United Way of Central Ohio started with the spark of an idea in 1923, which grew into a united movement that continues to thrive 100 years later.

Together as one community, we've strengthened families and supported youth so they can become the dreamers and doers of tomorrow.
UNITED THROUGH 100 YEARS OF IMPACT.

One hundred years after our founding, our work continues to change lives thanks to you, our current and past partners, donors and volunteers. In 2023, your support helped us:

Provide $3.6 million to 56 nonprofits helping families in crisis with basic needs:
- 423,850 individuals with food insecurity received nutritious meals
- 19,237 neighbors experiencing a housing crisis received stable housing
- 45,784 people received intervention and stabilization including eviction prevention, prenatal care and more
- 537 households received assistance to remain housed (Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio)

Provide $4.02 million to 47 nonprofits helping students succeed:
- More than 12,300 students served
- 91% of pre-kindergarten children mastered the skills necessary to begin kindergarten ready to learn (YMCA Early Learning Centers)
- 97% of students advanced to the next grade (St. Stephen's Community House STEM Out of School Time)

Connect over 2,200 volunteers to meaningful opportunities

Our annual Stuff the Backpack took place in partnership with NBC4 and the Columbus Crew in August, and you responded in a BIG way. More than 500 volunteers packed over 1,500 backpacks for local students in 45 minutes at Lower.com Field.

Stable Families
Our local Stable Families program, a partnership with YMCA of Central Ohio, provides support that helps 1,000 families with more than 2,500 children avoid homelessness each year. In 2023, the program was able to help more families thrive so their children could succeed in school and in life:
- 70% increased their income level
- 99% avoided a disruptive school move
- 84% maintained appropriate, safe and stable housing

Festa
Your gifts to our Community Response Fund helped Festa's summer program feed 7,015 lunches to 668 children in 2023, reducing food insecurity and learning loss. Festa camps are located in the suburbs where poverty has spread, but free camps and food are not as accessible to families as in the city.
Our centennial year included a $13 million goal to support Success by Third Grade and to increase United Way’s endowment. We’re deeply grateful to the corporations and individuals who honored our 100th year of impact by making transformational gifts, including the children of Nancy and Tad Jeffrey, and longtime supporters Martyn and Lynne Redgrave.

The Hardy Center
Thanks to your support of our Community Response Fund, children who attend The Hardy Center’s after-school and summer programs in Linden find a home away from home with school-based instruction, individualized tutoring and homework help, as well as healthy meals and caring mentors.

Katherine Higgenbotham, the center’s program director, sees the center’s impact in the many youth who gain the confidence to graduate high school and attend college or trade school.

Success by Third Grade
In its first full year, Success by Third Grade made great progress as three new network directors joined the four already at work in local school districts. Our enthusiastic Success by Third Grade team is building trust within six school districts – Columbus City Schools, Whitehall, Reynoldsburg, Groveport Madison, South-Western and Westerville – where they assess needs and align existing services to create community partner networks that strategically support students and families, accelerating the path to reading proficiency like no one organization can. A few highlights from the past year include:

**Connecting Resources:** Our Westerville network director helped connect the local nonprofit The Big Bus with COTA to facilitate a bus donation. As a result, even more students will benefit from the nonprofit’s mobile tutoring services, which focus on academic and English language support for immigrant and refugee populations.

**Supporting Schools and Students:** More than 70 community leaders and United Way supporters, including the Crew Cat and the Mayor of Whitehall, joined Success by Third Grade to read to students in four schools. The Guest Readers Day ended a 6-week literacy initiative launched by our Whitehall network director and Whitehall City Schools to increase family and community engagement with the schools.

**Putting More Children on a Pathway to Success:** The State of Ohio’s School Report Card data for the 2022-2023 school year was released September 2023, and United Way’s data team gleaned promising insights from the information: Of the 11 elementary schools where Success by Third Grade is directly engaged, eight (73%) have shown improvement in third grade reading proficiency.
Dear Supporters,

As we celebrated our centennial this past year, I was reminded of the steadfast support of so many passionate, caring individuals and organizations that have propelled us forward in our mission over the decades. Together, we've achieved remarkable strides, each step bringing us closer to a brighter future for all in central Ohio.

In the face of challenges, our shared commitment to Success by Third Grade stands as a beacon of hope. We recognize that the inability of children to read proficiently by the end of third grade is a pressing issue that demands our collective attention. It’s a challenge that affects not only the lives of our children but also the collective well-being of our community.

United, we are making progress in six school districts in Franklin County. It’s exciting, but the road ahead is paved with challenges, and it will take the continued dedication and support of each of us to overcome them. I have no doubt that we have the collective will necessary to build a future where every child has the opportunity to thrive academically and realize their dreams.

As we look ahead to igniting the futures of every young learner in Franklin County, I hope you’ll join me in recommitting to the cause of education and equity, knowing that all our efforts today will shape the trajectory of tomorrow for our community. United in purpose, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of children and families across central Ohio.

With gratitude,

Lisa S. Courtice, Ph.D.

Thank you to our generous partners for their support of $500,000 and over

American Electric Power
Crane Group
Grange Insurance
Huntington National Bank
The Family of Nancy and Tad Jeffrey
Nationwide Insurance

Ohio Department of Education and Workforce
The Ohio State University Buckeyes for Charity
Lynne and Martyn Redgrave
Siemer Institute
State of Ohio Combined Charitable Campaign

United Way of Central Ohio
Community Impact Center
215 N. Front St., Suite 600, Columbus, Ohio 43215

LIVEUNITEDCENTRALOHIO.ORG