

United Way of the Bluegrass



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United Way Way Way of the Bluegrass

You make a **DIFFERENCE**

Together, we can build a better, stronger Bluegrass.

A Letter from the President

July 1, 2021 was an exciting day for United Way of the Bluegrass (UWBG). It was the start of our fiscal year, but more importantly, the opening of our first WayPoint Center. This opening signified the start of something powerful in our organization and our community. Because of the vision and hard work of many people across our region, we were able to create this Center where anyone who walks in the door, regardless of their needs, can be served with compassion and leave the Center a little lighter.

As we wrap up our 2022 campaign year, we are officially embarking on the second year of our WayPoint Initiative and our third year of the expansive partnership with the Commonwealth to provide comprehensive 211 services across the state. Before looking ahead, I think it's important to look back on our past year and appreciate the challenges we have faced and successfully navigated, as well as the accomplishments we have achieved together.

I am proud to report that the state of our organization is strong, and UWBG's standing in the community and among our donors, nonprofit partners, and other stakeholders is growing stronger with each passing day. However, the continued adversities due to the global pandemic and labor shortages have challenged us over the past year. There is no doubt that, as a community, we have been tested over the last two years. Despite those challenges, our organization has steadily made great strides in the last year, including these impactful achievements:

- Served over 110,000 Central Kentuckians through 211, our WayPoint Centers and agency partner grant organizations
- Launched three WayPoint Centers in two counties providing services to over 1,100 individuals and families
- Expanded our 211 reach to cover 92 of the Commonwealth's 120 counties

- Raised \$2.92M through workplace campaigns to be distributed to our 67 nonprofit partners across the Bluegrass
- In addition to Campaign dollars, the UWBG team secured \$965,976 in grants, sponsorships and contracted services

There is no doubt that this was still a very difficult year for all businesses, nonprofit organizations included. As COVID continues to progress, transitioning from a pandemic to an endemic, UWBG has fared better than many others in our charitable landscape thanks to the support of our community, our dedicated staff, and our Board of Directors.

As we enter my third year as the president and CEO of UWBG, we are poised to make a greater impact than ever before. With our focus on expanding our WayPoint Initiative across the region and serving the needs of everyone in our community, we are evolving and growing into the modern-day United Way of the Bluegrass our community needs and deserves. We will continue to work together as a unified team through fundraising, advocacy and programmatic work. We will continue to build a better, stronger Bluegrass where all are welcome. I ask you to join me. Make the pledge to continue to LIVE UNITED today and every day.

Timothy Johnson President & Chief Executive Officer United Way of the Bluegrass

OUR MISSION:

WE FIGHT FOR THE **BASIC NEEDS, EDUCATION,** AND **FINANCIAL STABILITY** OF EVERY PERSON IN CENTRAL KENTUCKY.



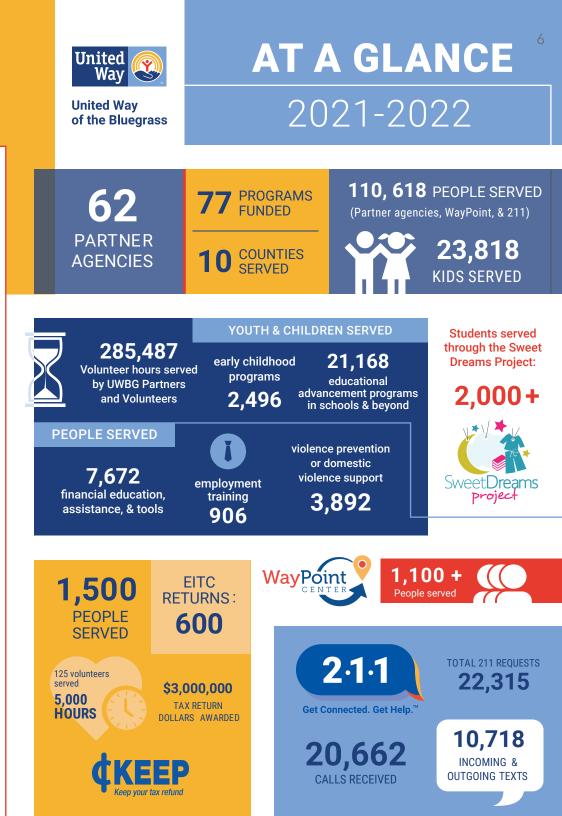
After more than a century of service, United Way of the Bluegrass (UWBG) still provides the resources, expertise, vision, and leadership to help bring community-driven goals to life.

