



UNITED WAY
Greater Milwaukee
& Waukesha County

IMPACT IN WAUKESHA COUNTY



From Recovery to Stability

When Savannah completed treatment for addiction, she stepped out into a world that suddenly had no place for her to land.

“There wasn’t any step-down programming,” Savannah recalled. “I felt good getting some sobriety under my belt, but I didn’t want to go back to homelessness. Living on the streets isn’t good for anybody’s recovery.”

A referral connected her to Hebron Housing Services in Waukesha, an organization supporting people facing housing instability. The impact was immediate.

“It was a godsend,” she said.

Finding Home, Finding Hope

At Hebron Housing Services, Savannah didn’t just access housing support—she found people who showed up for her.

Staff quickly connected her to Juno House, a temporary shelter in Waukesha for people experiencing homelessness, and then helped her move into transitional housing for young adults. That stability became the turning point she needed to keep her recovery on track.

“People don’t understand how having a roof over your head matters in recovery,” Savannah said. Today, Savannah is proud not just of her sobriety, but of the person she has fought to become.

Safe & Stable Homes: Housing Stability for All

“Savannah’s story is a powerful reminder that homelessness can happen to anyone,” said Krystina Kohler, Impact Manager at United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County. “It doesn’t always look the way people expect. Behind every housing crisis is a real person facing real challenges—and often doing everything they can to move forward.”

That understanding sits at the heart of United Way’s new initiative, Safe & Stable Homes: Housing Stability for All. The initiative responds to both immediate housing needs and the deeper challenges that put individuals and families at risk in the first place. Through Safe & Stable Homes: Housing Stability for All, United Way is working to ensure thousands more people don’t just avoid homelessness—but move toward lives filled with stability, opportunity, and belonging.

Partners like Hebron Housing Services bring the strategies of this initiative to life, walking alongside individuals like Savannah as they rebuild stability and hope.

**THE GOAL FOR SAFE & STABLE HOMES:
HOUSING STABILITY FOR ALL IS TO PREVENT
HOMELESSNESS FOR 40,000 PEOPLE ACROSS
OUR FOUR-COUNTY REGION BY 2032.**

KEY INITIATIVES

United Way's Key Initiatives meet people where they are, break down barriers, and create pathways to success. Together, we are doing more than responding to immediate needs—we are driving lasting change and building a stronger future for everyone.

Reducing Barriers to Employment & Advancement

Our goal: 15,000 people will be ready to start stable careers having overcome key employment barriers by 2029.

NEW Safe & Stable Homes: Housing Stability for All

Our goal: We will prevent homelessness for 40,000 people by 2032.

Techquity

Our goal: We will provide 50,000 computers to people who need them by 2027.

Teen Mental Wellness: Empowering Minds

Our goal: Empowering Minds schools will elevate the mental wellness of 21,000 high school students by 2030.

THE IMPACT

In 2024-25:

25,120 individuals were served by United Way-funded programs in Waukesha County.

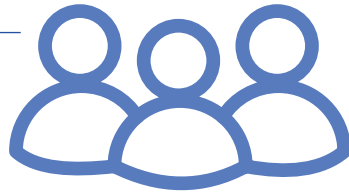
Over 1,000 families were served by Safe & Stable Homes programs, providing flexible financial assistance, legal aid support, case management support, and more.

50,000 rides were taken from Milwaukee to Waukesha County for individuals to access jobs through Reducing Barriers to Employment & Advancement.

Over 2,200 students from Waukesha South and Waukesha West received mental wellness support through Teen Mental Wellness: Empowering Minds.

Over 300 people received laptops and **nearly 70 people** received digital navigation support to apply for jobs, access health care, and so much more.

Nearly 3,000 backpacks filled with grade-appropriate school supplies were distributed in Waukesha County to ensure students had the tools they need to succeed at school.



As a new father, Gumaro knew he needed stable work to provide a promising future for him and his daughter. He turned to La Casa de Esperanza in Waukesha, and they stepped in to help him plan his future. La Casa supports United Way's Reducing Barriers to Employment & Advancement strategies, and they help individuals like Gumaro form a path to a stable career.

2026-27 WAUKESHA INVESTMENTS

The following organizations will serve Waukesha County residents:

African American Leadership Alliance Milwaukee
American Red Cross Wisconsin Region
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee
Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin
Courage+
Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin
Elevate, Inc.
Eras Senior Network
Family Promise of Waukesha County
Family Service of Waukesha County
Forward Careers
The Friendship Circle
Gay/Straight Alliance for Safe Schools
GPS Education Partners
Hebron Housing Services
IMPACT
Independence First
Journey21
Kids Matter
La Casa de Esperanza
Lad Lake
Literacy Services of Wisconsin
Milwaukee Community Service Corps
MobilISE
My Way Out
NAMI Southeast Wisconsin
Nonprofit Management Fund
The Parenting Network
Project RETURN
REDgen
The Salvation Army - Waukesha County
Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Waukesha
Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin
Vision Forward Association
Wellpoint Care Network
Wisconsin Veteran's Network
The Women's Center
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