

United Way of  
South Central Michigan

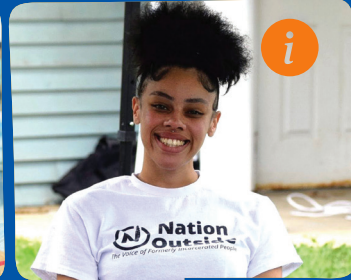
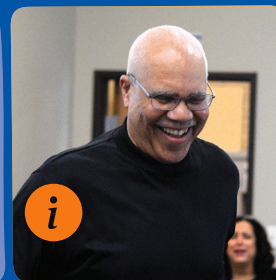


Calhoun | Clinton | Eaton | Ingham | Jackson | Kalamazoo

# WE SHOW UP

FOR OUR NEIGHBORS. FOR OUR COMMUNITY. FOR EACH OTHER.

## IMPACT REPORT



# A Letter From Chris



Being a grandparent has taught me an important lesson:  
**If you want to understand the world, talk with a two-year-old.**

At two, a child's thinking goes beyond mere cause and effect. They grasp complex ideas like empathy, the value of personal relationships, and the impact of their own actions. They're also eager to explain their perspective in hopes that you'll share in it.

United Way of South Central Michigan turned two this year (though our three merged United Ways bring well over two centuries of experience). Like any two-year-old, we're excited to share how our actions and partnerships are impacting lives and transforming our communities. We also invite you to join our cause.

This impact report serves all of those tasks. In the pages that follow, you'll learn about the progress we're making in helping individuals and families tackle financial hardship, including addressing racial and economic disparities; how we're responding to basic needs and local disasters; and how our five-year plan is driving our work forward.

That's a lot for a two-year-old! Yet that progress wouldn't happen without the support and collaboration of donors, volunteers, corporate partners, funding organizations, government leaders and local agency partners. Together we all show up for our communities and for our fellow human beings. I couldn't be more grateful.

And I can't wait to see where we'll be when we turn three!

Chris Sargent  
*President & Executive Officer*



## Executive Leadership Team

Chris Sargent, President & Executive Officer

Jen Hsu-Bishop, Executive Impact & Equity Officer

Teresa Kmetz, Executive Development & Marketing Officer

Natalie O'Hagan, Senior Director of Strategy & Innovation

Bethany Stutzman, Senior Director of  
Community Impact—Programs

## Board of Directors

Stephanie Slingerland, Kellanova (Chair)

James Johnson Jr., Int'l Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers (Immediate Past Chair)

Carla Thompson Payton, W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
(1st Vice Chair)

Maureen Keene, Jackson County ISD (2nd Vice Chair)

Jamie Rabe, Andrews Hooper Pavlick (Treasurer)

Unaa Holiness, Michigan Education  
Association (MEA) (Secretary)

Becky Baldwin, MI Nurses Association - retired

Jim Bongiorno, Henry Ford Allegiance Health

Renee Brown, Michigan State University

Kim Carter, Battle Creek Public Schools

Derek Dobies, MI AFL-CIO

Ben Frantz, UAW Local 652

Lisa Garcia, Western Michigan University

Marcus Glass, Bronson Healthcare Group

Ash Goel, Bronson Healthcare Group

Mike Huerta, UAW Local 602

Todd McDonald, CSM Group

Andy Richards, Duncan Aviation

Carrie Schneider, Consumers Energy

Chris Tyler, Astera Credit Union

Satya Veerapaneni, GM Lansing Delta Township

Ashlee Willis, Michigan Premier  
Events LLC & Lansing Mosaic LLC

Ted Ykimoff, Consumers Energy

# 2023-24 Highlights



Celebrated UWSCMI merger's 1st birthday.

Developed and launched five-year strategic plan.

Invested \$4.54 million in unrestricted grants in local communities.

Supported 2023 ALICE Report rollout with media outreach and personal testimonial.

Accepted leadership of Calhoun County Continuum of Care.

Advanced equity. Actively took part in Pride events; sponsored two 21-Day Equity Challenges.



Earned awards: Chris Sargent named WMPRSA Communicator of the Year; Patrese Griffin won Equity of HOPE Award; Marketing & Communications Team won WMPRSA Integrated Communications Award.

Engaged in advocacy in Washington D.C. supporting key basic needs legislation, and in Lansing for 2-1-1 funding.

Toured colleges statewide; moderated Leadership Lansing cohort on education and building talent (Capital Area College Access Network).

Grew JobSTAR cohort with the addition of new nonprofit participants in Jackson.

Launched the United For ALICE@Work program with United Way of Northern New Jersey to the United Way network.



Launched Volunteer Income Tax Assistance "Show Me The Money" outreach in Kalamazoo and opened new Lansing VITA office.

## OUR VISION

### What we strive for

Strong, caring communities where every person is valued, thriving, and connected for the common good.

## OUR MISSION

### What we do

We bring together the people, ideas and resources to lead with our communities and create a flourishing, equitable life for everyone.

## OUR PATH

### How we do it

Our work lifts our local communities by reducing racial and economic disparities; addressing the needs of ALICE\* households in financial stability, education, health, and basic needs; and creating opportunities for every person to reach their full potential.