Since 1921, we have been tackling the region's most pressing needs. Each day we fight for the basic needs, education, and financial stability of every person in the ten counties we represent: Anderson, Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Jessamine, Madison, Montgomery, Scott, and Woodford.



Change doesn't happen alone.

Let's LIVE UNITED for a better, stronger Bluegrass.





WayPoint Mission:

SERVICES OFFERED:



Mr. Golden

Mr. Golden came into the WayPoint Center without health insurance, a job, or a home, and left with the beginnings of all three.



Scan the QR code here to hear him tell his story. WayPoint's mission is to create an access point for families and individuals, and to provide vital programming to people living in underserved neighborhoods and communities of color. Each WayPoint Center brings together the region's most effective nonprofit, government, and business organizations to leverage their strengths against our community's biggest issues. WayPoint Centers coordinate an ecosystem of partners and programs to have the greatest impact on local families from a physical and place-based anchor in their communities. Since officially opening the doors on July 1, 2021 we have served over 1,100 individuals in our three centers.

We Will Call Her Jackie

Jackie was seven months pregnant and had no money to buy a crib. That's why she went to the Black & Williams WayPoint Center. The 21-year-old told Community Impact Manager Gerri Botts that she wanted to be "**the best mom I can be**" but, after growing up in foster care or living temporarily with family members, she knew little about parenting or child development.



Gerri worked with Jackie to assess her needs. In tears, Jackie said she had a low-wage part-time job, had not received her food stamps for the month due to an

administrative error, and was sleeping on couches or floors in the homes of different friends. Plus, she couldn't always afford prenatal vitamins and she had learned that her pregnancy was high-risk and required doctor visits twice a week.

With Gerri's help, Jackie met with a partnering employment agency at WayPoint and developed a plan for her to work at a temporary job until her baby is born. After that, the agency will assist in placing her in a full-time job. Jackie and Gerri worked together to re-establish Jackie's SNAP benefits and maximize her Medicaid benefits, including prenatal vitamins and transportation to medical appointments. They completed applications for income-based housing and made an appointment for Jackie to meet with a potential landlord. Jackie then made plans to work toward her GED, obtain financial literacy training, and received guidance on child development.

Jackie left WayPoint with a book about the last trimester of pregnancy and a duffle bag courtesy of WayPoint supporter Toyota that contained a blanket for her baby. She also left with the reassuring thought that the furniture bank at a local partner agency will provide a crib once she's settled into her new home.

STORIES OF SUCCESS

• THE FUTURE OF WAYPOINT



Access to

Health Care

Readiness

School

Success

Sustainable

Jobs

Safe Streets WayPoint Centers offer a comprehensive approach to support that we hope to bring to other communities across the Bluegrass.

Your gifts help make this type of support available to individuals and families in two Lexington communities and the city of Paris now, and other Central Kentucky locations in the future.



DID YOU KNOW?



Families who receive financial stability services + basic needs services are 3x more likely to meet their economic goals.*

WE FIGHT FOR THE **BASIC NEEDS, EDUCATION**, AND FINANCIAL STABILITY OF EVERY PERSON IN CENTRAL KENTUCKY.

Thanks to the support of businesses and individuals like you, United Way of the Bluegrass proudly supported these local and regional partners in 2021-2022.

2021-2022 AGENCY PARTNERS

4Kids, a Faith Community Partnership ACCESS Soup Kitchen & Men's Shelter AMEN House, Inc.

United Way Way

American Red Cross, Bluegrass Chapter Apprisen

Arbor Youth Services

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bluegrass Bluegrass Community & Tech. College Foundation Bluegrass Community Action Partnership Bluegrass Council of the Blind, Inc. Bourbon County 4-H Boy Scouts of America, Blue Grass Council Capital City Activity Center

CASA of the Bluegrass

Child Care Council of Kentucky, Inc. **Chrysalis House**

Clark County Community Services, Inc.

