



WE MOBILIZE

WE PARTNER

WE INVEST



Fox Valley
UNITED WAY

5-YEAR REPORT 2020-2024



WE MOBILIZE, WE PARTNER, WE INVEST

Five Years of Impact: Building a Stronger Community Together

102
Years In Operation

23
Communities

470k
People in
Service Area

45
Committed Volunteers

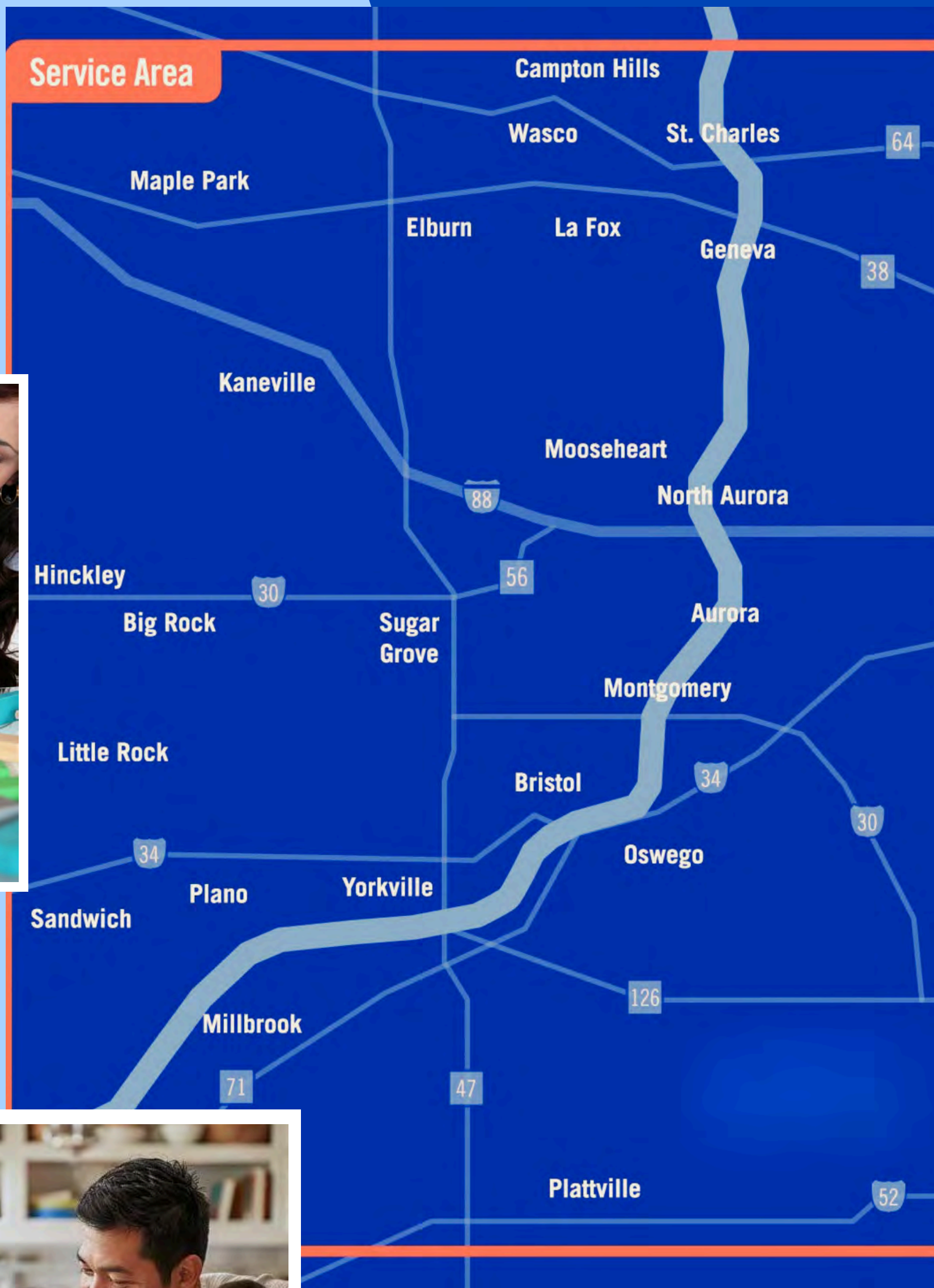
56
Partner Organizations

Over the past five years, Fox Valley United Way has remained steadfast in our commitment to igniting meaningful and lasting change throughout our communities. By focusing on the root causes of the challenges our neighbors face, we've advanced solutions that promote long-term well-being and opportunity for all. In partnership with dedicated donors, volunteers, advocates, and community organizations, we've developed and supported initiatives that help individuals and families thrive.

Through this journey, we've deepened our belief that a strong community begins with the well-being of its youngest members. Investing in early childhood development is more than supporting children—it's about building stronger families, a more resilient workforce, and a thriving future for everyone. That's why we made a strategic commitment to early childhood through our SPARK (Strong, Prepared, and Ready for Kindergarten) initiative. SPARK ensures that children from birth to age five and their caregivers have access to the tools, programs, and resources they need to build a strong foundation for success in school and life.

As we reflect on five years of progress, we invite you to continue this journey. Together, we are shaping brighter futures for our children, strengthening families, and building a more connected, resilient community for generations to come.

OUR SERVICE AREA



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We have had the privilege to serve over 23 communities over the past five years in the Southern Kane and Kendall counties. We also have been honored to support social service agencies throughout this area as well. We are able to do this by mobilizing resources, partnering with people, and investing into our community to solve each area's toughest challenges.



