

## Reflecting on 2024



**Gregg Bexten,**  
Hawthorn Bank  
United Way Board Chair

As my time as Board Chair of the United Way of Central Missouri comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on a year of remarkable achievements, unwavering collaboration, and profound impact. It has been a privilege to serve alongside dedicated board members, staff, volunteers, and community partners who share a commitment to improving lives and strengthening our community.

One of the most significant

accomplishments of the year was surpassing our ambitious campaign goal of \$2.6 million. This achievement is a testament to the generosity and community spirit of the individuals, businesses, and organizations who believe in the mission of the United Way. The funds raised will enable us to address critical needs, support innovative programs, and foster long-term change.

This year also marked a period of growth as we welcomed three new agencies to our United Way family: Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, Common Ground Community Building, and UCP Heartland - Gibbs Center for Independence. Each of these organizations brings unique expertise and a shared dedication to serving the vulnerable and empowering individuals to lead fulfilling lives. Their addition broadens our reach and deepens our capacity to create lasting change across

central Missouri.

Beyond these milestones, what stands out most to me is the resilience and generosity of our community. In a time of ongoing challenges, people came together to lift one another up, demonstrating that our strength lies in our unity. From volunteers dedicating countless hours to donors making impactful contributions, the spirit of giving has been inspiring and humbling.

As I pass the torch to the next Board Chair, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to have been part of such meaningful work. United Way of Central Missouri is a cornerstone of our community, and I am confident that it will continue to thrive and make a difference in the years to come. Thank you to everyone who has played a role in this incredible journey. Together, we are creating a brighter future for all.

## RedMane Technology's First United Way Campaign: A Resounding Success!

**By John Fratila & Tanner Maasen,**  
Redmane Technology

RedMane Technology provides software solutions and systems integration services that address complex, real-world challenges. Our human services expertise includes child welfare, child support, benefit eligibility, and enterprise case management across the U.S. and Canada. We are a problem-solving company. Technology is just one of our tools.

Beginning in 2013, RedMane served as a subcontractor for the development contract for the Missouri Eligibility Determination and Enrollment System (MEDES). As a key, trusted partner to the State of Missouri from the very beginning of the MEDES project, RedMane was responsible for the initial work required for Missouri to become ACA (Affordable Care Act) compliant. Through our performance and contributions to MEDES success between 2013 and 2018, RedMane earned the confidence and respect of the State MEDES leadership, and in October of 2018 RedMane was awarded the prime contract to be the MEDES Maintenance and Operations (M&O) provider, a responsibility we continue to uphold today.

In February 2019, we opened our Jefferson City office, initially focused solely on the MEDES project. Since then, the team has grown to 40 people and expanded its work across several additional projects:

- 2021 – RedMane Managed Services inception. Managed Services oversees all RedMane project infrastructure. They work with project teams to help design, build, deploy, and maintain robust software applications from the ground up. It's their job to ensure security, compliance, optimization and tuning, and overall application delivery support for the systems we build.
- 2023 – mCase development and support. mCase is a modern human services platform, created by RedMane, that is purpose-

built for human services. It supports the most complex human services programs, from intake, investigation, and ongoing case management to eligibility determination, benefit processing, and provider management. Since last year, our Jefferson City office has had team members actively working to implement a completely new and innovative Provider Licensing & Accreditation solution for South Dakota's Department of Social Services.

While the State of Missouri remains the primary client of RedMane's Jefferson City office, the company also supports software systems in Alaska, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, South Dakota, Virginia, and Florida.

### 2024 United Way Campaign

Before this year's campaign, our office's community involvement team was searching for new ways we could give back to our community. After learning more about United Way, both through our research and by meeting with their President, Lee, we haven't looked back. United Way is truly an amazing organization that maximizes the impact of donated dollars to help those in our community who are in need. We were personally blown away by United Way's footprint in Central Missouri and all the organizations it serves.

As we embarked on our inaugural United Way employee campaign, we knew it was crucial to set the stage for future years. Our goal was to establish a strong foundation and inspire our team to make a significant impact. Fortunately, we have a diverse group of passionate individuals, many of whom have firsthand experience with United Way's mission. With their guidance and enthusiasm, we were confident that our first campaign would be a resounding success.

