



UNITED WAY
of the Southern
Alleghenies

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

United is the way ...

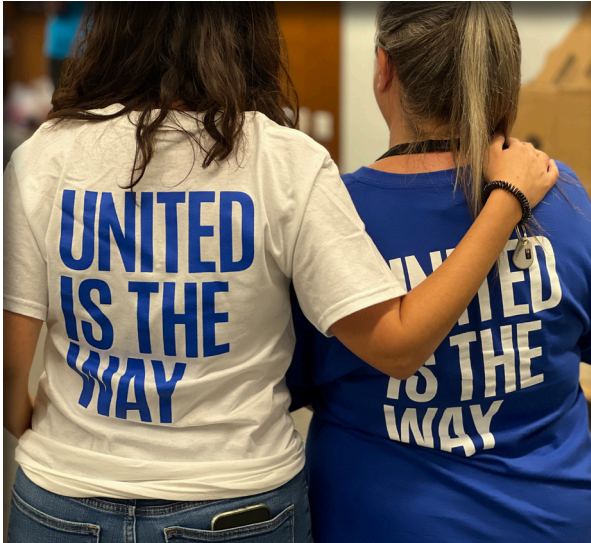
93,042 people helped in Blair, Cambria,
and Somerset Counties

UnitedWaySA.org



We Are Better Together

The United Way of the Southern Alleghenies provides a forum for positive community discussions centered on improving lives in Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties. Since 1930 we have been leveraging volunteers, ideas, expertise, and generous donations to fund, implement, and sustain programs that support healthy families. Together, we create lasting change.



What We Do

The United Way of the Southern Alleghenies is strategically focused on funding evidence-based programs and impactful services aimed at three core initiatives:

- Early Childhood Development
- Parental Engagement
- Youth Drug & Alcohol Prevention

Our process finds, and provides funding for, an optimal group of programs that address our core initiatives, as well as other basic human needs. A growing roster of direct programming is helping to fill service voids where other options are not available.

We work with multiple organizations throughout our service area to help implement periodic health needs assessments. Those results, and other data, help to guide our work.

United Way represents a unique place where like-minded community members can convene to create lasting change.

New Logo, New Slogan, Same Mission

Brighter. Refreshed. Renewed. Sometimes a little change can do us good. United Way of the Southern Alleghenies has revitalized our logo, and with it comes a new slogan, United is the Way.

When we began in 1930, our charter included the goal of strengthening the spirit of human helpfulness. For many, our beloved Partner Agencies and direct programming such as SNAP at the Market provide much needed way-finding services in the community. They serve as touch points to better health, education, and economic stability.

As we continue to engage in a collective community impact process, PA 211 data, community health needs assessments, and your feedback provide guideposts on our path to improving the wellbeing of our region. Many of the hallmarks you have come to know us for – early childhood education and parental engagement – remain pillars of our community investment.

Additionally, uplifting our neighbors who are ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) is integral to our work. Food security programs, our diaper bank, utility assistance, housing, and mental and physical health services are crucial to supporting many of our hardworking community members who are experiencing a temporary crisis.

After 95 years in the community, we know that unexpected needs happen, but there must be a path forward to better times ahead. We hope you'll journey with us as we head toward our centennial. United is the Way

“Just as a star guides a ship, community impact is rooted in the collaborative approach of bringing people and organizations together to create social change. Our ‘North Star’ allows us to navigate toward our desired outcome – a better Southern Alleghenies for all.”

– President & CEO Karen Struble Myers.



U
of
All

HOW WE WORK

The United Way of the Southern Alleghenies uses an Enhanced Community Impact Model (ECIM)©

Enhanced Community Impact Model

The Enhanced Community Impact Model (ECIM) is the foundation of “how” the United Way implements, sustains, and creates lasting social change across a three-county service area. This model follows collective-impact strategies focused on building collaborative efforts to address priority community needs. Throughout the process, progress is tracked, measured, evaluated, and reported.



Community Impact Process



Funding Partner Agency Programs & Services

The impact of the United Way of the Southern Alleghenies would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our 28 Partner Agencies that deliver programs and services to the community. Decisions on appropriate levels of funding allocated to these Partner Agencies is completed through the Community Impact Process. This process is completely driven by volunteers, and ultimately helps to determine what programs will be funded based upon the applications they evaluated.