100 Years of Impact. A Future Built Together.



For a century, Fox Valley United Way has been a trusted force for good – bringing people and organizations together to create lasting change. Today, we continue that legacy by working side by side with businesses, nonprofits, schools, government agencies, healthcare providers, and community leaders. We mobilize, we partner, and we invest.

From young leaders to lifelong advocates, we unite voices across our community to take on the biggest challenges. By leading honest conversations, aligning shared goals, and connecting resources where they're needed most, we turn collaboration into impact. Whether we're building coalitions, guiding initiatives, or creating a collective vision for change, Fox Valley United Way remains a driving force in communities and for communities.



Above: 100th anniversary celebration photos.
Middle: Report given by Bill Foster, House of Representatives, for 100th year anniversary.
Bottom: Proclamation from the City of Aurora.



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Allocated Over
\$800,000

We are proud to support our Partner Agencies whose dedication and tireless efforts strengthen our community. Through our shared commitment to advancing health, education, and financial stability, these organizations provide critical services that empower individuals and families to thrive.

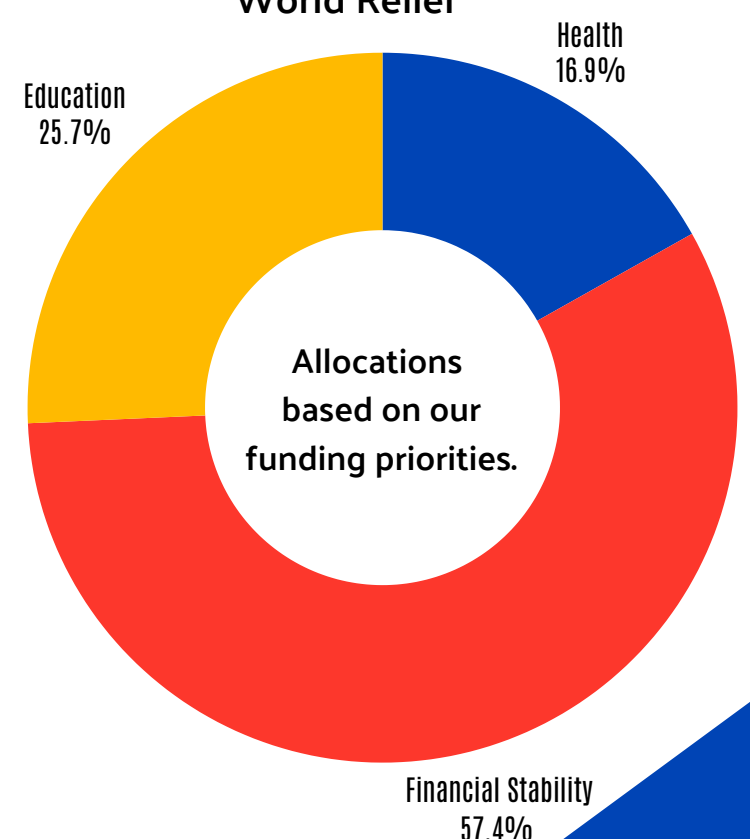
By funding and collaborating with our Partner Agencies, we help ensure that children are better prepared to learn, individuals have access to the care they need, and families can work toward lasting financial independence. Together, we are building a more resilient, equitable, and compassionate community for all.

