

## Growth in the United Way Family



**Sharon Campbell,**  
Missouri Farm Bureau  
United Way Board Chair

As I sit here this evening preparing my message for this article, I've spent time thinking about how fast this year has gone. It's hard to believe that in two weeks we will see the results of the 2023 campaign. By this time, Cassandra Atchison and Doug Hagenhoff, our campaign co-chairs, will have attended over 100 rallies at local businesses. These rallies happen day and night, yet Cassandra and Doug attend, and all while taking care of the work at their jobs and taking care of their families. Thank you Cassandra and Doug for your commitment.

And by this time, our new United Way of Central Missouri President, Lee Knernschild, will have survived the strenuous schedule that the campaign dictates. We might think that

Lee didn't know what she was getting in to; but in reality she came in to it knowing full well the time commitment the campaign deserves and requires. 20 years ago Lee worked for United Way and has returned bringing with her the knowledge and passion she developed while working for Big Brothers Big Sisters and March of Dimes. She's doing a fabulous job. Thank you, Lee, for saying yes to United Way and the agencies and individuals who rely on United Way to fill gaps in services so many people need.

We recently got to announce that United Way is growing with the welcoming of Catholic Charities, Common Ground Community Building and UPC Heartland - Gibbs Center for Independence as provisional partner agencies. These new partners aren't strangers to United Way. We got to know all three through United Way Community Support Grants. During that grant process, United Way staff and dedicated volunteers got to know the agencies. They are truly well run and accountable organizations. Their strengths will enhance the services that existing United Way member agencies provide. Many of these agencies collaborate with each other in order to best serve someone who needs that

critical support.

The application process for new agencies started early this spring. During the application process, we got to know each agency better:

Common Ground Community Building was established in 2018. They are supported by local churches and individuals. Partnering with United Way will help broaden their reach into our community helping more people reach the goal of financial independence. They have been lovingly called scrappy, and that adjective fits them perfectly. They are able to fill a void that other partner agencies have relied on to fill a need they couldn't on their own.

UPC Heartland - Gibbs Center for Independence is making sure all people have the opportunity to live, learn, engage in work and reach their full potential. They provide unique services for youth and adults in mid-Missouri not currently addressed by other United Way member agencies. This new partnership provides a continuation of services provided by Special Learning Center, an agency partner dedicated to providing comprehensive education and therapy services to children with developmental disabilities and delays; and

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## Supporting United Way Is A Core Commitment For Modine

**By Rich Wright, Emily Luecke & Kris Ingram; Modine Manufacturing**

Modine Manufacturing has been a part of the Jefferson City landscape for more than 40 years. As an industry leading manufacturer of cooling systems for industrial equipment, we have provided employment for many local residents and the surrounding areas. Our emphasis has always been one of doing our best to give back to the community

that has supplied us with such great employees. From being consistently recognized by the city of Jefferson for our minimal environmental impact with wastewater and air emissions, to our annual campaign for the United Way, Modine is always working to make our community a little better.

COVID put a strain on everyone for the last couple of years, so this year we really tried to step up for the United Way. 2023 has been especially great for us with expansion of new

business and the addition of many new employees. The United Way campaign for this year was our best yet, raising \$56,480! Modine employees, management and members at the corporate level really came through for our community. Supporting the United Way has always been a core commitment for Modine and we look forward to many more years of continued community involvement.



This year Modine Manufacturing did a United Way BBQ to raise money and support; a race game between employees; held United Way Kickoff events; and decorated a Mario Kart for the Super Mario-themed United Way Campaign.



## A Front Row Seat to our Community's Generosity



**Lee Knernschild,**  
United Way President

The United Way Campaign is full steam ahead as I write this article. I always knew the mid-Missouri community was a generous one, but having a front row seat to the community's giving spirit has been nothing short of amazing. Three days into the role of United Way President, I found myself nervously speaking to a group of long-term supporters who listened patiently as I presented facts on United Way. As is the case with all campaign rallies, our agency speakers bring the message home as they share the seriousness of what they do each and every day. Our agency leaders speak with passion and sincerity as they recount how United Way funding makes it possible to solve immediate and critically important needs in our community. As I listened

to the agency speaker this particular day, I was struck by how quiet it was in the room. The heaviness of the subject matter being shared could be felt by all. In the audience you could sense a myriad of emotions; sadness, curiosity and hope. Hope that through United Way lives could be changed and possibilities of a better tomorrow could be realized. One of our campaign co-chairs ended the presentation with a call to action and heartfelt thanks for the opportunity to tell the United Way story.

