

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is United Way?

United Way of Southwest Michigan is part of a national network of more than 1,300 locally governed organizations that work to create lasting positive changes in communities and people's lives.

What does United Way do?

UWSM has served Southwest Michigan for the past 80 years. UWSM fights for the Health, Education and Financial Stability of every person in our community.

How does United Way of Southwest Michigan achieve impact?

United Way engages the community to identify the underlying causes of the most significant local issues, develops strategies and uses financial and human resources to address them, and measures the results.

Why should I give to United Way?

Your gift supports 62 programs at 42 LOCAL partner agencies throughout Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. Helping people from all walks of life in their time of need, more than any one single organization.

Do the dollars raised by United Way of Southwest Michigan stay local?

Yes, your United Way contribution is an investment in your community. With your help, thousands of lives are changed each year in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties.

Why is it more helpful to give to United Way than to an individual agency?

In order for programs to receive state and federal grants, they must show that there is local support for these programs. United Way dollars can be used as that match, enabling donor dollars to multiply. These leveraged funds have brought in an additional \$14 million to our community over the past five years.

What is the added value United Way provides to our community?

Between dollars raised, volunteers mobilized and leveraged funds, United Way provided a total value of \$7,944,757 to Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties in 2021.