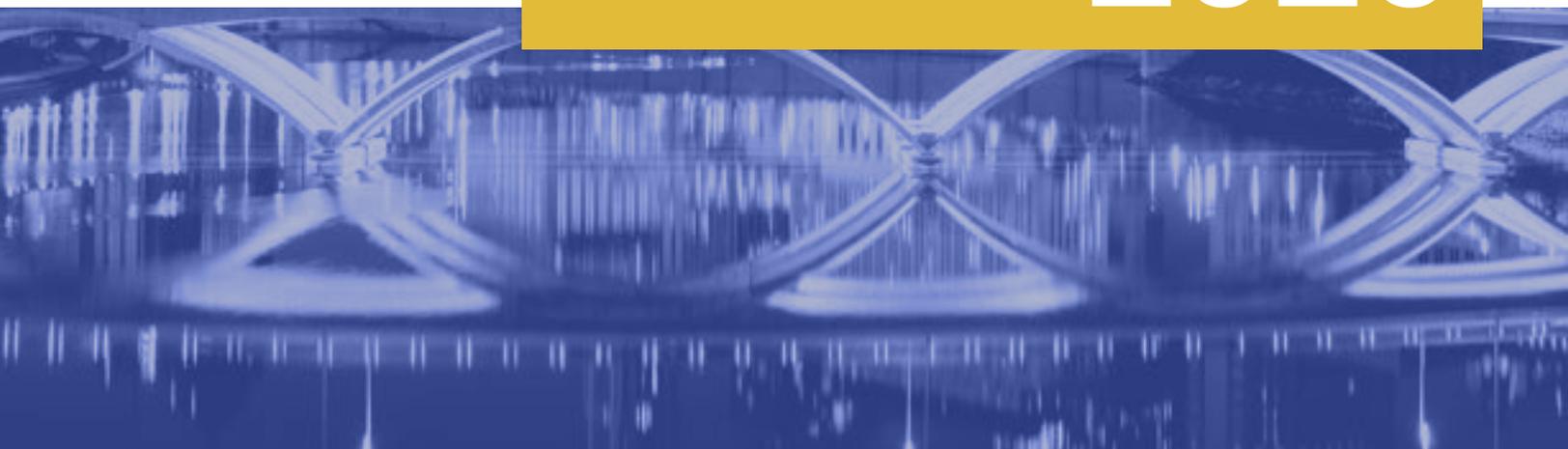




United Way
of Central Ohio

RESULTS REPORT

2020



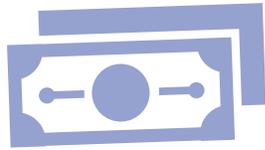
A COMMUNITY IN CRISIS

COVID-19 Community Response Fund

Central Ohio stands united when faced with great obstacles, and 2020 was a year like no other. From the moment the pandemic impacted our community, we launched our COVID-19 fund, ultimately raising and distributing more than \$3 million to provide relief to local nonprofits and the people they serve.

WITH YOUR HELP,
UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL OHIO:

