

# Live United Community Impact Report 2021

UNITED WAY OF SAGINAW COUNTY



[WWW.UNITEDWAYSAGINAW.ORG](http://WWW.UNITEDWAYSAGINAW.ORG)



# A Note From Our President & CEO

UNITED WAY OF SAGINAW COUNTY

I am excited to deliver our 2021 Annual Report of the United Way of Saginaw County. I am very proud of the impactful, life-saving, truly life-changing work we have provided to the community as an agency and as a collaborative partner. When you consider our traditional role and focused work in the community and recognize the impact the past few years have made for Saginaw County through this work it is extraordinary. In a time of socioeconomic disparities and social disruptions, we were there! We are not only making transactional grants, supporting others' work, we transform lives. We are building nonprofit community collaborations and collective action to work together in a "united way." These investments, collaborations, administration and the direct assistance provided in 2021 by United Way of Saginaw County of over 14 million dollars has helped to support and change the direction for so many in our community.

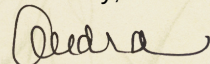
At our core, we are a charitable fundraising agent, dependent on the scores of companies large and small, and many individuals like you - the funders - to support our grant-making to a community of high-performing nonprofits. COVID has irrevocably changed the way our United Way does business, in many ways for the better.

The ability to connect with our donors forced new technologies and increased our need to shift to virtual formats of communication and interaction. When the impact of COVID consumed our community and scores of individuals were pushed over the edge into situational poverty - our United Way was able to pivot and respond immediately. We provided 12.5 million dollars of direct assistance in 8 months to over 8,000 households. We leveraged the generosity of our community and provided support so no tummy would go empty by addressing emergency food insecurities. We recognized gaps in learning and the challenges educators faced by awarding 112 educators with mini-grants. We collaborated with 9 regional partners, providing funding to 200 nonprofit partners to increase their capacity. We restored families by providing flood recovery to households that were destroyed by the lingering effects of the regional flood. Our commitment to supporting localized nonprofit work continued, despite the challenges raging all around us. We emerged stronger, weathered, and ready to serve on a moment's notice.

It has been such a tough year for so many in our community, and for so many nonprofits on the front lines addressing the unprecedented need and yet our community reported the lowest unmet needs in the history of United Way's funding of 2-1-1 for Saginaw County. The unduplicated role of the United Way is essential these days more than ever. As we serve the highest unmet need we were there to satisfy the growing, emergent needs of our friends, neighbors, and nonprofit partners.

Thank you for appreciating, supporting, and donating so that everyone in our community can thrive.

Sincerely,



Audra Davis



# COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

United Way of Saginaw County leads Saginaw County and our community partners through initiatives targeting critical needs among the most vulnerable in our community

## \$689,000

was awarded to 15 programs at 11 different nonprofit agencies in addition to our annual financial support of 2-1-1. These programs are helping us strive towards a thriving community by addressing key indicators to instability which include academic improvement & literacy, access to community resources, mental health & wellness, advocacy, financial education, transportation & accessibility, food insecurities, parenting & stable housing.

### **Additional Philanthropy Donor Designated Gifts**

276 donors provided support to 80 unique nonprofit agencies!

United Way of Saginaw County serves as a vehicle for charitable giving for those who work in Saginaw County. Through donor designated gifts, we provide an avenue for donors to direct their donations to our affiliated agency partners and additionally to nonprofit agencies across the state. As a result, millions of dollars have been invested in our local communities for over 100 years.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT ALLOCATIONS FOR 2021 AND THE ROOT CAUSES TO FINANCIAL INSTABILITY THAT THE PROGRAM IS ADDRESSING**