Thank you to our Partner Agencies for the meaningful work you do every day. Your impact is real, and it inspires us all.

Academic Achievement
Association for Individual
Development
Aunt Martha's Youth Services
Aurora Area African Men of Unity
Aurora Area Interfaith Food
Pantry
BackPack
Boys & Girls Club of Elgin
Breaking Free Inc.
CASA- Kane County
CASA- Kendall County
Catholic Charities
Community Benefits- Kendall
County
Community Crisis Center Inc.
Conley Outreach Services
DuPage Children's Museum
Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley
Easterseals Joliet Region Inc.
Ecker Center for Mental Health
Family Focus
Fideliter Club
Fox Valley Family YMCA
Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois

Hope For Tomorrow Inc.
Humanitarian Service Project
Joseph Corporation
Kaneland Foundation
Kendall County Community
Food Pantry
Kendall County Health
Department
KidsMatter
Lazarus House
Literacy Volunteers of Fox
Valley
Loaves Fishes
Marie Wilkinson Child
Development Center
Mutual Ground
Neighbor Project
Open Door Clinic
Prairie State Legal Services
Public Action to Deliver Shelter
Inc.
Quad Country Urban League
Rebuilding Together Aurora
Rush-Copley Foundation

Salvation Army, Aurora
Salvation Army Tri-City Corps
SciTech Museum
St. Charles EC Collaboration
Suicide Prevention Services
Tender Loving Animal Shelter
The Salvation Army, Tri-City Corps
Three Fires Council Boy Scouts
Tri-City Family Services
Tri-City Health Partnership, Inc.
TUG Career Center
United Cerebral Palsy
VNA Health Care
Wayside Cross Ministries
Well Child Center
World Relief





SPARK

Strong, Prepared And Ready for Kindergarten

Did you Know?

90% of brain development happens by age 5.

SPARK is a Fox Valley United Way's early childhood initiative designed to ensure that every child has the foundational skills they need to succeed in school and beyond. Research has consistently shown that children who enter kindergarten without essential school readiness skills are more likely to face academic challenges throughout their education and are at a significantly higher risk of not graduating high school.

School readiness is often influenced by factors like parental education, income level, and access to resources. Children are most at risk if their parents face challenges such as low educational attainment, financial instability, young-age, single-parent households, or limited English proficiency. In Aurora alone, nearly 50% of children under age 5 face one or more of these barriers.

SPARK is dedicated to changing the trajectory for these children. By providing early learning opportunities and empowering families, we're helping to close the achievement gap and build a stronger, more equitable community for the next generation.



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LEARN MORE





SPARK

Strong, Prepared And Ready for Kindergarten



Playgroups

Outdoor playgroup during Summer with our SPARK team.

Kindergarten Ready playgroups prepare children and caregivers for the transition to kindergarten. We emphasize the role of parents as their child's first teacher, while introducing activities that mirror classroom experiences.

Total Families Served

20,543
Parents
13,202
Children

Primary Languages

- 1.Spanish- 296+
- 2.English- 282+
- 3.Other- 37+

Developmental Screenings

Screenings offer families a chance to learn about their child's development and receive fun, easy activities to support growth. If results suggest further evaluation is needed, referrals—with family consent—are made to Child & Family Connections (children under 3), the local school district (ages 3–5), or another appropriate agency.