To receive funding from the UWSA, a Partner Agency must go through the Request for Proposal Process. Many partner agencies have long-term relationships with UWSA, and continue to illustrate their impact to the community based upon an annual assessment, which is done via the Community Impact Process.

Non-UWSA Partner Agencies must respond to a Request for Information (RFI) put forth by the UWSA in order to submit a Request for Proposal (RFP). RFI's are not published annually, and are done so if the need to expand an area of impact is presented.

The Community Impact Committee, which is comprised of civic-minded leaders, United Way board members, and United Way volunteers, oversees the Community Impact Panels.



Community Impact Process Continued ...

PANEL #1 - Helping Children & Youth Succeed

Focused on evaluating Partner Agency programming in Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties for our youngest community members. Volunteers who comprise this panel will evaluate programs focused on pre-birth to school-age youth.

PANEL #2 - Strengthening & Supporting Families, Supporting the Vulnerable & Aging, Promoting Self-Sufficiency

Focused on evaluating Partner Agency programs in Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties, which strengthen families, support the vulnerable and aging, or promote self-sufficiency. Volunteers on this panel also review programs focused on basic human needs within our community.

PANEL #3 - Promoting Health & Wellness

Focused on evaluating Partner Agency programs in Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties, which promote health & wellness for individuals and families in our community.

Community Impact Process & Timeline



Community volunteers are assembled into three separate Community Impact Panels.

The application process opens for UW Partner Agencies to complete and submit program applications and funding requests.

Agency reviews are conducted by panel volunteers to review elements of their submitted application.

The Community Impact Committee recommends funding levels determined by program focus, application completion, and site visit.

Final funding awards are allocated to Partner Agencies who qualify based upon committee recommendation, and are approved by the board.

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Building a Civic Infrastructure for Early Childhood

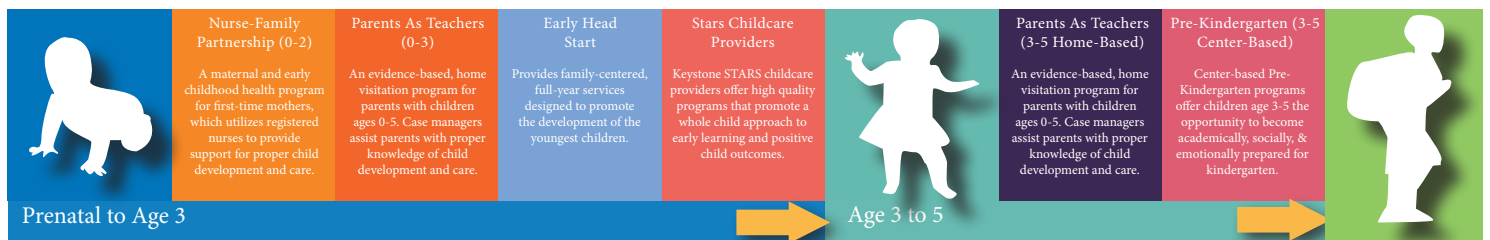
United Way of the Southern Alleghenies has been dedicated to developing strategies, opportunities, and collaborations that strengthen our youngest learners. Using a whole-child approach, we seek to make investments that support children's health, learning, nutrition, economic security, and safety. We know that bright futures happen when we empower children and families.

Designing & Implementing a Resource Model - Parental Pathways to Success

The United Way of the Southern Alleghenies, in partnership with multiple early learning providers, school districts, and agencies, has built the **Parental Pathway to Success**. This linear model guides parents and their children through specific programs and services available within the community that assist, strengthen, and support healthy family development, promote resiliency, and create sustainable self-sufficiency.

The model accomplishes three main goals:

- Maintain continued year-to-year support and assistance for at-risk families needing aid via family and personal development.
- Provide a continuum of care for both parents and their children, leading up to the child entering our school systems.
- Increase parental knowledge of child development and care, while preparing all children socially, emotionally, and academically for kindergarten.



Implementation, Funding, and Outcomes

Following the Enhanced Community Impact Model®, the United Way of the Southern Alleghenies funds both the **Nurse-Family Partnership** and **Parents as Teachers** programs at sustainable levels in Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties through annual fundraising, grant procurement, state and federal funding, and continued foundation support. The implementation and scaling of these programs has led to the following results in Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties.



