



United Way of
Benton & Franklin Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Way awards \$162,000 to local agencies

New community impact grants support continued COVID-19 recovery

KENNEWICK, Wash—United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties announced \$162,000 in grant funding to local agencies providing people with food and other basic needs, and mental and behavioral health services.

The money was awarded to United Way from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support COVID-19 response and recovery efforts in the bi-county region.

“We are so grateful for the support from the Gates Foundation,” said LoAnn Ayers, president and CEO. “The long-term nature of this pandemic means the need in our community continues to grow. This funding will provide food to hungry families and ensure that people, who are struggling, get access to mental and behavior health support.”

Ayers said the Gates Foundation grant aligns perfectly with United Way’s mission to address the biggest challenges facing our community. “The needs of our community have increased while, at the same time, non-profits are wrestling with increased costs and reduced donations,” she said. “This grant reduces gaps in services in our community’s areas of greatest need so that more of our neighbors will have a better future.”

The grants run through the end of 2021. Combined with the community impact grants awarded in November 2020, our local United Way directly funds 34 programs at 21 local agencies. For a list of agencies and programs, please visit www.uwbfc.org/areas-greatest-need

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About [United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties](#)

United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties improves lives and strengthens communities. We build collaborations with individuals, businesses, and nonprofits to address challenges that no one agency can solve alone to provide the building blocks of opportunity—education, income and health—that every person needs to thrive. Together, we’re solving our region’s biggest problems and creating lasting change.