## The WAY Begins with...a Network of Caring

Traditionally, United Way has been known for harnessing the caring power of community through giving, advocating and volunteering and is most well-known for the annual United Way Campaign that takes place each fall.



Through the Campaign, hundreds of businesses and thousands of individuals make pledges to improve lives through the caring power of community.

The majority of dollars raised through the annual Campaign are allocated to the network of United Way Partner Agencies to help sustain their current programs and services More than 150 volunteers are involved in deciding how those donor dollars are allocated.

A portion of each year's Campaign is held in a grant making fund called the United Way Community Investment Fund. Through this grant opportunity, area non-profits that meet United Way's criteria in financial accountability, program delivery and outcomes are eligible to apply for grants to further meet community or agency needs.

Giving to and through United Way continues to be one of the most impactful, effective and efficient ways for individuals and businesses to improve lives in our community. When the lives of our friends and neighbors are improved, we all are made better, and our community made stronger.

A single gift to United Way does not impact a single agency nor a single program- it impacts dozens of agencies, hundreds of programs and thousands of individuals.

Additionally, supporters and community members can rest assured that strong volunteer involvement and oversight ensures those receiving funding from United Way are:

- being held accountable for the dollars they receive from United Way
- working together to reduce duplication of efforts and increase efficiency
- considering new approaches to address the needs of our community
- collaborating to meet unmet community needs

## Donors, volunteers, agencies and initiatives combine to create a **Network of Caring.**





Since 2018, the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, United Way and more than 1,000 residents came together to talk about the future of St. Joseph. Through this effort, community members identified the community's most critical trends and plausible futures. A strategic vision and action-oriented plan was created with three focus areas:

- Invest in People
- Create a Better Place
- Grow Prosperity

The plan itself is action oriented, builds on our community's strong history of working together and aligns all around ambitious, yet achievable goals that will make St. Joseph a place that people want to be a part of.

Without community members who turn concern and passion into caring and action, the plan would rest on a shelf with no attention. Fortunately, area residents recognize that caring about today, tomorrow and beyond begins with planning and taking action now.