### **Career Readiness - Adult**

YWCA - Getting Ahead Program

### **Career Readiness - Youth**

Saginaw County Youth Protection Council -

Innerlink

Saginaw County Youth Protection Council -

Teen Parent Services

Read Association - Raising Readers

Read Association - Youth Literacy Mentor

First Ward Community Center - LACER

Boys and Girls Club of the Great Lakes Bay

Region - ALICE Academic Success Program

Houghton Jones Neighborhood Association

- After-School Program

### **Poor Employee Attendance - Mental Health**

Child & Family Services - Sexual Assault and Victim Support

Child & Family Services - Counseling Center

Underground Railroad - Counseling Center

### **Poor Employee Attendance - Transportation**

PartnerShift Network - Project Transportation

### **Lack Of Financial Capacity - Address Immediate Need**

Hidden Harvest - Food Rescue and Distribution

### **Lack Of Financial Capacity - Money Management**

Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity - Home Repair Program

Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity - Financial Capabilities

### **Access To Community Resources**

211 Northeast Michigan - 24/7 Community Resource Line

# COMMUNITY IMPACT FUNDING

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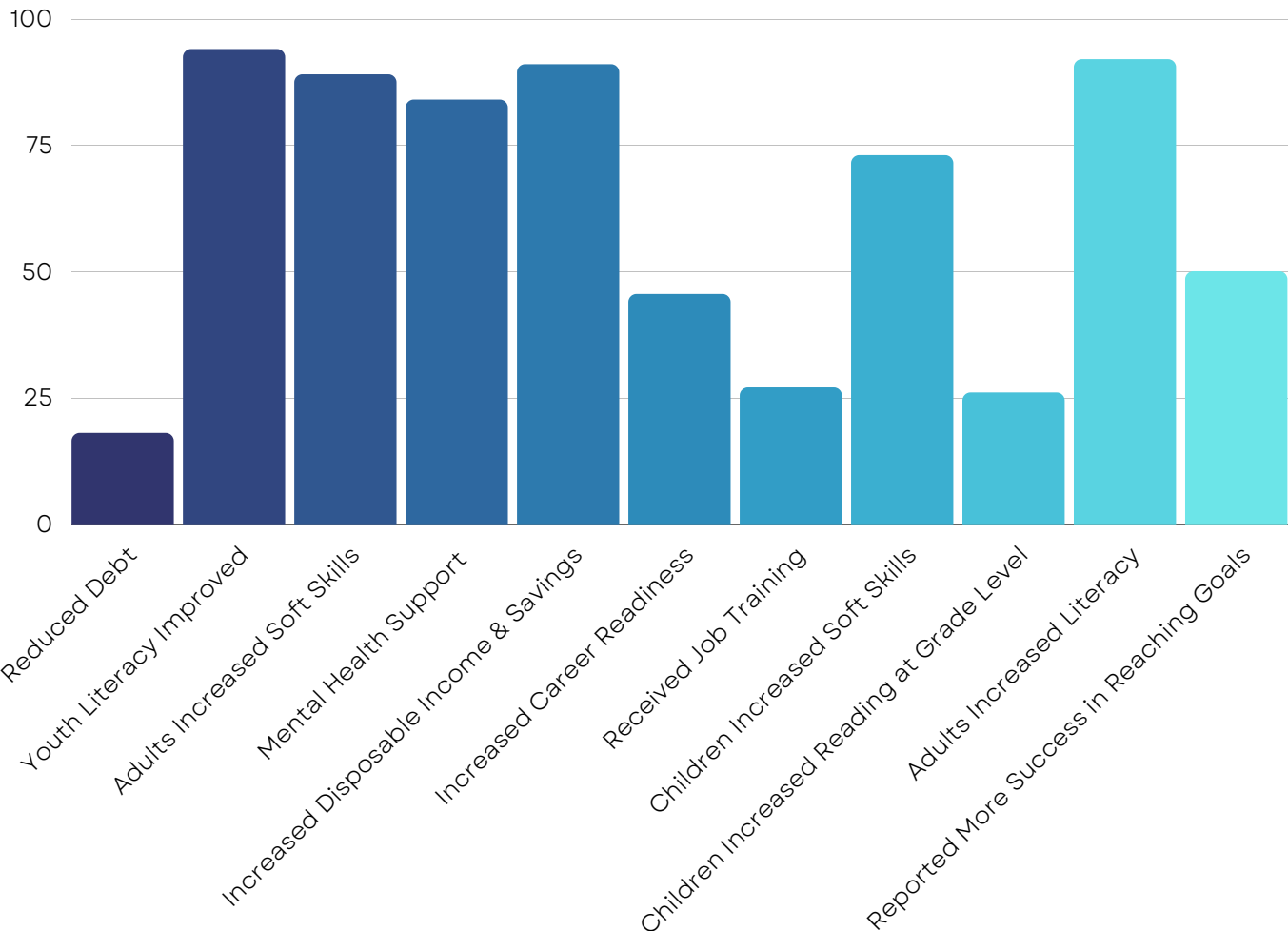
**68,608**

