

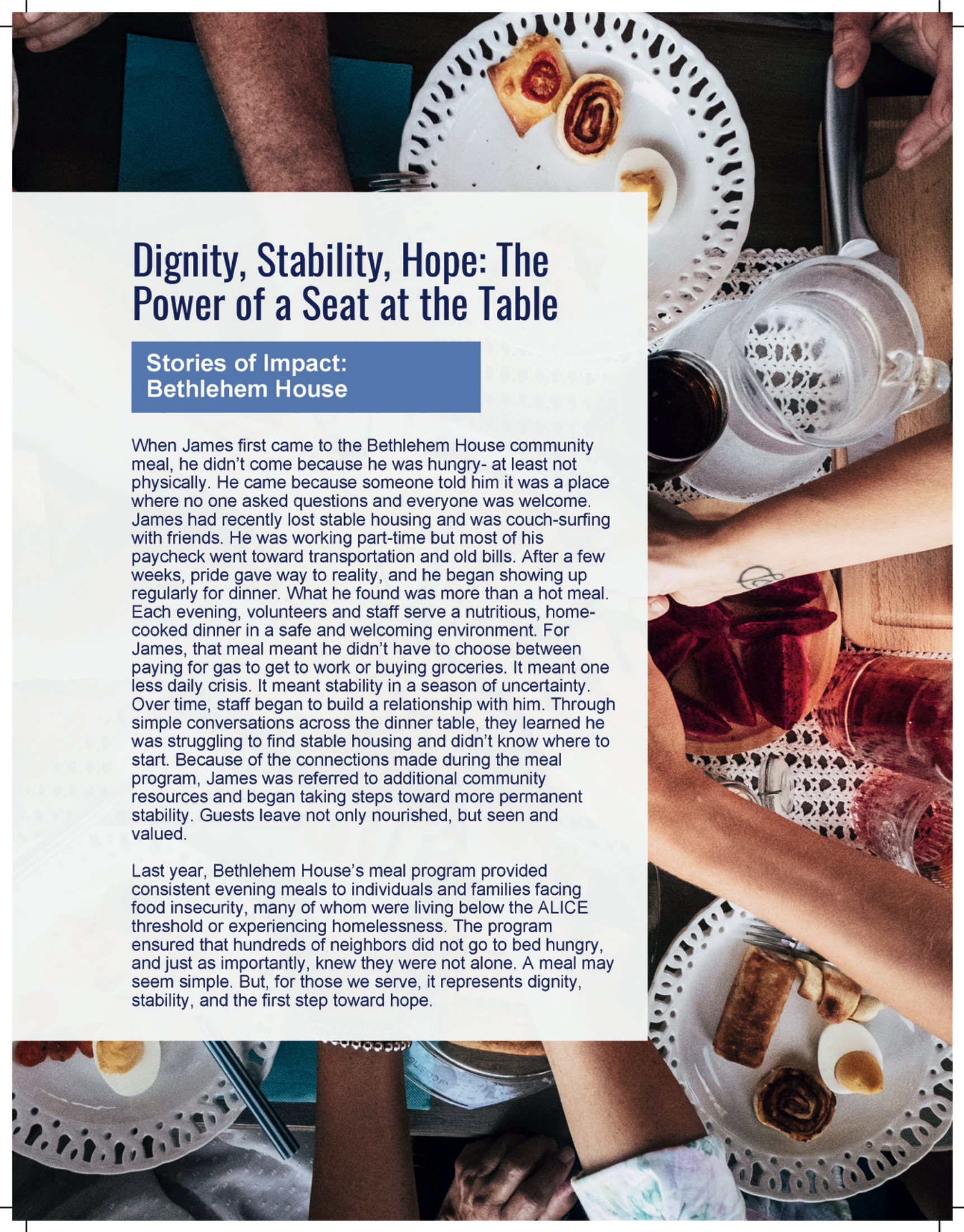
2025-2026



ANNUAL REPORT



UNITED WAY
Central Arkansas



Dignity, Stability, Hope: The Power of a Seat at the Table

Stories of Impact: Bethlehem House

When James first came to the Bethlehem House community meal, he didn't come because he was hungry- at least not physically. He came because someone told him it was a place where no one asked questions and everyone was welcome. James had recently lost stable housing and was couch-surfing with friends. He was working part-time but most of his paycheck went toward transportation and old bills. After a few weeks, pride gave way to reality, and he began showing up regularly for dinner. What he found was more than a hot meal. Each evening, volunteers and staff serve a nutritious, home-cooked dinner in a safe and welcoming environment. For James, that meal meant he didn't have to choose between paying for gas to get to work or buying groceries. It meant one less daily crisis. It meant stability in a season of uncertainty. Over time, staff began to build a relationship with him. Through simple conversations across the dinner table, they learned he was struggling to find stable housing and didn't know where to start. Because of the connections made during the meal program, James was referred to additional community resources and began taking steps toward more permanent stability. Guests leave not only nourished, but seen and valued.

Last year, Bethlehem House's meal program provided consistent evening meals to individuals and families facing food insecurity, many of whom were living below the ALICE threshold or experiencing homelessness. The program ensured that hundreds of neighbors did not go to bed hungry, and just as importantly, knew they were not alone. A meal may seem simple. But, for those we serve, it represents dignity, stability, and the first step toward hope.

Letter from the Director

When I think about this past year, what stands out most isn't a single program, grant, or number. It is what becomes possible when people choose to invest in their community together.

Every day, I have the privilege of seeing that investment at work. I see it in families finding greater financial stability, children being given opportunities to succeed, neighbors receiving support during some of their most difficult moments, and local nonprofits having the resources and partnerships they need to continue showing up for our community.

