

# February 2026 Fox Valley United Way Board Report

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**J.D. Ostergaard**

### **Operations**

United Way Worldwide announced their CEO is retiring at the end of the year. Their new interim CEO has been named and the search for a new CEO has begun, but it will take a while for the new leadership to be in place.

J.D. applied for and was granted a \$1,000 stipend to attend the Midwest Regional Conference “Great Rivers” in Bloomington, IL on March 17 – 19. This will cover all costs associated with the trip therein costing the organization no money.

Eric and J.D. were able to implement the new donate form onto the website which integrates immediately with Little Green Light, taking out the step of manual entry from donations through Stripe. This change will again speed up financial entries and cut back on the expense of bookkeeping.

J.D. began sessions of New Executive Leadership Orientation through United Way Worldwide. He will be networking and discussion transitional and operational best practices for our United Way via suggestions from similarly sized United Ways.

The by-laws and memorandum of understanding have been signed for Disaster Ready Kane. Fox Valley United Way will be the fiscal agent and hold a co-treasurer role on the board of DRK with a partnership between Batavia United Way.

### **Finances**

As emailed earlier in the month, the 2024-2025 audit has been completed by Weber and Associates. The conclusion of the audit placed FVUW in good standing and full compliance with the audit ended in a review of finances that we should be proud of.

Taxes for 2024-2025 were mailed on February 24<sup>th</sup> after they were signed by board members Michele Clark and Marisa Richards.

After an introduction by Colin Powers, J.D. met with a representative from Schooley Mitchell to see if any of our expenses could be cut down and negotiated based on their relationships. A presentation by Champion Health offered to save FVUW and our employees on federal taxes due and the final results of that will be given to J.D. on March 9<sup>th</sup> for discussion at the March board meeting.

## Development

J.D. attended the Dunham Workshop on What New Tax Code Means For Your Non-Profit. At this presentation, the benefits and downfalls of the new federal policies were discussed along with opportunities to rectify the possible loss in corporate giving based on the changes.

J.D. presented to the Rotary Club of the Aurora Area on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Updates on our operations along with a discussion on volunteer partnerships needed and a possible need for new office space were discussed with some of the members in the club.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

### Tricia Hoover

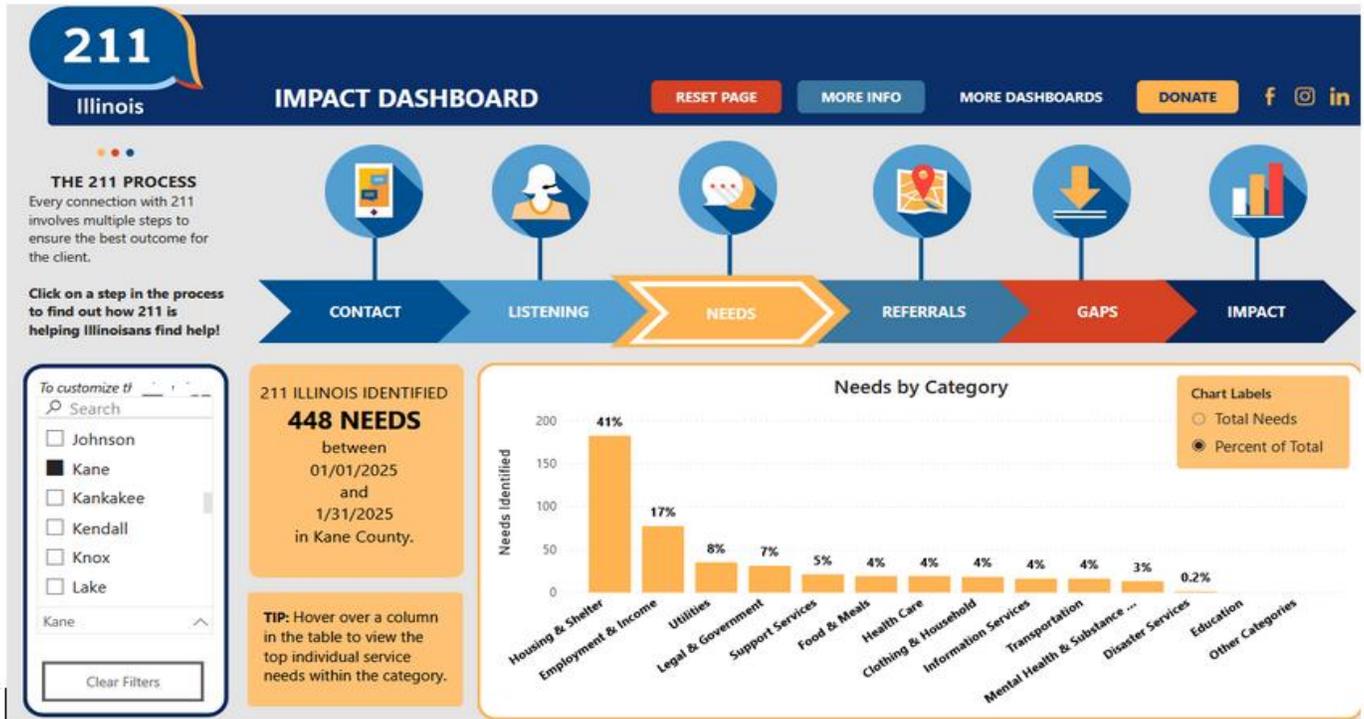
#### Dolly Parton's Imagination Library:

