

*2022 Annual Report*

**LEARNING & LIVING  
IN ERIE**



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## MISSION

United Way of Erie County mobilizes resources to break the cycle of poverty and improve the community.

## VISION

The Erie region is a collaborative community of opportunity where all students succeed and all families thrive.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**When you support United Way, you reinforce a more economically vibrant Erie County for all.** You may wonder how your investment in United Way has anything to do with Erie's economic development. A lot. The direct and indirect ties between student success and economic growth are often overlooked or not even addressed when discussing financial strategies. We know United Way's overarching goal of leveraging education to break the cycle of poverty sets students up for success in life. Still, the payoffs go well beyond the individual, reaching the entire community.

Investments in education, from birth through 12th grade, have remarkable economic benefits, including increased individual and family earnings, better health, a more productive workforce, a more substantial tax base, and, surprisingly, reduced crime—all with significant ties to our community's overall economic well-being.

In recent years, another significant positive outcome of quality PreK-12 public education is it's being recognized for its role in supporting equity. By leveling the playing field for economically disadvantaged and minority children, communities can break down the disparities that have negatively impacted educational achievement. When one group rises, the entire community benefits.

From the Imagination Library to Raising Readers to Community Schools, United Way's educational initiatives invest in evidence-based approaches that ensure ALL children begin learning from birth. That they enter kindergarten ready to learn, read proficiently in third grade, and have a successful academic career.

While United Way's strategy to break the cycle of poverty may seem restricted to children, we know family stability is critically important. Evidence suggests that what happens at home significantly impacts how a child shows up to school. Our work focuses on student success but also includes vital resources for families. United Way's 211 Helpline and Erie FREE Taxes provide hard-working families support to get on track and stay on track so they can be more vested in their children's engagement in school.

Please know that your investment in the Erie community through United Way results not only in helping individual students and their families but is a crucial contributor to the overall economic ecosystem of our region.

Let's keep focused on helping ALL children succeed in school and creating a community where ALL families thrive.

That's when Erie becomes a vibrant, flourishing community for everyone.

That's LIVING UNITED.

Sincerely,



**Laurie B. Root** | *President/CEO*  
**United Way of Erie County**





# IMAGINATION LIBRARY

The Imagination Library is a **FREE** Book-A-Month Program for all children living in Erie County from birth to age five!

PICTURED  
*The Milsap  
Daycare Kids*

# INSPIRING A LOVE OF READING

Cypri Milsap started Milsap Family Daycare six years ago because she didn't want families worried about who they left their children with while working to make a living. She knew she was the right person for the job. In addition to adoring children, she has three of her own and knows it takes a particular person to love other people's babies. Something else she knows? Sometimes parents need help!

Cypri says they're a busy family, and sometimes they don't have the energy to play with their little ones. When this happens, they reach for a book. Often, they grab an Imagination Library book. The Imagination Library is a free book-a-month program for all children living in Erie County from birth to age five. Each month, a carefully curated book is sent to a child directly to their house. "Children love to get mail, and they become so excited to hear a new story," says Cypri. Her daughter, Ariya, started the program in 2017 and recently graduated.

Cypri credits the program for getting her daughter excited about reading and creating an even closer bond. "It has helped to create all these quiet moments where we snuggle and read," she says. "We even 'recreate' the stories to include us!" Reading with babies and young children affects how many words they know, how they talk, and how they learn to read. It sounds almost too simple to be accurate, but regularly reading with children during their first years gives them the boost needed to complete later grades and have a successful education.

It is never too early to start reading to children, which is why the Imagination Library begins at birth. Consistency is vital, though. Just like baking and finding new recipes, Cypri and Ariya try to make reading part of their routine. It allows them to teach and bond together and sparks new conversations. Right now, Ariya's favorite book is Jampires. We'd love to hear their recreation of that title!



## KEY FIGURES: JUNE 30, 2021–JULY 1, 2022

124,868

Books mailed this year

18,253

Graduates

862,345

Books mailed since program inception (July 2013)

8,662

Enrolled as of July 2022





# RAISING READERS

*Raising Readers is United Way's countywide, local campaign for grade-level reading.*

PICTURED

*Hazel  
Pennsy*

# READING BY THE THIRD GRADE

For Korin Stewart, a kindergarten teacher at Iroquois Elementary School, Raising Readers' Kindergarten Bootcamp program is more than just an opportunity to create a positive rapport with her students before the school year begins. For Korin, it's also about becoming a better teacher. The summer kindergarten readiness program helps her better prepare for her incoming class; she's able to gauge where her students are in their learning journey before kindergarten and then meet them where they are once the school year begins.