550
Families
Served
Annually



98%
Up-to-date
Immunizations



100%
Referred
to Annual
Developmental
Screening



100%
Referred
Developmental
Delays

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT & EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE



Lauren Lazzari

A message from our early childhood systems coordinator

By LAUREN LAZZARI
Early Childhood Systems Coordinator

It's hard to believe it's already been a year since we launched the Early Childhood Initiative, a collaborative effort to give Somerset and Cambria County's youngest residents the best possible start in life.

Through the hard work and partnership of Vision Together 2025, Center for Population Health, Lee Initiatives, Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, 1889 Foundation, and United Way of the Southern Alleghenies, we've been working to improve access to early learning, family resources, health care, nutrition, child safety, and social-emotional development for children across our communities.

In just one year, we've distributed over \$60,000 in early childhood resources, hosted dozens of storytime pop-ups at local gathering places, and helped connect hundreds of families to services that make a real difference in their daily lives. These efforts are driven by the beliefs that: every child deserves access to learning opportunities; families deserve strong support systems; and our communities deserve the tools to build a healthier, safer, more equitable future for all. We're also thrilled to announce that United Way of the Southern Alleghenies was selected as one of just six United Ways in Pennsylvania to join the Too Small to Fail Literacy Campaign! This exciting opportunity will allow us to further promote the importance of talking, reading, and singing with young children every day – because 90% of brain growth happens before age 5. Keep an eye out for us at local libraries, parks, and family events as we spread the message about the power of early literacy and connection.

Preschool & After School Programming

At the United Way, we continue to fund high quality preschool and afterschool programming within our community. Investment in these programs helps children to develop socially and emotionally, and contributes to academic success. Through our Partner Agencies, children continue to receive the care they need to learn, grow, and thrive.

Preschool Programming - Partner Agencies & Impact

- The Learning Lamp – Early Childhood Behavioral Intervention & Support Program was funded at \$30,000 in 2024-25. This program incorporates the expertise of three Master's level Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants who provide both individual child and classroom observations, develop recommendations for improvements, and coach staff and parents through implementation.
- Small Town Hope – Funded in the amount of \$26,000 in 2024-25 to provide preschool programming to children in the northern areas of Cambria County, Small Town Hope continues to provide high-quality learning experiences to 20 students.

Afterschool Programming - Partner Agencies & Impact

- Flood City Youth Academy – Funded in the amount of \$20,000 in 2024-25 to provide an afterschool tutoring and mentoring program to, on average, 175 students each weekday. Each student also receives a meal.
- Boys & Girls Club of Somerset County (BGC) – Funded in the amount of \$7,000 in 2024-25 the Boys & Girls Club of Somerset County's "Power Hour" program has become a community asset for advancing student learning in grades K-5. Funding from the UWSA gives BGC the ability to secure volunteers to assist students with one-on-one tutoring.
- Gloria Gates Foundation – Funded in the amount of \$11,500 in 2024-25 to provide afterschool programs to youth in Blair County.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters – Funded in the amount of \$5,500 in 2024-25 for two programs, which provides youth mentoring in Blair County.
- Leadership Blair County Youth – This program received \$1,000 in funding in 2024-25 to implement a leadership program to youth in Blair County.

Other projects

Diaper Bank

On average, about 1 in 2 families fall short by about 25 diapers each month, creating a barrier for parents to get their children into day care and preschool. This, in turn, creates a barrier to going to work. Our growing diaper bank network was developed to meet that emerging need. The network of distribution points throughout Cambria/Somerset Counties provides more than 12,000 diapers a month to families. Diapers are also being distributed to families receiving programming via UWSA's Blair County Family Resource Center. To date, just under 3,000 diapers have been distributed there.

Toasty Toddler (Blair County)

636 children ages birth to age 5 received new winter wear.

Stuff the Bus (Blair County)

545 students in grades K-12 received new school supplies and backpacks.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER OF BLAIR COUNTY



The Family Resource Center of Blair County is one of the ways that United Way is making a positive impact on early childhood education and parental engagement.

The Family Resource Center is one of 28 state-funded Family Centers in Pennsylvania. Family Centers increase parent involvement and knowledge, a child's success in school, school readiness, and the health and welfare of families. Family Centers help to prevent child abuse and neglect and saves the Commonwealth money in terms of reduced crime, increased labor market benefits, and health care savings.