This scenario has repeated itself nearly 100 times as our team of United Way staff, Agency Directors and Campaign Co-Chairs communicate the United Way Campaign message. It has been a whirlwind of employee rallies, meetings, testimonials and witnessing how generous our community truly is. It is hard to comprehend that we raised over \$1,250,000 through our early bird Pacesetter campaigns and could proudly announce that we had reached 52% of our campaign goal as we officially launched the community campaign.

What has struck me most as I have witnessed the pieces of the campaign come together is it takes everyone doing their

part to help us succeed. It is that donor that is ending his 10 hour shift who makes the decision to give an hour of his pay per month; and the child who learns to walk because of a United Way agency; the company that gives their employees a day off with pay to volunteer for United Way Days of Caring, and the restaurant that proudly displays a Dine United sign outside their door. I have seen CEO's dress up as Mario to reinforce our Super Mario Campaign theme; individuals cheering on their co-workers as they pedal their way to the finish line, barbeques, silent auctions, and mums being sold, all in the name of United Way. And while there is a lot of fun that goes on during the campaign, we know that every supporter, every fundraiser is helping to create bold, measurable change.

With less than a few weeks to go until we officially conclude our campaign, I encourage you to consider a contribution to United Way if you have not done so already. A gift no matter the size can create miracles for a child, inspire a teen, give hope to the lonely, and show compassion to a senior citizen. It is imperative that we meet our \$2.4 million goal. Our agencies, our neighbors and our friends are counting on us. Can we count on you?



# The Sneaker Project Benefits from a Carefully Woven Web

By Theresa McClellan, The Sneaker Project

Pardon the creepy but timely Halloween arachnid metaphor, but The Sneaker Project and our United Way of Central Missouri partners are weaving quite a “web” to support those we serve. The reference is also timely as we prepare for our Fifth Annual Haunted Hustle 5K Walk/Run, always held the last Saturday in October on or before Halloween. There is still time to register for this year’s October 28th event at [thesneakerproject.org](http://thesneakerproject.org).

We must weave a web. A network to survive, to thrive and to best serve our communities. The Sneaker Project is a small but mighty agency whose mission is to provide new shoes for children and youth in Cole, Miller, Moniteau and Osage counties. They must attend a school program pre-k to 12th grade and meet free lunch financial eligibility requirements. We also serve private school students who meet the eligibility criteria and children in neighboring counties such as Callaway, Camden and Morgan who attend schools in our service counties.

A challenging and unique reality of The Sneaker Project is that we do not have direct access to the children that we serve. We rely on the eyes and hearts of others to identify, confirm eligibility, share needs and distribute

shoes. These key folks are invaluable and include:

- Public and private school district staff members; including social workers, school nurses, counselors and teachers
- County health nurses and staff
- United Way and partner agency staff members

We currently work with six area partners. 2023 agency partners include Little Explorers Discovery Center, The Boys and Girls Club, El Puente Hispanic Ministry, Special Learning Center, YMCA Child Development Center and Catholic Charities. Others may be working behind the scenes with school districts to secure shoes for the young people that they serve. We are currently communicating with Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association and hope to lend support to that agency. We will continue to reach out and welcome discussion with additional organizations.

Each school, county and agency personalizes their approach to access needs and to distribute shoes using methods that work best for them. They maintain confidentiality for all that we serve; we know sweet faces and names as numbers. But it’s okay and necessary.

As a small agency, the “web” of the United Way is our lifeline. Beyond annual financial support, we have received 3 Community Support Grants in the last 3 years. The first helped us create an independent office after losing our beloved and first Executive Director Lorie Smith, who had served 4 agencies through a single office, address and supplies. The second and third grants were provided for unexpected growth in Miller County in 2022 and 2023. The United Way connected us with two additional grants to pilot sock distribution and to assist with increased needs at The Boys and Girls Club with the

expansion through the Sadowski Center.

Again, as a small agency with a part-time Executive Director, The Sneaker Project thrives on United Way support that extends beyond financial. The United Way staff and its Fund Allocation process and volunteers provide networking opportunities, brainstorm growth/goal development strategies and model fiscal responsibility. We work as a team... sometimes coaching, sometimes cheerleading and always celebrating success.

Besides regular monthly Agency Council Meetings, the United Way has provided training in areas such as Board Development, identifying and understanding addiction and will even provide a new social media program for partner agencies in early 2024.

The beauty of our network extends beyond support and networking. We can respond to needs with the certainty that requests are real, vetted and not a duplication of the work of another service provider. The Sneaker Project will not provide shoes if another agency does so. We want to be good stewards of precious resources.