February 2026	FOLLETT	KENDALL	TOTAL
Enrollment Numbers	4264	2534	6798
Graduated	695	528	1223

\*Please notice that we will show the number of children who have graduated with each month. "Graduated" by terms of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library means that they've reached their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday and have received the final book in the series. These numbers will not calculate as they don't reflect those that have been removed from the program due to change of address or something of that nature.

# Kane 2-1-1 Updates – Review January 2025 to January 2026 Increase in Calls Up by 153 M/M

January 1 – 31 2025



January 1 – 31 2026



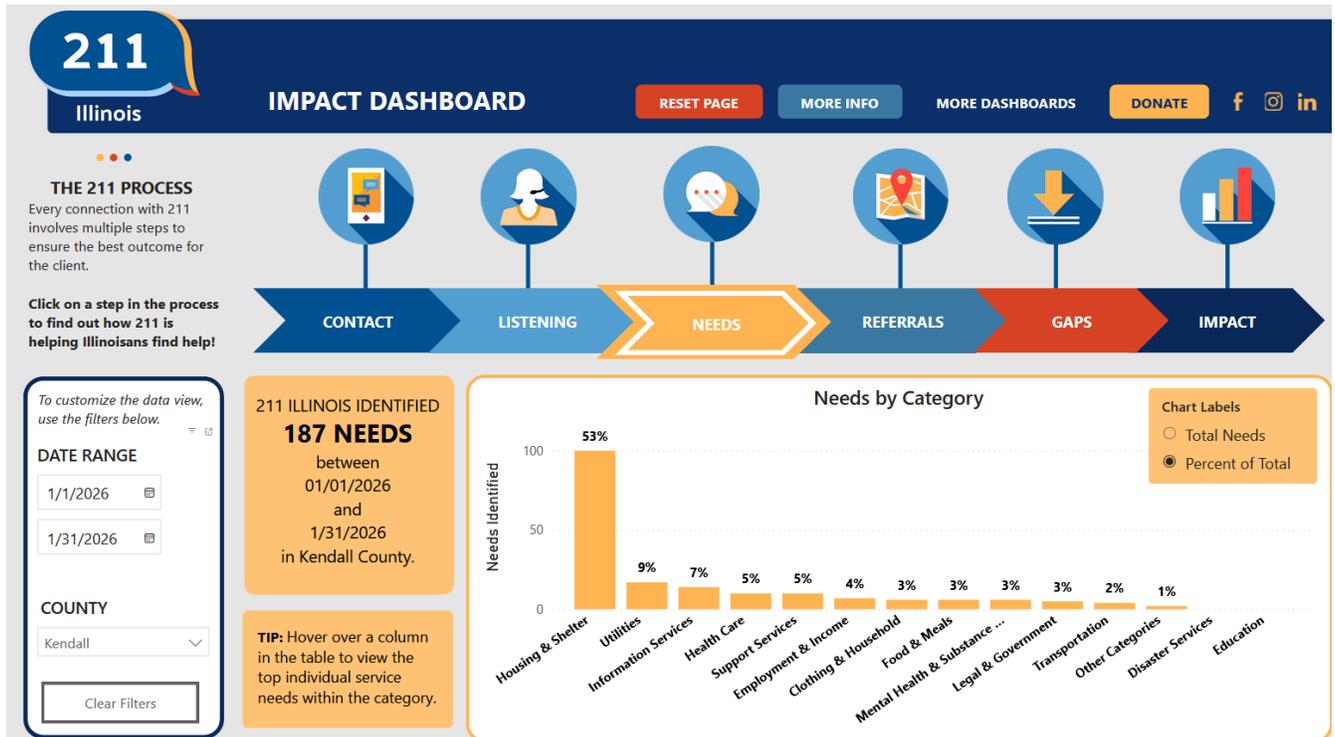
# Kendall 2-1-1 Updates Review January 2025 to January 2026 Increase in Calls Up by 74

