



Fox Valley
UNITED WAY



18-Month Report

July 2024 - December 2025



We **MOBILIZE**. We **PARTNER**. We **INVEST**.

United In Impact

103 Years In Operartion **23** Communities **664k** People in Service Area **56** Partner Organizations

Building on a Strong Foundation

When serving as Director of Development, I focused on engaging our network of advocates and community to strengthen giving during a time when philanthropy had been declining nationwide. Your positive response and continued involvement made that effort worth it.

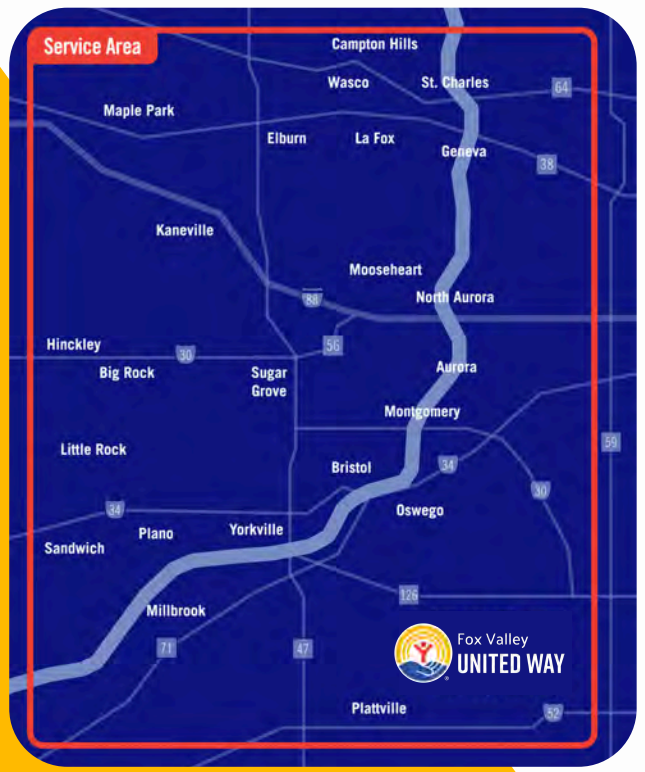
Now, as Executive Director, I'm building on that foundation, taking steps toward bettering the lives of those in our community who are struggling to make their monthly income cover their monthly expenses. We call this population **ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed**. ALICE is your neighbor. ALICE is your delivery driver. ALICE is the person standing next to you in the check-out line.

Throughout this report, you'll see the impact your donations have on ALICE and on our direct services. As you look back on the photographs from the last 18 months, I **invite you to picture yourself in them**.

Your continued support, paired with your influence in encouraging others to give, will help create a stronger, more thriving community.

United is the way.

J.D. Ostergaard, Executive Director



Fox Valley United Way Service Area

Community Events

Countdown to Kindergarten

SPARK's annual Countdown to Kindergarten early childhood resource fair is a one-stop opportunity for parents of young children to get the information and resources their kids need to get prepared for kindergarten. In 2025, our team engaged 374 children through C2K.



Kids learn through play at C2K 2025.

374 Children Engaged

Dolly's Birthday Fundraiser

Fox Valley United Way hosted our first annual birthday fundraiser in honor of Dolly Parton to support **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** across Kane and Kendall Counties. All money raised was used to support access to the program for families in Kane and Kendall Counties. Together, we raised **\$3,989** in support of early childhood literacy!

\$3,989 Raised



Committee member Marisa Markowski at our 2025 fundraiser.

Mom Made Me Do This 5k

Putting in Miles for our Moms

In 2025, we proudly continued the Mom Made Me Do This 5K tradition in Partnership with the Rush Copley Foundation, bringing together over 150 participants. The race raises funds for our own initiatives supporting the health and well-being of moms and families across our Fox Valley community.

\$8,650 Raised

to support positive health outcomes for families in our community

2025 first place finisher brings it home.