The Family Resource Center offers many cost-free programs:

- Parents as Teachers, an evidence-based home visiting program for families with children prenatal to Kindergarten entry. The center is a Blue-Ribbon Affiliate of the international Parents as Teachers, making it one of the top performing early education and home visiting affiliates within the network.
- Be Strong Parent Cafés, family-based and parent-led program designed by Be Strong Families to facilitate peer-to-peer learning around five evidence-based protective factors that improve resilience and strengthen supports in families.
- Make Parenting A Pleasure, evidence-informed parenting classes for any parent in Blair County wishing to learn more about parenting.
- Families in Recovery, pilot parenting class that works with families experiencing addiction and recovery.
- Community Outreach Programs, including Stuff the Bus, Toasty Toddler, and Week of the Young Child Celebration.

For more information about the center, contact Denise Adams, Family Resource Director, at 814-317-5567, Ext. 4005.

More about the FRC team

The center's staff includes Director Denise Adams, who has been a part of the team since 2003, starting as an AmeriCorps Member. The center also employs three full-time Family Development Specialists, or parent educators. Each of these staff members visit more than 66 families each year according to the needs of the family. During visits and group social connections, they share early development information and hands on activities in all domains, knowledge about parenting, and inspire parents to increase family well-being through setting goals and providing resources.



Denise Adams (center)
and the FRC team, Julie
Colabove, Imola Wible, Denise
Adams, Jonnie Frederick

Celebrating 30 years at the center

By DENISE ADAMS
FRC Director

The true heart of the Family Resource Center of Blair County is in our partnership with the community, our workers' connections with the families, and our families' desire to succeed for themselves and their children. At the Family Resource Center of Blair County, we truly believe the acronym, TEAM, together everyone achieves more. That's true from community collaboration to administration to Family Development Specialists to parents and children – we are a TEAM!

The Family Resource Center of Blair County is proud to announce it is celebrating 30 years as a commonwealth funded Family Center.

The center opened its' doors in 1995 at the Logan Valley Mall with a staff, including administration and Parents as Teachers parent educators. After several moves, it has found its home in the Duncansville area of Blair County under the United Way of the Southern Alleghenies.

HEALTHY BLAIR COUNTY COALITION



The Healthy Blair County Coalition is a partnership of local individuals and organizations under the guidance of United Way, working to promote the social, economic, emotional, and physical well-being of area residents.

Vision

A healthy Blair County community.

Mission

To assess facets of a healthy Blair County by sharing resources, engaging local partnerships, and implementing strategies and programs to make a positive impact on the lives of the people in our community.

YOUTH DRUG & ALCOHOL PREVENTION INITIATIVE

The United Way of the Southern Alleghenies is committed to providing youth drug and alcohol prevention programming in all school districts in both Cambria and Somerset Counties. In 2011, the UWSA Board of Directors made the decision to fund the growth and expansion of the nation's top prevention program, Botvin LifeSkills Training.

During the last 12 years, the work of the UWSA, along with many key community stakeholders, including each county's Single County Authority, Twin Lakes Center, Cambria County Drug Coalition, Somerset Drug-Free Communities, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, University of Colorado, 29 school districts, and providers of Youth Drug & Alcohol Prevention programming, have made a significant impact within the region. Botvin is now being taught to 6,109 students each year.

PA 211 Helpline



PA 211 is a non-emergency helpline dedicated to connecting individuals who are in need of health and human services with local information and resources that can help them during their time of need. PA 211 is available to all residents in Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties free of charge, and is available 24/7, 365 days a year. Last year, PA 211 received 6,258 total contacts from Blair, Cambria, and Somerset residents seeking help for health and human services related to:

- Utility Assistance
- Rent Assistance
- Medical Assistance
- Drug & Alcohol Support or Treatment
- Mortgage Assistance
- Employment Assistance
- Transportation Assistance
- Food Assistance



GLASS SLIPPER PROJECT



We cant' do this without volunteers!

The Glass Slipper Project was open this year to teens from Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties. The program provided 187 teens with dresses and accessories worth \$56,100. This year, UWSA partnered with Night to Shine to provide 24 adults with intellectual disabilities with formal wear for their annual event, which is a prom-like experience.

Night to Shine – Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, is an unforgettable prom night experience centered on God's love, for people with special needs, ages 14 and older. Participation is free to all prom-goers. UWSA again partnered with Night to Shine to provide formal wear.

The combined impact was 217 gowns distributed with help from 38 volunteers working 213 hours.



BASIC HUMAN NEEDS INITIATIVE

Supporting Basic Human Needs

Our United Way invests in basic human needs by funding the work and programs of our dedicated Partner Agencies. These programs commonly provide the vital resources and assistance that most individuals use to avoid crisis situations.