To engage our team, we:

- displayed United Way posters and brochures around the office;
- took advantage of the United Way's offer to create a dedicated RedMane donation website and printed donation forms featuring QR codes linking to the donation page;
- hosted a lunch meeting where United Way President

Lee Knernschild and United Way Campaign Co-Chair Doug Hagenhoff shared insights into United Way's mission and the agencies it supports, while Stephanie Johnson touched everyone with her personal experiences at the Special Learning Center – one of the United Way partner agencies. Other team members also shared powerful testimonials about their own donations, volunteer work, and the ways in which friends and family have benefited from United Way programs; and

- offered multiple donation options, including one-time gifts and recurring payroll deductions.

The campaign was a tremendous success, with over 80% participation and more than \$8,000 raised. At RedMane, giving back isn't just something we do—it's who we are. Through our partnership with United Way, we are committed to supporting initiatives that provide essential services, promote education, and enhance financial stability for individuals and families in need. By contributing our time, resources, and efforts, we help build a stronger and more resilient community for all.

### What's Next

We're incredibly proud of our team's enthusiasm and generosity during our inaugural United Way campaign. Together, we've made a significant impact and look forward to many more successful campaigns. A special thanks to United Way of Central Missouri for their unwavering support. We're excited to continue our partnership and give back to the community that has welcomed us with open arms.

## The Power of Love



**Lee Knernschild,**  
United Way President

As we approach the close of another year, the United Way of Central Missouri reflects on the extraordinary impact your support has provided. Our success is only possible because of your generosity, dedication and belief in "The Power of Love".

At our November 21 Victory Celebration, our 2024 Campaign Co-Chairs, Doug Hagenhoff and Renee Duenckel, announced our incredible campaign results. Thousands of individuals and over 400 businesses played a role in helping the United Way of Central Missouri meet and exceed our \$2.6 million goal by over \$50,000.

Our community was fortunate to have two amazingly passionate individuals lead our 2024 Campaign. Doug and Renee embraced our "Power of Love" campaign theme serving as visible champions for the United Way and our partner agencies. Never missing an opportunity to share their personal stories, they spoke at over 100 campaign rallies inspiring others to give. Along with their team of campaign volunteers, agency leaders, board members and campaign coordinators; our community rallied to show

its support for our 26 partner agencies. Meeting our campaign goal ensures that our agencies can continue the life-changing work so many in our community turn to in times of hardship and unexpected challenges—services for babies, teens and adults.

We are a proud partner with 26 agencies who are hard at work each day creating a safety net important for a strong, healthy community. Just last year...

- Council for Drug Free Youth educated 10,100 youth on the importance of leading a fulfilling alcohol and drug-free life.
- 549 mid-Missourians benefitted from durable medical equipment made available through Homemaker Health Care.
- The Sneaker Project provided 1,529 pairs of shoes to children in need.
- Compass Health Network brought holistic and affordable mental health, primary, and dental care to medically indigent and underserved populations.
- 282 homebound residents received balanced meals delivered to their doorstep in coordination with the Senior Nutrition Center.
- Special Learning Center's Super Kids Infinite Possibilities Clinic provided life-changing therapy assisting children with their first steps and more.
- Dreams to Reality provided transformative services to 230 women in preparation for career and employment opportunities.
- Children of low and middle-income working families found affordable, quality childcare through Little Explorers Discovery

Center and the YMCA Child Development Center.

- And over 20,000 meals were provided through The Salvation Army's Community Meal program assisting those facing food insecurity.

These are just a few examples of the work accomplished with your support. Behind every statistic is a story—stories of individuals and families transformed by your generosity. Stories like a young mother fleeing domestic violence and finding safe shelter through the Jefferson City Rape and Abuse Crisis Service, or the high school student whose mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jefferson City faithfully shows up each week to encourage, inspire and help him see the potential that lies within.

The success of our annual United Way of Central Missouri campaign is our community's success. If you gave of your time, financial resources, and/or supported the campaign in any way, we thank you! Thank you for joining us as we transform lives and create a community where individuals and families can thrive and succeed.

As we look to 2025, we are excited to have you join us as we celebrate 100 years in our community. While we will reflect on all the United Way of Central Missouri has accomplished, we look forward to having you by our side as we embark on our next chapter. Stay tuned to our website and social media pages as we unveil the plans for our 100th birthday!