\*Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed

## OUR VALUES

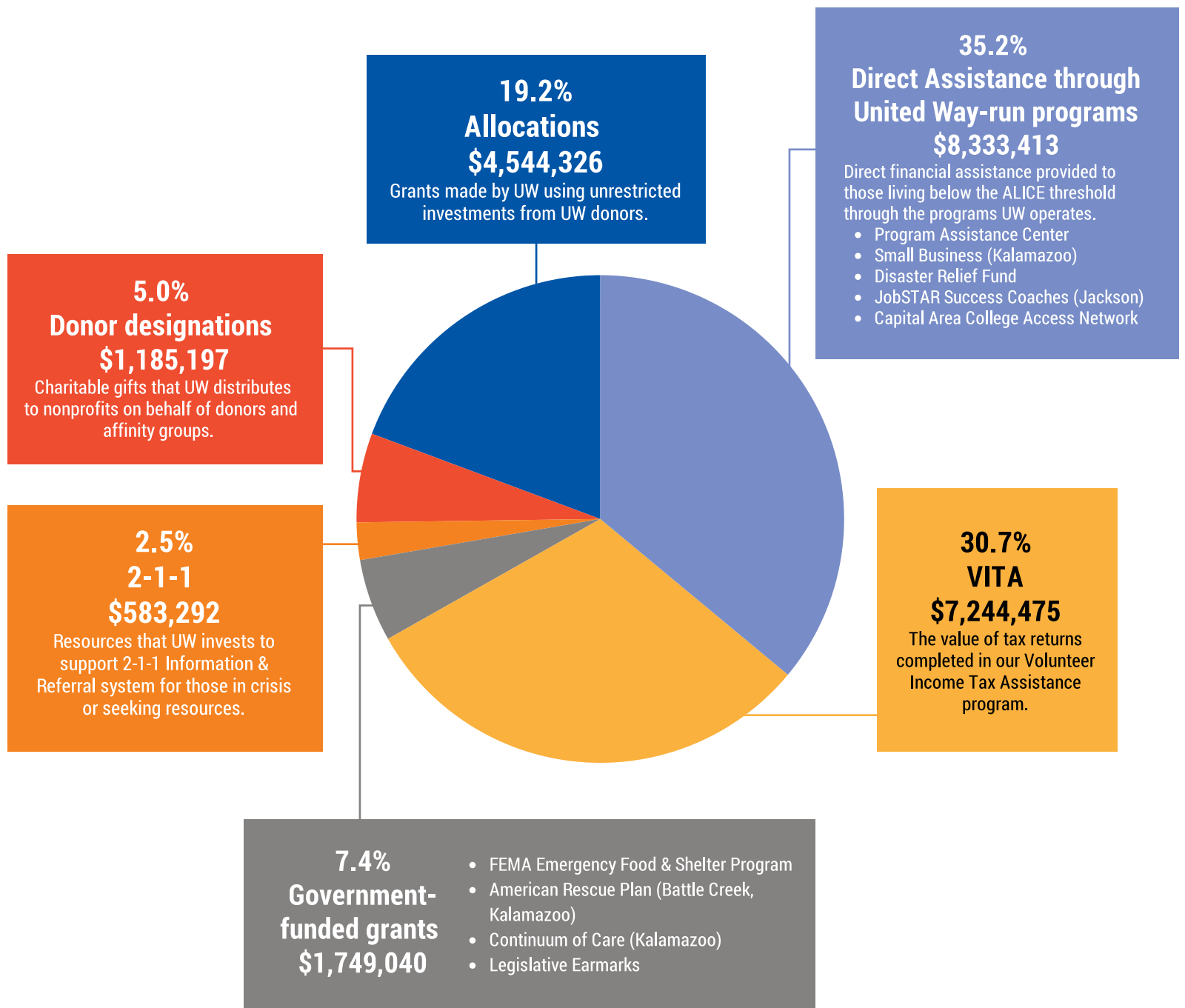
- Equity
- Integrity
- Collaboration
- Community
- Compassion
- Results

# Dollars For Impact

## Total investment for April 1, 2023-March 31, 2024

For every donor dollar raised, UWSCMI brings an additional \$3.28 into our communities

# \$23,639,743



# Our Strategic Plan

## MOVING TOWARD OUR VISION

Communities thrive when every person has the chance to succeed. In 2024, we unveiled a strategic plan to make that vision a reality.

Created with input from many stakeholders across our six-county region, the five-year plan centers on building capacity and expertise to address targeted community needs. That work emphasizes the needs of ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed), individuals experiencing poverty, and persons who have been historically oppressed and marginalized.

Here is an overview of the plan:

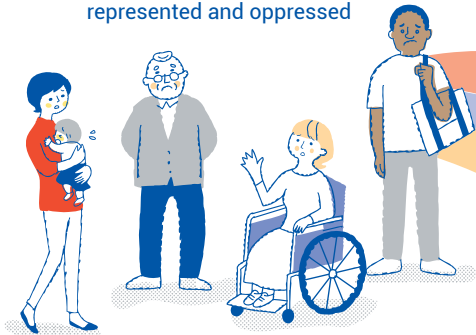
### WHO WE SERVE

#### People in Financial Hardship

<b>ALICE</b> Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed	<b>Poverty</b> Individuals facing extreme hardship
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**FOCUS:**

- Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)
- Single-headed households with children
- Households headed by individuals 25-younger or 65-older
- People historically under-represented and oppressed



### WHAT WE DO

**Financial Stability**  
 Improve conditions so ALICE can move from survival to stability.



### WHAT WE DO

**Safety Net**  
 Fill gaps and reduce disparities in meeting basic needs – food, shelter, health/childcare, etc.



### WHAT WE DO

**A Strong United Way**  
 Financially healthy; equitable and efficient operations; a culture of community care.



### VISION OF SUCCESS

Strong, caring communities where every person is valued, thriving and connected for the common good.