Our Sponsors

BUTCHERBOX[®]

CATERPILLAR

CORDOGAN CLARK
ARCHITECTURE • ENGINEERING • CONSTRUCTION

earthmover | credit union

Fox Valley
Park District
Where fun begins

KONEN
INSURANCE



State Farm[®]

TARGET

WAUBONSEE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Drives



Blanket Drive benefitting local seniors organized by community champions Vito Graziano and Mike Hohensee



'Socktober' sock drive organized by XPO Logistics benefitting Holiday Assistance families.

Mobilizing for Good

Our partners have continued to step up, coordinating local diaper, sock, toy, book, and blanket drives. **Thousands of items** were collected in 2024 and 2025, supporting SPARK participants, Holiday Assistance families, and local seniors.

\$593,246

worth of toys donated
by Toys for Tots in 2024



Our Partners



We couldn't do it without you. Thank you.

We continue to be grateful to all the local businesses, organizations, and community leaders who support our work each year.

Special thanks to our partners:

Compudopt, Earthmover Credit Union, Mill Race Cyclery, Pitney Bowes, Plano Community Garden, Rush Copley Medical Center, Versiti, and Waubensee Community College.



Compudopt provides laptops for residents at Bardwell Senior Residences and Weston Bridges.

18- Month Partner Snapshot

33 Local Drives

187 Sponsorships

1M+ In-Kind Donations



PDC 30 Employees host diaper drive collecting thousands of diapers for local families in need.

SPARK

Strong, Prepared And Ready for Kindergarten

Moving Forward

SPARK continues to ignite the spark of life-long learning by providing access to comprehensive early childhood education and support to families in Aurora.



18-MONTH
SNAPSHOT

159
Playgroups

10,434
Total People
Engaged

437
New Families
Engaged

416
Developmental
Screenings



The Mobile Learning Project

Last Summer, SPARK launched its **Mobile Learning Project** through the purchase of the Early Learning Van. This mobile outreach initiative is designed to bring early childhood resources directly to families throughout the Aurora community. Thanks to the Early Learning Van, SPARK can deliver developmental screenings, hands-on learning activities, and valuable educational resources in an accessible, engaging, and family-centered way.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library



Expanding the Magic

Fox Valley United Way is proud to provide access to free books through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for families in our service area. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we were recently able to expand access to the program **across all of Kane County!**

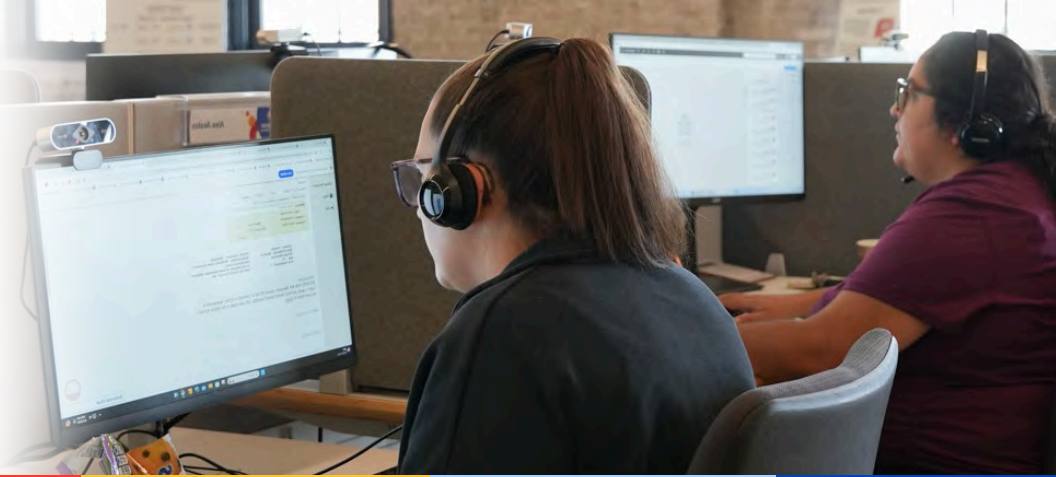


7,664 kids registered,
and counting!





Kane and Kendall



What is 211?

211 is the federally designated **3-digit dialing code** that connects to a free, confidential service for information and referrals to social services programs and resources.

With the new addition of Kendall County, Fox Valley United Way provides funding and support for 211 across our whole service area.