At United Way of Central Arkansas, we have a unique opportunity to see the bigger picture. Through our nonprofit partners, direct service programs, community data, and collaborative work, we see both the challenges facing our neighbors and the incredible people and organizations working every day to address them. Our role is to bring those pieces together- connecting resources, relationships, and people around the needs that matter most.

This year has reinforced something I deeply believe: **no single organization can build a thriving community alone.** Our greatest impact happens when nonprofits, businesses, donors, volunteers, and community leaders recognize that we each have something to contribute. That collective investment allows us to respond to today's needs while creating greater opportunities for tomorrow.

As you look through the pages of this report, I hope you see more than numbers. Behind every dollar invested and every program supported is a person, a family, and a story. And behind every one of those stories is someone like you who chose to be part of the solution.

Thank you for trusting us with your generosity, your time, your relationships, and your belief in Central Arkansas. **Generosity is where many of us begin. Intentional investment is what transforms communities.** I am incredibly grateful to be part of a community that continues to show us what is possible when we choose to invest in one another.

With gratitude,



Jessica Clawson
Executive Director

Foundation Partners



Small Business Partners



Our Impact in 2025-2026:

\$235K

Grants Made to
Local Nonprofits

23

Local Organizations
Supported

1,450
Volunteer Hours

7,500+

Arkansans served
through programs
& impact grants

Fundraising Events

This year, our community came together through a vibrant mix of fundraising events that brought fun and generosity hand in hand. Bingo Nights brought neighbors together for low-stakes fun and big-hearted giving, while Casino Royale offered a touch of glamour and friendly competition at the tables. The Pillar Party celebrated our key supporters and their lasting impact, along with our Turkey Trot 5K getting families moving on Thanksgiving morning. Together, these events raised critical funds and strengthened the connections that make our mission possible.

Turkey Trot

Our annual Thanksgiving Turkey Trot 5K with runners and walkers of all ages. Every registration fee and donation goes straight back into our mission, making each mile marker a step toward greater impact.

Pillar Party

Pillar Party is an evening of connection and gratitude to celebrate donors whose generosity makes our mission possible.