Number of individuals that were served by United Way of Saginaw County funding

**\$5,117,566**

was the value of the services provided to our community members through United Way funded programs

## IMPACT PROVIDED TO OUR COMMUNITY BY OUR FUNDED PARTNER AGENCIES



# COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Multi-Year Grants  
United Way of Saginaw County invests in several multi-year grants to support Saginaw County

## IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Parents with children who are between the ages of birth and age 5 can register to receive a children's book in the mail every month at no cost, all provided by our investment. Current annual investment into Saginaw County children is \$50,000

**23,570**

Books were mailed to Saginaw County children that were between the ages of birth & 5 years old



**1,964**

Children received books in Saginaw County through the Imagination Library program

## PROJECT INDEPENDENCE

Annually, our partners in labor proudly provide construction, materials and direction in collaboration with local businesses and volunteer networks to forever impact mobility and access to our community for those that are homebound

**10**

Mobility ramps were built and installed with Project Independence. These ramps provided an increased accessibility and barrier-free life.



**\$87,200**

was saved by the recipients. All ramps were provided and installed at no cost to the recipient. This value comes from materials, installation and the volunteer time wage.

## LEXIA LEARNING

Lexia provides personalized online learning of critical reading and language skills with real-time data. We support several non-profit agency programs through this investment along with many local Saginaw County classrooms in Frankenmuth, Bridgeport, and Saginaw Township

**150**

Licenses purchased and awarded to local classrooms & non-profit partners in Saginaw County to help increase literacy skills.



**\$6,000**

invested to support these individual classrooms scattered throughout Saginaw County to create brighter futures for our local children.

## CATCHAFIRE. CAPACITY BUILDING

United Way of Saginaw County in partnership with other local and regional funders in the Great Lakes Bay Region, provided support to 200 non-profit partners and school districts. Through this partnership, invited nonprofits will have access to experts from across the country who volunteer their services to support operations with capacity building together.



# COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

**\$50,000**

was awarded to educators throughout Saginaw County providing grant awards for tools, supplies, field trips and equipment to enhance their classrooms.

## **EDUCATOR MINI GRANT**

It was a happy holiday for 112 educators representing over 42 Saginaw County schools when United Way of Saginaw County offered an open call to apply for mini-grant awards ranging up to \$500 per classroom. We are so proud of the work our educators are doing!

**304,274 lbs**

of non-perishable food was provided to the community to address food insecurities. This is one of our community's highest needs.

## **FOOD INSECURITIES SUPPORT**

We provided support directly through food box distributions, joined statewide incentives such as Summer Stock Up, partnered with countless companies and directly supported Hidden Harvest in their work to provide food to local pantries.

## **FEMA - EFSP - EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER**

United Way of Saginaw County is a conduit to provide FEMA funding to 10 agencies addressing critical supportive services to the community through funding provided to support utilities, food and stable housing. Saginaw County Youth Protection Services, Underground Railroad, Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, First Ward Community Center, Saginaw County Community Action Center, Hidden Harvest, City Rescue Mission, Salvation Army and East Side Soup Kitchen all receive funding through this program.

**\$202,865**

In Phase 38 United Way of Saginaw County brought into the community financial awards to provide funding to non-profit organizations that provide relief and support to our community members.

# HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

United Way of Saginaw County serves as the HARA and LEAD agency supporting community partnerships with the Saginaw Consortium of Homeless Assistance Providers, providing critical funding to 5 local shelters and by housing the Continuum of Care Coordination and the HMIS Administration.

## HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION WITH THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

Through our work as the HARA (housing assistance resource agency) in partnership with 5 local homeless shelters, we serve as a fiduciary and gatekeeper for critical funding provided to our community. Through the work of Project Home and HMIS System Administration critical funding is provided for housing prevention and rapid re-housing from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the City of Saginaw. These dollars have made it possible to provide short-term assistance to prevent homelessness and quickly re-house people who have become homeless.

# \$12,522,257

reinvested into Saginaw & Tuscola County in households providing financial support for rent, utilities (water, electricity, trash, sewer) and internet and providing financial support to those businesses that provide affordable housing to our community.

**Total number of Saginaw & Tuscola County residents served**

# \$110,919

helped families avoid water shut-off due to non-payment.

# \$23,563

provided an safe alternative to homelessness for 374 days. This served 67 individuals from 28 households.

## CERA PROGRAM COVID EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

the addition of 16 amazing Case Managers working for United Way provided significant support to the community in ensuring our community's most vulnerable members remained stably housed & provided support to the landlords who are business owners and rely on the income from their businesses to support their families.

# 8,274 CERA

## CITY HOMEOWNER WATER ASSISTANCE

In partnership with the City of Saginaw, we were able to provide financial support in assisting with water bill payments to avoid homeowner shut-offs.

## DIRECT ASSISTANCE - HOTEL VOUCHERS

Supported through MSHDA and Salvation Army we are able to provide hotel assistance in the event that shelter space is not an available option

# VOLUNTEERS

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## 1,136

both new and existing volunteers Lived United by helping schedule vaccines, lending their helping hands at vaccination clinics, assisting at food distributions, personal needs drives and school supply drive distributions, mobility ramp builds, hanging graduate banners in the City of Saginaw and much more!

## 10,676

Hours were served by AMAZING volunteers both from the community and throughout labor partnerships. These hours were spent Living United at over 160 ongoing and one-time events!

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## \$2,705,905

was provided to Saginaw County residents through earned income tax credits and tax refunds supporting households & economic growth for our community

## \$78,451

was provided by United Way of Saginaw County through volunteer work and grant match support

## 2,524

households received tax return support free of charge. Of these households, 22% claimed to be a household which included a Veteran or someone with a disability

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### **VITA - VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The VITA program in Saginaw County provides tax return preparation at no cost to the filer. This program has been serving our community for decades and is completely facilitated by generous volunteers.