The summertime curriculum also shows results. It has proven beneficial for students to meet and become comfortable with their teachers and classrooms. "The students involved in our summer readiness programs are much more confident and less anxious about attending kindergarten," Korin says.

Raising Readers, United Way's countywide, local campaign for grade-level reading, aims to assist children in achieving grade-level reading by the end of third grade. Why third grade? Because most students who fail to reach this critical milestone fall behind in later grades and often drop out before earning a high school diploma. Research shows that proficiency in reading by the end of third grade enables students to shift from learning to read to reading to learn. We also see that the children proficient in grade-level reading can master the more complex subject matter they encounter in the fourth-grade curriculum.

Unfortunately, during the summer months, low-income children sometimes tread water or fall behind in their curriculum, while higher-income children continue to build their skills. This is why teachers like Korin, and programs like Kindergarten Bootcamp focusing on summer learning, school readiness, and attendance, are so important.

The readiness programs help build the confidence necessary for education, explains Korin, but most impressively, she sees how the readiness program sparks joy for reading in her students. "You can even read books on your iPad!" boasts Hazel Pennsy, a five-year-old at Iroquois Elementary, a United Way Community School, whose favorite book at school is *Goatlocks and the Three Bears*. This type of excitement in children is usually reserved for a sweet treat, but with some encouragement, kids can find reading as fun as a vanilla scoop with rainbow sprinkles. Just ask Hazel, who has a favorite book at school and one at home, too (it's *Peppa Pig*, of course)!

## 16-DAY BOOTCAMP DATA

27	Total students enrolled in 16-day program	37%	Increase in the number of children fluent in <b>number naming</b> (increase from 11% to 48% in 16 days)
100%	of students participating in the bootcamp registered for kindergarten on time	59%	Increase in the number of children fluent in <b>letter naming</b> (increase from 4% to 63% in 16 days)



# ERIE FREE TAXES

**Erie FREE Taxes** is a community-based program providing free tax preparation services to Erie County families.

**PICTURED**

*Tammy Stoddard*



# FREE TAX PREPARATION

Tax season is stressful for everyone, but it can be especially challenging if you live below the poverty line or are elderly. Federal refunds, tax breaks, and assistance programs are in place to help those in need. The problem is taxes are confusing, and help is often expensive. Que: Tammy Stoddard, a United Way volunteer providing free tax preparation services to the Erie County community.

Tammy, a controller at the Corry Industrial Center by day, donates her time via the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) operated here in Erie by United Way. An ad in the local paper sparked her interest in volunteering. She called, and the rest, as they say, is history. "I had ten years of experience working for two private companies and had always enjoyed the work," she says. "I have just completed my fifth tax season with United Way." One of the most significant ways Tammy helps folks with their taxes is by ensuring that eligible community members apply for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

The EITC is one of our country's most effective anti-poverty tools and lifts more than eight million adults and children above the poverty line in the US every year. It provides a cash credit that boosts the incomes of low-to-moderate income workers, helping them meet their basic needs. Those who receive the credit may now be able to save for emergencies, pay down debt or put a down payment on a home. No doubt, volunteers like Tammy are one of the reasons so many people know about this essential tax credit.

She explains that in the 2021 tax year, the Corry location alone completed 195 returns and created a total federal refund for the season of \$295,284. That's a lot of money back into the pockets of community members and businesses. "I usually tell my volunteers, 'This is why I obtain my certification every year.' I like to help people," she says. "When I help an elderly client who reminds me of my grandparents, it makes me smile; it makes me feel rewarded. They are so thankful we helped them." The Erie FREE Taxes program, and people like Tammy, speak to United Way's mission of eliminating poverty and increasing the well-being of Erie County families and neighborhoods.