While sneakers do not meet the critical food, shelter or safety needs that other United Way partner agencies provide, The Sneaker Project does add to the foundation of support. The benefits of new, proper-fitting shoes include:

- Enhancing the health of children;
- Providing injury prevention;
- Improving participation in physical education classes and related activities;
- Boosting self-esteem;
- And assisting families. Shoe needs cannot always be predicted due to growth or circumstances. Wide, narrow or large sizes (men’s size 16 is our record) are expensive and more difficult to find.

The Sneaker Project bargain shops and seeks to purchase shoes that are unique to each child for function and need. We are proud to be a United Way partner agency, and proud to serve the central Missouri community!



Some of our youngest at Little Explorers Discovery Center received new shoes in July.



Boys and Girls Club Staff support The Sneaker Project’s annual Haunted Hustle fundraiser.

## COLE COUNTY AREA MOBILE FOOD PANTRY SCHEDULE

October 2023

- (SAT) 7 **CATHOLIC CHARITIES**  
1015 EDMONDS ST, JEFFERSON CITY  
9:00 - 11:00 AM
- (TUES) 10 **TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
13007 ROUTE C, RUSSELLVILLE  
1:30 - 3:30 PM
- (THUR) 12 **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
1822 TANNER BRIDGE RD, JEFFERSON CITY  
3:30 - 5:30 PM
- (WED) 18 **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
11105 LAFAYETTE ST, JEFFERSON CITY  
4:00 - 6:00 PM
- (SAT) 21 **CAPITAL WEST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
1315 FAIRGROUNDS RD, JEFFERSON CITY  
8:00 - 10:00 AM
- (WED) 25 **ST. MARTINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
7148 ST. MARTINS AVE, ST. MARTINS  
4:00 - 6:00 PM
- (THUR) 26 **ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
310 MILLS ST, CALIFORNIA  
4:30 - 6:30 PM

The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri and United Way of Central Missouri partner to provide 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. For questions, call The Food Bank at 573-474-1020 or United Way at 573-636-4100.

- Mobile Food Pantry Tips:
- Stay home or send a proxy to pick up food for you if you feel ill.
  - Remain in your vehicle for distribution; it is a drive-thru process.
  - Clear space in your trunk or back seat to receive food.



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 & 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



**River City Florist Flower Cards benefiting United Way are in!**  
Here's how it works...

- 1** Purchase your Flower Card at River City Florist for \$29.95 each. Cards are valued at \$120. Offer good while cards last.
- 2** Once a month, bring your Flower Card in to River City Florist to receive your monthly bundle of flowers.
- 3** River City Florist will donate \$1,000 each to Jefferson City Downtown Association & United Way of Central Missouri from the sale of the cards.

*Thank you for supporting our community!*

## DINE UNITED FOR UNITED WAY

Participate in the 11th Annual Dine United fundraiser supporting the United Way of Central Missouri by patronizing these local restaurants during the months of September and October!

**BIG WHISKEY'S AMERICAN RESTAURANT**  
**OSCAR'S CLASSIC DINER**  
**WEST MAIN PIZZA**

.....

**BARVINO**  
**BARWHISKEY**  
**DOMENICO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT**  
**FREDDY'S FROZEN CUSTARD & STEAKBURGERS**  
**HIGH RISE BAKERY**  
**MADISON'S**  
**MCDONALD'S-RUPRECHT ORGANIZATION**  
**THE GRAND CAFE**

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**COLTON'S STEAK HOUSE & GRILL**  
**ECCO LOUNGE**  
**ODONOGHUE'S STEAKS & SEA FOOD**

.....

**BANDANA'S BAR-B-Q**  
**LA DONA AUTHENTIC MEXICAN RESTAURANT**  
**PANCHEROS MEXICAN GRILL**  
**READY POPPED KETTLE CORN & MORE**  
**SCOOTER'S COFFEE**

**TOGETHER ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE**

## Power of the Purse

UNITEDWAYCEMO.ORG/POP

**NOV 16, 2023**

**5:30 PM**

**\$40 PP**

**CAPITAL BLUFFS EVENT CENTER**  
1616 OIL WELL ROAD, JEFFERSON CITY

HORS D'OEUVRES + A GLASS OF BUBBLES  
RAFFLE, SILENT + LIVE AUCTION  
LOCAL CELEBRITY PURSE MODELS  
WINE PULL, JEWELRY PULL AND MORE!

PRESENTING SPONSOR

HOSTED BY

BENEFITING

# GARAGE SALE

**October 20 2 p.m.-5:30p.m.**  
**October 21 8 a.m.- NOON**

**All Proceeds Go to Help UNITED WAY**

**Legends Bank Community Room**  
**Madison St. Entrance**  
**FOR MORE INFO: 573-636-4193**

## YOU ARE INVITED

# TRIVIA NIGHT

A Benefit for the United Way of Central Missouri

**TOGETHER ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE**

**Question:** Where does a good time meet a good cause?  
**Answer:** At the Bartlett & West Trivia Night benefiting the United Way of Central Missouri.