Resources for Parents



CLICK PHOTO FOR RESOURCES

Over the years, our SPARK team has been able to gather many resources across our community to share with families and provide help for those who are less fortunate.

LEARN MORE



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211

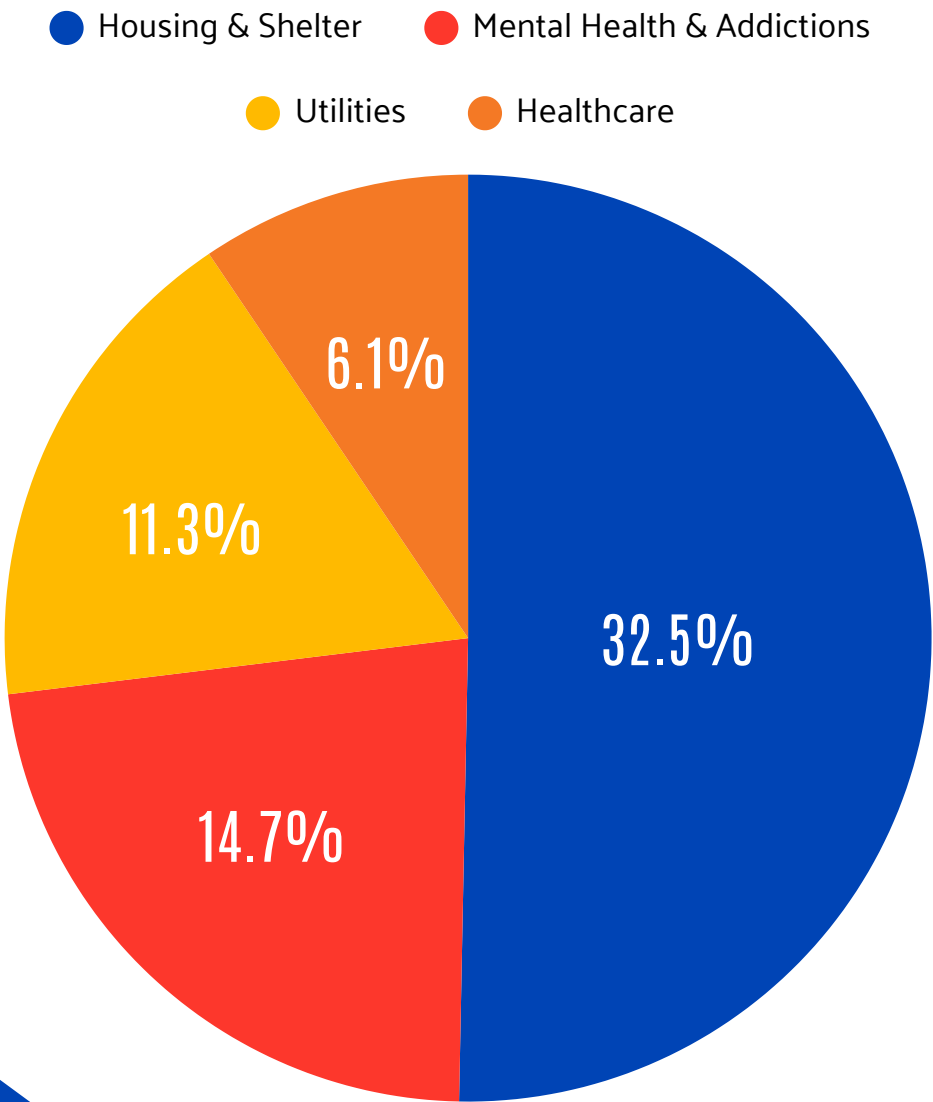
Kane



Our organization is proud to support 211, a vital community resource that helps individuals and families navigate life’s challenges. Whether facing job loss, health issues, housing instability, or the aftermath of a natural disaster, 211 provides a trusted lifeline in times of need.