\*\*The jump in calls for Housing is significant from 31% in 2025 to 53% in 2026

## January 1 – 31 2025



## January 1 – 31 2026



## **Community Partners Involvement**

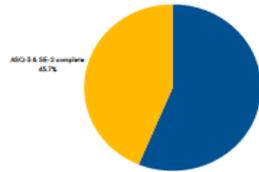
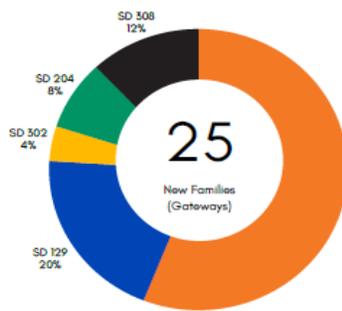
- Tricia attended two Strategic Planning sessions with PAASSS (Kendall County collaborative with Kendall County Health Department and facilitated by WCC's Dr. Randall) to identify community needs between various social services providers, forecasting for the next year, 3, and 5 years. 02/04/26 & 02/17/26)
- Marcy Robles (Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry) call to set up default volunteer opportunities 02/18/26
- Lazarus House – 2<sup>nd</sup> guided tour, met Executive Director, newly appointed Case Manager Director, and Business Development Director to promote FVUW/LH relationship. Delivered Blankets and Books from recent drives.
- Kendall County Interagency Meeting – 02/24/26 - developed more relationships to deliver our resources, including Kendall County Courthouse and Montgomery Police Department.

## **Outreach / Development**

- Tricia attended and presented at Yorkville Kiwanis meeting for sponsorships
- Volunteer development – Holly Henning for March 27<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup> – ongoing project to find places for her teams to volunteer (coinciding with Friday 5)
- Toured MedTec facility and met with Community Outreach/Account Manager for potential sponsorships for Mom 5K.
- Met with Focus Eye Care for potential top prize donation of designer sunglasses for Mom 5K.

**S.P.A.R.K.**

**Rosaisela Sida**



ASQ SE-2 Screenings Completed: **13**  
ASQ-3 Screenings Completed: **11**

“Excellent care and compassion. They helped me a lot Ms. Elena assisted me and was very kind and helpful. I am grateful and hope you can continue helping families, children, and mothers who truly need your generous support.”

SPARK team participated in the Be Strong Families Parent Cafe Team Training and received a Certificate of Completion

**7**  
Play Groups



**400**  
Total Active Users

Total Active Users



**2**  
Car Seat



**1**  
Coaching Session



**Referrals**

SPARK attended Aurora Public Library Early Childhood Resource Fair to connect families with children aged 0-5 with community services.



## SPARK Programs

- Spark continuo providing direct services to the community, adding some programming activities with North Aurora Library and West Aurora Library this month.
- Play Groups Schedule for February
  1. Mondays: Norther Light Family Center from 9-12pm
  2. Tuesdays: Santory Library from 10-11am
  3. Wednesdays: Parent’s Café in Collaboration with Family Focus Aurora
  4. Friday: New England Church in collaboration with World Relief from 9-11 am
  5. Last Friday of Each month: North Aurora Library from 10-12pm
  6. Last Thursday of each month; West Aurora Library from 9-12pm

## **SPARK Outreach**

- Aurora University Internship Fair Feb 6, 2026  
We received 5-7 applications from students interested in doing their internship with SPARK. We officially have 3 students; however, we hope we can add one more. Interns are a huge help for SPARK, especially during summer and holiday assistance.
- Santory Public Library: Children's Resource Fair Feb 7, 2026
- School District 129 Parent's Meeting Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## **Training and Professional Development**

- SPARK Team finally got certified to conduct parent café online. Thanks to Illinois Action for Children that cover all costs. The SPARK team was able to complete a three-day training session last month.

## **Collaboration**

- A new project with SD131 is happening to explore ways to have a diaper bank that can support all early childhood agencies. Rosa (SPARK) and Rosary (SD131) had a couple of meetings from the beginning of the year to explore resources and models of diaper banks from other communities.
- SPARK is part of the School Districts (131&129) parent meeting. We participate on a quarterly basis where parents learn about SPARK services and ways to connect to more new families.

## **Grants and Funding**

- SPARK keeps exploring new funding opportunities, for example the R3 grant fund is a new application for SPARK. Funding is available in Illinois communities that have been harmed by violence, excessive incarceration, and economic disinvestment. We completed an application requesting funding for our parents' groups, and we will find out about the request late this summer.
- SPARK was invited to apply for Northwester Medicine funding, and application was completed last week in February.
- Funding request to the City of Aurora was approved -30K-