### OUR MISSION

**THE ENGINE OF IMPACT**  
 We bring together:



### OUR VALUES

- EQUITY
- COMMUNITY
- INTEGRITY
- COLLABORATION
- COMPASSION
- RESULTS

# Equity Work



## HOW WE SHOW UP FOR EQUITY

United Way of South Central Michigan strives for a regional community that connects with, advocates for and embraces all people equitably.

**Every person brings unique strengths and perspectives to the social fabric of our region. Every person's lived experience strengthens our collective understanding of how we can build a brighter future. Every person deserves the opportunity to pursue the life they want to live.**

Our commitment to equity is rooted in how we respect and value the experiences and wisdom of individuals with historically marginalized identities, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals; members of the LGBTQIA+ community; people with disabilities; the Asset-Limited Income-Constrained and Employed (ALICE) population; youth; and elders.

We're determined to make sure every program, partner, and investment addresses our community's needs in an equitable way.

We recognize the significant, ongoing harm caused by systemic racism, historical inequities, marginalizing of people, and injustice in our communities—including where our own actions have fallen short.

That's why we are committed to listening and learning, driving systemic transformation, amplifying the voices and strengths of those most impacted by injustice, and collectively paving the way for prosperity and liberation for all.

## IN COMMUNITY 21-Day Equity Challenges



Thousands of community members across the region have joined us in learning about equity issues through our 21-Day Equity Challenges. In 2023-24, we launched two new challenges with all-new content related to equity and LGBTQIA+ issues. To take a challenge yourself, go to [unitedforscmi.org/equity-challenge](https://unitedforscmi.org/equity-challenge) to explore the content or look for upcoming community challenges.



October 2023 | 529 Participants



March 2024 | 490 Participants



## Community Celebrations & Awareness

We enthusiastically joined our communities for events and observances honoring Pride, Juneteenth, Black history, women's history, Ramadan, Hispanic/LatinX heritage, and many more.

We also continued to spotlight and address barriers faced by underrepresented and historically marginalized people. Among the areas we are tackling are the disproportionate effects of financial hardship, from basic needs to educational and vocational access.



Thank you for this challenge. It was fantastic.

LGBTQIA+ Challenge Participant



United Way of South Central Michigan



Calhoun | Clinton | Eaton | Ingham | Jackson | Kalamazoo



I thought I had a good understanding of the issues addressed but came to realize my knowledge and understanding was limited and shallow. I believe there are others like me. The education I received through this program was very impactful and is already making a difference.

Equity Challenge Participant



## OUR INTERNAL WORK

UWSCMI has built a strong foundation for embedding strategic equity, diversity and inclusion goals across the organization. We strive every day for continuous improvement, growth and learning. We are grateful for a grant from the Stryker Johnston Foundation that allowed us to accelerate some of our internal equity work as detailed below:

### Pay Analysis

In 2023, UWSCMI completed a thorough analysis of compensation practices to make sure, as a values-driven organization, that team members are compensated equitably and competitively. While the study found most were compensated appropriately, there were statistical differences showing some roles or individuals weren't being paid equitably, competitively, or both. This prompted changes eliminating any disparities linked to employment categories or social identities.

### Racial Healing Circle

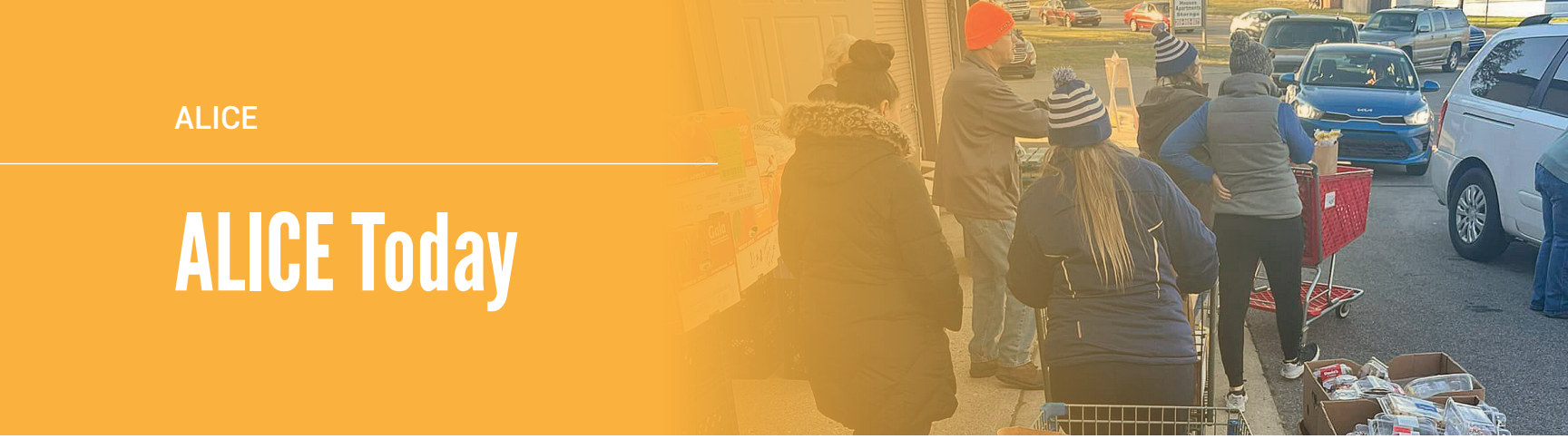
We launched our first Racial Healing Circle cohort with 12 team members. They gathered monthly for sessions facilitated by Battle Creek Coalition for Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT), alongside Lansing TRHT, and Kalamazoo TRHT. People shared individual truths, histories and stories, listened to others' perspectives and experiences, and formed deeper connections with each other.