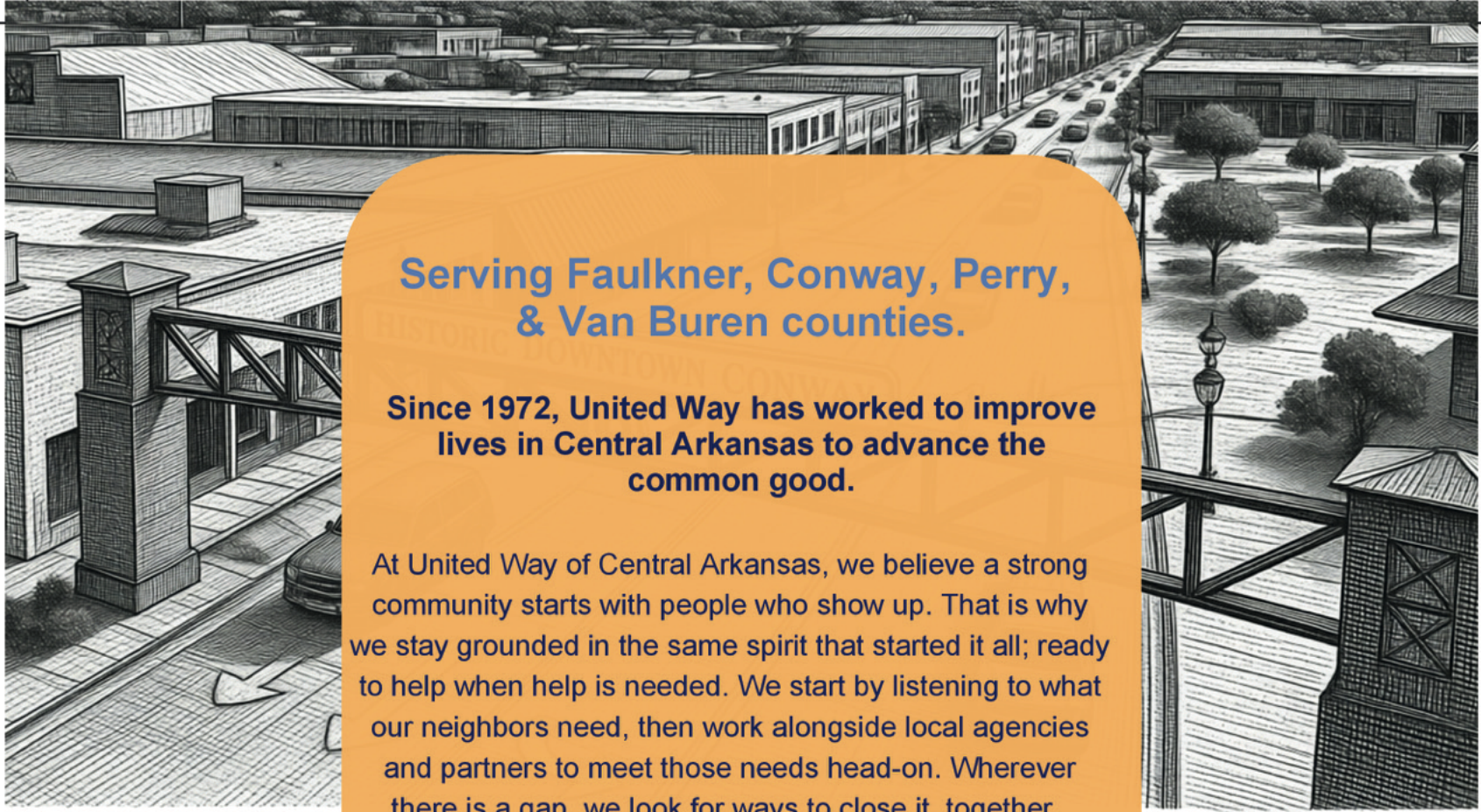
Bingo Nights

Bingo Nights are held quarterly to benefit our mini grants. These mini grants are given to fund local non-profits in our area.

Casino Royale

Casino Royale proves that a night of high-stakes fun could fuel life-changing work, with every hand played and bet placed directly supported programs that strengthen our community year-round.





Serving Faulkner, Conway, Perry, & Van Buren counties.

Since 1972, United Way has worked to improve lives in Central Arkansas to advance the common good.

At United Way of Central Arkansas, we believe a strong community starts with people who show up. That is why we stay grounded in the same spirit that started it all; ready to help when help is needed. We start by listening to what our neighbors need, then work alongside local agencies and partners to meet those needs head-on. Wherever there is a gap, we look for ways to close it, together.

Our Impact Areas



Youth Opportunities

Helping young people reach their potential.



Healthy Community

Improving health and well-being for all.



Financial Security

Creating a stronger financial future for every generation.



Community Resiliency

Helping young people reach their potential.

Youth Opportunity

We believe in every child's potential. That is why we work with the people who care for them; from families and neighbors to schools and community agencies - giving every young person a strong foundation for whatever lies ahead.