## 2022 TAX FILING SEASON

\$10.6 M

Federal refund dollars earned

5,638

Federal returns processed

\$3.1 M

Total EITC refund dollars earned

1,819

EITC claims/returns processed

\$1.5 M

Estimated tax filer savings



## Pennsylvania | Northwest



### ESTIMATED DEMOGRAPHICS OF CONTACTS

#### ERIE COUNTY

FEMALE: 62.9%  
MALE: 25.7%  
UNKNOWN: 11.4%

#### NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

FEMALE: 61.1%  
MALE: 25.3%  
UNKNOWN: 13.7%



### ESTIMATED AGE OF CONTACTS – TOP 3 RANGES

#### ERIE COUNTY

30–39: 19.9%  
50–59: 18.7%  
40–49: 16.3%

#### NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

30–39: 18.9%  
50–59: 17.5%  
40–49: 16.5%



### TOP 3 REFERRAL CATEGORIES

#### ERIE COUNTY

UTILITIES: 44.6%  
HOUSING & SHELTER: 25.6%  
EMPLOYMENT & INCOME: 6.9%

#### NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

UTILITIES: 42.6%  
HOUSING & SHELTER: 25.9%  
EMPLOYMENT & INCOME: 7.0%



### TOTAL CONTACTS AND REFERRALS

#### ERIE COUNTY

CONTACTS TO 211: 4,592  
REFERRALS TO CALLERS: 7,573

#### NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

CONTACTS TO 211: 11,848  
REFERRALS TO CALLERS: 13,683

\* All data pulled from 2021–2022 PA 211 counts or monthly reports sent to United Way from PA 211.

# 2021-2022 DATA

## TOP REQUESTS FROM ERIE COUNTY

Because most communities did not have a comprehensive, up-to-date listing of available social services, 211 has become recognized as the easy to remember, go-to resource for individuals and families in need of local support services in the Northwest region. Our trained resource navigators specialize in finding you the help you need, for any of life's tough situations, from our comprehensive (and ever-growing) database of social services.



36.8%



UTILITIES

29.3%



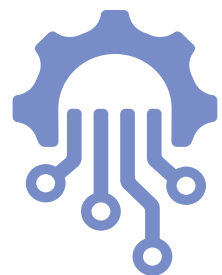
HOUSING  
& SHELTER

7.8%



EMPLOYMENT  
& INCOME

6.2%



OTHER



# COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

United Way's community schools initiative brings a wide range of resources directly into the school to support students and their families, removing barriers to learning so children can be successful in school...and life!

PICTURED

*Jacob  
Cordray*

# THE WALKING SCHOOL BUS

Each school morning, Jacob Cordray safely walks himself and his brothers to McKinley Elementary School, a United Way Community School. It may sound like a somewhat typical task for a fifth grader, but what used to be a stressful morning (sometimes brothers don't behave) has turned into a tranquil commute. "Mr. Mike & Mr. Jake [members of the Blue Coats] cheer me up a lot and make me so happy," he says. "When I'm having a bad day or feeling down, they always know how to lift me up." Jacob is referencing the Safer Walking Routes and Walking School Bus initiatives. They have given him a morning routine for the first time, and he isn't alone.

In 2017, United Way launched the Community Schools initiative. The initiative was a positive step in creating the best education opportunities for Erie County families and children. What was unexpected was the amount of absenteeism. Nearly 25 percent of students were deemed chronically absent in our first year. The solution was to partner with the City of Erie, Erie's Public Schools and the Blue Coats initiative members to identify the best routes for students to walk. United Way implemented a system allowing safe travel to and from school, encouraging community relationships and connections. The best part? It worked!

In the pilot's first year, 26 of 30 students at one community school increased their daily attendance. That's 86 percent of students who were previously late, now coming to school safely and every day. We now have over 80 students every day participating from two elementary schools in the Walking School Bus initiative. That's 80 more students closer to graduation. "The Walking School Bus has impacted our students and families in so many ways," says Amy Grande, the Community School Director at McKinley. "It's one more opportunity to positively engage with community members and each other. We hope it also gives our parents and families the peace of mind to know the students are supervised and cared for on their route." For Jacob, his family, and undoubtedly many school-age children, the Safer Walking Routes and Walking School Bus initiative has done just that.