### Employee Resource Groups

UWSCMI rolled out four employee resource groups to better address the unique needs among populations and identities. These groups were Caregivers; Disability; Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC); and LGBTQIA+. Twenty team members joined at least one or more group.



# ALICE Today



## ASSET-LIMITED, INCOME-CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED

Communities depend on the financial stability of every citizen. Yet ALICE families, many of whom face racial and economic disparities every day, deal with financial hardships that force them to make impossible choices. Rent or utilities? Food or medicine?

At UWSCMI, we're focused on helping these working families so that all people and all communities in our region will thrive. Learn more about the latest ALICE data at our website, [unitedforscmi.org/alice](https://unitedforscmi.org/alice).

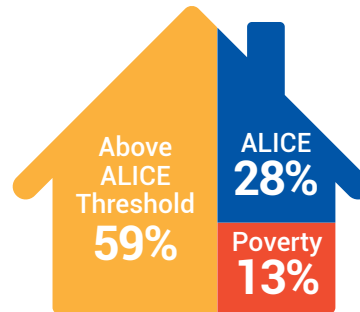


## ALICE IN OUR REGION

28% of households in our six-county region are ALICE.

13% live below the Federal Poverty Level.

This means that 175,154 households (41%) are living below the ALICE Threshold (AT), which is the income needed to afford the basic necessities of survival.



## ALICE SURVIVAL & STABILITY BUDGETS IN OUR REGION











Survival = Bare minimum cost of household basics (assumes affordable housing, health care, etc.)

Stability = Cost of household basics at a sustainable level, including savings

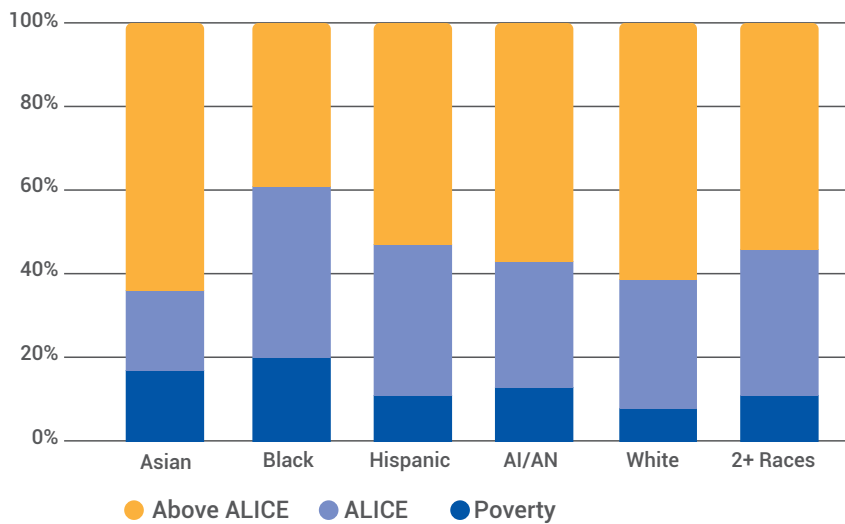
*Source: United For ALICE, 2024 ALICE Report (2022 data)  
Averages across UWSCMI's six-county region; local budgets can vary significantly.*

HOUSEHOLD	SURVIVAL	STABILITY
<b>1 Adult</b>		
Monthly Total Expenses	\$2,378	\$4,104
Annual Total Expenses	\$28,536	\$49,248
Full-time Wages Needed	\$14.27/hour	\$24.62/hour
<b>2 Adults</b>		
Monthly Total Expenses	\$3,496	\$5,886
Annual Total Expenses	\$41,952	\$70,632
Full-time Wage Needed	\$20.98/hour	\$35.32/hour
<b>2 Adults, 2 Children</b>		
Monthly Total Expenses	\$5,478	\$9,708
Annual Total Expenses	\$65,736	\$116,496
Full-time Wage Needed	\$32.87/hour	\$58.25/hour
<b>2 Adults, 2 Children (Childcare)</b>		
Monthly Total Expenses	\$6,329	\$10,952
Annual Total Expenses	\$75,948	\$131,424
Full-time Wage Needed	\$37.97/hour	\$65.71/hour