Through the work, these Partner Agencies enable the United Way to reach and impact the lives of more than 92,000 individuals each year. Programs within this initiative area span across the following seven platforms:



Hunger

The United Way of the Southern Alleghenies is the lead administrator of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Grant for Cambria County. During the course of the 2024-2025 grant funding cycle, \$227,363 was allocated to 20 local food pantries and meal centers via the PA Department of Agriculture grant, serving approximately 49,388 individuals requiring food assistance.



Homelessness

Addressing the issue of homelessness in Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties is a priority area for our United Way. In Blair County, we invested \$32,500 in two homeless shelter programs and a housing counseling program. In Cambria County, \$25,000 was invested into a homeless prevention program; and in Somerset County, \$10,000 was invested into the county's homeless shelter program. Combined, these programs served 1,099 people in 2024.



Mental Health

Supporting Mental Health programs is important to sustaining the health and well-being of our community. In doing so, our United Way invested \$15,000 in funding to the Peer Empowerment Network, which annually sees more than 1,900 individuals within Cambria County.



Emergency Utility Assistance

We support the needs of many individuals through funding Emergency Utility Assistance programs in Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties. Catholic Charities receives \$14,000 annually to provide emergency financial assistance to individuals seeking vital support. In Somerset, \$3,500 is allocated to The Salvation Army – Somerset to provide heating assistance to families.



Medical Assistance

The work of Highlands Health is an important asset for providing much-needed healthcare in Cambria and Somerset Counties. In 2024-25, Highlands Health received \$32,500 to provide medical assistance to 938 individuals in our two-county region.



Direct Victims of Crime and Domestic Abuse

Addressing direct victims of crime and domestic abuse within our community is a focus at United Way. We are very grateful to have two Partner Agencies that continue to make a positive impact each year. Victim Services, Inc. received \$50,000 and Family Services, Inc., serving Blair County, received \$9,063. Both programs provide direct support to individuals escaping domestic violence or abuse.

SNAP AT THE MARKET



The United Way of the Southern Alleghenies, in partnership with the Center for Population Health, and the City of Johnstown, developed the SNAP at the Market program to improve food security in the downtown. Each week, SNAP users can visit the token table at the Downtown Johnstown Farmers Market, where United Way team members and volunteers swipe their EBT cards in exchange for tokens to spend with participating farmers, bakers, and makers.

Since the program began in August 2022, more than \$30,000 in revenue has been generated for local vendors. Plus, the token table features recipes, community resources, and more such as activities to engage our youngest eaters. We've provided a farmer's market playhouse for young children as well as children's books focused on healthy eating.

Johnstown resident Brian Lingenfelter likes to buy plum tomatoes, cauliflower and jalapeno peppers.

"When they decided to do the stamps, I was like, this is great," he said.

On average, around 30 families a week take part in the program at the market, surpassing expectations. According to statistics gathered from the USDA by Feeding America, hunger is re-emerging as a growing problem.

Karen Struble Myers, president and CEO of the United Way, said families were excited to buy quality food for their families. It also allowed them an opportunity to participate in a community event that they hadn't taken part in before.

"Growing up on a farm, grower-community partnerships are near to my heart. This initiative helps to build a healthier community by making locally grown food accessible, and it supports our agricultural economy. One of our participants remarked to her friend, 'This is what normal people do.' I like to think that we're creating a sense of belonging and community through fresh food," she said.

Lingenfelter said he is spreading the word.

"I know one guy, I told him about it and he had a field day going over there and buying stuff," he said. "I wish this program would have been there a long time ago. I'd have been a customer."



REVENUE & EXPENSES 2023-24 FISCAL YEAR

United Way adheres to best practices in non-profit management, applying consistent, effective, internal controls and strong governance to ensure accountability and transparency. Revenue and expense information reflects audited totals from the Fiscal Year - July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