211 is a free, confidential information and referral service that connects people to local resources for food, shelter, mental health support, utility assistance, and more. Available 24/7 and accessible to everyone—regardless of income—211 ensures help is always within reach.

TOP REQUEST CATEGORIES

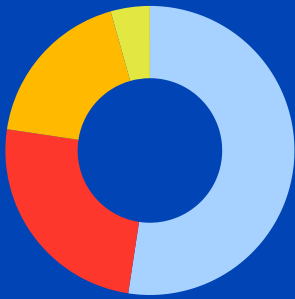


Hundreds of households in the Fox Valley are rely on 211 each year. By helping fund this essential service, we ensure our community members have a place to turn to when they need support the most.

We remain committed to supporting 211 and raising awareness so that our community members know where to turn before a struggle becomes a crisis.

TOP HOUSING & SHELTER REQUESTS

- 1. Rent Assistance
- 2. Shelters
- 3. Low-cost Housing
- 4. Home repair/Maintenance





“YOU CAN NEVER GET ENOUGH
BOOKS INTO THE HANDS
OF ENOUGH
CHILDREN”

Dolly



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

At Fox Valley, we recognize the critical role that early literacy plays in helping children learn, grow, and thrive. That's why we're proud to support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This wonderful program delivers age-appropriate books each month to children in our community, from birth to age five.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a renowned literacy program founded by the legendary Dolly Parton whose father could not read. This initiative is dedicated to fostering a love for reading among children from birth to age five. Every month, children enrolled in the program receive a high-quality, age-appropriate book mailed directly to their homes, at no cost to their families.

Together, we're helping to build a strong foundation for lifelong learning – one book at a time.



247,776,662
TOTAL BOOKS GIFTED
SINCE INCEPTION

JULY 2024

Surrounding Aurora Area

LAUNCHED IN
JANUARY 2025!

*STATISTICS COMING SOON!



Kendall County

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2024 WITH 955
REGISTERED IN FIRST TWO MONTHS

Books Mailed: 1,665



The Imagination Library is made possible through a shared funding model. Dolly and the Dollywood Foundation cover many overhead costs and administration needs. Local programs (that's us at Fox Valley United Way!) secure funding for books and postage.



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Holiday Assistance

Holiday Assistance Program: Five Years of Community Impact

Over the several decades, Fox Valley United Way’s Holiday Assistance Program has stood as a cornerstone of compassion and collaboration in our community. Each holiday season, we’ve partnered with local businesses, civic organizations, and generous individuals to provide meaningful support to families facing financial hardships. Through this program, thousands of local children and families have experienced the joy and relief that comes from knowing their community cares. From warm clothing and household essentials to holiday meals and individualized gifts and toys, the Holiday Assistance Program continues to bring hope and dignity to those in need. This initiative exemplifies what’s possible when a community comes together—not just for a season, but for lasting change.



Photos: Holiday Assistance volunteers and staff giving gifts to the community.
Top Left: Card from child who received gifts

5,000 CHILDREN RECEIVED A GIFT OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS



Annual 5K



The Mom Made Me do This 5K is a yearly run and walk that brings the community together in a fun environment for a healthy cause. Fox Valley United Way is committed to ensuring that all families in our communities have equitable access to opportunities and resources by investing in positive health, education, and financial outcomes.




Above: Mom and son participating in 2024 MMDT5K

Over **\$16,590** Raised
More than **300** Participants



Above: Volunteers at Halloween Hustle 2022

Event Co-Hosted with:
 **RUSH**
Rush Copley Foundation



PROGRAMS

WOMEN UNITED®



Above: CEO, Deborah Rudel, speaking at Power of the Purse event 2023.

The Power of the Purse is a fundraiser that consisted of both a silent and live auction. Items for auction included purses, wallets for men and women, jewelry, and other accessories.

Raised Over \$8,700

Donated to The Neighbor Project



United for ALICE is a partner who focus on people and communities with Asset Limitation, Income Constrained, and Employed.