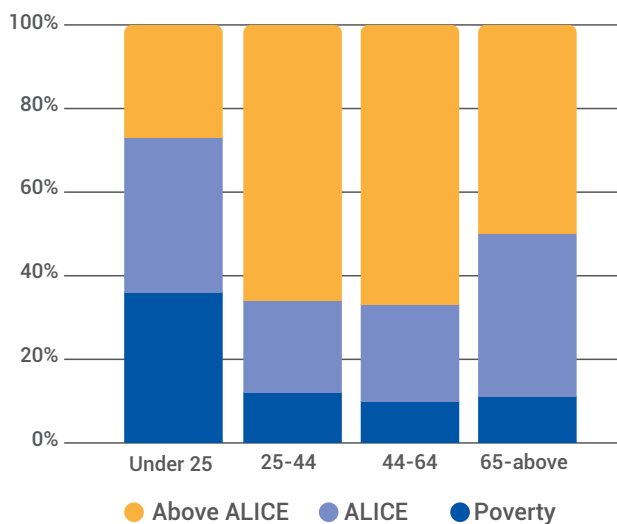
## 10 OCCUPATIONS WITH HIGHEST % BELOW ALICE THRESHOLD

OCCUPATION	% BELOW AT	MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE
 Personal Care Aides	52%	\$18.00
 Cooks	49%	\$14.40
 Fast Food/Counter Workers	49%	\$13.00
 Cashiers	46%	\$15.59
 Waiters/Waitresses	46%	\$14.89
 Nursing Assistants	41%	\$17.37
 Stockers/Order Fillers	38%	\$15.45
 Driver/Sales Workers & Truck Drivers	29%	\$19.59
 Retail Salespersons	29%	\$14.38
 Office Clerks	29%	\$18.65

## HOUSEHOLDS BY RACE/ETHNICITY IN OUR REGION



## HOUSEHOLDS BY AGE IN OUR REGION



# ALICE Voices



I am struggling to make ends meet. I'm just at the point where I need help, I need assistance.



Food these days is really expensive. Everything is expensive, and as a single mother with no help, it's really hard for me.



It was very difficult for me to make the monthly payment for my childcare.



I want stability more than anything.



501 employees served  
across 11 employers

961 total referrals

Oct. 1, 2022 – Sept. 30, 2023



JobSTAR offers Jackson County employers a resource to help employees overcome obstacles that can impede their ability to work. A Success Coach connects workers to services and support.

“Even a simple life event, like a sick child or a broken car or a personal struggle, can cause a devoted, hard-working employee to miss work and pay,” said Eboné Young, Associate Director of Community Impact. “JobSTAR helps them deal with those issues. That leads to a stronger workforce, financially stable families, higher productivity, and a more vibrant local economy.”

## HOW JOBSTAR SHOWS UP AT INDUSTRIAL STEEL



*Doug Scott, Human Resource Manager for Industrial Steel Treating Co., talks to the United Way of South Central Michigan Board of Directors about his experience with the JobSTAR program.*

Industrial Steel Treating Co. has been a JobSTAR employer since the program's start in 2018.

“The company looks at it as a very valuable employee benefit for our people,” said Human Resource Manager Doug Scott, who's been on board since the beginning. “I'm a really strong advocate for this program, because I've seen how it works.”

A Success Coach is on site each Tuesday and available to connect confidentially with employees to provide referrals and access to resources. Scott said that about half of Industrial Steel's workforce has connected with the coach this past year.

From October 2022 to September 2023, the JobSTAR program resulted in 84 referrals for 48 employees for things like auto repair, government system navigation, employment coaching, food assistance, and transportation.

Scott said the program has helped develop loyalty and lowered stress for employees.

“I cannot think of an employer in any industry that couldn't benefit from this program,” he said.

## MEET OUR JOBSTAR SUCCESS COACHES



“I am proud to be a Success Coach with the JobSTAR program because I feel I provide a very helpful service to employees. Many employees don't feel comfortable telling their employer about personal struggles they are having, so it feels good to speak with them confidentially about issues they are having and to build trust with them. Sometimes I spend a lot of time helping them one-on-one to get all the services they need. I find it very rewarding to see the difference that my time and effort has made.”



“My role as the JobSTAR Success Coach is to provide support and resources to employees. I'm here for the nitty gritty. The messy and confusing. 'Making the unsolvable more solvable.' (I took that line from one of the employees I recently worked with). I help find solutions to many of the things that make the work-life balance complicated.”

# Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is an IRS program administered by partner organizations throughout the United States. VITA provides free, high-quality tax preparation services for low- to moderate-income households making \$60,000 or less.

In 2023, we administered VITA in Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Montcalm, Shiawassee, and Washtenaw counties.

**i** **5,207 households served, 6,186 individuals**  
**\$7,244,475 refunds (federal and state)**  
**brought back into the community**

Those numbers only partly reflect the overall impact of helping families become more financially stable. VITA operates year-round, serving clients from the start of tax season through October, when the team shifts to focus on planning, volunteer recruitment and training.

VITA launched a new website in 2023!  
Visit <https://vitataxprep.org/> to see what VITA has to offer.

## Program Assistance Center **i**

The Program Assistance Center (PAC) provides households with direct energy assistance to pay heat and electric bills. Our PAC team also conducts a needs assessment for each client, connecting them with other non-energy services. PAC is part of the Michigan Energy Assistance Program with additional support from Consumers Energy and other utility providers. We serve the entire state of Michigan.