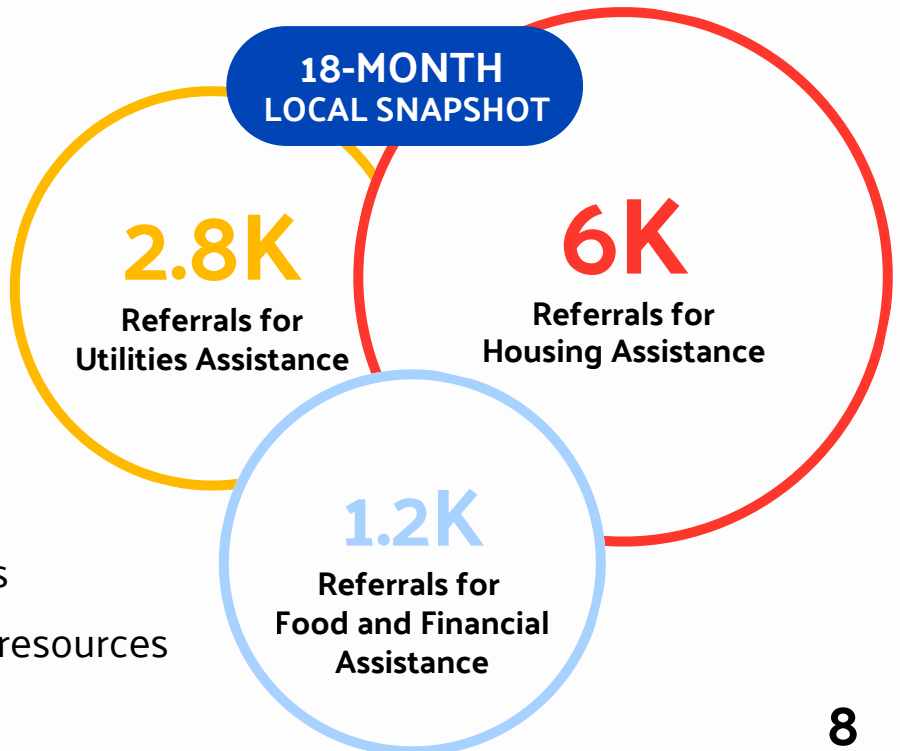
10,298
TOTAL CONTACTS

18,148
TOTAL REFERRALS

*Data From 07/2024-12/2025

Expert Referrals for Every Need:

- Grocery and utility bills
- Job seeking support
- Mental health resources
- Help for caregivers
- Domestic violence resources
- Homelessness and housing resources



HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE

Holiday Joy is our Tradition

In 2024 and 2025, Fox Valley United Way continued the Holiday Assistance tradition, engaging **hundreds** of community members through sponsorships and volunteering. Over the past two years, our local community provided gifts and essentials for **nearly 1,000 local children**.



In
2024 and 2025,
we supported

928

children across

336

local families

Real stories, real impact

“Thanks to your support, this Christmas will be filled with **smiles, joy, and happy moments** for our children. Each gift represents hope, love, and a gesture we will never forget.”

2025 Holiday Assistance Family





\$90,705

In Allocations and Designations
Given to our Community Nonprofit Partners

Allocations

Aurora Area African American Men of Unity
Boys and Girls Club of Elgin
Easterseals DuPage and Fox Valley
Family Focus
Kendall County Community Food Pantry
Loaves and Fishes
Marie Wilkinson Child Development Center
Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry
Mutual Ground
Public Action to Deliver Shelter, Inc.
Tri City Health Partnership, Inc.
TriCity Family Services
VNA Health Care
World Relief

Designations

Association for Individual Development
Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry
Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry and
Clothes Closet
CASA Kane County
Fox Valley YMCA
Hesed House
Lazarus House
Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley
Salvation Army Tri-City Corps
Suicide Prevention Services
Wayside Cross Ministries

Partner Companies

Top Donor Companies



'United Way Parking' sign at Caterpillar



FVUW receives a donation from Earthmover Credit Union

Local Partner Companies



With special thanks to these supporting companies:



Volunteering

Hundreds of Volunteers Mobilized Annually

Last year was big for mobilization.

