

# WE FIGHT FOR LASTING CHANGE

## A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

At UWECI, we believe every one of us has the power to ignite change in our community VIA United Way to provide a thriving community for all. This time of year we celebrate and reflect on what we accomplished over the past year.

### VOLUNTEER

Some of the largest ways we built our community through volunteerism include our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program that brought back more than \$2.6 million into our community, brought together over 1,600 volunteers during our Day of Caring event, and expanded our work in our volunteer centers in Jones, Benton, Cedar, and Linn counties.

### INVEST

We continue to support our nonprofit partners by investing over \$3 million back into our community. We are very excited to hold that number steady this coming year as we use our Unite to Inspire strategy to stay focused on creating solutions to our community's most pressing needs.

### ADVOCATE

We have increased our focus on advocacy through initiatives such as BOLD, or Board Orientation Leadership Development, and Civic Circle. Both are programs that educate people on how to be community leaders. We're proud this last year has included many hours and work spent in collaborations such as the moving the work of the Alliance for Equitable Housing forward, helping the Flourishing Neighborhood Index launch in Wellington Heights, and working through the Opportunity Center to partner our Women United volunteers with women from ASAC's WayHome in a mentoring pilot.

These are just a few examples of our daily work to bring our community together VIA United Way. We're grateful for your support. We look forward to keeping pace in the coming year as we create an Eastern Iowa where everyone can thrive.



**Kristin Roberts**  
President & CEO



United Way  
of East Central Iowa

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## FINANCIAL STABILITY IN EASTERN IOWA

*Tara sits down across the desk from a couple who legally immigrated last year with their young son to file their taxes for the first time. As she leads them through the paperwork during her regular volunteer shift their anxiety grows and it's then that she explains how tax credits work in their favor. At the end, the couple is overjoyed to know they will be receiving a refund and declare they can put part of it toward paying off their car. High-fives, big smiles, and connection are just part of the impact felt.*

This is just one example of how United Way has impacted our community through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, or VITA, program. This past tax season, over 1,800 refunds across two counties in Eastern Iowa were processed bringing back more than \$2.6 million to Eastern Iowans and helping bring financial stability to our community. Learn more about the VITA program at [uweci.org/VITA](http://uweci.org/VITA).



## DAY OF ACTION

On June 21, UWECI hosted a Day of Action service project to update and expand the Born Learning Trail at Bever Park in Cedar Rapids. The Born Learning Trail is an engagement opportunity that fosters childhood success by helping parents and caregivers explore ways to turn everyday moments into fun learning opportunities. In collaboration with Rinderknecht Associates' sponsorship and volunteerism, the trail is now ready and full of educational activities for families and children to discover. Find other volunteer opportunities at [uweci.org/volunteer](http://uweci.org/volunteer).



## IMPACTFUL GIVING THROUGH UWECI

Fostering positive change within Eastern Iowa starts

when community champions like you invest in our community's most challenging obstacles. By giving to United Way, you ensure your dollars reach Eastern Iowa's top challenges of affordable housing, childcare, access to healthcare, and safety net services.

**Please consider supporting UWECI.**

Give today by scanning the QR code or at [uweci.org/donate](http://uweci.org/donate).



## THANK YOU, CAMPAIGN CABINET!

Each year, dedicated volunteers lean in and help us raise millions of dollars for Eastern Iowa. The Campaign Cabinet, made up solely of volunteers, collaborates with staff and companies to create successful workplace campaigns and spreads UWECI's mission to new partners. We are excited for Melissa Winter of GreenState Credit Union and Brooke Willson of AllState Benefits to lead as our 2024 Campaign Cabinet co-chairs. Additionally, the following individuals will lend their skills to the 2024 Campaign Cabinet:

Dave Schreck, <i>Collins Aerospace – Past Co-Chair</i>	Melissa Winter, <i>GreenState Credit Union – Co-Chair</i>	Lydia Brown	Nicole Mead
Jack Gonder, <i>Bankers Trust – Past Co-Chair</i>	Teri Gibson	Landon Burg	Nick Nielsen
Curt Heideman, <i>Bankers Trust – Past Co-Chair</i>	Anne Parmley	Hilary Hershner	Alejandro Pino
Brooke Willson, <i>Allstate Benefits – Co-Chair</i>	Jim Beardsworth	Bre Horstman	Chris Snyder
	Jacqueline Berst	Dennis Jordan	Gary Streit
	Zach Bohannon	Beth Lehman	Jennifer Welton
		Kelley Marchbanks	

To learn more about campaign, visit [uweci.org/campaign](http://uweci.org/campaign).



## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual United We Thrive event in June. We celebrated our prestigious annual award winners, announced a new campaign excellence award, and recognized our top ten companies for being community champions in Eastern Iowa. We often talk about giving VIA United Way through Volunteering, Investing, and Advocating for our community. Thanks to our VIA panel, United We Thrive guests heard tangible examples of the collaborative work United Way leads. Find ways to give VIA United Way at [uweci.org](http://uweci.org).



<b>Annual Award Winners:</b>	<b>Top Ten Campaigns:</b>
John B. Northcott Award • Robb Loftsgard	• Transamerica
Community Philanthropist Award • Barbara Knapp & Jim Nikrant	• Collins Aerospace
Emerging Leaders Award • Ariel Montag	• United Fire Group
Lynn Nichols Award • J'Nae Peterman	• TrueNorth Companies
<b>Campaign Excellence Award:</b>	• CRST International, Inc.
• Benchmark Inc.	• Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust
	• Schimberg Co.
	• Alliant Energy
	• GreatAmerica
	• Hibu