<b>Total of 6-County Region:</b> Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo <b>\$1,042,625</b>	<b>Total of Rest of Michigan:</b> <b>\$6,620,207</b>
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### How our PAC team shows up for families

A mom called our Program Assistance Center. She hadn't had electricity at her home in two months, and our team worked with providers to get her service restored. When she told her young son the lights would be on when they got home, he didn't initially believe her. When he realized it was true, tears flowed.



You people have helped me a lot. You are such a hard-working team.



# Small Business Support



The Kalamazoo Small Business Grant program provides access to financial resources and capacity-building supports to Kalamazoo County small-business owners – particularly those who identify as women; Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC); or who are located in the Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo neighborhoods of Eastside, Edison, and Northside.

## Kalamazoo Micro-Enterprise Grants – City & County

**Spring 2023:**

**60 microbusinesses, 17 neighborhoods, 13 jurisdictions**

**Fall 2023:**

**60 microbusinesses, 15 neighborhoods, 12 jurisdictions**

**TOTAL: \$1.2 MILLION**

**“Food is where my heart is.  
Food makes me happy.”**

Isa Clark, owner and founder of Clark’s Special Kitchen, loves to share his passion for food.

Since 2022, Clark’s Special Kitchen has been serving the Kalamazoo community with Nigerian Fusion cuisine. Building his own business didn’t come without its challenges. He knew he liked cooking, and he had background in business, but he didn’t know how to take his passion and skills to the next level. Using a variety of community resources, he obtained the licenses, equipment and inventory he needed to get started.

In spring 2023, Clark also found funding through United Way of South Central Michigan’s Kalamazoo Micro-Enterprise Grant program. He used the \$5,000 grant to purchase a Square register set, a commercial steam prep table, and other items such as pans, burners/warmers, and additional inventory.

The process of opening and running his business has been a dream come true, he said.

“The people who support you, the power of a positive mindset, and the passion I get to share with customers, partners, and my children – that’s what drives me and my business.”



Isa  
Clark



# Capital Area College Access Network

CapCAN is a community collaboration aimed at making sure post-secondary education is something every student can reach, especially those who are low income, first-generation college students, or students of color. CapCAN serves Eaton and Ingham counties.

## How CapCAN shows up for students



CapCAN trained 25 seniors as College Ambassadors to engage with their peers about the college-going process. The Ambassadors visited eight Michigan colleges and universities during the summer of 2023. CapCAN also provided crucial information to students on how to apply for financial aid.

The work of CapCAN is vital for students like this high school senior who shared this perspective:

"As a student at Everett High School, I am concerned about student financial aid. We should be investing more money into helping students go to college. This way we will have a lot more college graduates that can give back to their community.

"I can say from personal experience as an immigrant, first-generation student and coming from a low-income family, that if I didn't get financial aid, it would be very hard for me to go to college and become the great person I want to be. My dreams are to become a doctor and help the people that need me. I'll be saving and changing lives every day for the better. Please help students like me who have big dreams and wish to achieve them by providing us with more money for college."



## Continuum of Care



The Continuum of Care (CoC) partners with member organizations to increase coordination and find solutions to the gaps, inequities and challenges they experience when working to reduce homelessness. We've been leading the CoC in Kalamazoo County since 2020 and assumed that role in Calhoun County in 2024.

One annual activity the CoC organizes is the Kalamazoo Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, a literal count of all the people experiencing homelessness in our community on a single night. Trained volunteers, led by experienced homeless service providers, travel by vehicle or by foot, surveying and talking with unhoused members of the community to help better serve their needs.

### RentAble Program

Our RentAble program provides one-time financial assistance to help individuals and families overcome barriers to get or keep housing. Funds can be used for application fees, security deposits, offset rent increases, mortgage payments, owed utility costs, etc. Relaunched in April 2023 in the City of Kalamazoo, the program expanded countywide in October.

"The best part of RentAble has been helping people," said Tanya Wilson, CoC Associate. "I've seen people who are making an okay wage still unable to afford rent, but getting denied from other public funding based on the amount that they're making. We were able to help a single mom who had tried to use other services and was unsuccessful. She was able to use RentAble's services, and with the help of other public services, now owns her own business within Kalamazoo County."



Kalamazoo Point-in-Time (PIT) Count



Applications received  
1,662

Households served:  
115

Total distributed:  
\$171,000

# Community Impact Grants

Our community impact grantmaking is one way UWSCMI has been showing up for decades to build strong, caring communities. These grants remain among the biggest ways we support and work beside our partner organizations. Community impact grants made up 19.2% of our total investment in our region in 2023-24, and are funded by individual, employee and corporate donors.

## OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

**\$4,544,326 in unrestricted investments across our region.**





Urban Alliance

## JACKSON COUNTY

\$308,448 invested in 24 programs at 21 agencies

Examples of impact:

- 170: People who received emergency shelter and had their basic needs met
- 205: Adults who attended financial literacy classes
- 92%: Adults and children completing a course of therapy demonstrated improvement in mental or behavioral functioning
- 99%: People served who achieved successful legal outcomes impacting their basic needs, such as living in affordable housing, freedom from domestic violence, or increased income to provide for family stability



Neighborhoods Inc., of Battle Creek

## BATTLE CREEK AND KALAMAZOO AREA

\$3,881,878 invested in 93 programs at 64 agencies

Examples of impact:

- 5,789,444 lbs: Non-perishable and fresh food provided
- 586,547: Meals served
- 38,031: Nights of shelter
- 100%: Households served that retained stable housing after receiving short-term housing assistance subsidies
- 91%: Households served that retained stable housing after receiving legal assistance for eviction
- 76%: Individuals served who gained employment as a result of attaining credentials for job readiness



Refugee Development Center

## CAPITAL AREA

\$354,000 invested in 15 programs at 12 agencies

Collaborative Grants:

- 6,646 people served

Access to Health Grants

- 4,018 served

**Collaboratives funded:** Project PEACE, Shared Housing Intervention, Engaging Families in Early Literacy, and Full Steam Ahead. Two out of the four programs served greater than 100% of their projected clients; the other two met their projection.

