Before there was a United Way of Franklin County, there was a council of citizens concerned that community needs weren’t being met. In 1990 the council completed the process of becoming the United Way of Franklin County (UWFC). This year UWFC celebrates thirty years of providing funding quality programs that work to improve individual lives in our community!

Earlier this year, United Way was proud to bring Rural Works to Franklin County. The primary goal of this program is to eliminate poverty. The programs works with unemployed and under employed individuals to overcome barriers to stable, long-term employment. Participants attend a one-week workshop where they learn resume skills, mock interviews, and navigating online applications, then they work to attain employment and once employed identify career goals all while being supported by the program manager.

Then life as we knew it forever changed as the pandemic hit. For thirty years our dedication to the cause hasn’t changed, but the challenges within the community drastically have. Our vision for the 2020 campaign became clear: help our community's vulnerable individuals and families not only get through the challenge of today, but start imagining, planning and rebuilding for life after things go back to “normal”.

Knowing the community was going to need extra resources, UWFC created the COVID-19 Relief Fund in early March. We quickly raised nearly $30,000. This fund works to offer help to individuals and agencies directly impacted by the virus. Through this fund, we were able to help local schools as they prepare for re-opening, assist food pantries with increased food demand, and we created the COVID-19 relief fund through the SIEOC where individuals affected by the virus can get assistance with basic needs like food, rent and utilities. But the work is not done. There may be long term effects with all these changes and the United Way of Franklin County will be there to step in and help where needed.

Our 2020 campaign theme is Reimagine a Better Normal. Why a better normal? Normal wasn’t working; a third of our households were struggling to afford the basics like rent/utilities, childcare, insurance and food. We believe a better way of living for the entire community is within reach. While we work hard together to restore our community during this pandemic, we are also looking to the future. As we to try to imagine and accept the new normal, we challenge you to join us in pushing past the “new” and reimagining a BETTER normal.

Thank you for your consideration and willingness to partner with United Way of Franklin County. Together we can create a better normal for us all.

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United Way of Franklin County
LOCAL COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

We are thrilled to share that we have raised nearly $30,000 for COVID-19 relief in our community! So far, UWFC has given $14,000 from our COVID-19 Relief Fund. We are happy to have helped local organizations and schools with increased needs due to the virus.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, a basic needs fund was established through the SIEOC and funding is still available. The Red Life Food Bank has been able to meet an increase in food demand, FCCSC Food Services was able to purchase equipment to package fresh fruit and veggie options for summer meals, and New Horizons WATCH Center was able to put together home engagement packets. New Mercies used their funding to expand their weekly carry out meals, St. Michael’s School was able to cover sanitation expenses, and Laurel Elementary School had the opportunity to purchase sneeze guards for classrooms.

Lilly gives $300,000 for COVID-19 Relief

We are pleased to announce that we have received a $300,000 COVID-19 Economic Relief Initiative Grant, made possible through a partnership between Lilly Endowment, Inc. and Indiana United Ways, the state professional association of which United Way of Franklin County is a member. These special funds will be used to boost the efforts of selected area human and social service nonprofits on the frontlines of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 Economic Relief Initiative Grant calls for United Ways that receive funding to leverage partnerships and relationships to better meet Covid-related essential and basic needs, which could include safe, emergency childcare, and to address other Covid-19 critical issues as they emerge.

Specifically, United Way of Franklin County plans to prioritize funding to human and social service nonprofits that are engaged in immediate COVID relief efforts or that demonstrate the ability to rapidly pivot to relief efforts and that prioritize services to struggling working households, frontline responders and recently displaced employees.

United Way of Franklin County is now accepting funding requests from area human and social service nonprofits in good standing. Interested organizations should consult United Way of Franklin County’s website for guidance on funding intent and application instructions.
The United Way of Franklin County is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 Live United Scholarship. These three recipients were awarded a total of $4,000 for tuition costs and fees.

Taylor McCreary, recent 2020 FCHS graduate, is the daughter of Steve and Jenny McCreary. She will be attending the University of Cincinnati and studying Speech and Language Pathology.

Ashlan Hill, recent 2020 FCHS graduate, is the daughter of Amy and Dusty Hill. She will be attending the University of Cincinnati this fall. She will be studying Health and Wellness for Physical Therapy.

Kyle Seibert, recent 2020 FCHS graduate, is the son of Michelle and Scott Seibert. He will be attending Indiana University. He will be studying Economics and Spanish.

The Live United scholarship is designed to recognize individuals that have demonstrated a commitment to serving Franklin County by making a positive impact in our community through community service. Current high school seniors or GED graduates, along with current post-secondary students of any age are eligible. The student must be a resident of Franklin County.

Awards are based on the applicant’s demonstrated commitment to community service and the extent to which the applicant has impacted his or her own community through leadership or service. This is not a need or academic achievement based scholarship. The Scholarship Selection Committee consists of a diversified group of community members and United Way of Franklin County representatives.

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