



## Kishwaukee United Way

### *About us*

Kishwaukee United Way's mission is to improve lives by sharing community resources. Through collaboration, resource mobilization and voluntary giving, we work to provide a better quality of life for the communities we serve. Since 1929, our focus has been on supporting DeKalb County.

We are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and operate with two full-time staff members: Gretchen Sprinkle & Sheridan Suggs.

### *Who we serve*

Kishwaukee United Way specifically engages with under-resourced, underserved, and otherwise disadvantaged populations in our community. This spring, United Way of Illinois rolled out an Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) report that gave demographics, at a county level, on individuals living above Federal poverty guidelines but below a sustainable survival income. While we continue to serve those in poverty, we are making new efforts to reach and provide resources to those who may be excluded from Federal programs but still striving to reach sustainability and financial independence.

96% of the individuals that our organization serves classify as low- to moderate-income according to DeKalb County median levels. 77% of the individuals that our organization serves are low income individuals, defined as individuals with family incomes do not exceed \$26,511. 19% of the individuals that our organization serves are moderate income individuals, defined as those individuals with family incomes that do not exceed \$50,000.

### *Our programs*

Kishwaukee United Way focuses on the impact areas of Education, Income, and Health. Our **22 partner agencies** all fall into one or more of these areas to provide resources to those in need. Through our funding and collaboration with those partner agencies, we serve around 50,000 individuals annually. Additionally, we administer our local **Emergency Food and Shelter Program** funds from the Federal government.

We also house the following programs:

**2-1-1** This free information and referral line connects callers to local resources 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Live operators stand by to connect callers with what they need most and what they may not even know they need! Since it's start in 2017, it has fielded over 2,000 local calls. This program costs \$6500 to run, annually.

**Born Learning Trails** This researched based program is unique to United Way Worldwide and it's member organizations (like Kishwaukee United Way!). This permanent, outdoor trail helps caregivers engage with their young children and promote early learning and literacy. We partnered with Target and Basics DeKalb County to open our first trail in August 2019 at Lions Park in DeKalb. We're happy to say we expect a second trail to open in Sycamore in spring 2021!

**FamilyWize** A FREE prescription medication savings card that works with or without insurance. No catch, just savings. In fact, DeKalb County has already saved half a million dollars with this program in the last decade!

**Money Smart Week** For over a decade (first as Cash Coalition and now Money Smart Week) we have partnered with local financial experts to provide FREE financial literacy sessions to the public. An initiative by the Federal Reserve, we provide resources for college savings, retirement, getting out of debt, and everything in between! 80-100 programs run annually in the month of April and this spring we are going virtual!

**ALICE** Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) Report came to Illinois in March 2020. This data dives deeper than typical Census data and provides a look at families and individuals living above the federal poverty guideline, but below a stable survival income. While the data itself doesn't solve any problems, it does highlight areas and populations that need the most help and enables providers and government officials better, targeted impact.



# What a dollar buys

**\$1** – An afternoon of fun at a Born Learning Trail for a grandparent and grandchild

**\$3** – A 2-1-1 phone call that connects a family with a local food pantry

**\$5** – A Money Smart Week program that gives action steps of how to get out of credit card debt

**\$10** – An ALICE report in the hands of local government officials

**\$25** – A therapy session at one of our partner agencies

**\$50** – FamilyWize prescription savings cards at every child care center in DeKalb

**\$100** – A child sensitive, forensic interview for a potentially abused child at one of our partner agencies

## Our partner agencies

*Vetted through an initial application process and then an annual application for funding, we know your dollar goes on to make a BIG impact.*

- Adventure Works of DeKalb County
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) DeKalb County
- Catholic Charities - Ombudsman Program
- Children's Home + Aid
- Children's Learning Center
- Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C)
- DeKalb County Youth Service Bureau (YSB)
- Elder Care Services
- Family Service Agency (FSA)
- Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project (FLAP)
- Greater Elgin Family Care Center (GEFCC)
- The Growing Place
- Hope Haven
- Kishwaukee Family YMCA
- Opportunity House
- Pay-It-Forward House
- Prairie State Legal Services
- RAMP Center for Independent Living
- Safe Passage
- The Salvation Army - DeKalb Corp
- Voluntary Action Center (VAC)
- Youth Outlook