**UNITED WAY “FACT A DAY”**

**Fact #1 –** United Way invests in local programs in the areas of health, education, and financial stability because these are the building blocks to a good quality of life. A gift to United Way’s Community Fund is the most efficient and powerful way to invest in your community, including the important work of COVID-19 response, recovery, and rebuilding.

**Fact #2 –** A single gift to United Way helps hundreds of thousands of people. Since 2009, over 425,000 individuals and families struggling to meet their basic needs received food, transportation, legal, and housing assistance at the most vulnerable time of their lives.

**Fact #3** – United Way for the safety of people experiencing intimate partner violence. Since 2009, an average of 9,500 people were served per year through United Way-funded intimate partner violence prevention programs with 96% gaining knowledge about safety planning and their rights and options in the legal system.

**Fact #4 –** United Way’s Reducing Barriers to Employment & Advancement initiative supports local programs that provide opportunities for individuals to obtain permanent employment with a livable wage at a workplace where they are treated with dignity and have opportunities for advancement, with a focus on African-Americans.

**Fact #5 –** Donations to United Way support Fund My Future Milwaukee (Children's Savings Accounts), raiseing children's expectations for their future by seeding an educational savings account starting in kindergarten for all Milwaukee students.

**Fact #6 –** A gift to United Way’s Community Fund is the most strategic way to invest in the community. Our community’s problems are interrelated, and only the Community Fund’s diversity of funded programs work together to address the complex causes of poverty, teen pregnancy, homelessness, and many others – in a way that no single agency, donor, volunteer, or sector of the community can do alone.

**Fact #7 –**. Since 2015, United Way has distributed 277,370 free books to local students through the My Very Own Library and Build My Bookshelf programs. An average of 6,639 students per year have received books with a total investment of $1.5 million.

**Fact #8 –** Who doesn’t love back-to-school shopping? In 2019, United Way’s Backpack Coalition mobilized thousands of volunteers and donated resources to pack more than 6,500 backpacks for children in both Milwaukee and Waukesha counties.

**Fact #9 –** United Way is a proud partner in the Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership (MCSP), a collective strategy to transform schools into a place where students, families, staff, and the surrounding community can work together to ensure every student is successful. The two longest-running Community Schools have shown increased graduation rates and students’ math and reading scores have shown double the rate of growth when compared to the rest of the district.

**Fact #10 –-** United Way has set a goal: end family homelessness in our community by 2025. Your gift to United Way’s Safe & Stable Homes Initiative will allow United Way to invest in prevention resources for families who are at risk for homelessness.

**Fact #11 –** In 2019-20, United Way responded to the extreme cold weather by funding warming rooms and providing resources to increase the capacity of local nonprofits that provide food and shelter to struggling individuals and families.

**Fact #12 –** In response to COVID-19, United Way supplied local nonprofits with over 450 gallons of hand sanitizer, 52,300 masks and gloves, 19,200 personal hygiene products, 2,900 cleaning supply products, 13,500 food items, 43,000 food pantry supplies, 70,000 diapers, 10 hooded antiviral suits, and 1,100 digital no-touch thermometers.

**Fact #13 –** Volunteers transform communities. In 2019, United Way volunteers gave over 43,000 hours of time to improve our community, with an estimated value of $1+ million in volunteer time.

**Fact #14 –** Donations to United Way make our community healthier. Last year, 86,942 youth and adults had increased access to health care programs, health and wellness services, and safer and healthier communities.

**Fact #15 –** Project Homeless Connect is an annual event that immediately connects people experiencing homelessness to services like dental and vision screenings, employment resources, and housing assessments. In 2019, an estimated 758 individuals accessed resources at events in both Milwaukee and Waukesha.