On behalf of the United Way of Central Missouri, we wish you a happy and safe holiday season.



RedMane Technology raised over \$8,000 in its inaugural United Way employee campaign held this year!



# Making the Season Bright for Foster & Adoptive Families

## CMFCAA's purpose to preserve families and bring holiday cheer

This holiday season, Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association (CMFCAA) is embracing the spirit of giving by working to provide Christmas gifts to more than 700 foster, adoptive, and kinship children across Central Missouri.

While the holidays are often seen as a magical time of year, they can also be especially challenging for foster and adoptive children. The Christmas Care Pack program, personalized to meet each family's unique needs, aims to remind these children that they are seen, valued, and deeply loved during a season that can bring mixed emotions. This initiative was made possible in large part through the United Way's funding, which has helped us expand our efforts to reach every child in need.

The care packs are one way CMFCAA provides essential services and unwavering support to kinship, foster, and adoptive families in our community. Through innovative programs, heartfelt initiatives, and an incredible network of partners, including the United Way of Central Missouri,

CMFCAA strives to break the cycle of abuse and neglect and create stronger, more resilient families.

## Preserving families with the Placement Preservation Program

Another standout initiative at CMFCAA is the Placement Preservation Program, led by Chief Clinical Officer Dave Bruno. This program launched earlier this year to provide critical intervention services to families at risk of disruption. By offering counseling, resources, and hands-on support, the program has already helped families stay together and thrive under difficult circumstances. The program currently has 10 cases and is adding a third specialist to keep up with the workload.

"Our Placement Preservation Program embodies what CMFCAA is all about — keeping families whole," says Jill Quaid, CEO of CMFCAA. "Thanks to the support of the United Way and our community partners, we've been able to launch this program and make a real difference in the lives of families facing challenging situations."

## A season of impact

This year, CMFCAA saw incredible support during its Legacy of Love Gala, where the community came together to raise more than \$117,000. These funds, combined with United Way's partnership, have allowed CMFCAA to expand programs, distribute thousands of essential items, and ensure families feel supported year-round.

With Christmas around the corner, the CMFCAA team is hard at work sorting and preparing the Christmas Care Packs.

From toys and winter clothing to gift cards and household essentials, these packs are a lifeline for families who might otherwise struggle during the holidays.

"It's about reminding families that they are not alone, and there's a community that cares deeply for them," Quaid said.

## United Way: A partner in possibilities

As a proud United Way partner agency, CMFCAA has been able to amplify its impact through collaboration with other United Way-supported organizations. Together, these agencies form a safety net of resources and support, ensuring that families and children have access to the services they need.

"The United Way's support is more than financial — it's a partnership built on shared values and a commitment to creating brighter futures," says Amanda Angell, CMFCAA's Chief Development Officer. "We couldn't do what we do without their investment in our mission."

## Looking ahead

As CMFCAA reflects on this season of giving, the team is filled with gratitude for the support of the United Way, the Jefferson City area community, and all who make this work possible. From providing Christmas cheer to preserving family placements, every effort is a step toward a brighter future for Central Missouri's children.

For more information about CMFCAA and how you can help, visit [mofosteradopt.com](http://mofosteradopt.com).



Taylor Givens, left, honors Madison Sisco with the Volunteer of the Year Award at our Nov. 9 Legacy of Love Gala.



CMFCAA CEO Jill Quaid speaks to the audience at our Legacy of Love Gala as Chief Development Officer Amanda Angell looks on.

## MOBILE FOOD PANTRY SCHEDULE IN THE UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI SERVICE AREA

### December 2024

The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri will be providing food at no charge to those in need at the following locations. Please confirm any location, date and/or time changes for this month on The Food Bank website at [sharefoodbringhope.org](http://sharefoodbringhope.org). For questions, call The Food Bank at 573-474-1020.

- Mobile Food Pantry Tips:
- Remain in your vehicle for distribution; it is a drive-thru process.
  - Clear space in your trunk or back seat to receive food.



