

Frequently Asked Questions



WHO IS UNITED WAY OF BENTON & FRANKLIN COUNTIES?

We are a local nonprofit focused on improving lives and strengthening communities in our bi-county region since 1958. We build collaborations to address local challenges that no one agency can solve alone. We partner with individuals, businesses, and nonprofits to work on our region's biggest problems and create lasting change.

WHAT DOES OUR LOCAL UNITED WAY DO?

We fill gaps in local services. We do this by tracking trends in health, education, and safety and then use that information to strategically place funding where it can do the most good in our community.

WHERE DOES MY MONEY GO?

The money raised here, stays here to help local people who most need it.

Local children are our future customers and workforce. We focus our funding to address challenges that threaten their future—challenges like the learning gap, absenteeism, hunger, and homelessness. Families need help in many ways. We partner with local nonprofits to ensure access to food, shelter, education, health services, and other basic human needs needed to support healthy, safe families.

WHY SHOULD I GIVE TO UNITED WAY?

We look at what's happening in our community and work to fill gaps in the areas of greatest need.

- We do the research to determine where the greatest need is and invest your donation where it's most needed.
- We provide a safe and secure method for giving back to your community and ensure that the agencies receiving funding are in good standing with the IRS, comply with the USA Patriot Act (do not fund terrorism), and deliver cost-effective, high impact local services.
- We track the local impact of donors' gifts. The agencies that receive grants from us report on the results of those grants twice per year.



**United Way of Benton
& Franklin Counties**

HOW DID UNITED WAY RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

We quickly launched the local COVID-19 Community Response Fund and provided grants to local agencies that were responding to increased demand for services. Our fund provided essential support for more than 26,000 people in our community through nearly \$300,000 in grants awarded over six months that made sure hungry people were fed and people struggling with added stress had access to mental and behavioral health services.

WHAT IS UNITED WAY DOING TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY RECOVERY FROM THE PANDEMIC?

Recovering from the economic, educational, and health impacts of the pandemic will take time.

To help our communities recover and rebuild, we are:

1. Addressing current needs by investing local donations to provide grants to local nonprofits. United, we are keeping local people safe and healthy.
2. Investing in initiatives that address challenges that threaten the future of local children. We are using a grant from All in WA to provide the required matching funds when we apply for grants to address challenges, magnified by the pandemic, and not addressed by other local nonprofits.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY?

Sign up to volunteer. Our local United Way provides a free, mobile-friendly platform that lets you find volunteer opportunities with the causes you care about. Local nonprofits share their needs and individuals, families, and workplace teams can sign up to help. Volunteer Tri-Cities is open to all local nonprofit agencies and to all members of our community. Visit www.volunteertricitie.org for more information.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

- Tax benefits to giving: 2021 donations to our United Way are tax deductible. If you don't itemize deductions on your tax return, the CARES Act allows up to \$300 of qualified charitable contributions to be used to calculate adjusted gross income for individuals and up to \$600 for married people filing jointly.
- Ways to give: There are many options for making a donation to our United way, including online at give.uwbfc.org/give, through qualified charitable distribution from an IRA, through stock or appreciated securities, and by cash or check. If your company conducts a workplace campaign, you may donate through payroll deduction.
- Designated gifts: You can support all the causes you care about in one place. You may designate to any 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization(s) as well as to our local United Way.
- Overhead rate: Overhead costs are the expenses related to raising and administering funds to improve our community. Our local United Way overhead rate is 19.8%. CharityWatch recommends that in most cases 60% or more of your charitable donation should go to program services. The Better Business Bureau's standards recommend that the nonprofit's total expenses should not include more than 35% for fundraising.

WHAT IS YOUR FEDERAL TAX ID NUMBER?

91-0682177

We invite you to contact us - We look forward to speaking with you!

Shelly Neuhart
Resource Development Manager
509-581-3937
sneuhart@uwbfc.org

Amanda Young
Annual Giving Lead
509-581-3950
ayoung@uwbfc.org



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