



UNITED WAY
Knox County

Building
thriving
COMMUNITIES

2025 Annual Report

A Letter from Leadership

Dear Friend of United Way,

2025 marked a year of firsts in Knox County:

- The first class “graduated” from All Kids Bike. Our staff was there when the pedals were added at Twin Oak Elementary. One kid after another yelled, “I got it,” pedaling with growing confidence around the gymnasium.
- Vine & Lawn Community Garden offered its first season of wheelchair-accessible gardening, bringing neighbors of all ages together while supporting local food pantries.
- Cycling Without Age rolled into town, offering “wind in your hair” moments to individuals with limited mobility through specially designed trishaws powered by an army of volunteer pilots.

All of these and more are reasons to celebrate!

At United Way of Knox County, we believe everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive. Yet in our daily work, we see hardworking people facing barriers that stand between them and success. With an eye on supporting households, especially income-limited workers and retirees, United Way partners to provide affordable childcare, stable housing, access to food, and the formation of healthy, caring relationships.

Your support directly addresses these challenges. Every donation, every volunteer hour, and every referral you make removes barriers that stand in the way of our neighbor’s success. You are the reason we can anticipate and respond to rising needs, building a stronger tomorrow in Knox County.

The future of the United Way continues to evolve as local conditions and donor habits change. This year, the Board and leadership team took important steps to strengthen long-term sustainability. Through new strategic partnerships and more focused operations, we are better positioned to direct more resources toward the programs and partnerships that matter most to our community.

United Way has supported Knox County for 75 years. With your continued support, we look forward to the next 75!



Sam Filkins,
2025 Board Chair



Todd Taylor,
2025 Vice Chair



Katie Ellis,
Executive Director

2025 Board of Directors

Sam Filkins, Board Chair

Todd Taylor, Vice Chair

Wendi Fowler, Treasurer

Noel Alden,

Marne Ausec,

Lisa Bragg,

Josh Filler,

Chris Hope,

Lyndsey Krownapple,

Renee McDaniel,

Adam Ridenbaugh,

Marcy Rinehart,

Jason Snively

United Way Staff

Katie Ellis,

Executive Director,

Isabel McDonald,

Communications

Assistant

Connect with the United Way of Knox County

By phone: 740.397.5721

By email: liveunited@uwayknox.org

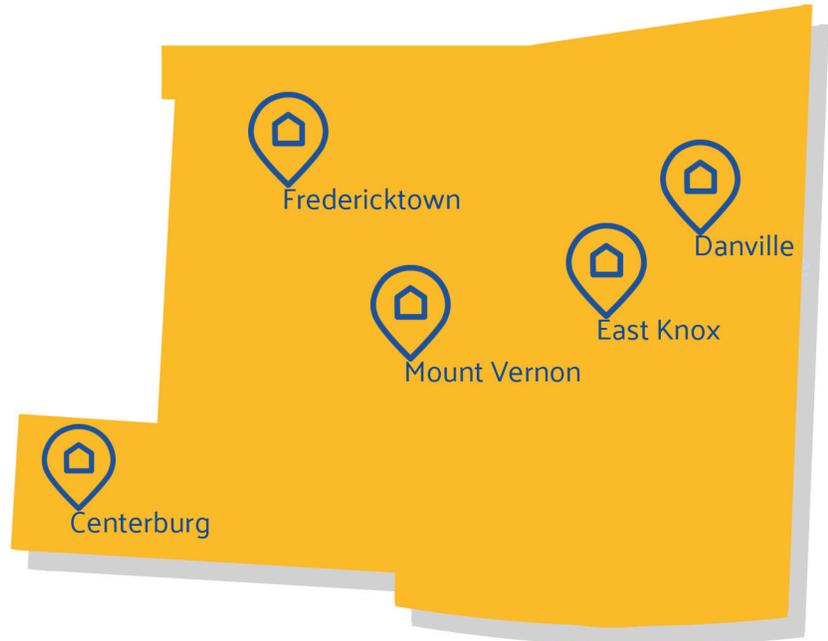
By mail: 305 East High Street, Mount Vernon, OH 43050

By social media handle: @Live United Knox County, OH

WHO WE ARE

VISION

The United Way of Knox County strives to build a community where local organizations work together to find innovative solutions to address urgent and emerging needs in Knox County. As a leader in non-profit collaboration, the United Way coordinates and supports quality programming with measurable results aimed at early intervention and prevention.



Who is ALICE?
Asset **L**imited,
Income **C**onstrained,
Employed

39% of Knox County households fall at or below the ALICE threshold or federal poverty guidelines. In plain terms, nearly 4 out of every 10 neighbors cannot meet their basic financial needs, let alone plan for future emergencies.

IMPACT AREAS

EDUCATION

Preparing children and teens for their next steps, with early literacy, academic intervention, and life skill training.

HEALTH

Encouraging lifelong wellness and preventative care for all ages, promoting active lifestyles and mitigating risk of chronic conditions.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Pairing aid and education to provide immediate individual and household stability while building toward financial independence.