Put on your thinking caps and join us for an evening of fun and friendly competition to support the United Way of Central Missouri. Recruit your friends to form a team and be sure to brush up on those trivia skills.

## THURSDAY OCTOBER 19TH

- The Millbottom | 400 W Main St, Jefferson City
- Doors open at 6 pm
- Includes Lutz's BBQ dinner & cash bar starting at 6:30 pm
- Trivia begins at 7 pm
- \$250 per table (cash or check at the door), up to 8 people per table (No team, no problem - we'll add you to a team when you arrive, \$35 per individual)

**PLAY FOR CHARITY**

Bartlett & West will be donating additional funds to the top three pre-approved charities selected by the winning teams.

Space is limited, so please RSVP no later than October 12th.  
[www.gobartlettwest.com/trivia-night-2023](http://www.gobartlettwest.com/trivia-night-2023)

## Bartlett & West

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

### Fundraisers & Events coming up in October & November:

Through October: Dine United for United Way  
Through October 14: Longfellow's Fall Mum Sale benefiting United Way  
While Cards Last: River City Florist Flower Cards for United Way  
October 12: CASA Raise Your Glass Fundraiser  
October 12: Catholic Charities & The Food Bank Mac N Cheese Cook-off  
October 12: News Tribune Bake Sale Fundraiser for United Way  
October 19: Capital City Housing Conference  
October 19: Bartlett & West Trivia Night Fundraiser for United Way  
October 19: Big Brothers Big Sisters Chili Cook-off/Cornhole Fundraiser  
October 20 & 21: Legends Bank Garage Sale Fundraiser for United Way  
October 25: RACS Masquerade Gala  
October 28: Boo Bash Family Night  
October 28: The Sneaker Project Haunted Hustle 5K  
November 1: United Way Victory Celebration  
November 3: CMFCAA Annual Gala  
November 16: United Way Power of the Purse Fundraiser  
November 18: Little Explorers Discovery Center Princess Party Fundraiser

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

## YP UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN TRIVIA NIGHT

**OCTOBER 23RD**  
**6:00 PM**  
**LAST FLIGHT BREWING COMPANY**  
\$20 per person  
Teams: 6 person Max  
50/50 Raffle  
Bring your own dinner or snacks

Proceeds to benefit  
United Way of Central Missouri's  
Annual Campaign

**REGISTER HERE**

## Growth

*Continued from page 1*

unique services outside the mission of Capitol Projects, an agency that strives to provide meaningful employment for adults with special needs.

The Gibbs Center for Independence provides adult day services focusing on independence through technology, supported living assistance, respite services, employment training and placement and more. United Way of Central Missouri believes strongly in the services offered by UCP Heartland and for the past two summers provided Community Support Grants so youth ages 10-18 with special needs could attend a summer camp to provide opportunities to learn and practice social and life skills along with making lasting memories. This camp also made it possible for parents to work while their children attended camp, which is certainly an added benefit.

During the application process, Kevin Litt, Vice President of Development, shared that The Gibbs Center for Independence is considering expansion of their Autism services and a Traumatic Brain Injury program—all much needed services in our community.

Catholic Charities and United Way got to know, and gain even more respect for

each other after the tornado ravaged our community in 2019. United Way staff stood shoulder to shoulder with their team to provide immediate support to tornado survivors, and worked with them to form the Cole and Miller County Long Term Recovery Committee which just helped our last disaster survivor move into his new home this summer - four years since the EF-3 tornado hit our community. United Way provided a Disaster Grant to Catholic Charities after the tornado and provided additional assistance to flash flooding victims in 2020. As a result of our financial support, Catholic Charities was able to begin immediate case management services to those affected by these tragedies. These services were instrumental in bringing assistance to disaster survivors allowing them to move forward with their lives more quickly.

United Way was proud to partner with Catholic Charities in moments of disaster, and we are equally excited to work with them going forward to support their First Choice Food Pantry.

The First Choice Food Pantry distributed more than \$500,000 in food in 2022—serving over 4,000 people in its first year.

To date the pantry is on pace to far exceed 2022's

numbers, making it evident there is a great need for food distribution in our community. Those in our community experiencing food insecurity can shop at the First Choice Food Pantry with dignity and receive high quality food for themselves and their families. We are excited to support this agency and the pantry to assist Catholic Charities in serving even more families to lessen the burden of food insecurity in our community.

