

Give. Advocate. Volunteer.



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

One thing you are never quite prepared for as you grow older, is how much faster every year seems to go. It feels like a blink of an eye since I wrote my first article for these pages, and here I am writing my last. While officially I will be passing the gavel to a new chairman (one much brighter and more capable than I can hope to be), my time with the United Way

is far from over. When you see the generosity of our community, you want to be a part of it. And when you are blessed, as I have been, to work alongside the countless devoted volunteers that have united together to do good in our community, you are connected for life.

I started my first insert with three words: Give. Advocate. Volunteer.

Over the last year I have seen these words come to life through the generosity and action of our community. Our annual Campaign reached record breaking totals, and will allow us to put more money into worthwhile causes in the community. Both traditional outlets and social media have been covered with the stories of our agencies and the people they serve. Our

network of volunteers is stronger than ever. They provide ideas, insight and accountability to everything we do.

For those who have given, advocated and volunteered in 2022, THANK YOU. You share in the success of our organization and have played a part in the work of our partner agencies. If you haven't, I encourage you, as you read these pages, to consider the need that lies behind each story. Think about how the United Way, our agency partners, our volunteers and donors are taking action to address it, and consider how you can take part.

It has been a wonderful year and we couldn't do any of it without you, our donors and volunteers. Thank you.

Cole County Government, a partner in Community Involvement & Improvement

By Kristi Campbell,
Cole County Government

Cole County was established in 1820 with the structure and operations being governed by state statute. Policy and legislative authority are vested in the three County Commissioners. Currently, Sam Bushman, Jeff Hoelscher and Harry Otto serve as Presiding Commissioner, Eastern District Commissioner and Western District Commissioner, respectively. The County Commissioners are responsible for directly supervising directors for seven departments and work collaboratively with fifteen elected officials, along with other County boards and commissions. Cole County employs approximately 400 full and part time staff that are responsible for a wide array of services that touch the lives of Cole County citizens and visitors on a daily basis.

Cole County Departments include:
Emergency Management: who responds to natural and man-made disasters that threaten public safety;
Emergency Medical Services: which is the sole emergency medical transport services within Cole County;

Finance: who is responsible for administrative, purchasing and fiscal operations of the County;

Health Department: who is responsible for the administration of public health programs that promote, protect and assure the health, safety and quality of life;

Information Systems: who is responsible for computer hardware and software programs for all county offices, including GIS mapping of the county;

Maintenance: who maintains all county facilities;

And Public Works: who is responsible for approximately 470 miles of road and the associated right-of-ways, as well as the numerous bridges and drainage structures throughout Cole County.

Cole County Elected Officials include:

Assessor: who is responsible for the valuation of all the tangible real and personal property within Cole County;

Auditor: whose primary responsibility is to provide accurate, timely and relevant information to the public to promote county government openness and accountability, as well as ensuring county tax dollars are used lawfully and to prevent waste and misuse;

Collector: who is responsible for collecting current and delinquent property taxes for the county and the various political subdivisions within the county which have an authorized tax levy;

County Clerk: who is responsible for maintaining county records, administering elections, collecting campaign finance information and merchant liquor licenses;

Recorder: who provides timely, accurate access to data and permanent records including real estate transactions, cemetery deeds, wills, patents and marriage licenses;

Treasurer: who is the custodian of all county fund monies and county investment portfolio;

Prosecuting Attorney: who prosecutes criminal offenses efficiently and effectively;

Sheriff: which includes a full-service law enforcement agency that consists of an Administrative Division, Support Services Division, Patrol Division and Jail Division;

Circuit Court Services: which



Representatives from the United Way, state and local government commemorate the Cole County Health Department's 100th Anniversary with proclamations and resolutions at a 5K Fun Run/Fitness event in August, 2016. Included in the photo's back row are: Peter Lyskowski (2016 Director of Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services), Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe, Senator Mike Bernskoetter, Cole County Presiding Commissioner Sam Bushman, and Mayor Carrie Tergin; and in the front row are Gala Miller (Council of Clubs), Kristi Campbell (Director, Cole County Health Department), Ann Bax (President, United Way of Central Missouri) and Kristen Berhorst (2016 Cole County Auditor and United Way Campaign Coordinator).



Cole County government enjoys decorating the annual lawn template to show support of the United Way. This year's template was Willy Wonka's hat from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory – the 2022 United Way of Central Missouri Campaign theme.



As part of its 2022 United Way Campaign, Cole County government hosted a community-wide cornhole tournament fundraiser on July 22.

