



# give joy<sup>♥</sup>



**United Way  
of Sandusky County**

### **OUR MISSION**

#### **Transform funding into lasting community solutions**

United Way of Sandusky County is taking the lead to tackle our community's toughest challenges and finding solutions that will have a lasting impact. We work with community leaders to identify areas of systemic need and fund programs that address those needs to truly improve the lives of people here in Sandusky County.

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

## BOARD MEMBERS

Kristin Zilles, Board Chair  
Caputo & Associates

Anthony Walker, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Fremont City Schools

MaLinda Gibbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
AMSOIL Inc.

Genia Lovett, Immediate Past Chair  
Community Member

Amy Witter, Secretary/Treasurer  
Fifth Third Bank

James Andrews  
Whirlpool

Kelly Beeker  
Sandusky County Department of Jobs and Family Services

Kelly Calmes  
Civista Bank

Pat Gerber  
Certified Medicaid Specialist

Nancy Lipstraw  
Green Bay Packaging

Tiffany Tipple  
Firelands Counseling & Recovery Services

Lee Vivod  
Huntington National Bank

Jacque Wells  
Great Lakes Community Action Partnership

Andrew Younker  
Woodville Mutual

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Friends,

The last year has been a challenging time of transition as we continue to recover and move into life after the global pandemic. While few of the issues facing our communities are new, many have been exacerbated by the pandemic. It is only now, that we are able to see the full effects of COVID 19 and realize there will be repercussions likely for years to come. Yet through this year of change, your local United Way continued to create solutions and make a difference in the lives of local residents.

United Way of Sandusky County continues to engage community partners and lead the conversation on how to solve complex social issues facing our community and address the root cause. By identifying areas of systemic need we are able to create focused strategies for investing resources to produce the largest impact and best results. Intentionally funding programs that address our needs allows us to transform funding into lasting community solutions. The 2021 United Way of Sandusky County Campaign focused on three key areas – Safety & Basic Needs, Health, and Education – distributing \$362,927 to 26 funded programs and improving the lives of so many right here in Sandusky County.

We are incredibly proud of the impact of United Way in our community and know it is possible only because of the tremendous generosity of our donors. In times of great need, you have remained with us investing in your community and creating remarkable opportunities for change. Your support is a firm indication of your faith in our mission to strengthen our community and our path forward. Together we can inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow.

Thank you for choosing to Give Joy and for being part of the change within our community by supporting the United Way.

**Kristin Zilles**  
Board Chair  
United Way of Sandusky County



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of Sandusky County

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## MEET OUR STAFF



Jill Simpson  
CEO/President



Nicole Henry  
Administrative  
Assistant



Rachel McCoy  
Marketing/ Events  
Coordinator

## LEADERSHIP CORNER

Dear Community Members,

As the new CEO and President of United Way of Sandusky County, I want to thank you for your ongoing support and for your shared vision where every family has a warm place to sleep at night and food to eat; every person feels safe in their home; and every child succeeds in school.

Accepting this position has been a great privilege and I could not be more thrilled to be part of an organization making such a positive impact on our community. United Way has been working collaboratively in the community for over 92 years to not only identify, but also to address, the greatest challenges people face in Sandusky County.

Based on local data, some of the greatest challenges our community members face are financial instability, an inability to meet basic needs, and poor health. To address community challenges, United Way raises money through yearly campaigns for which businesses, employees, and residents generously give. Those dollars are used to invest in community programs making a difference in those areas of need. Through these programs, we are helping thousands of people every year find safe and affordable housing, graduate from high school, learn essential life skills, find healthcare services, get assistance during cancer treatments, and secure nutritious meals.

Again, thank you for supporting your local United Way. When you give to United Way of Sandusky County, you help Give Joy!

**Jill Simpson**  
CEO & President  
United Way of Sandusky County



United Way  
of Sandusky County

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## WHEN YOU GIVE TO UNITED WAY OF SANDUSKY COUNTY, YOU GIVE JOY WHERE SANDUSKY COUNTY NEEDS IT MOST.

We envision a Sandusky County where every student feels the joy of reading, every senior feels the joy of companionship, every mother feels the joy of financial stability, every person feels the joy of a warm meal, every struggling addict feels the joy of hope, and every child feels the joy of a safe environment to thrive in.

**When you give to United Way of Sandusky County, you give joy – exponentially.**

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### CREATING LASTING CHANGE

We fund programs that demonstrate their impact on improving lives in Sandusky County. When you give to United Way of Sandusky County, you are part of something bigger than just one life touched. You are helping us do the work it takes to create real change that will endure for generations to come.

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### LEADING

United Way of Sandusky County is about leading our community and stepping up to tackle the real challenges that people face in Sandusky County, not just for today, but for generations to come.

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### KEEPING IT LOCAL

United Way of Sandusky County serves Sandusky County. Our goals and approach to the programs we fund have a singular focus of creating lasting change for Sandusky County.