## DATA POINTS FROM A COMMUNITY SCHOOL

42	Total number of students enrolled	15.4%	Increase in the total average percent of attendance (75.5% in 2020–2021 to 90.7% in 2021–2022)
23	Total number of parents/caregivers engaged	44%	Decrease in the total number of classes missed from the previous year (2020–2021: 2,424/2021–2022: 1,071)

# COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PARTNERS

## ERIE'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS – ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY SCHOOL	LEAD PARTNER	CORPORATE & FUNDING PARTNERS
Diehl Elementary School	Mercyhurst University	Accudyn Products Inc. American Tinning & Galvanizing Custom Engineering Lincoln Recycling Reddog Industries, Inc. Smith Provision Company, Inc. Team Hardinger
Edison Elementary School	Achievement Center of LECOM Health	Wabtec Corporation
Grover Cleveland Elementary School	TBA	*ESSER Funding
Harding Elementary School	YMCA of Greater Erie	Eriez Magnetics
Jefferson Elementary School	TBA	*ESSER Funding
JoAnna Connell Elementary School	TBA	*ESSER Funding
Lincoln Elementary School	TBA	*ESSER Funding
McKinley Elementary School	PennWest Edinboro	Women United for Community Schools
Perry Elementary School	Erie Family Center	Eriez Magnetics
Pfeiffer-Burleigh Elementary School	Family Services of NWPA	Erie Insurance

## ERIE'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS – MIDDLE SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY SCHOOL	LEAD PARTNER	CORPORATE & FUNDING PARTNERS
East Middle School	UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor	Hamot Health Foundation
Strong Vincent Middle School	Gannon University	Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
Woodrow Wilson Middle School	TBA	*ESSER Funding

## GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMUNITY SCHOOL	LEAD PARTNER	CORPORATE & FUNDING PARTNERS
Elk Valley Elementary School	Achievement Center of LECOM Health	Bonnell's Auto Group Matrix Tool, Inc. Reed Manufacturing

## IROQUOIS SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMUNITY SCHOOL	LEAD PARTNER	CORPORATE & FUNDING PARTNERS
Iroquois Elementary School	Susan Hirt Hagen CORE	Reed Manufacturing TechnipFMC Widget Financial

## UNION CITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMUNITY SCHOOL	LEAD PARTNER	CORPORATE & FUNDING PARTNERS
Union City Elementary School	TBA	Women United for Community Schools Anonymous

\* Partially funded through Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) through the U.S. Department of Education in partnership with Erie's Public Schools. This temporary funding will end June 2024.

# VISION TO LEARN

## SEEING THE DIFFERENCE

Have you ever seen a child put on a pair of corrective glasses for the first time? **The smile and joy are contagious!**

On the other hand, imagine going to school without being able to see correctly. The odds are academic success is not going to happen with this impairment.

Uncorrected poor vision is one of the many barriers to learning that underserved children in our community face daily. In conversations with school nurses, we learned that **30 percent** of students fail their school vision screenings, and **30 percent** of those students never end up getting glasses, which adds up to thousands of students across Erie County. This is not due to a lack of effort by the nurses or schools, nor is it because parents don't want the best for their children. However, it is a direct result of challenges families face preventing them from accessing the needed support, often transportation.

We are addressing this serious barrier to learning through the community schools initiative. United Way piloted a mobile vision clinic with a national organization that provides vision services to students, **Vision To Learn**. This partnership was a success, and plans are in place to significantly expand the program in the **2022–2023 school year**.

Vision To Learn is an effective and efficient program that brings vision support right to the students at their school. It is essentially an optometrist office in a Sprinter van.

**How does it work?** Once nurses identify the students who fail their school vision screening, families can take advantage of the mobile vision exams and glasses at no cost to the family. Once children have their exams, they may select from various eyeglass frames. The new pair of glasses are delivered directly to the students at their schools shortly after that.

In total, **143 students received glasses** through the recent pilot at **Diehl, Edison and Pfeiffer-Burleigh** Elementary Schools, all United Way community schools. Our partners at Vision To Learn shared the severity of vision correction they saw in Erie. In some instances, students had completed almost all elementary school with severe vision correction needs. Through this pilot, generously supported by several local anonymous donors, these 143 students received vision correction, including replacement glasses, free of charge. United Way and Vision To Learn are finalizing plans for an expanded pilot for the 2022-23 school year.