So Shines a Good Deed



Ann Bax,
United Way President

There are thousands in our community who need the resources of United Way's agency partners. Resources which feed the hungry... shelter the homeless... provide safe harbor for the abused and neglected. Our agencies provide resources to support those struggling with physical and mental health challenges, find forever homes for foster children and provide hope for many people in their darkest days. United Way of Central Missouri and our agency partners help to provide a safety net for those in need.

So many of us are blessed to have a network of support—family, friends, coworkers, neighbors. People to lean on in the tough times. But there are many people in our community who do not have that person or people. As a United Way supporter, you are that person for those in our community who have no one else. Our community of volunteers and donors are the hand-raisers in the community. The ones who see a need and create a solution.

At our Victory Celebration on November 3, we announced that United Way of Central Missouri not only met our \$2.3 million campaign goal... we exceeded the goal by over \$100,000! What an incredible victory for our community!

This was possible thanks to two amazing Campaign Co-Chairs, Kyle Shimmens and Cassandra Atchison, teamed up with a small, dedicated United Way staff as well as an army of volunteer campaign

leadership team members, marketing geniuses and internal campaign coordinators. All passionate people who believe in this community... who love this community... and understand it is up to all of us to take care of this community. This team went out into the community to share this vision and found out there are thousands and thousands more people that share the desire to make our community a better place.

This year's Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory themed campaign was about much more than just chocolate, Oompa Loompas and silly shenanigans. The slogan So Shines a Good Deed in a Weary World, one of the last lines from the movie, is certainly appropriate. Our community is a bit weary after a tornado, pandemic and now rising inflation. But when we look around our community we see the great deeds of our community members who are willing to roll up their sleeves and help. People that understand their good deeds can change our own little part of the world. It's about helping neighbors, friends, family... and often people we may never meet.

Only with your support is the United Way of Central Missouri and our 28 partner agencies able to continue to make a difference in our community. Just last year...

- Boys and Girls Club opened their new West side Sadowski Center and are serving an additional 425 kids every day.

- CASA continues to be a voice for hundreds of abused and neglected children in the court system.

- Central Missouri Foster Care and Adoption Association added 11 additional counties and has made Missouri the first and only state to have 100% of its counties covered by a foster care and adoption agency.

- Community Health Center provided medical, dental and behavioral health services to over 18,700 patients.

- Through our partnership with The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri, our mobile food pantry distributed over 621,000 pounds of food in our 9 county service area.

- Rape & Abuse Crisis Service provided shelter, counseling, advocacy, case management, hotline and referral services to over 750 survivors.

- Our Early Childhood Initiative is working closely with the Chamber and a regional State taskforce to identify the needs in Early Childhood and develop strategies and solutions to address these critical needs.

These are just a few examples of the work being done thanks to your support.

Thank you to the thousands of individuals and 500+ businesses that participated in this campaign. Thank you for not being afraid to step forward to fight to make our community a better place. Thank you for the good deeds you do to make our community the best it can be!



HAPPIEST HOLIDAYS FROM THE UNITED WAY FOUNDATION

The United Way of Central Missouri Foundation was established in 2003 to provide a permanent, sustainable avenue of support for the future of the United Way of Central Missouri through gifts, bequests and planned giving to ensure the United Way remains a vibrant resource in our community for future generations. The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors and is a separate 501(c)(3) with the same high standards of fiscal accountability and good stewardship as the United Way of Central Missouri.

The Foundation's founding members had the foresight and vision to understand the critical need for United Way of Central Missouri to have a safety net in case

of a disaster or unforeseen event. The Foundation has been called on to fill that safety net role and purchased a mobile food pantry to feed tens of thousands of hungry people; provided \$200,000 in grant funding to assist in tornado response and recovery; and provided over \$260,000 in financial assistance for COVID related needs. Currently, the Foundation is actively working to address urgent needs and crises facing our early childhood community.

Thank you for considering a gift during this holiday season to continue building a safety net for our community. Also please remember future support of the United Way of Central Missouri Foundation when discussing estate plans with your financial advisor or estate attorney.

Your gift is a testament of your generous, compassionate spirit. It is a legacy to be proud of and a gift that blesses others today and beyond.

Visit unitedwaycemo.org/foundation for additional information and to support our Foundation today.



UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Cole County Area Mobile Food Pantries

December 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, DECEMBER 3
Catholic Charities
1015 Edmonds Street in Jefferson City
9 - 11 a.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8
Knights of Columbus
1822 Tanner Bridge in Jefferson City
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13
Trinity Lutheran Church
13007 Route C in Russellville
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15
Annunciation Catholic Church
310 Mills Street in California
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**Please note: This mobile date has changed due to the Christmas Holiday.*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
Capital West Christian Church
1315 Fairgrounds Road in Jefferson City
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

**Please note: This mobile time has been updated.*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19
St. Martins Catholic Church
7148 St. Martins Avenue in St. Martins
4 - 6 p.m.

**Please note: This mobile date has changed due to the Christmas Holiday.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21
Boys & Girls Club
1105 Lafayette in Jefferson City
4 - 6 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 for 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 gift is \$ _____.

Gifts to United Way of Central Missouri Foundation are tax-deductible. For information about the tax advantages for including the United Way Foundation 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 Foundation.

To make a one-time gift, please visit unitedwaycemo.org/foundation or complete this card and mail it to the United Way of Central Missouri office at 205 Alameda Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109.

To include the Foundation in your planned giving, please consult with your attorney or financial advisor.

UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI FOUNDATION

The United Way of Central Missouri Foundation was established in 2003 to provide a permanent, sustainable avenue of support for the United Way of Central Missouri through gifts, bequests and planned giving.

With your help, the United Way of Central Missouri Foundation will ensure our community can remain strong and vibrant for years to come. Thank you for your compassionate support and love for our community.



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.

Payment Option 2: Online

Make your donation online by going to our website at www.unitedwaycemo.org or scanning the QR code below:

What's Happening



Thank you Missouri River Regional Library for hosting your annual Craft & Bake Sale again this year to benefit the United Way!

The Salvation Army is hosting its annual Red Kettle Campaign, with a fundraising goal of \$350,000. Volunteers wearing red aprons and ringing bells will be out front of many local stores again this holiday season, raising funds for the drive to support The Salvation Army's shelter, food, rental/utility assistance and case management services. To volunteer as a bell ringer, visit registering.com.



Women United volunteers help with a special Christmas project for 25 local men and women in our community.

Little Explorers Discovery Center hosted its fourth annual Princess Party fundraiser in November, bringing in a record-breaking \$9,500. This event included princes and princesses autographing books and singing songs to children in attendance.



Big Brothers Big Sisters hosted its annual Jingle Dash 5K Fun Walk/Run on Sunday, December 11th.



Thank you for supporting The Food Bank on Wednesday, December 14 for the One for One Holiday Food and Fund Drive at Buheit in Jefferson City to help feed our neighbors this holiday season.



Thank you Wren Solutions for hosting a sock drive to benefit United Way partner agency, The Sneaker Project!



Homemaker Health Care and partner nonprofit organizations are hosting the annual Festival of Lights—a drive-thru light park at Binder Park in Jefferson City. The Light Park will run through December 31st from 6 – 9 pm and is closed on Mondays. \$20 per vehicle and \$35 per limousine or bus.

Special Learning Center is one of four organizations in the running to receive \$500 from Ameren Missouri every time the St. Louis Blues score a Power Play Goal this year! For Special Learning Center to win, we need your votes. Vote daily at www.amerenmissouri.com/blues through January 31, 2023.



Meet Our Board: Bob Gilbert, Bartlett & West



Tell us about you

I'm a husband to Rachelle (almost 26 years) and father of five who range from college-age to a second grader. We love being in Jefferson City, and I'm often relating to other transplants to our community - I'm here because of my wife. She graduated from JC High and we met in college and then life took us to the Kansas City area for 10 years before we

desired to live closer to family. We are so blessed and excited to be here and love all that the community brings.

Profession

I'm a Civil Engineer and work at Bartlett & West. We work primarily on infrastructure projects for local and state government clients, but also work for private businesses helping them with their asset management and any construction development projects. While I'm a Civil Engineer, we also now employ architects, mechanical, electrical and structural engineers, which enables us to serve even more clients. So we have probably touched something you would use every day. Consume water from Missouri American Water or one of the Public Water Supply Districts around town? Yep, we are a part of that. Drive along Highway 50 or City of Jefferson or Cole County roadways? We've probably made them work more efficiently or safely. Been into some state office buildings? We might have

made the HVAC or elevator systems work better or feel more comfortable. I like to ask people in the community if they are a customer of Bartlett & West. They usually say no, but in reality, we serve everyone as an end user of our projects, and I love that about what we do!