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### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

United Way of Sandusky County funds programs that touch thousands of lives in Sandusky County every year. When you give to United Way of Sandusky County you know that you are giving a child a new chance at reading or a young family a chance at financial stability, right here in Sandusky County. You are helping a neighbor or co-worker.

# Infant Safe Sleep



Baby sleeps safest alone, on their back, in a crib.



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## Sandusky County Public Health – Cribs for Kids

Jane\* was an 18-year-old single expectant mother who recently was laid off from her job. She was living with her boyfriend, the father of the baby, but had to move back home due to troubles in the relationship. The sudden change in her living situation left her with little resources to provide for her new baby that was due to arrive in 3 weeks. A friend had told her about the Cribs for Kids program available through Sandusky County Public Health. Jane called the Health Department, and the nurse explained the program and eligibility requirements. Jane was able to pick up a crib with her mother's assistance and she was able to set it up correctly with directions provided to her over the phone. Jane delivered a healthy baby at the local hospital and was prepared to bring the baby home and provide a safe sleep environment for her new daughter. She also had the knowledge to address the challenges of bringing a new infant home, including infant feeding, growth and development and general infant care.

\* Name has been changed





## LIBERTY CENTER OF SANDUSKY COUNTY

Diane had recently moved to Ohio and was struggling to find a place to live. She had been living on and off with family but soon found herself in a situation that seemed hopeless. With the help and support of her physician, she was connected to the Liberty Center and soon discovered they had the tools and resources to help her get back on her feet. After only four short weeks, Diane was able to find an affordable apartment and has been living there for over a year. Diane credits the Liberty Center's amazing staff for helping her get back on her feet and getting her life back on track.



# FIRST CALL FOR HELP



[www.uwsandco.org](http://www.uwsandco.org)

Whether you are a lifelong Sandusky County resident or new to the area like Diane, First Call for Help is here when you need us! Helping navigate the many resources available to our community and getting you pointed in the right direction. Simply call First Call for Help at 419.334.2720



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## YMCA of Sandusky County Child Development Program

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At age 4, John's\* mom choose the YMCA Childcare due to the special amenities they offered. Part of a two-household family, John had many social/emotional problems, including severe attachment issues, as well as with transitioning from various activities. John was not able to write any letters, possessed little fine motor skills, and was lacking in other skills that a child of his age typically has. In addition to the support and resources the YMCA offered, they were also able to refer John to the Childcare Resource Center for additional support services.

Since joining the YMCA Childcare, John's behavior has greatly improved and he has shown considerable improvement in his education. He knows all his letters and his fine motor skills have greatly improved, surpassing all the goas his teachers had for him.

\* Name has been changed







## United Way of Sandusky County Cancer Care Fund

In November of 2021, at just 3 months old, Ava was diagnosed with neuroblastoma cancer. A parents' worst nightmare became the new reality for Ava's parents, Cody and Brittany. Faced with this terrifying news, they were also challenged in finding the funds and resources to pay for the medical bills, prescriptions, and gas to take Ava to her medical appointments. When a family member reached out and told them about the United Way of Sandusky County Cancer Care Fund, they were able to let out a small sigh of relief. While Ava and her family have many challenges ahead, it was comforting to know that they had the support of the Cancer Care Fund.



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United  
Way



United Way  
of Sandusky County

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

80,515

MEALS PROVIDED

2,686

YOUTH PROVIDED SAFE &  
POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTAL  
EXPERIENCES

2,745

INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED  
SAFE & AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING

## 2021-2022 FUNDED PROGRAMS

### EDUCATION

**Camp Fire Sandusky County**  
Programs (Club, Self Reliance, and Preschool)  
Day Camp Program

**Council for Developmental Disabilities of Sandusky County**  
Summer Recreation Programs

**Fremont City Schools**  
ACE Mentoring Program

**Gibsonburg Exempt Village Schools**  
Reading Mentoring Program

**Girl Scouts of North East Ohio**  
Troop-Based Girl Scout Leadership Experience

**Great Lakes Community Action Partnership**  
Clyde Middle School Afterschool Program

**Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center, Inc.**  
TNT Mentoring Program

**Sandusky County Economic Development Corporation**  
THINK Sandusky County Workforce Development Program

**Sandusky County 4-H**  
Community Clubs Program

**United Way of Sandusky County**  
School Supply Project

**YMCA of Sandusky County**  
Child Development Program

### SAFETY & BASIC NEEDS

**American Red Cross of Northwest Ohio Chapter – Sandusky County**  
Disaster Services  
Services to the Armed Forces Program