Impact Grant Recipients



Boys & Girls Club of Faulkner County

Youth development program that is a low-cost resource to provide academics, lifestyle, and citizenship skills. On average during the school year, 150 youth are transported daily from 15 different schools to the BGCFC.



Community Service, Inc.

Provides youth mental health services to youth, ages 4-18. The purpose is to promote positive relationships between youth and their parents and to empower families to provide a safe and supportive environment for their children to grow and mature.



Conway Cradle Care (2 programs)

Offers childcare and educational opportunities to children ages 6 weeks to 36 months of age whose adolescent parents are striving to complete their high school education, seek higher education, pursue job readiness skills training, or gain and retain employment.



Milestones

Helping children with developmental delays achieve their maximum potential through therapies, childcare, and healthcare. Milestones provides early intervention for children from birth to 5 years of age, who have or are at risk of a developmental delay.

Bridging the Gap One Backpack at a Time

Stories of Impact: Stuff the Bus

Sometimes people and events just align for all the right reasons; that's exactly how I can describe connecting with United Way's Stuff the Bus Event. The program helped bridge an educational financial gap in our community that allowed families and teachers basic school supplies needed for a successful year of learning. Living is expensive and the overall cost for sending kids back to school rises each year, and we couldn't be more thankful for the donations received. Seeing volunteers and community partners joining arms for the betterment of students is something so very special. Donate. Volunteer. Be Blessed!

*Jesse Moss with the
Mtn. Vernon-Enola community*



Mini Grant Recipients



Deliver Hope

Children in Juvenile Court are assigned to Deliver Hope to complete a 10 week program that takes students through select topics to help them become the best versions of themselves. From life skills, to money management, to relational health, personal development, health & hygiene, etc.



Choosing to Excel

Choosing to Excel currently partners with several schools in Faulkner and Conway County to provide a variety of services including a home visiting program for parents of youth aged 3 and under, mentoring programs, summer camp, classroom presentations and ALE sessions focused on character education, optimal health, and risk avoidance.



Healthy Community

Healthy choices should be within reach for every family. In underserved communities, barriers like limited access to food, health care, and education make that difficult. United Way's local partnerships work to close those gaps by bringing nutritious food, quality care, and essential services directly into the communities that need them most.

Impact Grant Recipients

Bethlehem House



CSI Community Service, Inc.
Caring and Responsive Youth Services

 Faulkner County Council on Aging

smile
Savers Clinic



Rise
House


Ozark Health


HARBOR
• HOME •



Mini Grant Recipients



The Safe Place

Provides immediate safe shelter, thereby saving lives. They are dedicated to educating victims and society about domestic violence, empowering victims and their children to live free of violence and abuse, to break the cycle of domestic violence.



Bay Area EMS, Inc

Bay Area EMS, Inc. - Heart of The Bay Food Pantry

Heart of the Bay Food Pantry was founded by the Bay Area EMS volunteers because of the realized need in the Van Buren Community. They are currently serving over 500 families, and distributing over 83,000 pounds of food back into the community to families who need it most.

Neighbors Feeding Neighbors

Stories of Impact: Healthy Community

In November 2025, when SNAP benefits were put on hold, families across Arkansas found themselves without a safety net. Food pantries saw lines double, and shelves emptied quickly. At Solomon Grove Missionary Baptist Church, the food pantry had long been a lifeline for the Twin Groves community. But as more families needed help, its shelves began emptying faster than they could be filled. United Way of Central Arkansas stepped in with emergency food assistance, rallying the community to fill the pantry with nonperishables, fresh fruit, meat, and baby formula. Through those weeks, United Way made sure Solomon Grove had what it needed to be there for every person who walked through the door. This is what a healthy community looks like: neighbors fed, babies nourished, and a trusted community resource able to keep showing up when families needed it most.



Financial Security

Financial security means creating opportunities for individuals and families to build stability, overcome financial barriers, and move forward with confidence. When more people have the tools and resources to build a secure future, our entire community is stronger.

Impact Grant Recipients

Bethlehem House

With safe housing, structured accountability, financial education, and compassionate support, Bethlehem House turns moments of crisis into opportunities for lasting change. Funding support ensures that people in need not only find shelter, but build sustainable, independent futures.