Community involvement

I've been serving on the board of the United Way for a few years now and enjoy seeing the generosity of our community and the services provided through the partner agencies. Having lived in other communities, I can say that the Jefferson City community really is unique when it comes to generosity and service.

I've also served in several committees and roles with the Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce, including Leadership Jefferson City (2009), Board Member and Chairman, and currently Chair of the Transportation Committee where we advocate for more transportation investment for the area. Currently I'm also the

Vice Chair for the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Missouri. In this role I'm advocating on a statewide level for infrastructure investment of all kinds (transportation, water/wastewater systems, airports, etc.) and helping make the business environment better for engineering companies.

Why did you say yes when asked to be on the United Way Board of Directors?

For many years, my wife and I were United Way contributors through the easy payroll deduction method. We thought it was a good way to give back to those in need. And then in 2014, we became foster parents. We felt we had room in our home and hearts for other children (we had three of our own at the time). Well, we became licensed and trained for fostering, but quickly found out that fostering took much more skill and assistance than one might realize. We were supported by several United Way partner agencies (CMFCAA, CASA and RACS

to name a few) and really started realizing how these agencies and the United Way work together to make it possible for a family like us to step into fostering and trying to make a difference in a child's life. So when I had the opportunity to serve on the board, it was a no-brainer!

Favorite thing about United Way

My favorite thing is the impact the United Way has on so many different people and needs in the community. The diversity of needs is a bit overwhelming actually, but United Way is able to make an impact on all. It's a method for all of us to give to one place and make a difference in so many lives! The staff of our local United Way is also something of a "favorite thing" to me - I am able to witness the professionalism, dedication and passion firsthand, which keeps things moving for our community.

Number one on your bucket list

Hmm. This is a tough one for me. We love traveling and sharing experiences. I'm glad

to say as we have grown as a family that we have been to nearly 30 National Parks, so I think I would probably say my bucket list is to visit the rest of them!

Fun fact about you

Many have probably forgotten that Joe Montana was a Kansas City Chief at the end of his career. Well, when I was in college one of my summer jobs was dispatching truck loads for United Van Lines. So I was essentially getting load information and finding trucks and drivers who were in the area and ready for the next load. One day without any prior knowledge or notice, I received the household goods load for a Joe Montana moving from San Francisco to Kansas City! In case you were wondering, it was 37,000 pounds of household goods!

Words you live by

Immature ambition is knowing what you want and how to get it. Mature ambition is knowing what you have and how to give it away.

Supporting Our Littlest Learners

By Sunny Carron, YMCA Child Development Center

"YMCA Child Development Center. This is Sunny, how may I help you?"

"I'm sorry we do not have any infant openings; I am happy to put you on the waiting list."

"The waiting list is about 1-1 1/2 years out before we have any new openings."

"Your family is relocating to Jefferson City for your new job and you are finding there is no childcare? I am so sorry; I know that is a lot of stress for your family?"

This is a conversation we find ourselves having lately. Serving infants and toddlers in our community has been a hardship for many centers. Serving 4 infants creates a \$14,000 - \$15,000 loss each year, and this is not a manageable deficit for most centers. For this reason some centers closed infant/toddler spots in order to maintain operations. As a partner agency with the United Way, we were very fortunate to receive emergency grant funding of \$14,000 to serve 4 additional infants this year. Our center also partners with the United Way to offer income-based scholarships to our families. Partnering with the United Way has been such a critical part in our ability to continue serving all families in our community.

The YMCA Child Development Center serves the littlest learners from 6 weeks, until they graduate our program and start their next adventure, kindergarten. As we are preparing our community's little ones for kindergarten readiness there is much work to be done. The "work" of a young child is play, so we provide hands-on activities daily to reinforce learning. The center uses the nationally recognized Creative Curriculum in planning daily activities. Our philosophy is to involve children in their environment with learning opportunities that develop and build social-emotional, cognitive, language, and gross and fine motor skills.

As part of our partnership with the United Way Early Childhood Initiative, our center also uses Conscious Discipline curriculum in the classrooms. Conscious Discipline is an evidence-based approach to social-emotional learning that fosters a safe, connected, problem-solving environment for the whole family.