We engaged and empowered hundreds of individuals to strengthen the Fox Valley region through a wide range of service opportunities. From community beautification and renovation projects to Holiday Assistance distribution, food pantry support, and countless other local initiatives, our volunteers made a meaningful difference in the lives of their neighbors. Their dedication and generosity helped build a stronger, more connected community for all.



Volunteer Jeff Kuczora helps load gifts into a sponsored family's vehicle.



(Above and below) Waubonsee Community College students volunteer at Plano Community Garden.



Board and Committees

Thank You



Committee/Board Members at the 2025 Ice Cream Social.

Fox Valley United Way's impact is made possible not only by staff, but by the dedication, generosity, and leadership of our **Board of Directors** and **committee members**. We are deeply grateful for the expertise, guidance, and commitment these individuals provide in advancing our mission. We sincerely thank all of our board and committee members for their service, stewardship, and commitment to the Fox Valley community. We encourage those interested in future board and committee opportunities to reach out to info@foxvalleyunitedway.org.

Resource Committee

LaDonna Carr
Jenny Everhart
Marisa Markowski
Michael Perez
Marisa Richards
Jeff Kuczora
Karen Yaggie

Impact Committee

Brian Arenz
Joe Donar
Michael Isaacson
Terese Raabe
Jamie Richard
Marisa Richards
Stacey Ries
Melinda Tejada



Our Board

(Top left to bottom right) Maria Manzo, Mansa Latham, Mark Mooney, Colin Powers, Karen Yaggie, Rigo Alfaro, Eric Kinsey, Dr. Tamekia Smith, Michele Clark, Kelly McDonough, and Marisa Richards (Diana McClarien not pictured)

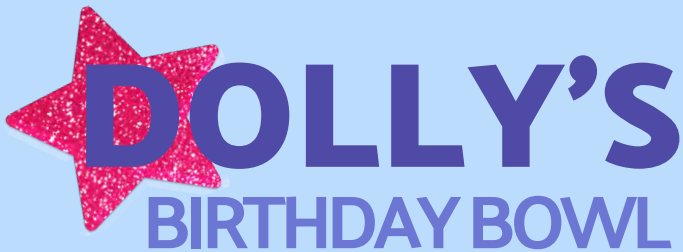
14 Years of Service



Celebrating Outgoing Board Chair, Mark Mooney

Our sincerest gratitude goes out to Mark for his dedicated service to United Way. His leadership through the merger with Central Kane County and wisdom as board president over many years has helped guide the organization towards financial stability and strategic changes that will support our work as we look to the future. **Thank you to a dependable neighbor, reliable friend, and engaged partner.**

UPCOMING SAVE-THE-DATES



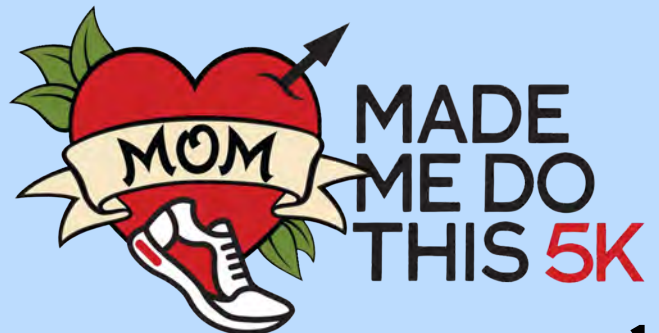
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 2027

Dolly's back, and she's ready to bowl! Join us for an evening of bowling, networking, and fun as we celebrate Dolly Parton's 81st Birthday to raise support for **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** in Kane and Kendall Counties.

SUNDAY, MAY 2ND, 2027

Get ready to run, walk, and cheer in support of the moms and families of Fox Valley! Our 'Mom Made Me Do This' 5k fundraiser is coming around the track again next year.

New for 2027: Moms run for FREE!



UNITED IS THE WAY



Fox Valley
UNITED WAY

Your support is **essential** in helping us create a strong, thriving Fox Valley community.

Thank You



MARISA
donates because...

“...It is **up to all of us** to love and support our neighbors in need.”

CONTINUE YOUR IMPACT

If you would like to mail a check,
please address your letter to:

44 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora, IL 60505