The goal of the Refuge Family and Respite Care shelter is to meet a critical need in our community. They provide emergency housing for families with children and people with medical needs/disabilities who are experiencing homelessness. CMC provides intensive case management services to residents to transition them into the most appropriate housing for their unique needs.

When a Community Shows Up: Tax Help That Makes a Difference

Stories of Impact: Vita Tax Prep

Volunteering for the VITA program is a way to give back to the community by helping people prepare their tax returns at no cost. I have volunteered through the United Way of Central Arkansas for the past three years. As an intake volunteer, you gather the necessary documentation and questionnaires to help the certified tax preparer complete the tax return. Volunteers are provided with all training and onsite support. It is a rewarding program from a volunteer aspect, along with seeing peoples positive reaction when the process is completed.

Sean Creswell with Centennial Bank



Your Financial Impact

\$491K+ returned to community members through federal & state tax refunds

455

families served across
Central Arkansas

\$82K+

saved in preparation fees

Serving households with a median
adjusted gross income of \$23,386

Community Resiliency

The United Way of Central Arkansas believes every community has the right to flourish. So we work hand-in-hand with our neighbors to build resilient communities, stronger connections, deeper support, and the strength to face whatever comes.

Impact Grant Recipient



Children's
Advocacy
Alliance

Mini Grant Recipients



Hope in Motion: A Community's Answer to Crisis

Stories of Impact: Charity Tracker

I have lost count of how many times my coworker and I have sat with families whose child is trying to make it through the school day with an excruciating toothache. It's heartbreaking to watch a child struggle to learn while in severe pain, knowing their family cannot afford emergency dental care. In situations like these, our school social worked team has quickly shared the need through Charity Tracker, and time after time, someone in our community has stepped in to help. Charity Tracker is one of our lifelines in assisting our district students and families. It helps us ensure that parents feel supported and students are given every opportunity to succeed.

Felicity Doan with Conway Public Schools

Charity Tracker

190

Agencies
Participating

\$410,772

Total
Assistance

13,633

Acts Of Kindness

*Utility Assistance, Rent Assistance,
Food Box, Bed Provided*

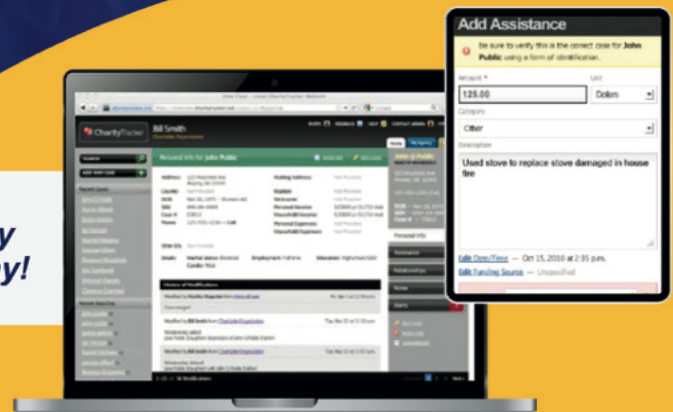
2,548

Households
Assisted

656

Seniors
Assisted

***All data tracked using Charity
Tracker, funded by United Way!***



Our Team



Jessica Clawson
Executive Director



Kylee Arizmendi
Development & Communications Director



Emily Laws
Finance & Grant Administrator



Ashton Adcock
Admin Assistant

Board of Directors

Executives

Bobby French
President
Central Arkansas Professional Surveying

Brooklyn Parker
Vice President
Owens and Parker Law Firm

Lori Quinn
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Coldwell Banker RPM Group Conway

Julie Carmichael
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Ali Dyer
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Conway Development Corporation

Members

Jack Bell
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Joanna Nabholz
H & N Architects

Chad Russell
Arvest Bank

Kate Schweder
Mount St. Mary Academy

Erin Simpson
Encore Bank

Jessica Smith
The Rouge Roundabout / UCA

Parker Spradlin
Sinco

Lanette Rogers
Baptist Health Conway





Partner with United Way

Join the Pillar
Program



Scan here or visit
uwcark.org/pillar-society

Start a Workplace
Campaign



Scan here or visit
uwcark.org/form/start-a-workplace-campaign

Volunteer
Opportunities



Scan here or visit
uwcark.org/getinvolved



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