One of our current focuses in incorporating Conscious Discipline in our center is to help the children create safe spaces within themselves, through social-emotional self-regulation. We are striving to teach them, when the world isn't going their way, (and let's be honest we know as adults it often doesn't go our way, which leads to disappointment, frustration or upset), that we can find a calming strength within us. As the children learn breathing techniques to calm their bodies, they then can process the situation with adult support. As we are learning, many adults



(Top) Infant and toddler chefs explore the yummy world of spaghetti. (Middle Right & Bottom) Roscoe's Ice Cream Truck makes a visit to the YMCA Child Development Center. Each child was given money to select an ice cream and pay for their sweet treat. A yummy success! (Middle Left) Preston, age 2, takes his first big steps.

still struggle in times of upset with self-regulation, so we are teaching the family as a whole with parent education nights, access to community trainings and an online Conscious Discipline series. After the child and adult learn to self-regulate, then optimal connections and learning can occur. For a child to really engage in learning they must feel a sense of safety and connection in order to progress.

Building connections is another focus we are strengthening in our center. In order to make connections oftentimes the adult needs to disconnect from the distraction of their day. I don't think I have had a conversation with many adults lately that aren't distracted. It seems they cannot make it through a conversation without a

reminder beeping on their phone, looking at their phone or watch to read a message or taking a call and asking me to wait a minute. To really make connection with others we need to be present, we need to make eye contact, we need to use touch and create a playful situation. Our staff use "I love you rituals" throughout the day with the children, which include all the elements for true connections. A connected child is a child who feels safe and is willing to cooperate in learning.

By combining hands-on learning, a sense of safety and connections we are not only sending children out prepared for kindergarten, we are sending them out with problem solving skills to help throughout their lifetime.

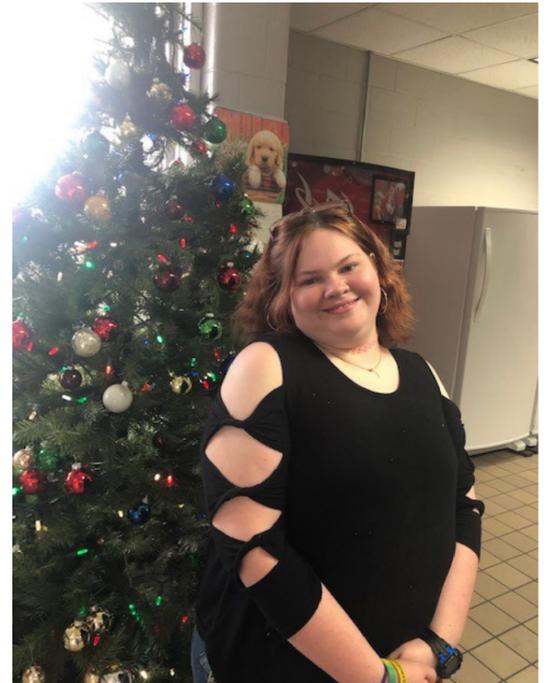
Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

By Tami Bock, Capitol Projects

For 54 years, Capitol Projects has been a place where adults with disabilities have been able to work and use their skills to be active, contributing members of their community. In 1968, some Jefferson City parents that all had children with disabilities were seeking options for them after completing school. While a few were able to be part of day programs, most stayed home without any opportunity to use the skills they had learned in school. With real vision, these parents realized that gainful employment would do more than just give their children a paycheck - it would give them a place to go where they would learn work skills, get to put those skills to use and gain a sense of pride. Our mission grew out of this - to provide meaningful and dignified employment for adults with disabilities in Jefferson City and the surrounding area.

We currently have 90 employees who perform various jobs that are subcontracted through businesses locally and throughout the state. Our work includes shrink wrapping, decollating, small parts assembly, a little recycling and we have a fully-equipped mailroom. All our employees have disabilities, but we focus on their abilities. We have a sign in the office that says "Teamwork makes the dream work" which is so true of our workplace. We operate as a team where each individual performs a specific step in the work process in order to complete the job. Our supervisors provide assistance and direction in helping each employee be their most productive self. Providing work for our employees is our main focus, but our customers benefit from our services, too. They receive competitive pricing and quality work from the happiest and best workforce in our community.

We are one of 28 United Way agencies working together to serve people in need in our community. We're encouraged as United Way agencies to PARTNER together to bring hope to those in need and see to it that no one falls through the cracks - where the services of one agency leaves off, another picks up. We partner with several agencies, but rely daily on Osage County Community Living (OCCL). Thanks to United Way money, OCCL was able to purchase 2 large vans that are used to transport clients they serve to various sites. Of most importance to the workshop are the 15 employees that ride in those vans everyday from Osage County to come to work at Capitol Projects.



Capitol Projects' recent hire, Harley, gains confidence, stability, skill and friendship through her employment with the sheltered workshop.