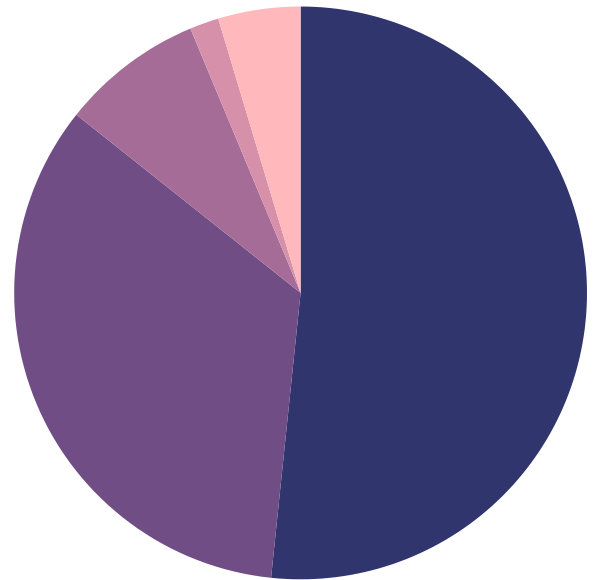
Top ratings for efficiency
and transparency



Revenues:

- 51% Donor Contribution (Community Impact)
- 35% Grant Revenue
- 8% Investment & Other Incomes
- 4% Fundraising & Other Revenue
- 2% Donor Designated Contributions

Note: Percentages are rounded.



\$1,594,234

Expenses:

- 31% Grants
- 17% Fundraising Campaign
- 13% Helping Children & Youth Succeed
- 12% Food Pantries
- 10% Supporting Vulnerable & Aging Population & Promoting Health & Wellness
- 7% Management and General
- 4% Community Outreach Services
- 3% Community Impact
- 3% Strengthening & Supporting Families & Promoting Self-Sufficiency

Note: Percentages are rounded.



\$1,356,763

Emergency Food and Shelter Program 2023-24

Comprised of local organizations as mandated by Congress, the United Way of the Southern Alleghenies Food and Shelter Committee distributes funds from the Emergency Food and Shelter/FEMA grants and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. The United Way is proud to be the administrator of this grant for Cambria County.

Agency	2023-2024 Funding
Victim Services:	\$6,621
Food for Families Food Bank:	\$3,862
Catholic Charities:	\$32,416
Women's Help Center:	\$6,759
Community Action Partnership:	\$4,414
Total:	\$54,072

PA Department of Agriculture Grant Funding Distribution

Food Pantries	2023-2024 Funding
St. Bernard Food Pantry:	\$21,574
Cresson Food Pantry:	\$5,214
Dorothy Day Center:	\$11,006
Ebensburg SVDP Food Pantry:	\$11,768
Forest Hills Emergency Food Pantry:	\$6,605
Franklin Street United Methodist Church Pantry:	\$14,415
Good Samaritan Food Pantry:	\$10,742
Gr. Johnstown Christian Fellowship Pantry:	\$7,333
Interfaith Food Pantry:	\$26,060
Moxham Food Pantry:	\$19,470
Patton Food Pantry:	\$24,580
Portage Area Food Pantry:	\$11,786
South Fork Food Pantry:	\$6,703
St. Andrew's Food Pantry:	\$5,047
St. Clement's Food Pantry:	\$6,642
Walnut Grove Emergency Food Bank:	\$4,948
West End Food Pantry:	\$8,452
Served Meals	
Family Kitchen:	\$19,026
Salvation Army:	\$5,992
Total:	\$227,363



2025-2026 COMMUNITY IMPACT INVESTMENTS

Community Impact Investments

Community Impact Investments are the funds that each agency receives based upon the work of the Community Impact Committee. Allocation amounts are determined based upon agency site visits conducted in March, followed by volunteer evaluations of the programs in April. The table below illustrates how funding raised through the prior campaign, as well as grant procurement, makes an impact in Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties.