Project Up Breakfast

Photo from above: Project Up Breakfast with Comcast.

Fox Valley United Way and Comcast came together for a project in an initiative to advance digital equity in Kane and Kendall Counties.



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OVER 18,000 DIAPERS DONATED TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES



Photos: Volunteers and Donors for Drives

Community Drives

Fox Valley United Way got involved with the community to drive diapers and toys to share them to those in need of the support.



OVER 15,500 TOYS DONATED TO LOCAL CHILDREN



Fox valley United Way gathered volunteers and helped out in gardening, cleaning, and building things for the community!



Above: Volunteers for Day of Caring

DONOR COMPANIES

Support comes in the form of individual and workplace giving, corporate grants and gifts, as well as in-kind donations and services. These generous donor companies make it possible to fund many social service agencies in Kane and Kendall counties.

3M
AAA Chicago
Abbott Laboratories
Accenture
Advocate Health Care
AGL Resources
Alcatel Lucent International
Allied Waste/Republic Services
Allstate
Andersen Corporation
AON
Associated Bank
AT&T
Aunt Martha's Youth Services
Aurora Downtown
Aurora Fastprint
Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce
Aurora Township
Aurora University
Bank of America
Barry Callebaut
Bedford Charitable Foundation
Best Buy
Better World Books
Bison Gear and Engineering Corporation
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
BMO Harris
BNSF Railway
Breaking Free
Burlington Northern Foundation
Calvin Klein
Cano Container Corporation
Carson Pirie Scott
Caterpillar
Chicago Journeyman Plumbers Local Union 130
Chicago Pipefitters Local 597
CIBC
Citgo Petroleum Corporation
City of Aurora

Coffman Trucks
Comcast
Commonwealth Edison
ConAgra Foods
Costco
Crawford, Murphy & Tilly
Crown Trophy
CSL Plasma
Dearborn National
eloitte
Dick's Mini Donuts
Digiovine, Hnilo, Jordan and Johnson
Dolce / Q Center
Dunham Fund
Dupage County Building and Construction Trades Council
Earth Mover Credit Union
East Aurora School District 131
Ecolab
Eli Lilly
Engineering Enterprises, Inc.
Enterprise Leasing
Equifax
Ernst and Young, LLP
Exelon
Experis Finance
Farmers Insurance
FedEx
Fermilab
Fifth Third Bank
Finishing Solutions Network
First Alert
First Centennial Mortgage Corporation
First Insurance Group
First Midwest Bank
First National Bank
Fox Metro Water Reclamation District

Fox Valley Building and Construction Trades
Fox Valley Family YMCA
Fox Valley Hands of Hope
Fox Valley Labor News
Gateway Foundation
GE Capital
General Motors
Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois
Goodrich Quality Theaters Inc.
Grecian Delight Foods, Inc.
Grinnell Mutual
Guardian
H. B. Fuller Construction Products
Hanover Insurance
Health Care Services Corporation
Heartland Bank & Trust
Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Local 17
Henry Pratt Company
Hewlett-Packard
Hypertherm
IBEW Local 461
IBM
International Assoc. of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers Local 265
International Paper
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, ADC 1 of Illinois
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150
ITW
JCPenney
Jewel-Osco
Johnson & Johnson
Johnson Controls Inc,