Thanks to funding support from the United Way of Central Missouri, Osage County Community Living was able to purchase two large vans that is used to help transport clients to Capitol Projects for work.

The newest employee from Osage County is Harley - a quiet, sweet and very shy young woman. She had tried competitive employment but had been unsuccessful in her attempts and began attending OCCL's day program a couple days a week. During that time, it became evident that her living situation was very unstable and not healthy for her to continue in. She needed a safe place to live and thrive, and OCCL was able to provide that for her through their apartment program. With housing settled, she decided she wanted to try working at Capitol Projects like the other apartment residents. Because she was under the age of 25, she didn't meet the federal requirements. It was a struggle getting approval; but thanks to the persistence of OCCL's staff

and the workshop association's Board President, they were able to hasten the process and she started work in September, 2021. She has grown into a more confident, helpful and polite young woman. She is able to perform some of the higher skilled jobs and is always willing to help where needed. One surprise is that she knows some sign language and is able to communicate with one of our hearing-impaired employees. Seeing him smile and have a friend that talks with him is a sight we never get tired of. As for Harley, she continues to work hard, has found new friendships, grown in self-confidence and is a great "teammate" at Capitol Projects. Capitol Projects is a proud United Way of Central Missouri partner agency!

Meet Our Power of the Purse Co-Chairs



Vicki Myers, Community Volunteer

Tell us about you/your family

I am from Indianapolis, Indiana where I met my husband Albert in 1958, when we were in high school. We married seven years later and eventually moved to St. Louis in 1969. I started working for Missouri Board of Probation and Parole in 1971 and was selected to be the district supervisor over south St. Louis in 1978. In 1984, I was appointed to the Missouri Parole Board by Governor Bond and our family relocated to Jefferson City. I served under Governors Ashcroft and Carnahan. After serving on the board, I was Director of Parole and was eventually the Director of Human

Services for the Department of Corrections. I retired in 2011. We have three fabulous sons, David, John, and Matthew; one granddaughter, Jessie Chambly and one grandson, Jordan Myers; and two lovely great granddaughters, Aviana, and Briella.

Community involvement

I am involved in several community activities. I am the treasurer of Capital Arts, which is a non-profit gallery where our local artists have the opportunity to exhibit their art. I am a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and am the graduate advisor of the undergraduate chapter at Lincoln University. I am an active member of Grace Episcopal Church where I co-chair the Community Ministry Committee. I volunteer with Common Ground, a benevolent organization. I am a member of the Jefferson City Club of Zonta International and am president of the Board of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives. I am also treasurer of the Jefferson City Arts Foundation, on the board of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), and most importantly I am a mentor for a student at Thorpe Gordon grade school.

What does the Power of the Purse Host Committee do?

I have the privilege of being involved with Power of the Purse from the beginning and the honor of serving as co-chair the last two years. One of our first tasks is solicitation of purses for the silent and live auction from businesses, friends and families. We then get the purses ready for the online auction and the event itself. We

select gentlemen who will model the purses. Alongside United Way staff, we organize the event at the Jefferson City Country Club. On site, the committee has different assignments to ensure that we have a successful event.

Favorite Power of the Purse component

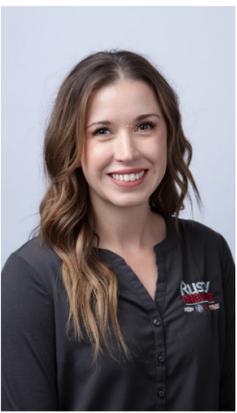
The live auction is my favorite part of the event. I enjoy watching the men model the purses and encouraging the audience to bid -- and bid high.

Favorite Power of the Purse memory

My favorite memory was when United Way staff member, Amber Brondel, called to tell me that we had raised a record breaking \$58,000 that will go toward United Way agencies that help women and children. We had a record breaking event in 2021 raising \$43,000, and to surpass that amount was outstanding.

Why are you passionate about the United Way?

I have been involved with the United Way in many aspects. I have served on the board of directors, the fund allocation panels, Power of the Purse committee and other committees. Most importantly, the United Way helps so many people in the community through its agencies. The more money we can raise means more persons in the mid-Missouri community that will have a better life and can be a productive member of the community.



Ashley Wilde, Rusty Drawing Automotive Group

Tell us about you/your family

My husband Matt and I have been married for 5 years. We have 3 children: Justice, Cami and Paige. We have one grandchild, Hadlei, and a second grandchild on the way.

Occupation

I am the Executive Assistant to Rusty Drawing.