Partners & Projects

Agency - Program - Allocation	
United Way of the Southern Alleghenies	Johnstown YMCA
Community Impact, Outreach, Early Childhood Initiative, Family Resource Center, and Emergency Food and Shelter: \$165,259	Safe Places: \$10,000
Family Center/Tableland	Girl Scouts
Parents as Teachers: \$89,000	Leadership Experience Outreach: \$10,000
Beginnings, Inc.	Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation
Parents as Teachers: \$55,000	Afterschool Program: \$9,000
Victim Services	YMCA Blair
Direct Services: \$50,000	Heroic Journey: \$8,000
Highlands Health	VisAbility
Free Medical Clinic: \$32,500	Children's Vision Screening Program: \$7,500
The Learning Lamp	Somerset County Mobile Food Bank
Early Childhood Behavioral Intervention and Support: \$30,000	Local Food: \$5,910
Small Town Hope	Big Brothers Big Sisters
Preschool: \$26,000	Mentoring Programs: \$5,500
Women's Help Center	Victim Services
Homeless Prevention: \$25,000	Grief Program: \$5,000
Catholic Charities	American Red Cross
Emergency Financial Assistance: \$23,375	Disaster Cycle Services: \$5,000
Flood City Youth Academy	Salvation Army - Somerset
Youth Mentoring/Tutoring: \$20,000	Heating Assistance: \$3,500
Family Services	UWSA
Teen Shelter: \$18,500	*Glass Slipper Project: \$3,170
Family Services Inc.	UWSA
Family Shelter: \$18,500	*Diaper Bank: \$2,090
UWSA	VisAbility
PA 211: \$15,225	Children's Glasses: \$2,000
Peer Empowerment Network	Home Nursing Agency
Drop-In Center: \$15,000	The Healing Patch: \$1,000
Home Nursing Agency	Salvation Army Johnstown
Nurse Family Partnership: \$14,000	\$704 (Designations only)
Family Services Inc.	
Victim Services: \$12,500	Programs funded with grants or other sources outside of the Annual Campaign
Next Step Center	
Homeless Shelter: \$11,500	Twin Lakes Center
UWSA	Youth Drug/Alcohol Prevention: \$30,000
Family Resource Center of Blair County/Stuff the Bus/Toasty Toddler: \$10,010	UWSA
The Learning Lamp	SNAP at the Market: \$6,858
Preschool Scholarships: \$10,000	
	*Doesn't include grants and in-kind donations that helped to make these programs possible.
	Campaign allocations:
	\$756,601
	Grants that supported our work: \$155,546
	Total: \$912,147

United Way's work is geared to help people like ALICE.

**ALICE families by county
(includes families living at
poverty levels)**

48%
in Blair County

45%
in Cambria County

45%
In Somerset County

**WHEN OPPORTUNITY ISN'T
EQUAL, STABILITY ISN'T EITHER.**



UNITED WAY
of the Southern
Alleghenies

Unfunded Partners

ACRP - Center for Community Action -
Evolution Express - UPMC Altoona Partnership for a Healthy Community

WOMEN UNITED & POWER OF THE PURSE



The Women United® of the United Way of the Southern Alleghenies supports the core initiative areas of Early Childhood Development and Parental Engagement. Our core mission is to help educate, engage, and empower families to excel. Our women's affinity group promotes community leadership, interaction, communication, and provides fundraising support for the programs and services aligned with our initiative goals.

What does it mean to be a member of WOMEN UNITED®?

WOMEN UNITED® is a global network of more than 55,000 women in 165 communities across the U.S. and six countries, all dedicated to improving lives and creating stronger communities. Since its inception in 2002, WOMEN UNITED® has raised more than \$2 billion to drive real and lasting change. The contributions of these women leaders go well beyond financial donations: they get involved, shake things up, and make a measurable difference in their own backyard and around the world.

We invite you to be part of the solution. Learn more about how you can become involved and connect with interesting, dynamic women who are making a difference. For more information, please contact Karen Struble Myers by email at Karen@unitedwaysa.org, or by phone at 814-535-2563.

**WOMEN
UNITED®**
Of the Southern Alleghenies

POWER
of the
Purse

More than \$62,000 raised at Power of the Purse (a record)

Women United of the Southern Alleghenies hosted the annual fundraiser at 1st Summit Arena for the third consecutive year in 2024. United Way's top fundraising event has grown significantly, raising more than \$230,000 in support of the United Way's top two core initiative areas, Parents as Teachers and Nurse-Family Partnership, since 2017.

There were more than 700 women in attendance the last three years, raising a record amount of money, and more than 24,000 diapers for the UWSA's growing diaper bank. This event also supports Toasty Toddler in Blair County, run by United Way's Family Resource Center.

The next Power of the Purse is scheduled for Sept. 4, 2025, at the 1st Summit Arena @ Cambria County War Memorial.

ENDOWMENT & PLANNED GIVING

The United Way of the Southern Alleghenies' Endowment and Planned Giving fund is a vessel for individuals determined to make a lasting impact on the communities of Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties. The fund has been built on a variety of gifts from long-time supporters of the United Way.

\$845,542 →



**United Way of the
Southern Alleghenies**
Endowment & Planned Giving

1889 Foundation Investment

The United Way of the Southern Alleghenies is especially appreciative for a strong partnership with the 1889 Foundation. In 2023, the 1889 Foundation provided \$500,000 to advance UWSA's social change initiatives in Cambria and Somerset Counties. These funds were invested in 2024 across Partner Agency programs to scale innovative approaches to solving some of the most challenging problems.