BUILDING THRIVING COMMUNITIES



IN THE PAST YEAR

31 Agency programs funded

1,127 Individuals received free home health visits and preventative screenings

\$550,000

Returned to Knox County residents through VITA.

\$58k In rent & utility assistance for ALICE households

6,022 Shelter-nights provided through funded partners

25k Imagination Library books delivered in Knox County

PROGRAMS + INITIATIVES



All Kids Bike introduces bike riding as a key component of physical education classes. This initiative not only teaches children how to ride a bike but also encourages them to lead active, healthy lives while gaining confidence and independence. uwayknox.org/all-kids-bike



With a vision of inclusivity and accessibility, **Cycling Without Age** brings the joy of riding a bike to all, regardless of age or ability. With the use of specially-designed trishaws, volunteer pilots promote connectedness and wellbeing for passengers.

uwayknox.org/initiatives/happy-spokes



Providing a new, age-appropriate book each month at no cost to families enrolled, the **Imagination Library** is building school readiness skills and bringing families together through quality time spent reading. ohioimaginationlibrary.org



Learn United is a free after-school tutoring program, offering one-on-one help in reading and math to at-risk students in grades 3-5. Now at Danville, East, Pleasant Street, and Dan Emmett Elementaries.



As a trusted source of up-to-date information on available resources, **Resource Navigation** provides one-on-one crisis counseling as well as fostering communication between agencies to meet individual needs. uwayknox.org/resources



School is one of the top stressors for girls. The team at **ROX** studies girls' unique experiences and uses that data to help teachers, counselors, and school leaders better support female students' success. Every girl in Knox County can participate in **ROX** at no cost thanks to United Way funding. rulingourexperiences.com



Volunteer Income
Tax Assistance

When tax season arrives, volunteers dedicate themselves to preparing hundreds of tax returns for Knox County residents in need. The **VITA** program returned over half a million dollars to our community, saving our co-workers, neighbors, and friends tens of thousands of dollars in tax preparation fees. uwayknox.org/free-tax-preparation



2025 FUNDED PARTNERS



YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

\$206,876

Knox County Head Start	Head Start and Early Head Start	Early education, family support, and social-emotional services for 599 children and pregnant mothers
	Parent Support Initiative	Parenting education to reduce stress and strengthen family relationships for 455 parents, guardians, and caregivers
Salvation Army of Mount Vernon	Kid Zone	Affordable before- and after-school programming and social support for 45 students and 142 family members
Knox County Career Navigator	Student Career Counseling	Career exploration and training opportunities for every student at Danville, East Knox, Centerburg, and Fredericktown High Schools
The Alcohol & Drug Freedom Center	School-based Prevention Program	Decision-making, social competence, and drug resistance skills taught to 724 Knox County students
Ashland Family First	Court Appointed Special Advocate	Advocacy and consistent support for 37 children involved in Knox County's juvenile court system
SPI, Inc	Science Play Interactive	Play-based learning with hands-on science exhibits for 1,384 families
Knox Public Health	Teen Green Community Garden	Workforce readiness, nutrition education, and direct service to senior residents through a summer work study for local high school students
Muskingum Valley Council BSA	Scouts and Cub Scouts	Hands-on learning, outdoor experiences, and community service for youth in 16 troops across Knox County
New Directions Shelter	AIM Prevention Education	Domestic Violence awareness and prevention education for 224 students
Girls Scouts of Ohio's Heartland	Leadership Experience	Leadership development, STEM education, and enrichment opportunities for 130 girls in Knox County

Healthy Living

\$196,813

YMCA of Mount Vernon	Community Wellness	Financial assistance for YMCA health memberships and programs that improve wellness and reduce stress for 705 individuals
The Alcohol & Drug Freedom Center	Care Management	Intensive case management to 495 individuals with mental health and substance use challenges, including access to housing and medical care
Knox County Head Start	Child and Family Wellness	Health screenings and treatments, developmental assessments, home visits, and parent health education for 807 children and family members
Knox Public Health	Community Health Workers	Home visits, wellness education, transportation support, and preventative health services for at-risk populations: 8 pregnant mothers and 127 seniors
KnoHoCo Ashland CAC	Women's Reproductive Health	Comprehensive reproductive health exams including mammograms for 185 un- or under-insured women
Hospice of the Western Reserve	Grief Support & Camp Hope	Counseling sessions, workshops, and grief support groups for 313 individuals facing the loss of a loved one
Knox Public Health	Knox Out Tobacco	Smoking cessation counseling and follow-up support for 56 adults
The Alcohol & Drug Freedom Center	Empowering Recovery with Wellness	Wellness activities designed that offer emotional well-being and healthier lifestyles to support long-term substance use recovery for 278 individuals
American Red Cross	Blood Services	Blood drive coordination and blood product collection for 12,081 units