So why do people like Doug and Cassandra and Lee give so freely of their time? They do it because they know the work of the 29 member agencies of United Way rely on them to help meet their missions. If you've wondered if making a contribution to United Way makes a difference; I assure you it does. There are people in our community that just wouldn't get the help they need without the generous support of our citizens. If you have already made a contribution toward this year's campaign: thank you. If you would like to make a contribution to the 2023 United Way Campaign, please pick up the phone and call United Way of Central Missouri. Every dollar counts, and I'm anxious to see the results of our 2023 Campaign as they are revealed at our Victory Celebration at Missouri Farm Bureau on November 1!

# Addressing The Increasing Need For Diapers

By Gay Litteken,  
First Chance for Children

First Chance for Children (FC4C) is a nonprofit community organization that provides early childhood programs and family resources to foster healthy outcomes for children and families throughout central Missouri. The goals of the organization are to increase school readiness and reduce child abuse and neglect by providing research based, trauma informed services to high-risk families.

First Chance for Children has four primary programs that provide a comprehensive approach addressing the needs of entire systems associated with at risk children. Each of our programs fit together to provide complete, wrap-around support for families.

Lend and Learn is a free and fun program that supports children ages 0-5 and their families to grow essential skills through play. There are two indoor locations with regular play time hours in Columbia and Centralia. Families may borrow toys to extend their play and learning at home. Our Columbia location has an outdoor playground. Additionally, we offer a variety of play events and activities.

Babies are at greatest risk of child abuse and death because of sleep issues during their first year of life. First Chance for Children's Safe C.R.I.B.S. program provides a safe crib and the information families need to safely put their child to bed and deal with sleep-related issues. The crib is delivered to the family home and is followed by five additional home visits that focus on child abuse and neglect prevention and child development information.

Baby U is our home visitation program. This program equips parents with child development education, parenting support and tangible items to improve family well-being and kindergarten readiness.

Finally, our Baby Bags Diaper Bank program is the primary diaper bank in central Missouri. We serve 13 counties throughout central Missouri and distribute thousands of diapers monthly to families in need.

The United Way of Central Missouri Community Support Grant we received this year allows us to provide our Baby Bags Diaper Bank program to families with children ages 0-5 in Cole, Moniteau, Osage, Miller and Southern Callaway counties. This program is based on trauma-informed practices and is designed to strengthen families by developing protective factors and providing necessities in times of need. This basic need continues to grow and the cost of diapers and wipes continues to increase. The cost of diapers has increased 39% since the pandemic. There has been an increase in the need for formula, hygiene products and household goods. Diaper need is a growing problem not only in our community but across our country. A clean diaper means a happy baby, but according to new data from The National Diaper Bank Network Diaper Check 2023: Diaper Insecurity among U.S. Children and Families, 1 in 2 U.S. families cannot afford enough diapers to keep their infant or child clean, dry and healthy. These babies are more vulnerable to painful rashes and urinary tract infections and have more trips to the doctor. 3 in 5 parents miss work or school because they can't afford the diapers required to leave their baby in childcare. Clean diapers are a necessity of every baby and toddler. Without clean diapers babies are exposed to potential



Pictured above: Verena Wilkerson, Baby Bags Diaper Bank Coordinator, provides diapers and wipes to one of our families in need. Pictured below: Tammy Tyington, Director of Parent Education, provides Safe CRIBS education to a family.



health risks and toxic stress; mothers are at risk for increased maternal depression; parents are unable to access childcare - which requires a daily supply of diapers; and parents miss work or school.

Economic hardship and financial distress can have devastating effects on families. In tough economic times such as these, many families lose their jobs, homes, cars, belongings and more. Families are struggling to meet their basic needs. By providing these simple items, we promote stress reduction and child abuse prevention. These "Baby Bags" give families items to alleviate immediate stressors. Diapers and wipes are distributed directly to families in need, through a partner agency or through one of Baby Bags Diaper Drive-thrus. Diaper Drive-thrus allow us to distribute diapers at a central location in the community to reduce barriers to access. Families complete a short form so that we can collect household information and demographics. The Baby Bags program is open to families with children ages 0-5 in Cole, Moniteau, Osage, Miller and Southern Callaway counties through this United Way Community Support Grant.

In 2022, First Chance for Children's Baby Bags Diaper Bank distributed 14,000 packages of diapers. This year,

we are projected to distribute over 28,000 packages of diapers. We would not be able to provide these basic necessities without the help of the United Way of Central Missouri.