# Capacity Building

## SHOWING UP AS PARTNERS

Each year we collaborate with dozens of nonprofit organizations across our six counties—and beyond—to tackle local needs and strengthen our communities. That partnership involves more than funding. We work side-by-side with nonprofits to make sure they have the resources and tools they need to deliver on their own missions. Here are a few ways we do this:

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

### Seeding Leaders

UWSCMI awarded \$2,500 mini-grants to its second cohort of 10 Battle Creek and Kalamazoo leaders as a part of the Seeding Leaders program. These grants support the wellness, leadership and professional development of nonprofit leaders and primarily focused on leaders who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color), an individual with a disability, LGBTQIA+, and/or an immigrant. Among the ways these grants were used by recipients: helping obtain a medical interpreter certificate in French to aid immigrant families; offsetting expenses to better serve Chinese residents; and enhancing skills and resources to assist the LGBTQIA+ community.



### ALICE Research

Since 2012, Michigan's local United Ways and state association—with funding through Consumers Energy Foundation—have worked with United For ALICE to help our communities better understand the impact of financial hardship on individuals and families. Detailed in a report using local, state and federal data, the ALICE report has become a touchstone for policymakers working to address poverty and near-poverty, including disparities that impact underrepresented and historically marginalized people. UWSCMI has embraced the report—as of 2024, issued annually—applying it over the last year to our strategic planning, programming and impact investments.



### Siemer Institute Funding

Each year since 2011, UWSCMI has received a \$50,000 grant from the Siemer Institute to promote housing stability for families with school-aged children. In 2023, we applied for and received \$75,000 in expanded funding to support the Shared Housing Intervention Program (SHIP) in Capital Area. Siemer funds were invested through local delivery partners: Housing Resources Inc. in Kalamazoo; and SHIP partners Housing Services of Mid-Michigan, Advent House, and Child and Family Charities in Lansing.



Funded Partner Roundtable



Funded Partner Roundtable

## Seeding Health Grants

**i** Early in 2023, UWSCMI began administering three-year grants to 12 Battle Creek nonprofits to create or expand equitable access to health care for nonprofit employees. This effort is a partnership with the City of Battle Creek, using \$500,000 from the city's Federal American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, with priority on organizations negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Feedback shows the grants improved employee morale, employee retention and hiring, lowered stress for caregivers, and allowed employees to proceed with family planning and personal health goals.

## Disaster Relief Fund

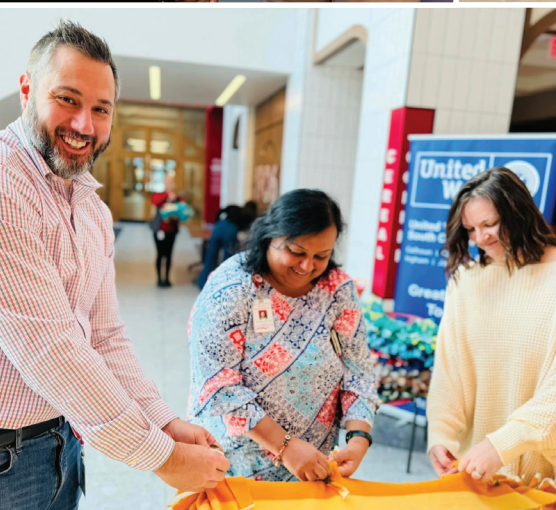
**i** Recognizing the scope and scale of community needs when a crisis hits, we created the Disaster Relief Fund several years ago to respond quickly to vital needs. The most recent example involved a devastating tornado that struck Kalamazoo County in May 2024. UWSCMI partnered with the Kalamazoo Community Foundation to seek donations and distribute funds to nonprofits and public entities providing critical recovery services to impacted individuals and households. The partnership distributed over \$400,000 within the first month.

## Facilitating New Support

**i** UWSCMI facilitated a grant process that provided \$466,232 in federal funds to local organizations providing food, shelter and utility assistance to people in high-need areas. The emergency funding was announced in February and provided through the Emergency Food And Shelter National Board Program. Some 36 community programs received funding: \$185,721 to five programs in Eaton and Ingham counties and Lansing; \$115,136 to eight programs in Kalamazoo County; \$70,387 to 10 programs in Jackson County; \$62,429 to 10 programs in Calhoun County; and \$32,559 to three programs in Clinton County. Programs receiving support ranged from food pantries and distribution, rental and mortgage assistance, personal hygiene items, and utility aid.



# Scenes from our Second Year



# Being **United** means we show up.

Being united means making sure no child goes to bed hungry tonight. Being united means making sure families have a roof over their heads. Being united means helping kids succeed in education, assuring individuals can access health care, and removing barriers to achieve financial stability and equitable life.

