



UNITED WAY
South Central Michigan

UNITED IS THE WAY

Strengthening our
community together



WHO WE ARE

Our Vision

We strive for **strong, caring communities** where every person is valued, thriving, and connected for the common good.

Our Mission

To achieve this, we bring together the **people, ideas and resources** to lead alongside our communities and create a flourishing, equitable life for everyone.



Our Values

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

More than a funder

OUR ROLE

United Way does what no single organization could do alone.

We are a convener. Our focus is on the needs of people in **financial hardship**, and people who have been historically **oppressed or marginalized**. We connect people to resources, investing in and leading critical programs, advocating for policy change and more, so that community members have every opportunity to thrive.



INTRODUCING ALICE

ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.

In other words, these are hard-working members of our community who live above the Federal Poverty Level, but don't earn enough to make ends meet. And still, they struggle to afford household essentials like utilities, childcare, medical bills, transportation.

In Kalamazoo County

13% of households
are in poverty

27% of households
are ALICE

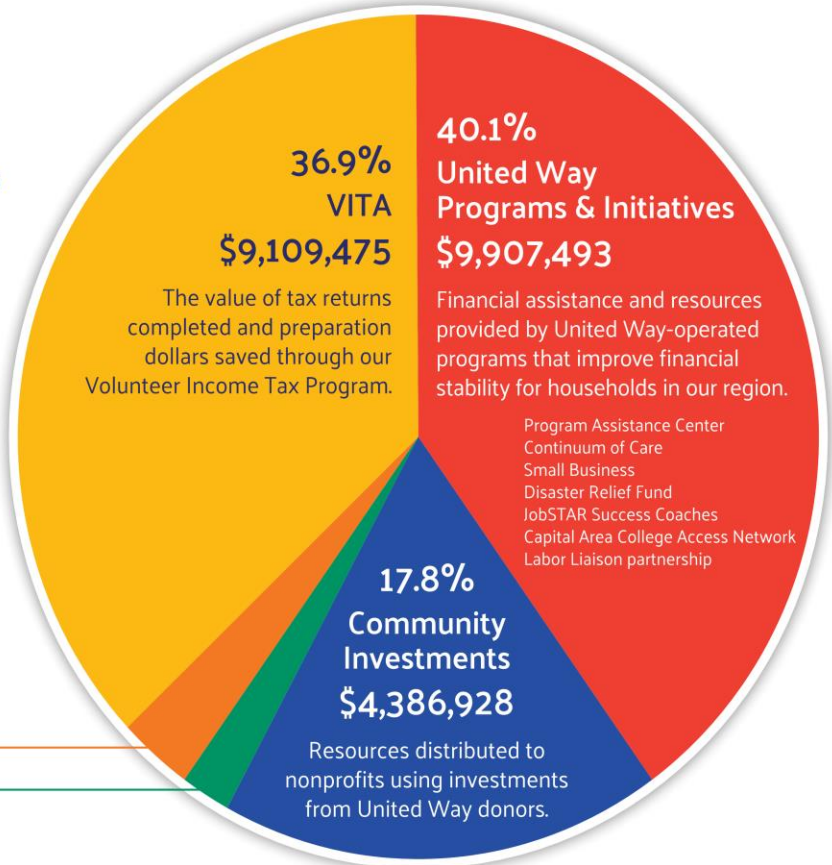
DOLLARS FOR IMPACT



Total investment for April 1, 2024-March 31, 2025

\$24,686,796

For every donor dollar raised, UWSCMI brings an additional \$3.80 into our communities.



2.9%
Government-Funded Grants
\$715,232
 FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program
 American Rescue Plan

2.3%
211
\$567,668
 Resources that UW invests to support
 2-1-1 Information & Referral system for
 those in crisis or seeking resources.



SUPPORTING KALAMAZOO COUNTY

Programs



Kalamazoo County

continuum



UWSCMI leads the Continuum of Care program for Kalamazoo County. We partner with member organizations to coordinate and find solutions to the gaps, inequities and challenges to reducing homelessness.



RENTABLE

Within the CoC, our RentAble program provides one-time financial assistance to help individuals and families in Kalamazoo overcome barriers to becoming or staying housed. In 2024, \$97,282 was distributed to 65 households.



VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) is an IRS-sponsored program that provides free tax preparation services to households making under \$67k annually. UWSCMI staff and certified volunteers help taxpayers file their federal and state tax returns accurately and ensure they claim all eligible credits. The program aims to make tax filing accessible and prevent taxpayers from paying high fees for commercial tax preparation services.



SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMMING

UWSCMI fuels the growth of entrepreneurship through our Kalamazoo Micro-Enterprise Grants, a partnership with the City of Kalamazoo. KMEG provides access to financial and capacity-building resources for small-business owners, particularly those who have faced funding barriers from historical disparities.



Since 2020, we've served 600 businesses and granted \$3,000,000

PROGRAM ASSISTANCE CENTER

The Program Assistance Center provides households with direct energy assistance to pay heat and electric bills. Our PAC team offers a needs assessment to each client, connecting them with other non-energy services.



2-1-1

Need food for your family? Struggling to keep up with housing costs? Need help for an aging parent, childcare or after-school program? Our 2-1-1 call center representatives can connect callers with resources for almost any non-emergency need.



THANK YOU!



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