(FRI)	6	<b>SOUTHERN CHEROKEE</b> 15792 COUNTY RD 5200, ROLLA 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
(SAT)	7	<b>CATHOLIC CHARITIES</b> 1015 EDMONDS ST, JEFFERSON CITY 9:00 - 11:00 AM
(TUES)	10	<b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 13007 ROUTE C, RUSSELLVILLE 1:30 - 3:30 PM
(THUR)	12	<b>KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS</b> 1822 TANNER BRIDGE RD, JEFFERSON CITY 3:30 - 5:30 PM
(FRI)	13	<b>CHURCH OF OSAGE HILLS</b> 5237 OSAGE BEACH PKWY, OSAGE BEACH 1:00 - 3:00 PM
(MON)	16	<b>ST. MARTINS CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 7148 ST. MARTINS AVE, ST. MARTINS 4:00 - 6:00 PM
(TUES)	17	<b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BELLE</b> 203 2ND ST, BELLE 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
(WED)	18	<b>BOYS &amp; GIRLS CLUB</b> 11105 LAFAYETTE ST, JEFFERSON CITY 4:00 - 6:00 PM
(THUR)	19	<b>ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 310 MILLS ST, CALIFORNIA 4:30 - 6:00 PM
(SAT)	21	<b>CAPITAL WEST CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> 1315 FAIRGROUNDS RD, JEFFERSON CITY 8:00 - 10:00 AM

Updated: 7/17/2024



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 66109.

☐ 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 Capital City CASA Capitol Projects Catholic Charities Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association Common Ground Community Building 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 Rape & Abuse Crisis Service Salvation Army Scouting America Senior Nutrition Council Special Learning Center The Sneaker Project Tri-County YMCA UCP Heartland - Gibbs Center for Independence
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# What's Happening



Thank you to Mizzou Hockey, Chick-Fil-A and Pancheros Mexican Grill for hosting food drives to support United Way's partner agencies this holiday season!



Thank you Missouri River Regional Library for hosting another successful annual Craft & Bake Sale in early December to benefit the United Way!

## CAPITAL CITY Festival of Lights

**A Drive-Thru Light Park**

**Proceeds to help Homemaker Health Care and other local charities**

**All guests must remain in their vehicle at all times**

**Location: Binder Park, Jefferson City, MO**

**\$20 per vehicle \$35 per bus and limousine**

**Directions:**

**Apache Flats exit off HWY 50**

**Right on Binder Lake Rd/Left on Rainbow Dr**

**Right on Binder Lake Rd park entrance**

**Use Rainbow Dr entrance only**

**November 30th - December 25th**

**6:00pm - 9:00pm**

**Closed Mondays**

Follow us on at [www.facebook.com/ccfestivaloflights](https://www.facebook.com/ccfestivaloflights)

Support Homemaker Health Care through their Capital City Festival of Lights Fundraiser! This drive-thru light park is a holiday must-see and do! Visit the Festival of Lights page on Facebook for more details.



Thank you River City Florist for supporting the United Way of Central Missouri through your annual flower card sale! Contact River City Florist to see if flower cards are still available for purchase!



Thank you Veterans United Foundation for gifting the United Way of Central Missouri a very generous \$20,000! We are so grateful for your generosity and for your passion of enhancing lives!

*WE WANT YOU AS A VOLUNTEER*

## BELL RINGER

*IT'S AS EASY AS: 1...2...3*

**IN-PERSON VOLUNTEER**

- Go to: **RegisterToRing.com**
- Select the date, time and community where you would like to ring. Click **"Begin Search."**
- Select a specific location from the menu, along with the preferred volunteer shift, and click **"Reserve."**

**VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER**

- Go to: **RegisterToRing.com**
- Click **"I'm a Virtual Ringer."**
- Click **"Become a Fundraiser."**
- Start Fundraising either as an individual or with a team

Support The Salvation Army's Red Kettle 'Bell Ringing' Campaign now through December 24! To volunteer as a bell ringer, visit [registertoring.com](https://registertoring.com).



Join the

COLE COUNTY COAD

Community Organizations Active in Disaster

Working to protect our community in times of disaster

Learn more and become a member: [www.unitedwaycemo.org/disaster](http://www.unitedwaycemo.org/disaster)

## Meet Our Board: Trenton Barbour, Jefferson Bank



**Tell us about you:**  
I'm a lifelong native of Jamestown and love Mid-Mo. I consider myself an old-soul and love being out in the community talking with anyone. I am also getting married next May.