## FROM THE DONOR

*Amber is going on her seventh year of teaching special education at Elk Valley and has been donating to United Way since 2016.*

PICTURED

*Amber Jackson*



# BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

Amber Jackson was on vacation last summer in the Outer Banks when she spontaneously met another family also involved with their local United Way. Amber loves these moments as a donor—when it becomes clear that even though their donations benefit initiatives in different locations, one aspect of their generosity is the same: the results. Contributions are immeasurably impactful in both their communities.

Amber is going into her seventhth year of teaching special education at Elk Valley Elementary, a United Way Community School, and has been donating to United Way since 2016. She became a donor because she knew United Way was important to the community and wanted to commit to donating regularly. “I loved that it was such an easy process to donate straight from my check each pay,” she says.

Donations stay local to crush poverty. Ninety-nine cents of every dollar United Way of Erie County raises remains in Erie County. Donating helps break the cycle of poverty and ensures students succeed and families are stable. [Amber explains one of the most rewarding aspects of donating is that you get to see the needs of your community meeting.] You see how even a small donation can have a significant impact.

Amber encourages others to commit to donating—being “part of something big for someone else” has enriched her everyday life. If you see Amber out (coaching basketball, working out or enjoying the beach), make sure to say hello and thank her for helping make Erie County a better place to live for everyone.



## BY THE NUMBERS

3,843

**Individual Gifts** totaling \$1,583,920

108

**Corporate Gifts** totaling \$1,467,644

110

**YLS Gifts** totaling \$53,887

18

**Platinum Circle** (\$5,000-\$9,999) totaling \$109,696

46

**Gold Circle** (\$2,500-\$4,999) totaling \$142,261

67

**Silver Circle** (\$1,500-\$2,499) totaling \$115,242

125

**Bronze Circle** (\$1,000-\$1,499) totaling \$138,918



# TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY

The **Tocqueville Society** recognizes individuals contributing at the highest levels of personal giving of \$10,000 or more annually. These caring philanthropists exemplify the giving spirit of America, as witnessed by the Society's namesake, Alexis de Tocqueville, during his travels in America in 1831.

Tocqueville Society members are committed to United Way's collective impact strategy, which focuses their money on results-oriented initiatives that make a real difference in the lives of people in Erie County.



Cle and Penny Austin



Andrew J. Conner



William B. Conner



Mo and Bob Dwyer



Lorianne Feltz



Chris and Mary Fette Sr.



Thomas A. Hanes and Mili Chiang-Hanes



Mary Lincoln



The Kern Family Foundation



Lisa A. and Timothy G. NeCastro



Susan and Gary Raimy



Robin Schepner



Carla W. Picardo and Scott K. Wright



Mark A. Wright



Pete and Dana Zaphiris

## LA SOCIÉTÉ NATIONALE

\$100,000 to \$249,999

Thomas B. Hagen

## ORDRE D'ÉGALITÉ

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Bruce Raimy ☞

The Raimy Family

Robin Schepner (WU) ☞

## ORDRE DE LIBERTÉ

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Kern Family Foundation

Lisa A. and Timothy G. NeCastro (WU)

Mark A. Wright

Scott K. Wright and Carla W. Picardo

Pete and Dana Zaphiris (WU)

## MEMBRES DE LA SOCIÉTÉ

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Cle and Penny Austin (WU)

The Andrew J. Conner & William B. Conner Family

Mo and Bob Dwyer\* ☞

Lorianne Feltz

Chris and Mary Fette Sr.

Thomas A. Hanes and Mili Chiang-Hanes

Mary Lincoln (WU)

Richard A. Merwin

The John M. and Gertrude E. Petersen Foundation

Gary and Susan Raimy ☞

Kathe Schepner (WU)

Roger and Nancy Sturtevant

Barrett C. Walker Family Fund\*

(\*) Received through the Erie Community Foundation

☞ Members of the Legacy Society

(WU) Members of Women United

# UNITED WAY OF ERIE COUNTY WOMEN UNITED® FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Women United is a dynamic group of women who recognize the importance of investing in our most precious human capital, the next generation. This group has two levels: Change Leaders who pledge \$5,000 or more a year for a three-year commitment and \$250–\$4,999 annually for a three-year commitment to United Way’s Community Schools initiative.

Women United supports United Way’s position that every child, regardless of what zip code they live in, deserves the support and resources needed to excel and thrive in school and, therefore, in life. Community schools focus on removing the many barriers low-income children face daily, keeping them from achieving academically. With these barriers removed, children come to school ready and eager to learn!