Raised more than
\$3 million
for our COVID-19
Community
Response Fund



Provided
143 grants
to help people in crisis

Served over
311,149 individuals
through 81 local nonprofits



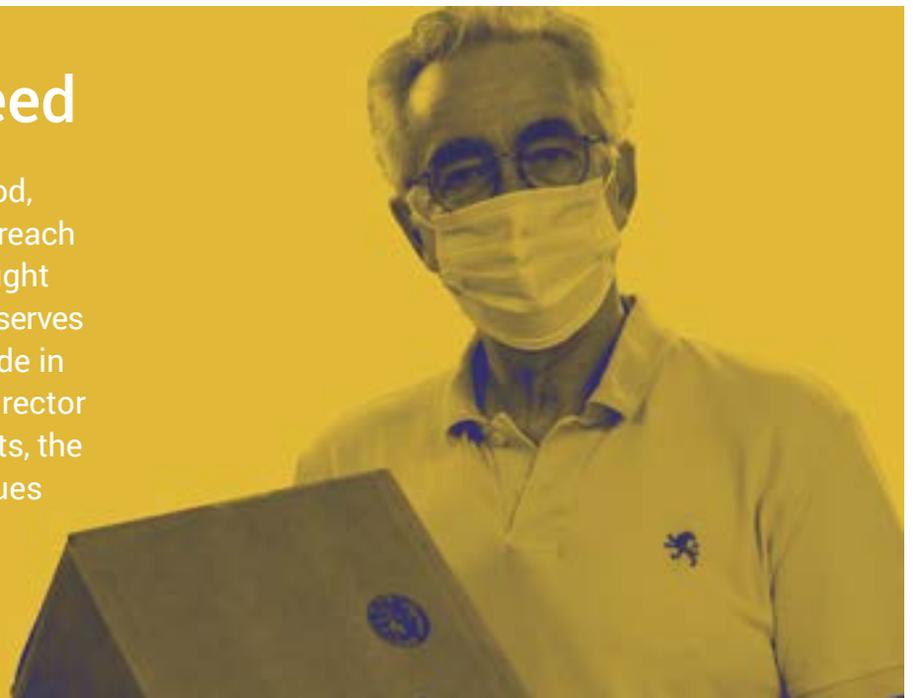
Distributed over
50,000 masks and **30,000**
pairs of **gloves**



Filling a Growing Need

Located in the Milo-Grogan neighborhood, NNEMAP Food Pantry has expanded its reach and hours due to the growing need brought on by the pandemic. The pantry currently serves people six days a week from any ZIP code in central Ohio. Roy Clark, the Executive Director of NNEMAP, says that like most nonprofits, the pantry has experienced declining revenues and rising costs during this crisis.

 [VIEW THE VIDEO STORY](#)



Local nonprofits provided services that are vital to the health and well-being of thousands of people impacted by the pandemic and to our community as a whole. Our COVID-19 emergency fund supported nonprofits facing higher demand for services, soaring costs and decreasing revenue.

THE IMPACT OF OUR
COVID-19 FUND INCLUDES:

41 nonprofits reported helping
**81,880+ first-time
(new) clients**

38 nonprofits retained
783 staff

18 nonprofits reported helping
88,920+ people
from disproportionately
affected populations

“United Way funds helped us serve a mom with three kids who had no beds or furniture. They were sheltering in place, sharing one bed. She had just gotten back on her feet with a new job, new apartment and custody of her children, when the virus hit. She was so grateful, she began to tear up.”

- Steve Votaw, President,
Furniture Bank of Central Ohio

Helping Nonprofits Respond

Charlene and her husband are essential workers in central Ohio who were called back to work shortly after COVID-19 struck. The YMCA Hilltop Educare Center, where their daughter was enrolled, became an emergency pandemic center and was able to continue providing safe, affordable, quality care that provided important stability for the family.



[VIEW THE VIDEO STORY](#)

ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY

Both the pandemic and anti-racist protests exposed inequities across our nation and in central Ohio. Our community will not be vibrant or thriving until we address structural racism and systemic barriers, and commit to transformative change. Actions we've taken this past year include:

- Expanding the number of COVID-19 grantees to include more organizations with a primary focus on people of color and new Americans.
- Surveying local nonprofits to measure the racial and ethnic composition of leadership and boards; and to understand what support is needed to move them toward greater diversity.
- Recognizing the importance of Juneteenth by making it an annual paid holiday for United Way staff.
- Partnering with organizations to educate our staff and the community—including business, civic and philanthropic leaders—on the history and impact of racism and inequity in our country and community.
- Committing to including diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of our work as we strive to build a more equitable community.
- Requiring funded partners to begin collecting unduplicated client data by race to fully understand how people of color are experiencing different outcomes.