**Employer:**  
Jefferson Bank

**Community Involvement:**  
I love helping out at charity

auctions, serving on the Jamestown Pool Board, being involved with the Jamestown Lions Club, and helping/attending several nonprofit events here in the Jefferson City Community.

**Why did you say yes when asked to be on the United Way Board of Directors:**  
To be honest, I said yes just because it felt like the right thing to do. I was naïve to everything

United Way did at the time just because I was still pretty green in my career. Mark Mueller reached out to me; I jumped at the opportunity, and I'm glad I did!

**Favorite thing about United Way:**  
United Way gives the community an avenue to help a wide range of people that are navigating tough times. It really humbles a person to see the work

that United Way does and the support our community gives each year.

**Favorite thing about our community:**  
So many people donate their time or money just because it's the right thing to do.

**Number one on your bucket list:**  
Ever since I was 15 I've always wanted to climb Long's Peak outside of Estes Park, Colorado.

**Fun fact about you:**  
A lot of people already know this, but I officiate basketball and auctioneer on the side. I love both of them so much that I consider them hobbies.

**Words you live by:**  
"Don't be an idiot" – Coach Kirby Baumert (former Jamestown Basketball coach and teacher)

# Building Homes, Building Futures: How River City Habitat for Humanity is Strengthening Our Community

**By Susan Cook, Executive Director**

At River City Habitat for Humanity, we believe that everyone deserves a safe, affordable place to call home. For over 30 years, we've been working to make that vision a reality in Jefferson City, partnering with families and volunteers to not only build 134 homes but to also build a community filled with hope. But we don't do this work alone. We rely on the generosity of community members and organizations like the United Way to make it happen.

This year, we were honored to receive a Community Support Grant from the United Way, which has made a tangible difference in how we serve our community. With the grant funds, we purchased a dump trailer for our construction sites, a practical yet transformative addition to our operations.

Before we had the dump trailer, managing construction waste was a costly and time-consuming process. For every job site, we rented dumpsters to dispose of materials like drywall scraps and other debris. Not only did this add to our expenses, but it also required meticulous scheduling to ensure timely deliveries and pickups to get

the most out of each expensive rental.

The new dump trailer has streamlined our workflow, allowing us to haul waste efficiently without relying on external rentals. This shift has already saved us dollars—money that can now be redirected toward building more homes and helping more families. It's also saving time for our construction teams, giving them more hours in the day to focus on what they do best: building safe, sturdy homes. For our homeowners, this efficiency means we can keep their housing costs as affordable as possible. Because it's not just about constructing houses; it's about creating opportunities for families to thrive.

The success of this initiative is a testament to the power of partnerships. United Way's support helps organizations like ours tackle challenges creatively and sustainably. Together, we're proving that when we pool our resources and align our efforts, we can create lasting change.

At River City Habitat for Humanity, we're always seeking innovative ways to build more homes and serve more families. The dump trailer is just one example of how community support enables us to adapt and improve. As we move forward, we're committed to continuing this work with the same passion and purpose that has guided us for years. We invite you to join us on this journey. Whether you volunteer on a build, shop at our ReStore, or make a financial contribution, your support helps build more than houses—it builds futures.



(Pictured above): A group of students from Calvary Lutheran school help work on a Habitat for Humanity build at 100 Havana Street.

(Pictured right): Thanks to a grant from the United Way of Central Missouri, Habitat for Humanity was able to purchase a dump trailer for its construction sites – creating a practical and transformative change while working on home builds.





# Great Scott! United Way surpasses \$2.6 million goal!

The United Way of Central Missouri marked the end of its formal fundraising campaign at its Victory Celebration held at Missouri Farm Bureau on November 21. Prior to announcing the campaign results, organizers stressed that the total amount raised contains projections as donations continue to arrive at the United Way office over the coming weeks and months.