WOMEN UNITED CHANGE LEADERS	
Penny Austin*	Lisa NeCastro*
Janel Bonsell*	Amy Nedreski
Beverly Gocal	Laurie B. Root
Sara Kim	Kathe Scheppner
Beth Lewis	Robin Scheppner*
Mary Lincoln	Ann Schoeller
Charlotte A. Manison	Amy Valentine
Colleen Moore-Mezler	Terri Wolfe-Lubahn
Diane Morosky	Dana Zaphiris*
Deborah Murphy	Anonymous

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Rae Jean Catrabone	Barbara Pollock
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VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS
Christine Goodrich Blashock and Aubry DeMarco*

\* Women United Executive Council Members  
List correct at time of printing.

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<b>Damali Donovan</b> <i>Community Impact Coordinator</i>	<b>Alycia Olivar</b> <i>Community Impact Manager, Data and Evaluation</i>
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<b>Katrina Byrd</b> <i>Community School Director Strong Vincent Middle School</i>	<b>Elizabeth Nies</b> <i>Community School Director Lincoln Elementary School</i>
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<b>Scot Galloway</b> <i>Community School Director Perry Elementary School</i>	<b>Shanna Potter</b> <i>Community School Director Harding Elementary School</i>
<b>Amy Grande</b> <i>Community School Director McKinley Elementary School</i>	<b>Tammy Rader</b> <i>Community School Director Elk Valley Elementary School</i>
<b>Kerrie Grande</b> <i>Community School Director Iroquois Elementary School</i>	<b>Ashley Taylor</b> <i>Community School Director Jefferson Elementary School</i>
<b>Tami Krzeszewski-Conway</b> <i>Community School Director Edison Elementary School</i>	<b>Marcus Yuille</b> <i>Community School Director Joanna Connell Elementary School</i>

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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<b>Christina Bernatowicz</b> <i>PNC Financial Services, Inc.</i>	<b>Mark Kuhar</b> <i>Governance Committee Chair                  MacDonald, Illig, Jones &amp; Britton</i>	<b>Lisa Slomski</b> <i>First National Bank of Pennsylvania</i>
<b>Janel Bonsell</b> <i>Secretary/Treasurer                  Schaffner Knight Minnaugh &amp; Company</i>	<b>Jack Lee</b> <i>Erie-Crawford Central Labor Council</i>	<b>Marybeth Smialek</b> <i>Penelec, A FirstEnergy Company</i>
<b>Seth H. Carter, DO, MSMEd</b> <i>LECOM Institute for Successful Aging and                  LECOM Health - Medical Associates of Erie</i>	<b>Rhonda Matthews</b> <i>Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee Chair                  PennWest Edinboro</i>	<b>Jim Teed</b> <i>Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield</i>
<b>Terry L. Cascioli</b> <i>Decision Associates</i>	<b>Colleen Moore-Mezler</b> <i>Executive Compensation and Review                  Committee Chair                  Moore Research Services, Inc.</i>	<b>Thomas Tupitza</b> <i>Planned Giving Committee Chair                  Knox McLaughlin Gornall &amp; Sennett</i>
<b>Christopher Clark, DO, MHA</b> <i>AHN Saint Vincent Hospital</i>	<b>James C. Nuber Jr.</b> <i>International Brotherhood of Electrical                  Workers, Local 56</i>	<b>Eric Weislogel</b> <i>Wegmans - West Erie</i>
<b>Gail J. Cook</b> <i>Widget Financial</i>	<b>Brian Polito</b> <i>Erie's Public Schools</i>	<b>Dana Zaphiris</b> <i>Women United for Community Schools</i>
<b>Christine Drabic</b> <i>Wabtec Corporation</i>	<b>Nicole Reitzell</b> <i>Project Blueprint Graduate                  Erie Downtown Development Corporation</i>	
<b>James W. Grunke</b> <i>Erie Regional Chamber &amp; Growth                  Partnership</i>	<b>Laurie B. Root</b> <i>President                  United Way of Erie County</i>	