Community involvement

I am a Special Learning Center board member, Dreams to Reality volunteer and United Way Power of the Purse host committee member and Co-Chair for 2022.

Favorite Power of the Purse component

The live auction! There is always so much energy in the room. There is nothing better

than seeing people's excitement about the bags and experiences that have been donated.

Favorite Power of the Purse memory

One year, Central Bank donated a hot air balloon ride as an experience in the live auction. Dave Minton was a purse model that year, and he ended up donating a second ride on the spot due to a bidding war. Probably the most money one bag and experience has ever brought in!

Why are you passionate about the United Way?

Having volunteered for two other United Way partner agencies, I've seen first-hand how United Way truly is a great partner for its agencies.

Special Olympics Missouri Unites with the United Way

By Andrew Kauffman, Special Olympics Missouri

Special Olympics Missouri (SOMO) is proud to continue its partnership with the United Way!

SOMO is a year-round program of sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Thousands of athletes participate in 16 Olympic-type sports throughout the state. SOMO provides people with intellectual disabilities continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy as they participate in the sharing of gifts and friendship with their fellow athletes, their family and friends, and communities across Missouri.

Earlier this year, SOMO was awarded \$8,000 thanks to the United Way Community Support Grant. SOMO used these funds to purchase a golf cart, which prominently displays the United Way and SOMO logo. In just a few months, SOMO has already utilized this golf cart in several different ways.

"It helps support activities and events at the Training for Life Campus by transporting equipment and athletes," said Sr. Program Director Melinda Wrye-Washington. "We will continue to use this for events throughout the year. We greatly appreciate our partnership with the United Way and its contributions to the athletes across the state."

SOMO could not provide the lifechanging opportunities to thousands of athletes across the state without its generous partners, like the United Way. These partnerships are the backbone of SOMO.

"Special Olympics Missouri is very grateful to the United Way for giving us the opportunity to apply for their Community Support Grant," Health Partnership Manager Carol Griffin said. "Being awarded funding for the purchase of a golf cart is very beneficial for the many events that are provided for our SOMO athletes. From hauling equipment to transporting injured athletes from a competition, it will be a great asset. With the golf cart displaying the United Way logo and the Special Olympics Missouri logo, everyone will be able to see that together we are making a difference!"

SOMO finished the year making a positive impact on

all of its athletes. In September, SOMO hosted ALPs University Weekend at the Training for Life Campus in Jefferson City. ALPs is SOMO's Athlete Leadership Program.

"The ALPs University weekend was fabulous," ALPs coordinator Kayla Hull said. "Our SOMO athletes are so impressive. I was proud of each and every one of our athlete leaders for their commitment to their own personal and professional growth. They were engaged in their learning and always looking for ways to support their peers."

ALPs provides an opportunity for all of its athletes to pursue higher education. There are a variety of majors athlete leaders can choose to study to further their education. ALPs University is truly a program for everyone, regardless of their learning style or prior education.

Jefferson City was once again the place to be during the first weekend in October! SOMO hosted its 2022 State Outdoor Games, October 7-9, in the capital city. Hundreds of athletes and Unified partners participated in five different sports: bocce, flag football, tennis, golf and softball.

"I'm just excited to spread the word on all of the great things SOMO stands for," SOMO President and CEO Larry Linthacum said. "I'm just excited to get more people involved, whether that's our athletes, coaches, volunteers or financial partners."

Along with the competitions, SOMO also held its health and wellness clinics - Healthy Athletes and Sports Zone.

"SOMO is about so much more than just competing in sports," Griffin said. "These events give us a great opportunity to offer free health screenings to our athletes."

In total, medical professionals performed 532 health screenings leading to 92 referrals over the weekend. You can see the full breakdown below:

- Healthy Hearing: 78 Screenings, 43 Referrals
 - FUNfitness: 61 Screenings, 17 Referrals
 - Special Smiles: 84 Screenings, 14 Referrals
 - Fit Feet: 98 Screenings, 7 Referrals
 - Health Promotions: 67 Screenings, 11 Referrals
 - Strong Minds: 40 Screenings
 - Opening Eyes: 83 Screenings
 - Medfest (Sports Medicals): 21
- SOMO is dedicated to improving the overall health and fitness of its athletes, not only through organized sports training and competition,

but by also providing free health screenings through the Healthy Athletes program. All of these screenings were provided for SOMO athletes free of charge.