So, how can you help? Donate! We accept donations of diapers and wipes. We take open packages of diapers as well. You can host a diaper drive with your church group or Scout troop! We have all the tools you will need. While we accept all diaper donations, financial donations go much further. We purchase diapers in bulk and for a marginal amount so your donation will go much further than a purchase at a retail provider. Visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/FirstChance4Children](http://www.facebook.com/FirstChance4Children) or our website at [www.fc4c.org](http://www.fc4c.org) to find out more about our organization and how you can get involved!



Verena Wilkerson, Baby Bags Diapers Bank Coordinator, gets diapers ready for our partners.

## Local Girl Scouts Earn Girl Scout Gold Awards

By Lauren Artelt and Lauren Slamb,  
Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland

Gold Award Girl Scouts become innovative problem-solvers, empathetic leaders, confident public speakers and focused project managers. They learn resourcefulness, tenacity and decision-making skills, giving them an edge personally and professionally. Through our partnership with the United Way, Girl Scouts of all backgrounds and abilities can be unapologetically themselves as they discover their strengths. Backed by the support of the United Way and our community, Girl Scouts bring their dreams to life and work together to build a better world.

Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland is thrilled to announce that Samantha Bax is the Gold Award Girl Scout from Bonnot Mills for her extraordinary action in addressing self-defense for teenage girls. Samantha saw a need in her community for girls to learn self-defense. To address this issue, she

decided to bring self-defense classes directly to her school. Samantha said she did this "to help prepare young women for situations when their physical well-being may be compromised." She printed flyers to promote the classes and distributed posters with crisis information for anyone who might need it. To ensure the program continues after she graduates, Samantha has worked with her school counselor, and it is planned that bi-annual classes will continue for the foreseeable future. In addition, Samantha will be working to schedule a speaker to visit Fatima High School once a year for the next 5 years.

Our council also recognizes Grace Wagner. Grace is the Gold Award Girl Scout from Linn for her extraordinary action in addressing the accessibility of all citizens to the Lions Club Fairgrounds. When Grace found out about the need for a new bridge in her community, she struck on the chance to make a change. She worked with Linn Lions

Club to build a new bridge for her community park. The purpose of this new bridge is to improve public safety in the park and give people of all ages and abilities the opportunity to cross. Grace removed the old bridge and reinstalled the new bridge which has reflective tape near the entrances and exits for the safety of all citizens.

These stories highlight the incredible effects of the Girl Scout Movement. In Girl Scouts, girls bring their dreams to life and work together to build a better world. Through programs from community to community, and with the support of trusted adult volunteers, mentors, and millions of alums, Girl Scouts lead the way as they find their voices and make changes that affect the issues most important to them. In partnership with United Way, we can work tirelessly for our Girl Scouts. Their future is our future, and we know they are paving a bright path for us all.



Local Girl Scouts Grace Wagner Bridge and Samantha Bax earn the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting.



# Volunteer Spotlight: Derek Schnieders, GFI Digital



been with GFI for 12 years now, and I couldn't be happier. I met my wife in 2017 and got engaged a year later. We married in 2020 and now have a son in fourth grade, an almost 3-year-old and an almost 2-year-old.

**Profession**  
I am a sales rep for GFI Digital.

**Community involvement**  
I have volunteered with United Way on various committees.

**Volunteer experience with United Way**  
I have been on the Campaign Leadership Team for almost 10 years, and I have helped with United Way's Power of the Purse fundraiser.

**Why do you say yes to volunteering for United Way?**  
I love being able to give back to my community and helping those in need.

**Favorite thing about United Way and our community**  
The people in this community are truly special. Being a smaller community, we can really get to know one another and feel like neighbors. So many people in this community would go above and beyond to help someone in need, and that's what United Way does.

**Number one on your bucket list**  
Play a round of golf at Augusta National

**Fun fact about you**  
Notre Dame is my all-time favorite team despite going to Mizzou.

**What are some guiding principles you strive to live by?**  
I had a mentor at my first job out of college and he gave me the best advice: "Go do great things, serve others and leave your legacy." I try to live by that every day.

**Tell us about you**  
I was born and raised in Jefferson City, Missouri. I attended St. Joseph Cathedral School, K-8, and then went on to Helias. After graduation, I went to Mizzou and got a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. After college, I worked a couple different jobs until I landed at GFI; I have

# Providing Fulfillment Through GIVE 5



The first class of GIVE 5 graduated on April 26, 2023 with 12 participants. Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe was the keynote speaker, providing the class with inspiration and gratitude for their charitable work.