## **WILL YOU SHOW UP WITH US?**

United Way leads lasting change with our communities. With your support, we do what no other organization can do alone: Connect people, partners, resources and ideas to help people overcome life's toughest barriers, especially economic and racial disparities. Your gift combines with thousands more to power the best programs and strategies that change lives. **LET'S SHOW UP TOGETHER!**

### **Give Back**

Show up with a one-time or recurring financial gift to United Way of South Central Michigan. Give online or call 1-888-681-GIVE for additional options.



 SCAN ME

### **Volunteer**

Show up through volunteerism. Find a one-time opportunity or make a longer-term commitment with us or one of our partners.



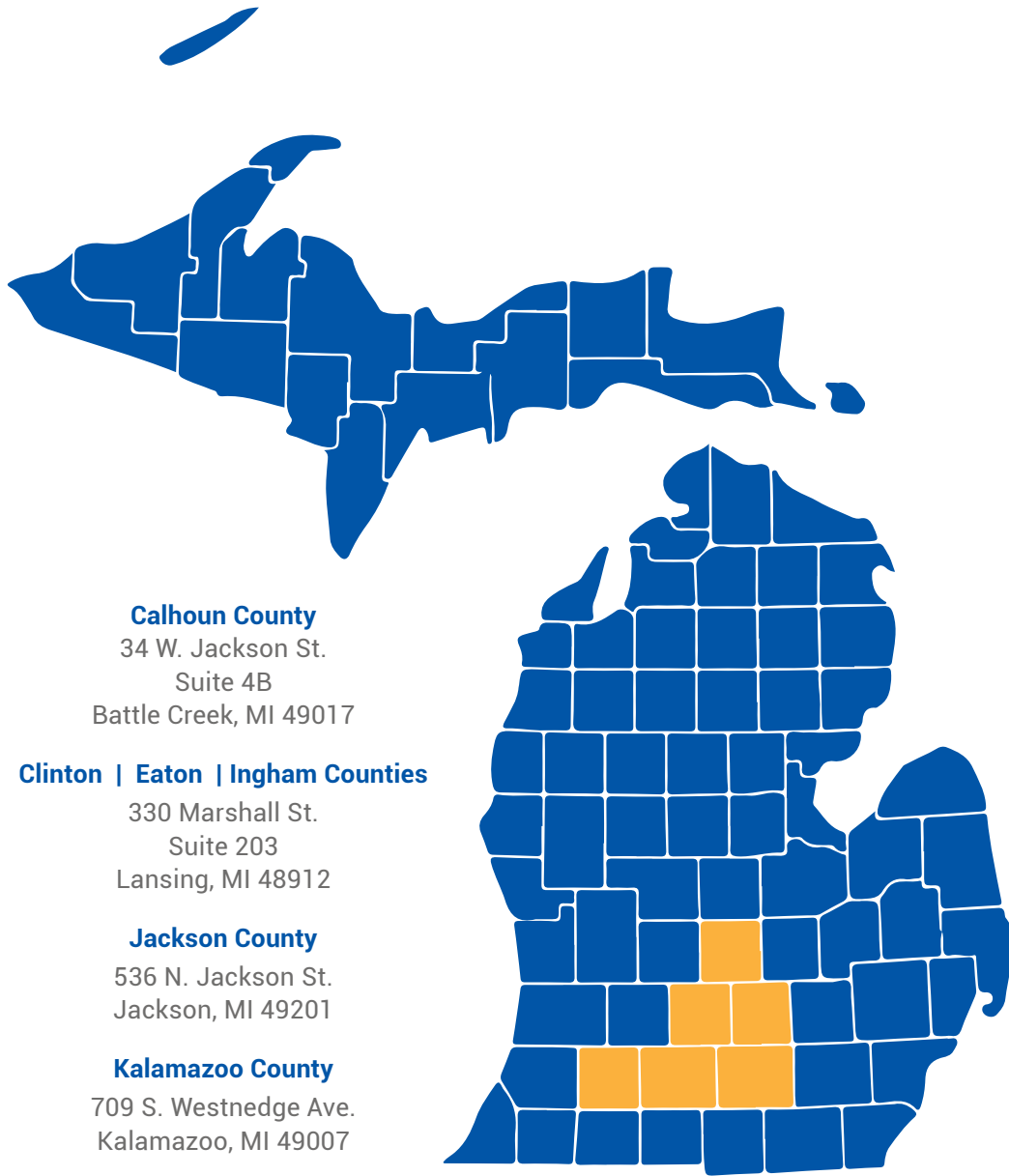
 SCAN ME

### **Engage**

Show up through engagement and advocacy. Explore one of our 21-Day Challenges to learn more about racial, disability, and LGBTQIA+ equity.



 SCAN ME



**Calhoun County**  
 34 W. Jackson St.  
 Suite 4B  
 Battle Creek, MI 49017

**Clinton | Eaton | Ingham Counties**  
 330 Marshall St.  
 Suite 203  
 Lansing, MI 48912

**Jackson County**  
 536 N. Jackson St.  
 Jackson, MI 49201

**Kalamazoo County**  
 709 S. Westnedge Ave.  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49007



**United Way of  
 South Central Michigan**

Calhoun | Clinton | Eaton  
 Ingham | Jackson | Kalamazoo

[UnitedForSCMI.org](http://UnitedForSCMI.org)