The Hardy Center

“United Way’s funding helped the Hardy Center deliver over 82,000 meals to children in Linden at a time when they could not attend our summer program. We were also able to provide neighborhood teens with an opportunity to serve others. Your grant also helped us accommodate 30 students in an online learning environment at our center that we believe is more conducive to learning than their homes may be. We sincerely thank you. When we join together, we can reduce the effects of poverty.”

- Stephen Garland, Program Director,
The Hardy Center

MAKING A DIFFERENCE WHERE IT'S NEEDED MOST

United Way of Central Ohio supports a network of nonprofits working to ensure people in crisis can meet their basic needs and children have equal opportunities to achieve student success.

Student Success

When we help students succeed from cradle to career, we create a stronger central Ohio for all of us.



12,711
students
served

in United Way
funded programs*



85%
of children
assessed were ready
for kindergarten



94%
of children achieved
developmental
milestones



99%
of tracked
students advanced
to the next grade

*Due to the pandemic, Student Success programs were unable to serve as many students, or track and report as many results compared to 2019.

Basic Needs

Equitable access to food and shelter is essential to help people feel safe, healthy and supported as they work to recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

285,191
people

received assistance
for basic needs



391,404
nights

of shelter provided
to people in crisis

6.6 million +
meals

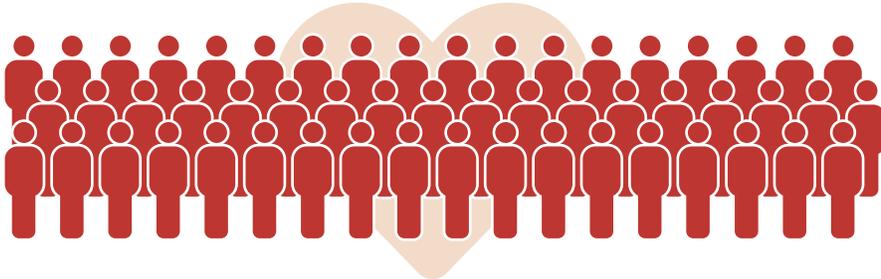
provided by food pantries and
hunger-fighting organizations



DONORS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

We are so grateful to our first-time and longtime donors and volunteers. Without your generous support, our community would be a much different place. But together, we are making great strides toward building a central Ohio community where everyone can thrive.