Financial Stability

\$237,500

New Directions Shelter	Survivor Advocacy	Crisis responses, shelter, advocacy, and resource connection for 1,266 crisis calls from survivors of Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence
Winter Sanctuary	Housing Advocacy	Emergency shelter, hotel placement, and advocacy to address barrier to housing stability for 356 individuals
Interchurch Social Services	Financial Assistance	Financial assistance and counseling to stabilize 750 individuals during emergencies
	School Food Pantries	Nutritious shelf-stable food and personal hygiene items available to students at every public school in Knox County
Habitat for Humanity	Home Renewal	Low-cost critical home repairs that improved safety, accessibility, and housing stability for 12 households
Hope Now Furniture Bank	Beds for Kids & Stock the Shelves	Essential household items, including children's bed sets, for 570 individuals experiencing financial hardship
Pathways of Central Ohio	211	24-hour access to information services via 3,347 calls and 65 texts
Salvation Army of Mount Vernon	Emergency Services	Rent and utility assistance for 357 individuals
American Red Cross	Home Fire Prevention and Recovery	Fire alarm installation for home fire prevention and short-term relief after disaster for 211 individuals

VOLUNTEERISM

Day of Caring

The largest county-wide day of community service with over 100 volunteers, including students and work teams across 11 job sites

VITA 7 Volunteers helped prepare 517 returns

ROX Facilitators

Educators and Social Workers mentor girls across all 10 local elementary schools

Women United

51 dedicated women gathered throughout the year to promote United Way programs and support partner agencies

Community Impact Panel

Community members participated in United Way funding application process, providing valuable insight

972 TOTAL HOURS



INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

Locqueville
SOCIETY

***\$10,000 or more**

8 total donors

\$203,900

Leadership Donors

***\$1,000-9,999**

83 total donors

\$165,911.50

Workplace Campaigns

991 employees gave through their workplaces

\$308,332.85

American Electric Power Company
Ariel Corporation
Boeing Company
Brenneman Lumber & Kiln Drying, Inc.
CES Credit Union
City of Mount Vernon
Critchfield, Critchfield, and Johnston LTD
Danville Local Schools
Donley Ford
East Knox Local Schools
Edward Jones - Financial Advisor
Fredericktown Chevrolet
Girls Scouts of Ohio's Hearthland Council
Griffin Agencies, LTD

Jeld-Wen Windows and Doors
JP Morgan Chase
Kenyon College
Knox Community Hospital
Knox County Board of DD
Knox County Career Center
Knox County Employees
Knox County Head Start
Knox Public Health
Kokosing Construction Company
Levering Management
Modern Builders
Mohican Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation

Mount Vernon City Schools
Nationwide Insurance
New Directions: Domestic Abuse Shelter
Park National Bank
The Energy Cooperative
The Freedom Center
The Peoples Bank of Gambier
YMCA of Mount Vernon



CORPORATE SUPPORT

Platinum Level *\$10,000 or more to general campaign



Gold Level *\$5,000 - \$9,999 to general campaign



Silver Level *\$1,000 - \$4,999 to general campaign

Alliance Data

Miller Electrical Solutions

The Energy Cooperative

George J. Igel & Co.

Ohio Cumberland Gas Company

UMD Automated Systems

Markt

Peoples Bank of Marietta

Program Champions *Partner directly with United Way initiatives

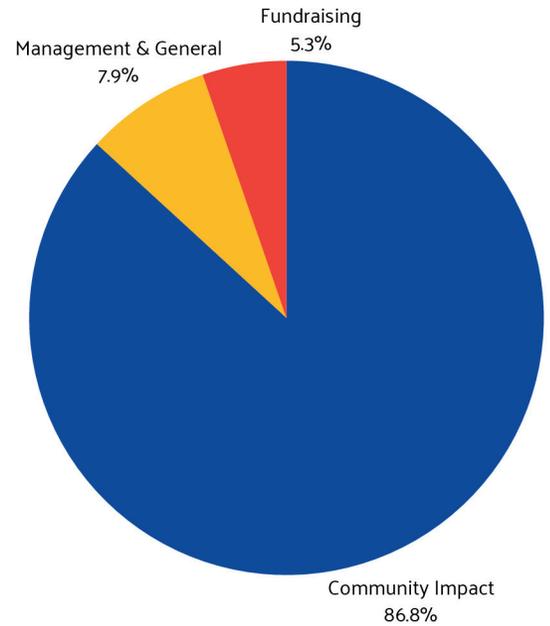


FINANCIAL SHAPSHOT

Based on 2024 Annual IRS Form 990

\$1,079,319 invested

- Direct support to partner agencies
- One-time grants for pilot projects
- United Way internal initiatives and support staff



Total Revenue (includes campaign net of noncollectable pledges, fundraising events, grants, and realized gains)	\$1,374,104
Total Expenses	\$1,243,195
Program Investments & Support	\$1,079,319
Management & General	\$98,271
Fundraising	\$65,605
Revenue Less Expenses	\$130,909
Total Assets	\$1,623,193
Total Liabilities	\$683,310
Total Net Assets	\$939,883

HOPE AND HELP FOR KNOX COUNTY



305 East High Street, Mount Vernon, OH 43050
www.uwayknox.org 740.397.5721
liveunited@uwayknox.org