By Hannah Gerard, United Way of Central Missouri

**The Program**  
The GIVE 5 program is a volunteer program that serves to connect retirees with meaningful volunteer opportunities through local nonprofits that best fit their skill sets and passions. GIVE 5 is made up of 4 program days over 4 weeks, followed by a graduation celebration in the 5th week. A typical program day starts at our community room where we hear from a community speaker who gives their take on our community focus, strengthening families. We then board a bus and visit two nonprofits, break for lunch and visit 3 more nonprofits. These visits allow for a 'behind-the-scenes' look with a 45-minute presentation and facility tour, that typically also includes a testimonial from a client being served or a volunteer who has felt the impact of the organization from their volunteer experience. During these presentations, participants learn about the most challenging problems that our community faces and uncover ways they can be a part of the solution. After participants have had their behind-the-scenes look at each organization, they are encouraged to choose one or more nonprofits to 'give 5' hours a month to in volunteer service at the graduation celebration.

The GIVE 5 program began in Springfield, Missouri where Greg Burris and Cora Scott saw a need to help retirees transition from their 'work life' to enjoying retirement and making it more fulfilling. Current retirees and the coming wave of baby boomers have a variety of skills and assets – experience, expertise, financial resources, a desire to give back to their community – and for the first time in their lives, time. This program was designed and created upon one central assumption: people are good. And once people see the need, they want to help. The GIVE 5 program is now in 14 different cities spread out among 4 states!

The GIVE 5 program in Jefferson City has been made possible through a grant that Aging Best, the Central Missouri Area Agency on Aging, received from the state. Aging Best asked the United Way of Central Missouri to partner with them in the fall of 2022 and we kicked off our first class together in March of 2023. My co-facilitator, Jody Doppelt, is the Volunteer Services Manager at Aging Best. Together, Jody and I lead the participants through the program in hopes that each retiree will find a connection with a nonprofit that has volunteer opportunities available that best fit their passions and talents. It is our goal to

ensure a fun, memorable experience for the participants that include at least one 'aha moment' per day, while also increasing awareness and empathy around the challenges our community faces.

**Success**

The first GIVE 5 class in Jefferson City was held in March of 2023. We had 12 participants in the inaugural class and many of them are making huge impacts at the nonprofits of their choice! We recently had a small reunion in September where we had the opportunity to gather, eat donuts and drink coffee while sharing volunteer stories and feedback about the program. One of the questions I asked them was, "Did going through the GIVE 5 program increase your sense of responsibility to help improve the community?" The answer was an overwhelming yes! All participants also agreed the best part of the program was getting to tour the inside of the agencies and hear from the individuals who have been impacted by the nonprofit.

Our second class was held in June of 2023 and we had 13 participants in this class. Chip Webb – a participant in the class – shared, "I have had the privilege of volunteering for the United Way of Central Missouri for several years, including being on the Board of Directors and a year as Board Chair. I retired from Ameren Missouri in February of 2023, just as the GIVE 5 program was kicking off. Even though I felt like I had a pretty good perspective on the United Way and the agencies they serve, I saw an opportunity to learn more and figure out

where to expand my volunteer opportunities. My experience in the 2nd cohort of GIVE 5 was amazing! I met and interacted with a lot of wonderful people in my cohort, while learning more than I could ever imagined in our visits to the amazing agencies that support people in need in this community. Since graduating from GIVE 5, I have become a member of the "Tuesday Crew" at Habitat for Humanity and, along with fellow GIVE 5 graduate Mike Grefrath, been able to support ongoing building maintenance needs at the Rape and Abuse Crisis Service. I truly feel blessed to have been given these opportunities and am proud to be able to do my part in supporting the United Way and the agencies they work with."

**Upcoming**

We have a 3rd class and 4th class in the works! Class 3 will be held in November of 2023 and Class 4 will be held in February of 2024. Our fingers are crossed that there will be a Class 5 in the Jefferson City area in April of 2024, but that is still to be determined.

Through the GIVE 5 program, there is a chance to do so much good in our community. I truly believe that through volunteerism, we don't just have the opportunity to make a change at the nonprofits we volunteer with, but we have the opportunity to feel change within ourselves – more gratitude, more compassion, more understanding, more joy. Please consider experiencing the GIVE 5 program for yourself and sign up on the United Way website today at [www.unitedwaycemo.org/give5!](http://www.unitedwaycemo.org/give5!)

## United Way of Central Missouri 2023 Campaign Leadership Team

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!