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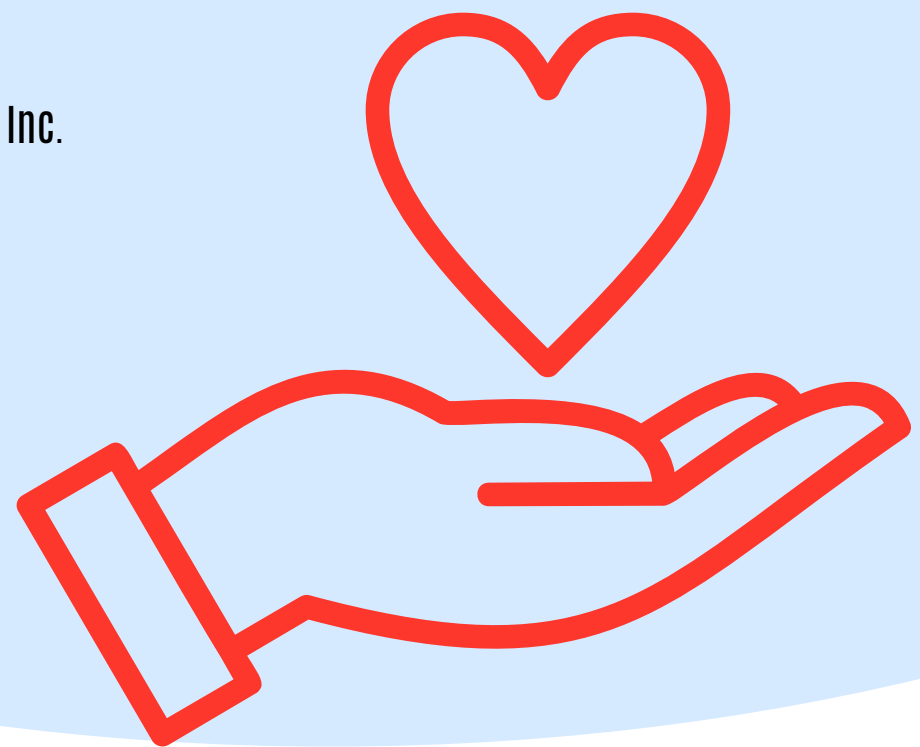
DONOR COMPANIES

(Continued)

Kellogg's
Kohl's
Kopy Kat
Laborers' International Union of
North America, Local 582
Liberty Mutual
Lincoln Financial Group
Lyon
Macy's
Mars Wrigley Foundation
Mazda Midwest Region
Meijer
Merck
MetLife
Michael Hasslebring Insurance
Agency, Inc.
Microsoft
Midland States Bank
Mortenson-Schwendener
Construction
Mutual Ground
My Advisor & Planner
My Inner Harmony Acupuncture
Nalco
Nationwide Enterprise
Nicor
Nordstrom's
North Central Illinois Labor
Council
Northern Trust Bank
O'Reilly Auto Parts
Oasis Mental Health
Old Second
Optum Biometrics, Inc.
Painter's District Council, Local
30

Pentair - Aurora Pump
People's Energy
PepsiCo
Pitney Bowes
PNC Bank
Presence Mercy Medical Center
Principal Financial Group
Rasmussen College
Robert W. Baird
Roquette America, Inc.
Rush-Copley Medical Center
SABIC Innovative Plastics
Sci-Tech Hands On Museum
SECA - State Campaign
Senior Services
Shaw Media Group
Sheet Metal Workers 265
SmithAmundsen, LLC
Sprinkler Fitters and
Apprentices, Local 281
Sprint
State Farm Insurance Co.
SunGard
Target
TD Ameritrade
TDS
The Chicago Community
Foundation
The Cummins Foundation, Inc.
The Hartford
The Voice
Timken
Toyota
Unilock Chicago, Inc.

Union Pacific Railroad
United Health Group
United Parcel Service
United Union of Roofers,
Waterproofers and Allied
Workers, Local 11
Universal Direct Marketing
UPS
US Bank
Victaulic Company of America
VNA Healthcare
Von Maur
Walgreens
Walmart
Waubensee Community College
WBK Engineering, LLC
Wells Fargo
West Aurora School District 129
White Castle
Windy City Amusement
Wrigley-Yorkville
Youngren's
Zachry Industrial Inc.
Zurich



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**THANK
YOU!**



FOX VALLEY UNITED WAY STAFF



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS



Fox Valley
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PARTNER WITH US

Together we can pave the way for lasting change.

Contact us through any of the following:



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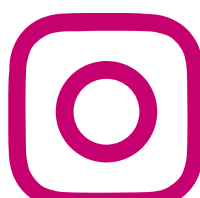


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Click the icons to visit our social pages.