This year's Back to the Future-themed campaign goal was \$2.6 million. The mid-Missouri community truly showed its amazing generosity as the United Way of Central Missouri announced a projected

pledge total of \$2,652,388 for the 2024 Campaign. "Together our remarkable, caring supporters selflessly donated \$2,652,388 to support the ongoing critical needs in our community. Words cannot express our gratitude," said Renee Duenckel, 2024 Campaign Co-Chair. "We exceeded our \$2.6 million goal by over \$50,000! What an incredible journey and remarkable victory for the United Way of Central Missouri and our community!"

"These are projected totals," added Doug Hagenhoff, 2024 Campaign Co-Chair. "Our final number includes projections from several campaigns that are still ongoing—and a few that haven't even started yet; and we can only reach these

results with the successful completion of these campaigns. We're counting on those who are still running campaigns to finish strong so we can meet this projected total."

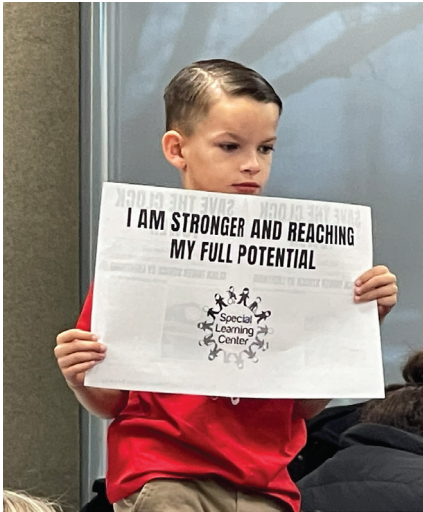
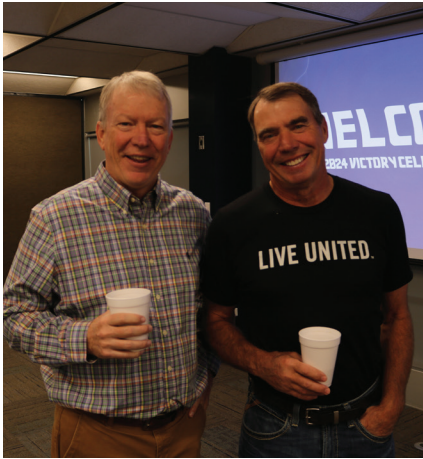
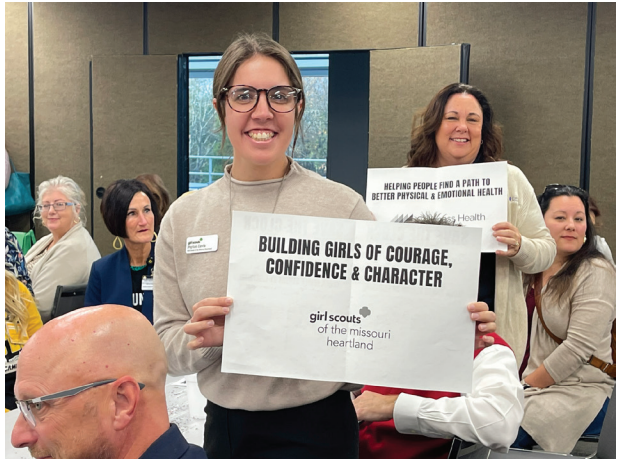
To conclude the event United Way President Lee Knernschild said, "Our hope is that everyone leaves here today inspired and with the realization that working together we can accomplish

anything! By achieving our campaign goal, we can honor our commitments to our agencies. This means that babies will be cared for, children will receive the support they need, teens will be inspired, and adults will be shown compassion. All of this because of you! Thank you to each and every one of you! Thank you for showing our community and those that needs us what the Power of

Love can do when we lean on one another."

Dollars raised during the Community Campaign funds the work of the 26 United Way of Central Missouri partner agencies. Funds raised help individuals in the United Way of Central Missouri service area; including Camden, Cole, Maries, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, Phelps, Osage, and southern Callaway counties. Last year over 100,000 people

were served by the United Way of Central Missouri partner agencies. United Way of Central Missouri extends its deepest gratitude to the central Missouri community for helping not only raise but exceed its \$2.6 million goal!



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

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*Make a difference with your*

# YEAREND GIVING

United Way of Central  
Missouri's Foundation is  
supporting our community  
for generations to come.

Learn more & donate at  
[www.unitedwaycemo.org/foundation](http://www.unitedwaycemo.org/foundation)