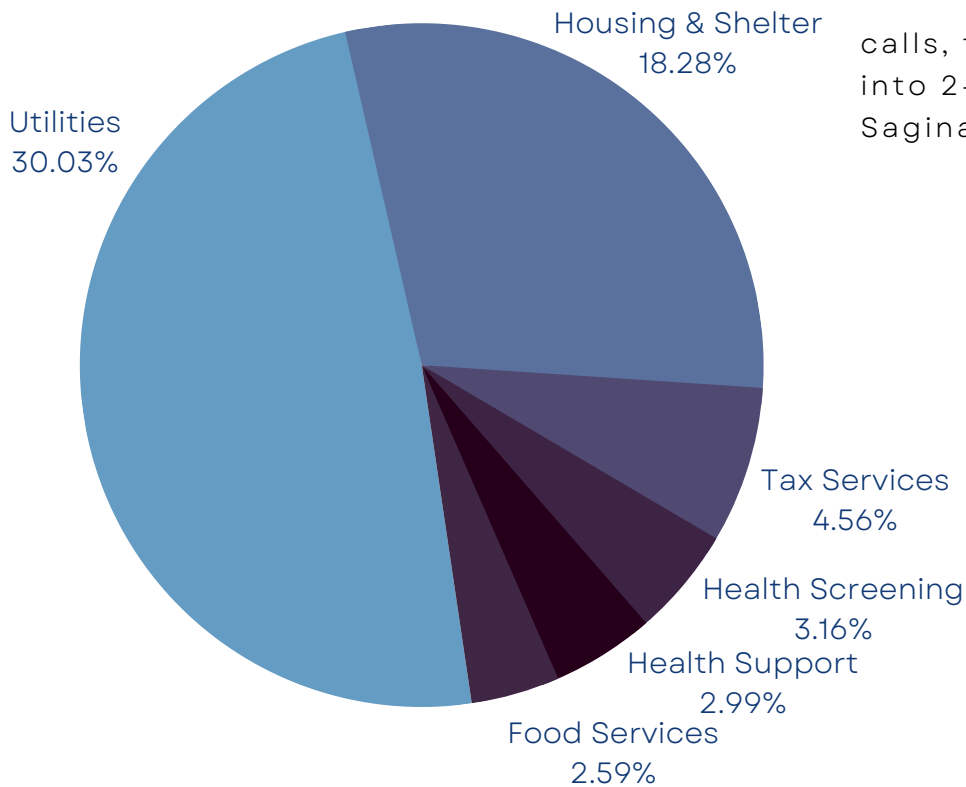




# 2-1-1 GET CONNECTED. GET HELP.

# 21,379

calls, texts, emails and chats came into 2-1-1 Northeast Michigan from Saginaw County in 2021



Top 6 categories of all calls, texts, emails and chats that 2-1-1 received from Saginaw County residents in 2021

## 2-1-1 LISTENS

2-1-1 is our community resource line. Because of funding from United Way of Saginaw County, 2-1-1 is available to Saginaw County residents. Our community members always have someone to call in times of need, so no one struggles alone.



Get Connected. Get Help.™

# 2021 Elected Board of Directors and Staff

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- **Chair** - Terry Robinson, Retired - Hemlock Semiconductor
- **First Vice Chair** - Bryan Gilleland, Retired - Frankenmuth Insurance
- **Second Vice Chair & Nominations Committee Chair** - Michelle Mitchell, Consumers Energy
- **President & CEO** - Audra Davis, United Way of Saginaw County
- **Immediate Past Chair** - Carrie Travis, Covenant HealthCare
- **Secretary** - Jim Miller, Nexteer Automotive
- **Treasurer** - Brian Dixon, Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants
- **Executive Member at Large**
  - Angie Miller, Mid-Michigan Area Labor Council

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Evan Allardyce, IBEW Local 557
- Margie Bach, Mental Health, Tri-County Adjudication
- Julie Burdis, Spence Brothers
- Rev. Hurley Coleman, Pastor Greater Coleman Temple Church of God in Christ; Community Change Team Chair
- Tim Donnellon, Frankenmuth Insurance
- Craig Goslin, Saginaw Spirit Hockey Club
- Jessica Gwizdala, United Financial
- George Heilbronn, Retired - Carpenters Local 706
- Deborah R. Huntley, Saginaw Valley State University
- Mary Ellen Johnson, Saginaw County Youth Protection Council
- Lt. David Kendziorski, Saginaw Police Department
- Joseph Kiss, Bank of America, Merrill Lynch
- Tony Mann, UAW Local 668/GM Powertrain
- Dan McKune, Huntington Bank
- Jason Parker, Covenant HealthCare
- Kosta Povich, Braun Kendrick Attorneys At Law
- Dr. Ramont Roberts, Saginaw Public School District
- Christopher Robinson, Hemlock Semiconductor
- Erin Senkowski, Saginaw Intermediate School District
- Micah Skidmore, Garber Management Group

## STAFF

- Audra Davis, President and Chief Executive Officer
- Tracy Aldrich, Director of Finance and Administration
- Jayce Ashwill, HMIS System Administrator
- Steven Lamb, Labor Liaison
- Jill Neperud Creegan, Fund Development Coordinator
- Brook Rehmann, Project Home - Housing Resource Specialist
- Erin Dunkle-Riley, Continuum of Care & Community Impact Coordinator
- Jackie Taylor, Marketing & Volunteer Coordinator
- BreAnna Villaire, Office Coordinator & Accounting Assistant
- Many Amazing Temporary Case Managers that Assisted with CERA