**CASA of Seneca, Sandusky, and Wyandot Counties**  
CASA of Sandusky County

**Community Fortress**  
Community Fortress Shelter

**Liberty Center of Sandusky County**  
Shelter Program  
Domestic Violence Advocate Program

**Sandusky County Family & Children First Council**  
Wraparound Program

**Sandusky County Share & Care Center**  
Family Financial Assistance Program

**United Way of Sandusky County**  
First Call for Help

**Village House of Northwest Ohio, Inc.**  
Supervised Parent/Child Visitation

### HEALTH

**Goodwill Industries of Erie, Huron, Ottawa & Sandusky Counties, Inc.**  
Goodwill Employee Wellness Program

**Great Lakes Community Action Partnership**  
Senior Meals-on-Wheels

**ProMedica Memorial Hospital**  
Hospice of ProMedica Memorial Hospital

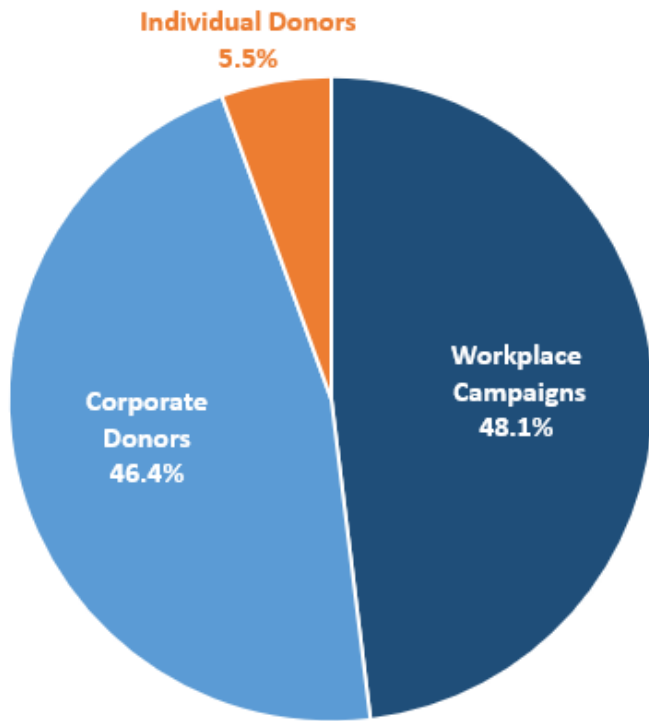
**Sandusky County Public Health**  
Welcome Home Visit/ Crib for Kids Program

**United Way of Sandusky County**  
Cancer Care Fund

## 2021 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

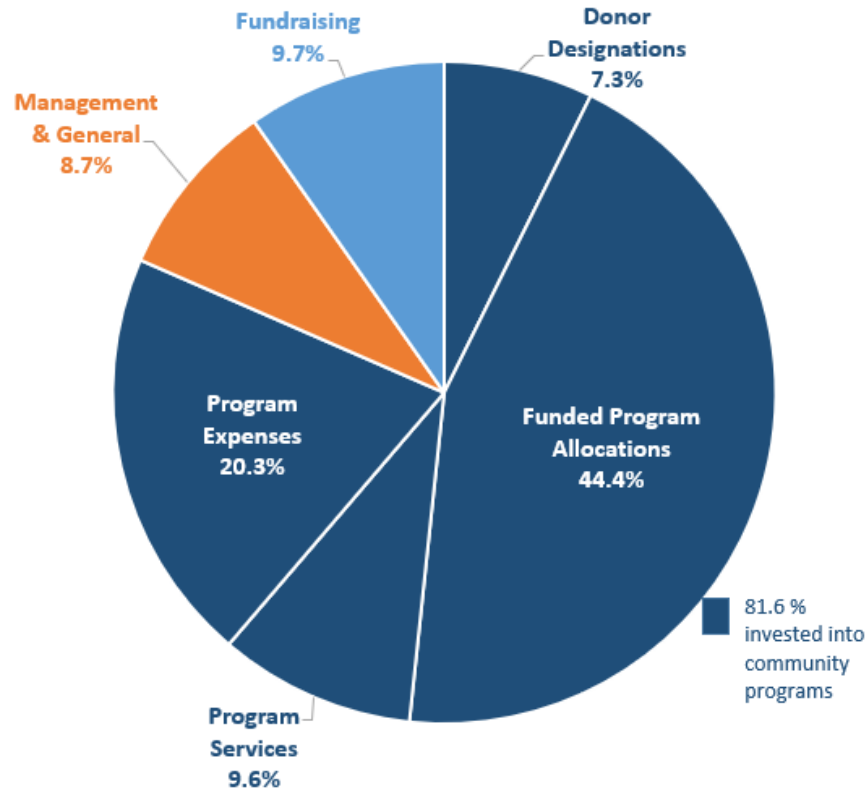
# \$620,340

raised through the United Way  
2021 Annual Campaign in fiscal year 2022\*



# \$651,723

2020 Annual Campaign dollars  
invested back into the community  
in fiscal year 2022\*



\* Fiscal year 2022 runs July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

# give joy

Thank you to our  
donors for over  
90 years of  
giving joy in  
Sandusky  
County.

When you give to United Way of Sandusky County you support your neighbors living with cancer, raise awareness of the risks of drug abuse and obesity, help families in severe financial crisis, give comfort to seniors, and support the success of Sandusky County youth.

**You made it possible to give joy  
where we need it most.**



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United Way  
of Sandusky County



United Way of Sandusky County  
826 West State Street  
Fremont, Ohio 43420  
419.334.8938

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