SOMO held Healthy Athletes and Sports Zone at different times throughout the weekend. These were incredible opportunities for the SOMO athletes. Some of the perks included the potential to get free glasses or goggles. SOMO athletes could also get a free physical, which is good for three years. For more information on these free health screenings, visit somo.org/health.

In late October, SOMO hosted its annual Leadership Summit. This event honored its most outstanding athletes, coaches, volunteers and donors. The 2022 award winners are as follows:

- Outstanding Athlete of the Year: Tanner Hrenchir
- Outstanding Coach of the Year: Leslie Franklin
- Outstanding Volunteer of the Year: Aaron Shillcutt
- Outstanding Family of the Year: Southern Family

The event also served as the 2022 ALPs graduation. There were 13 ALPs graduates this year.

The ceremony continued with SOMO officially inducting its Hall of Fame Class of 2022:

- Tanner Hrenchir - Athlete | North Area
- Simon Caldwell - Athlete | North Area
- Jeffery Fugett - Volunteer | Southwest Area

SOMO is looking forward to continuing to make a difference in 2023. This amazing organization will kickoff the year with its annual Polar Plunges. There are 10 different locations across the state to choose from. This "unbearable" event is a unique opportunity to show your bravery as you support local SOMO athletes by walking, running or crawling into the frigid winter waters that Missouri has to offer.



Special Olympics Missouri (SOMO) athletes Grace Davis (left) and Grace Theroff (right) pose for a picture with SOMO Health Partnership Manager Carol Griffin in SOMO's new golf cart in the back of the Training for Life Campus in Jefferson City. SOMO purchased the golf cart with the funds it received from the United Way Community Support Grant.



Special Olympics Missouri President and CEO Larry Linthacum poses for a picture with flag football player Justin Tucker at Adkins Stadium in Jefferson City on Sunday, October 7, 2022. Linthacum awarded Tucker a Eunice Kennedy Shriver Sportsmanship Coin for displaying great sportsmanship at the 2022 State Outdoor Games.



Participants of the Polar Bear Plunge must be at least 10 years old and raise a minimum of \$75 each by event day (every member on a team must raise the \$75 minimum). To sign up, scan the QR code above!



SOMO's first statewide competition of 2023 is the State Indoor Games! It will be March 24-26 in St. Charles, Missouri. 1,000 athletes are expected to participate in basketball and bowling. To find out about volunteer opportunities near you, scan the QR code above.

Women United Host Record-Breaking Power of the Purse

United Way of Central Missouri's Women United committee hosted its sixth annual—and successful—Power of the Purse fundraiser in November at the Jefferson City Country Club. This event brought together nearly 300 community-minded women who are passionate...not only about purses, but about the bigger message beyond the gorgeous Michael Kors, Coach and Stuart Weitzman handbags...joining in the fight for the health, education, financial stability and basic needs of every person in our community.

Thanks to the generosity of community supporters, the event offered over one hundred purses for the silent and live auction, mystery jewelry boxes, permanent jewelry linking, a variety of quality wine selections in the wine pull and Women United t-shirts. Purses ranged from vintage collectibles to brand name favorites, and thirteen

selective purses were elevated from silent auction to live auction status.

It was a perfect evening that concluded with local celebrity gentlemen modeling the live auction purses that had unique experiences tucked inside... experiences such as a Brewer's Experience inside Last Flight Brewery, Indy 500 tickets, a weekend stay in Eureka Springs with restaurant gift cards and a spa experience, and a New Year's Eve weekend in Kansas City; complete with hotel stay, restaurant gift cards and tickets to the Chiefs vs. Broncos game.

Our accolades to the ladies who vision and dedication saw the Power of the Purse to a successful \$58,000+ conclusion—a record amount in Power of the Purse history! Thank you to planning extraordinaires Vicki Myers and Ashley Wilde, and their host committee comprised of talented, creative and

compassionate women! And a special thank you to our two emcees, Doug Otto and Kyle Shimmens!

Power of the Purse was created to provide an avenue for women to get more involved with the United Way at a community level. The United Way needs passionate women—because in truly great communities like ours, we take care of each other! Power of the Purse is one example of the type of events and networking opportunities that is available through United Way of Central Missouri's affinity group: Women United.

Women United is an opportunity for women of all ages, backgrounds and skills sets to come together to help children, families and seniors in need through volunteering, advocating and special-event fundraising.

If you are interested in being a part of this dynamic, philanthropic group please visit www.unitedwaycemo.org/womenunited to learn more and sign up.



WISHING YOU *Peace, Love & Joy*
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

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