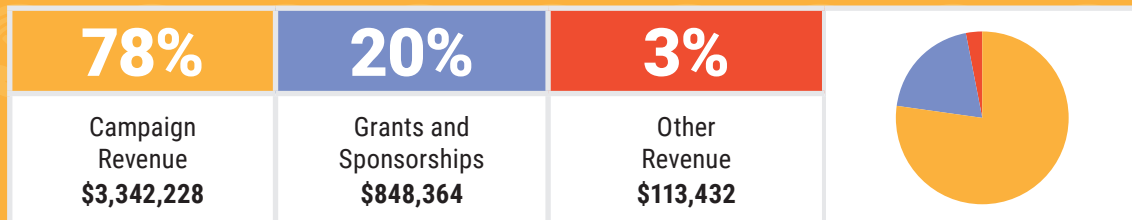
## UW FUNDED IMPACT PARTNERS

Achievement Center of LECOM Health	JoAnna Connell Elementary School
Blue Coats Initiative of Erie's Public Schools	Lincoln Elementary School
Booker T. Washington Center	Hamot Health Foundation
Diehl Elementary School	Harding Elementary School
Early Connections	Iroquois Elementary School
East Middle School	McKinley Elementary School
Edison Elementary School	Multicultural Community Resource Center
Elk Valley Elementary School	National Night Out Event Organizers
Erie Family Center	Perry Elementary School
Erie Playhouse	Pfeiffer-Burleigh Elementary School
Family Services of NW PA	Strong Vincent Middle School
Gannon University	UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor
Greater Erie Community Action Committee	Union City Elementary School
Grover Cleveland Elementary School	Woodrow Wilson Middle School
Jefferson Elementary School	

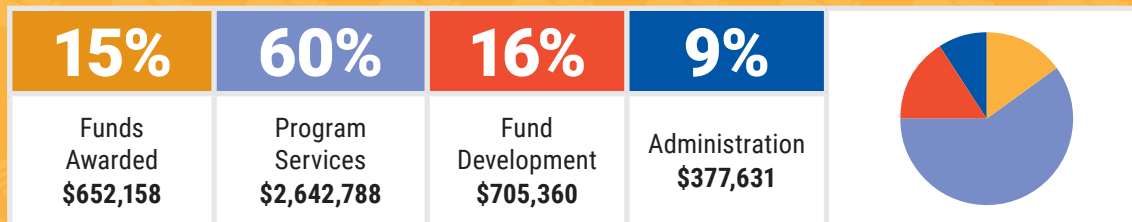
United Way's funding impact partners will be added to throughout the year as other partnerships are confirmed. This list is reflective of partnerships in place as of June 30, 2022.

# 2021 FINANCIALS

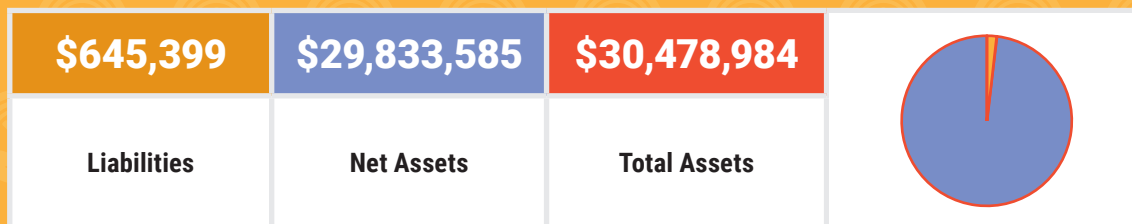
## \*REVENUE—\$4.3 MILLION



## COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS & EXPENDITURES—\$4.4 MILLION



## BALANCE SHEET



## UNITED WAY AUDIT COMMITTEE

United Way's audit committee at the time of audit was comprised of Gail Cook of Widget Financial, Vinnie Halupczynski of McGill, Power, Bell & Associates LLP and Katie Ruffa of Northwest Bank.

## WANT MORE INFO?

United Way of Erie County is audited by the firm of Root, Spitznas & Smiley, Inc. Certified Public Accountants. Want more information? The most recent complete audited financial report for United Way of Erie County is available at [UnitedWayErie.org/about/accountability](https://UnitedWayErie.org/about/accountability)

# THOMAS A. TUPITZA

## UNITED WAY'S HIGHEST HONOR

Every year since 1983, United Way of Erie County has presented the **Tocqueville Award** to an individual or individuals committed to improving the lives of people in our community. The following individuals received the award for their leadership and commitment to service.