1889
FOUNDATION

Together, we collaborate to improve community health, enhance food security, advance early learning initiatives, and create sustainable strategies for the well-being of our region.

As a regional leader, the 1889 Foundation's spirit of giving helped UWSA improve the well-being of more than 92,000 residents this past year.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair - Dr. Jerry Zahorchak, Division Chair of Education (retired) - University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

Board Vice Chair - Jessica L. Fisher, Associate - McQuaide Blasko

Board Members: (in alphabetical descending order)

John Augustine

Administrative Director - Greater Johnstown Career & Technology Center

Deb Barron

Vice President - NFP Corporation

Laura Burke

Commissioner - Blair County

Donna Carter

Chief Financial Officer - Blair County Drug and Alcohol Program, Inc.

Diane Chesnutwood

Human Resources Manager - NCDMM (National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining)

Zachary Craig

Managing Director - Capital Wealth Advisors

Rev. Matthew Deal

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Somerset

Dr. Elizabeth Dunmore

Chief Medical Officer - Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center

Marcus Edwards

SBA Administrator - Altoona Blair County Development Corporation

Kalyn Everett

Assistant Vice President, Trust Compliance Officer
AmeriServ Wealth and Capital Management

Jessica L. Fisher, J.D., UWSA Board Vice Chair

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Natalie Kurchak

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Andy Rush

President - UPMC Somerset Hospital

Tracy Selak

Administrator - Cambria County Behavioral Health/
Intellectual Disabilities/Early Intervention Program

Sherri Stayer

Community Outreach Coordinator - Lung Disease Foundation of Central Pennsylvania

Jeff Wood

Community Advocate

Dr. Jerry Zahorchak, Board Chair

Community Advocate



A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

The Southern Alleghenies was the first frontier. With rough peaks and dense forests, it was our nation's first barrier to western expansion. Long before there were Conestoga wagons thundering through the plains, the complexities of land ownership, indigenous cultures, and early colonizers led to America's tumultuous, tenuous infancy.

As the United States prepares to celebrate 250 years since its founding, we are called to remember the past and plan for our future. United is the Way.

It seems like such a simple slogan, but in times of divisiveness, it is a reminder. Founders of the United Way of the Southern Alleghenies came together in December of 1930 – the beginning of the Great Depression – to create a community chest that could fight social ills and pauperism. Ninety-five years later, we know it is less about the battle and more about wayfinding. How do we find a way, together, to create the vibrant community that we all desire?

These efforts are part of a broader strategy to move from charity to change.

In 2024, we supported PA 211 in Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties connecting more than 6,700 people to community resources, including housing, rental assistance, utility assistance, food, jobs, and more. Trained navigators are on hand 24/7 to respond with a listening ear and local solutions to many health and human services challenges.

Our Partner Agencies and direct programming touched the lives of more than 92,000 of our neighbors in Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties. Through collective impact, we are improving health, well-being, education, and economic security across the region.

Thanks to a collaboration with the 1889 Foundation, Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, Lee Initiatives, Center for Population Health, and Vision Together, we are the home of the Cambria-Somerset Early Childhood Initiative, investing in children and their caregivers.

This past year we were selected to pilot Too Small to Fail's "Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing" campaign to encourage language-rich interactions between children and families. Speaking of families, the Family Resource Center of Blair County at United Way is also celebrating a milestone – 30 years of service. Since its inception, the Family Resource Center has been improving parental knowledge, school readiness, and the health and welfare of families. Several members of our dedicated team have been strengthening parents for nearly 20 years, creating paths to success.

As the United Way prepares to embark on a new strategic plan, we do so resolute in our mission to mobilize the caring power of community for the common good. We endeavor to be a North Star, providing direction, stability, and hope. United is the Way everyone can thrive.

Thank you for journeying with us.

In gratitude,



Karen Struble Myers Jerry Zahorchak
President & CEO Board President



**Karen Struble
Myers**



**Jerry
Zahorchak**



Our Team



Staff & Office Information

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Family Resource Center of Blair County

Denise Adams
Director

Jonnie Frederick
Family Development Specialist

Imola Wible
Family Development Specialist

Julie A. Colabove
Family Development Specialist

Healthy Blair County Coalition

Billie Kochara
Director

**UNITED IS
THE WAY**