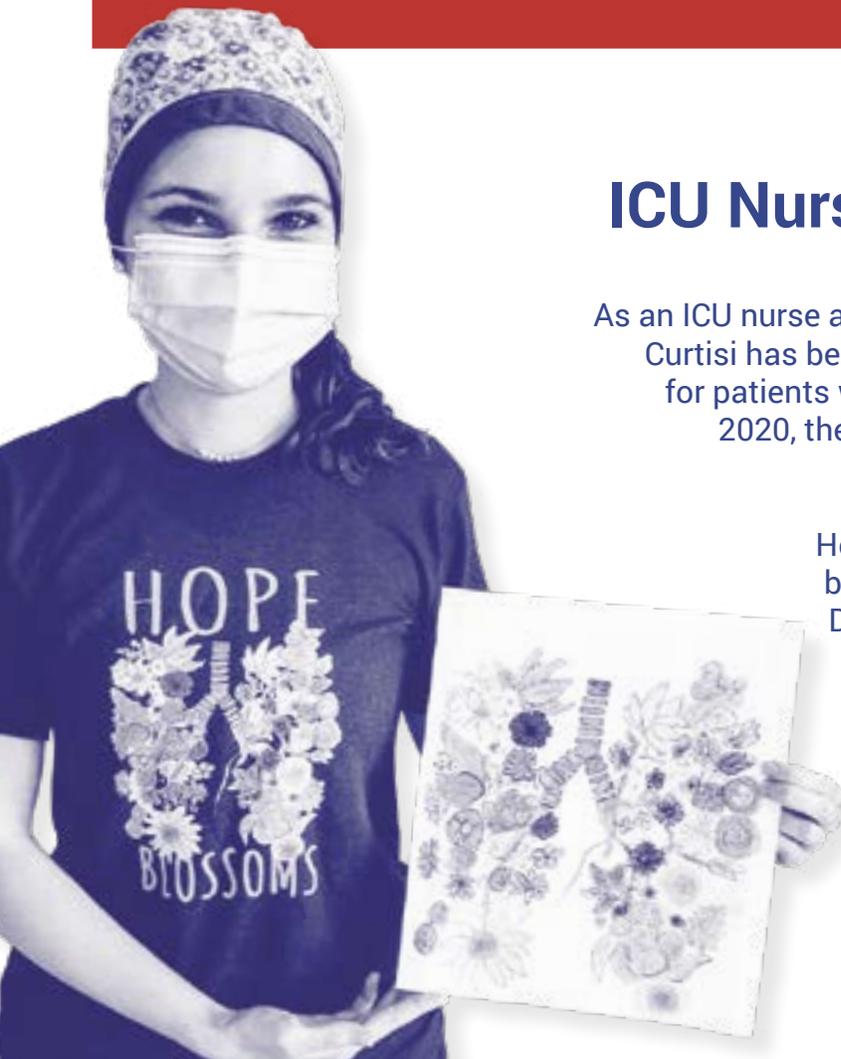
**WITHIN JUST 30 DAYS OF LAUNCHING
OUR COVID-19 FUND:**



1,014 individuals donated
over \$555,315



were new donors to United
Way of Central Ohio



ICU Nurses Provide Gift of Hope

As an ICU nurse at the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, Jessica Curtisi has been at the epicenter of the COVID-19 crisis caring for patients who are quarantined, dying and alone. In August 2020, the 24-year-old responded with hope and creativity by sitting down to “paint her heart,” she says.

Her painting reflected all the people who lost their battles with COVID at rest with angel lungs. Craig Dixon, a friend and co-worker, turned her painting into a message of hope by creating and selling Hope Blossoms t-shirts with all proceeds, over \$13,350 total, going to the COVID-19 Community Response Fund to help people most impacted by the pandemic. Their generous donation will provide relief and hope to central Ohio families throughout 2021.

A MESSAGE FROM DR. LISA COURTICE



Dear Supporters,

The global pandemic has revealed what's possible when communities unite to help those in need. In central Ohio, we raised more than \$3 million in emergency funds to purchase and distribute PPE, keep nonprofits open and staffed, and ultimately serve thousands of families, many of whom found themselves in need of help for the first time. We could not have accomplished this without your help.

But while the impact of COVID-19 is omnipresent, the future of United Way of Central Ohio is transforming to serve the community long after the pandemic has passed. We are making changes to improve our funding model, address the most pressing community needs and ultimately deliver meaningful results that help make central Ohio more equitable.

There are many nonprofit organizations supporting the needs of our community, but United Way is positioned to meet today's challenges while strategically influencing systemic change. At our core, we must meet the basic needs of our community and improve student success. Only then will we be able to improve outcomes for generations to come.

When we stand united, there is nothing central Ohio can't do. On behalf of our entire organization, I thank you for your contributions and continued support.

Proud to serve our community,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Courtice".

**THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS PARTNERS FOR THEIR GIFTS
OF \$500,000 AND OVER**

AEP • Crane Group • Grange Insurance • Huntington National Bank • L Brands
Nationwide • The Ohio State University • Siemer Institute • State of Ohio

TOGETHER, WE PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS.

Before joining the Columbus Urban League's I Am My Brother's Keeper (IAMBK) program, Genesis says he was introverted and preferred staying home over getting involved. Lorenzo, his IAMBK mentor, recognized Genesis as a natural born leader who needed nurturing and opportunities to reach his full potential. The program provided just that, and more, for the young man who will soon become a junior mentor for other teens.



 [VIEW THE VIDEO STORY](#)

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**United Way
of Central Ohio**

United Way of Central Ohio, 360 S. 3rd St., Columbus, OH 43215-5485



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