to me. I always say: "This is my place. These are my people." And it is oh so true!

### Words you live by

You choose your attitude... and your effort!

## UCP Heartland and Special Olympics Partner to Provide One-Of-A-Kind Camp Experience Thanks to Support from the United Way of Central Missouri

By Judy Grainger,  
UCP Heartland

Think back to your first summer camp experience. Maybe it was a day camp while your parents were at work, or a sports camp, or perhaps a sleepaway camp somewhere secluded in nature. Almost all of us have some memory of a summer camp, and for many of us it was an experience we looked forward to throughout the year. Camp was time away from school to relax, have fun and spend time with our friends. For our parents, it was necessary childcare while they worked or a respite from the day-to-day challenges of parenting. Imagine what the memories of your youth might look like without those camp experiences. Unfortunately, for many youth with varying disabilities, this is a reality as inclusive summer camp options are limited and often unaffordable. Summer camp is such a pivotal social experience for youth, and often those with diagnoses of intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are left out of opportunities that their peers otherwise receive. That's where the United

Way of Central Missouri, UCP Heartland and Special Olympics Missouri come in.

UCP Heartland was founded in 1953 by a group of concerned parents and volunteers who wanted to provide a higher quality of life for family members and friends living with disabilities. The primary focus during the early stages of the organization was to provide support to families and leisure services to children and adults with cerebral palsy. Over the years, due to changing needs within the disability community, UCP Heartland expanded their focus to serve people with a spectrum of disabilities including autism, cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, traumatic brain injury and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. The mission of UCP Heartland is to provide children and adults living with differing abilities extraordinary care and support they need to thrive in school, at home, at work and in their community. UCP Heartland provides programs and support throughout the St. Louis area and central Missouri in the following key areas: adult day programs, autism services, early childhood development,

employment resources, residential services, respite, service navigation and youth camps. In Jefferson City, the UCP Heartland Gibbs Center for Independence provides adult day services and employment services for adults with IDD, and this summer piloted a summer camp program with support from the United Way of Central Missouri.

In the summer of 2022 UCP Heartland graciously received a Community Support Grant to provide an inclusive summer day camp for individuals with and without diagnoses of IDD in central Missouri. UCP Heartland partnered with Special Olympics Missouri to implement the program and served 8 individuals over the span of 4 weeks throughout the camp's inaugural summer. The camp was held Monday through Friday at the state-of-the-art Special Olympics Missouri Training for Life Campus. In addition to providing fun opportunities for youth with IDD, the camp also supported campers without a diagnosis of an IDD in learning to be accepting and supportive of their peers—a firsthand lesson and experience in empathy. Funding for a program such as this is vital for several reasons. Not only does it provide families with affordable care for their loved ones while school is not in session, but it also allows UCP Heartland to provide appropriate staffing to support the additional needs campers may have so that all campers can have a safe and fun experience.

Upon enrollment into camp, UCP Heartland developed a support plan for each camper with information provided by their family. The support plan included all the information that is necessary for their loved one to be successful throughout the day; things like medical information, behavioral support and interventions, calming and empowering techniques, etc. The support plan also included goals developed with the family for their camper to work on throughout their time at camp. These goals included specific objectives that over time, even intermittently, encouraged campers to develop skills relating to self-



From left to right: Anna, Avante, Henry, Alysha, Solomon and Lyric pose by the turtle statue during a field trip to Runge Nature Center.

advocacy, socialization and pre-employment. This level of individualized support would not be possible in a typical summer camp environment nor without the United Way of Central Missouri's Community Support Grant.

Throughout the summer, each week had a different theme, with activities and outings tailored to each week's theme. This past summer, the themes were earth week, water week, superhero week and cooking week. Community integration is a crucial part of the curriculum as it gives campers opportunities to practice life, safety and social skills within the community rather than simulated experiences that later must be applied in other settings. Campers went on outings to the Runge Nature Center, the State Capitol, local parks, the Missouri State Highway Patrol Museum, the library, the movie theater, SkyZone and local grocery stores to name a few. Activities campers participated in while at camp included visits from the Jefferson City Fire and Police Departments, relay races and games, cooking activities and crafts.

UCP Heartland is so grateful for the partnership with

Special Olympics Missouri in implementing this program, and for the support received from United Way of Central Missouri. They're looking forward to serving more individuals in the future in



Brody enjoys cooling off at the splash pad during water week.



Solomon, Brody and Anna learn about the gear firefighters wear with a visit from the Jefferson City Fire Department during superhero week.

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 workplace, 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.

Committed to showing care and compassion every step of the way.

BreAnna Williams has been a Funeral Director and Embalmer with Freeman Mortuary for over eight years.

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