May each of our Tocqueville Award recipients' generous spirit be an example and catalyst to others throughout Erie County.

Congratulations to the 2022 Tocqueville Award recipient, Thomas A. Tupitza, president of Knox Law.



PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS	
Thomas A. Tupitza, 2022	Vincent L. Jenco, D.O., 2002
Robin Scheppner, 2020	Samuel P. Black Jr., 2001
Gwendolyn White, 2019	R. Benjamin Wiley, 2000
James E. Martin, 2018	Ralph T. Wright, 1999
James Ohrn, 2017	Laura W. Wallerstein, 1998
Robert G. Dwyer, 2016	Dr. Gertrude A. Barber, 1997
Al and Peggy Richardson, 2015	F. William Hirt, 1995
F. Brady Louis, 2014	Edward P. Junker III, 1994
Jim Dible, 2013	A. James Freeman, 1993
John E. Horan, 2012	Mary Beth Kennedy, 1992
Rev. Steven Pimen Simon, 2011	Robert F. and Betty M. Merwin, 1991
Walter and Joan Harf, 2010	Susan Hirt Hagen, 1990
Thomas B. Hagen, 2009	Carl J. Schlemmer, 1989
Marlene Mosco, 2008	Ray L. McGarvey, 1988
Margaret Ann Hardner, SSJ, 2007	M. Lawrence Antoun, SSJ, 1987
Samuel P. "Pat" Black III, 2006	William J. Hill Jr., 1986
Dr. Richard and Willie Rahner, 2005	Albert F. Duval, 1985
Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB, 2004	Charles H. Bracken, 1984
Judge George Levin, 2003	Edward C. Doll, 1983

2022 Tocqueville Award Recipient

# CORPORATE SUPPORT

## \$1,000 IN FINANCIAL OR IN-KIND SUPPORT

Accudyn Products, Inc.	Graco High Pressure Equipment	The Plastek Group
American Hollow Boring	Great Lakes Insurance Associates	PNC Financial Services, Inc.
American Tinning & Galvanizing	Great Lakes Metal Finishing	Printing Concepts, Inc.
Andover Bank	Grise Audio Visual Center	Red Letter Hospitality
E. E. Austin & Son, Inc.	Hanes Erie, Inc.	Reddog Industries, Inc.
Matt Barczyk Agency Allstate Insurance	Hamot Health Foundation	Reed Manufacturing Company
Bonnell's Auto Group	Heatron Inc.	Rogers Brothers Corporation
Chick-fil-A	Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield	Schaffner, Knight, Minnaugh, & Company
Citizens Bank	Icing on the Lake	Schwan's - Better Baked of Erie
Contine Corporation	KeyBank	Scott Enterprises
Country Fair, Inc.	Knox, McLaughlin, Gornall, & Sennett	Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel
Cummins Inc.	Lamar Advertising	Sisson's Pumpkin Patch
Curtze Food Service	Lamjen, Inc.	Smith Provision Company, Inc.
Custom Engineering	Liberty Mutual Insurance	Team Hardinger Transportation Company
Deloitte & Touche	Lincoln Recycling	TechnipFMC
Emsco Group	Marquette Savings Bank	Transportation Solutions
Erie Beer Company	Matrix Tool, Inc.	UBS Financial Services, Inc.
The Erie Community Foundation	McCarty Printing	United Parcel Service
Erie Custom Computer Applications, Inc.	Merrill Lynch	UPMC Hamot
Erie Insurance	Moore Research Services, Inc.	UPMC Health Plan
Erie News Now	Morris Coupling Company	Urlick Ductile Solutions
Erie Playhouse	National Fuel Gas	Van Air, Inc.
Eriez Magnetics	Northwest Bank	Venango Machine Company
Finish Thompson Incorporated	Northwestern Manufacturing	Wabtec Corporation
First National Bank of Pennsylvania	Nuclear Electric Insurance Limited	Wegmans
Gannon University	Penelec, A FirstEnergy Company	Widget Financial
General Partitions Manufacturing	Penn-Union Corp.	WJET/FOX/YourErie.com
Giant Eagle, Inc.	PHB, Inc. Corp. HQ	Zurn Industries



United Way of Erie County

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