Community Action Council DuBois Community Center

Elizabeth's Village

Emergency Food Pantry of Franklin County First 5 Lex - Fayette County Public Schools Food Pantry for Woodford County, Inc. Franklin County Women and Family Shelter **Gathering Place Mission** Gatton School Micro Grants Girl Scouts of Kentucky's Wilderness Road Council

Glean Kentucky God's Outreach Madison County Food Bank GreenHouse17 Hope Center, Inc.

Hope's Embrace Immigrant Initiative Jessamine County Homeless Coalition Jubilee Jobs Kaden's Cause Kentucky Equal Justice Center Kentucky River Foothills Development Council, Inc. Kings Center LIGHT Center Corporation Mentors & Meals Mission Lexington Montgomery County 4-H Council NewSong Counseling Center, Inc. Paris-Bourbon County YMCA Post Clinic, Inc. Reading Camp **Rowland Arts Center** Salvation Army of Frankfort Simon House South Frankfort Community Center Sunshine Center Telford Community Center YMCA The Foster Care Council of LexKY The Hearing & Speech Center The Nest Thorn Hill Education Center Virban League of Lexington-Fayette County Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation

- Woodford Co. Woman's Club "Coats and Shoes for Kids"
- YMCA of Central Kentucky

*Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation's Centers for Working Families



2021-2022 EVENTS

WAYPOINT CENTER GRAND OPENINGS:

On July 1, 2021, UWBG opened our first WayPoint Center in the Black & Williams Neighborhood Center in the West End of Lexington. Two additional locations quickly opened in the Charles Young Center in the East End of Lexington and in the Paris-Bourbon YMCA. In our inaugural year, the



WayPoint initiative served more than 1,100 individuals by aiding with utility payments, housing/rent assistance, tax preparation, food assistance, and much more. We host eight funded partners onsite as well as representatives for government, corporate, and academic organizations within each center.

TEACHER TOTE + SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE:

Corporate partners and donors came together to collect school supplies for local teachers as they reentered the classroom full time. These totes included additional supplies for students, hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes. Volunteers packed supplies and distributed them to teachers in 13 school districts across our service region.

BASHAM & SOWER MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC:

The first annual Basham & Sower Memorial Golf Classic was held on August 6th and it was a hit! We combined the Basham Golf Classic in Anderson County with the Franklin County Golf Classic and funds raised were used to fund partners in both counties.

9.11 PROJECT:

The 9/11 Day of Service Project was designed to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the events of the September 11th attacks, and occurs during Emergency Preparedness month. UWBG was awarded a \$2,000 grant from United Way Worldwide and AmeriCorps to execute the creation and packing of 600 Family Emergency Kits to be distributed to families in need across the Bluegrass.

Thanks to an additional gift from Toyota Kentucky, Toyota employees packed 3,000 Family Emergency Kits that were donated to 19 nonprofit partners, including three UWBG WayPoint Centers.

SHARE YOUR 24:

Our 2nd annual Share Your 24 social media campaign raised funds to support the Sweet Dreams Project. In total we raised enough to fully fund one of the 34 participating elementary schools.





SWEET DREAMS PROJECT:

During the 2021 holiday season, UWBG hosted our sixth annual Sweet Dreams Project to benefit students across the Bluegrass! UWBG partners and donors contributed dollars and items to ensure that over 2,000 students were served. Students received a personalized gift of a brand new set of pajamas in their size, a book at their reading level, dental hygiene products, and nonperishable snacks before the holiday break.

SPELLING BEE(R):

The Young Leaders Society (YLS) hosted our first annual adult spelling bee in December to support the Sweet Dreams Project. Participants gathered at Mirror Twin to battle for the best speller in the Bluegrass and raise funds for the Sweet Dreams Project. Together we raised enough funds and items to fully support a local school and made plans to host another Spelling Bee(r) in the summer.

READ ACROSS THE BLUEGRASS:

Our annual Read Across the Bluegrass program looked a little different this year. Due to COVID restrictions, we were unable to send volunteers



into classrooms to read to students. Instead, we fundraised via social media and collected 138 books through our Amazon Smile account to be distributed through our WayPoint Centers.