**Campaign Co-Chairs:**

- Cassandra Atchison (Modern Litho)
- Doug Hagenhoff (Hawthorn Bank)

**Team Captain: John Kehoe, Osage Ambulances**

- Matt Amick, Missouri Soybean Association
- Tyler Beck, GFI Digital
- Sarah Cain, Capital Machine Company
- Sharon Campbell, Missouri Farm Bureau
- Nancy Gratz, Gratz Real Estate & Auctioneering
- Lori Hoelscher, Ameren Missouri
- Aubrey Krcmar, Ameren Missouri
- Brenda Leydens, Mid America Bank

- Tim Sperfslage, Barr Engineering
- Abbey Twehous, Special Learning Center
- Leslie Verslues, Wallstreet Group

**Team Captain: Janet Wear-Enloe, SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital**

- Erin Bidlack, Studio573
- Darus Brondel, Accord Mortgage
- Stacy Brown, Jefferson Bank
- Abbey Gober, Central Bank
- Ryann Kampeter, KMIZ/ABC17
- Loren Propst, Capitol Plaza Hotel & Convention Center
- Zac Schoene, Wallstreet Group
- Alaina Winship, Capital Region Medical Center

**Team Captain: Derek Schnieders, GFI Digital**

- Sarah Bohl, Jefferson City Magazine
- Draven Carrender, American Family Insurance - Doug Otto Agency
- Kevin Fick, Jefferson Bank
- Brad Shimmens, Clean Fuels
- Crystal Tellman, Hawthorn Bank
- Brinn Thorsten, Central Bank
- Connie Vaughan, Community Volunteer
- Lindsay Welch, KMIZ/ABC17

**Team Captain: Doug Otto, American Family Insurance**

- Greg Benton, IBEW Local #2
- Ashli Bowman, Bowman Realty
- Ashley Eveler, Brown Printing
- Darren Heckman, High Five Communications
- Claudia Kehoe, Community Volunteer
- Stephanie Lehmen, C&S Employment Solutions
- Tony Miller, GFI Digital

**Team Captain: Gaye Suggett, Ameren Missouri**

- Amber Austin, Capitol Plaza Hotel & Convention Center
- Trenton Barbour, Jefferson Bank
- Madison Hamacher, High 5 Communications
- Veronica Hernandez, Pancheros Mexican Grill
- Tyler Luebbert, Mid America Bank

**Congratulations to Wade Middaugh, our local CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Jefferson City. Wade was recently awarded the Missouri CEO Professional of the year -- Way to go, Wade! He is pictured with Kayla Wilbers, Board President (left); and Janet Wear-Enloe, Past Board President (right).**



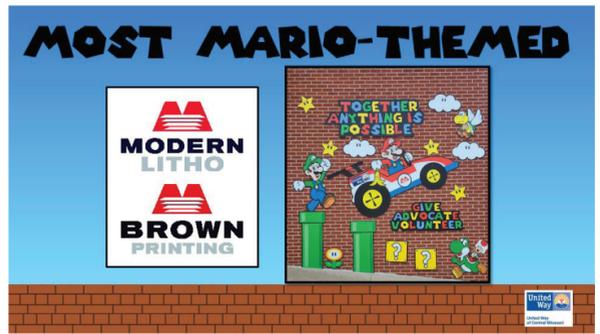
GIVE 5 participants visit nonprofits such as Transformational Housing (above) and Dreams to Reality (below) to learn more about the important work they do for the central Missouri community.



United Way of Central Missouri is grateful to Septagon Construction for providing the Mario Kart templates. Local United Way supporters accepted the challenge to decorate them to show their support for the United Way and raise awareness for the 2023 Super Mario-themed Campaign. Decorated karts were eligible to enter in the United Way of Central Missouri's Kart Competition, with five winning categories: Overall Best, Most United Way, Most Decorated, Most Unique and Most Super Mario-themed. Congratulations to the winning karts, and thank you to all organizations that decorated one, all in good fun for the United Way!

ALL DECORATED KART LOCATIONS  
Visit the following organizations to see their Super Mario-themed karts!

- Bartlett & West
- Boys & Girls Club
- Capital City CASA
- Capital Region Medical Center
- Capitol Projects
- Central Bank
- Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association
- Central Technology Services
- City of Jefferson
- Cole County
- Community Health Center
- Council for Drug Free Youth
- GFI Digital
- Hawthorn Bank
- Hitachi Energy
- Huber & Associates
- JCMG
- Jefferson Bank
- Mid America Bank
- Midwest Independent BankersBank
- Missouri Farm Bureau
- Modern Litho-Brown Printing
- Modine Manufacturing
- Osage Ambulances
- Rape & Abuse Crisis Service (RACS)
- Scholastic
- SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital
- The Salvation Army
- Three Rivers Electric Cooperative
- YMCA Child Development Center



“Words cannot express the degree of expertise the Freeman team provides...They have supported me throughout the grieving process... providing the sensitivity only they understand through their generations of experience!”  
– Susan K., Google Review ★★★★★

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