



UNITED IS THE WAY

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A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

At United Way, what we do is in our name, and it's not just what we do, it's our mission. We unite the caring power of communities to invest in effective solutions that improve people's lives.

It's why we've decided to start recognizing that only together we will solve our community's toughest challenges. For example, when it comes to childhood success, we know that many at-risk youth are not aware of career and college path opportunities and may lack the needed support and mentorship to succeed.

It's why we're uniting together with other organizations through the Opportunity Hub to create increased school attendance, graduation rates and students graduating with college credit, a certificate or a credentialing. United is the way.

Notice it's not United Way solving all the issues. Instead, it's when we come together that we change lives. Over the coming year, you're going to see us pivot toward this new language that we feel accurately describes our daily work. Simply put, it's us uniting our community to identify big challenges, coming up with innovative ideas together, and putting those ideas into

action across the community through a united effort so everyone can thrive. United is the way.



Kristin Roberts

Kristin Roberts
President & CEO

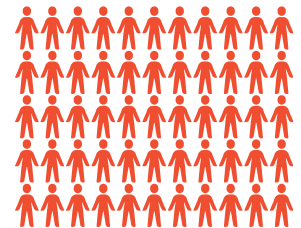


Fostering Childhood Success in Eastern Iowa

Focusing on childhood success is crucial in the early ages of childhood, and it doesn't end there. In our community, only 63% of children met the benchmark of being kindergarten ready and 85% of students in Linn County graduated high school.

At United Way, our focus is on shaping early childhood opportunities as well as our future workforce. We work with both community stakeholders and our nonprofit partners to develop strategies that assist both parents and children. In addition, we are aligning our work to support teens and young adults in their career path. Every child deserves the chance to reach their full potential. United Way clears the path to success, from early childhood through college and career.

Through our childhood success nonprofit partners, **1,806** children were impacted.



Around **89%** of children had improved social-emotional skills through early childhood and school aged programs.



The Opportunity Hub

Many at-risk youth lack awareness of career and college pathways, as well as the mentorship and support needed to succeed. The Opportunity Hub—a collaboration of the Cedar Rapids Community School District, Kirkwood Community College, UWECI, and local nonprofits—has developed a community-driven strategy to engage and inspire high-risk students.

This initiative focuses on coordinating career development experiences, aligning and enhancing existing programs, addressing gaps, and identifying students in crisis who lack support. The ultimate goal is to improve attendance, increase graduation rates, and ensure every student graduates with a college credit, certificate, or credential.

YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

Every child deserves the opportunity to thrive, and together, we can be part of their success. Last year alone, over 1,800 children were impacted. With your support, we can increase that number and create a strong track from early childhood education to college and career success.



Will you support childhood success in Eastern Iowa?

Give today at uweci.org/donate to have a positive influence in a child's life.