WOMEN UNITED EVENT:

Women United hosted their first virtual event featuring Judge Lindsay Hughes Thurston and Kivvi Figgs, Court Liaison for the Juvenile Treatment Program with Fayette County Public Schools. The duo, along with Judge Melissa Moore Murphy, spearheaded the effort to create the Juvenile Treatment Program to help support FCPS students in the Fayette County court system. Together, they aim to prevent recidivism among these students and get them back on the path to success. The 80+ registrants at the event donated \$745 to support the purchase of hygiene items that were distributed through our WayPoint Centers.



UNITED WAY CENTENNIAL GOLF CLASSIC PRESENTED BY LEXMARK:

United Way of the Bluegrass' Centennial Golf Scramble presented by Lexmark was held June 13th at Keene Run Golf Club in Jessamine County. A total of 27 foursomes enjoyed a round of golf, luncheon, silent auction, and reception, raising over \$20,000. We appreciate the support of our sponsors and players!

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS!

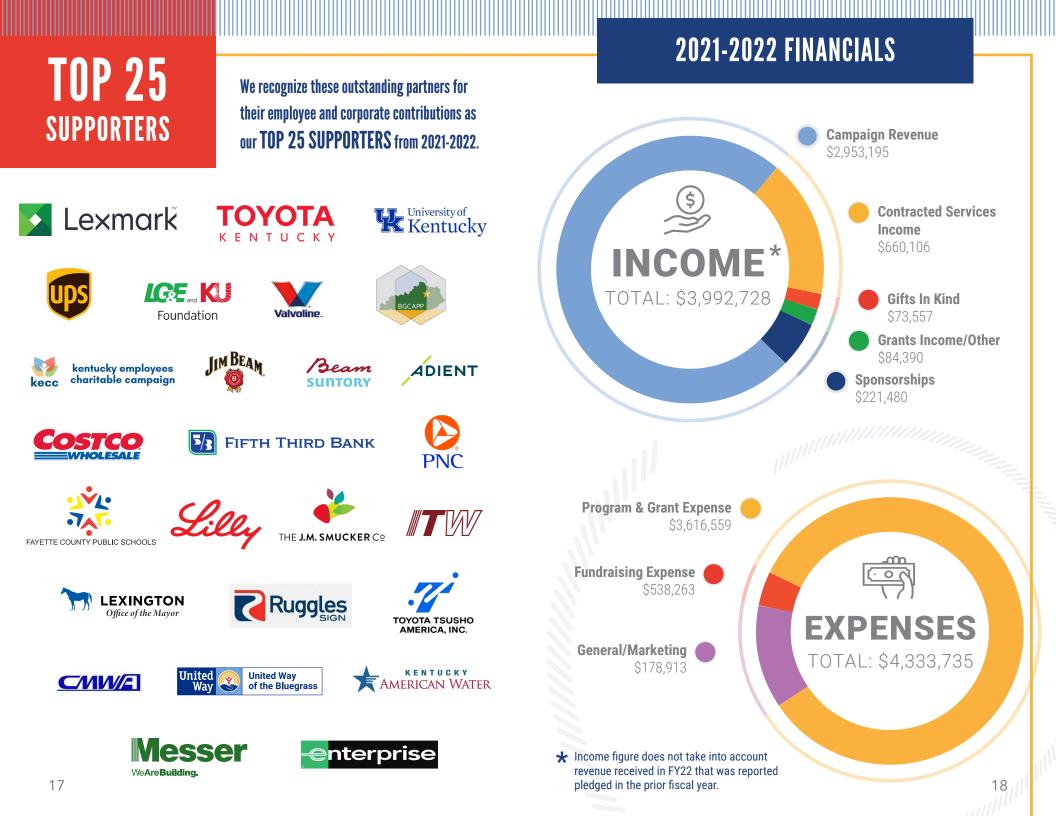
SWEET DREAMS PROJECT: eetDream:



Foundation

CAMPARI GROUP

MARKETING & EVENTS



LEADERSHIP GIVING

Thank you to all United Way of the Bluegrass donors. Your gift helps move our community forward.

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Jeff and Mary Meixelsperger

Rooke Family Foundation Sam and Beth Mitchell

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"We will continue to build a better, stronger Bluegrass where all are welcome."

-Timothy Johnson United Way of the Bluegrass President and CEO JOIN US.

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HELP WHEN AND WHERE OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS IT THE MOST



