



United Way  
of Adams County, Inc.

# 2011 Community Impact Report

The United Way of Adams County works to solve the most pressing problems in Quincy and the county by building collaborations among businesses, non-profits, faith-based groups, donors, volunteers, and the public sector. Operating as the Alliance for Building Community, the community identifies needs and invests in programs that attack root causes and deliver meaningful, measurable results. Through a series of community assessments and related conversations, the areas of education, income and health have been identified as top priorities. As a result, the United Way of Adams County invests in programs that work toward achieving more specific outcomes within those broad areas.

Funded program partners monitor and report results so that everyone – including the United Way of Adams County – is held accountable for improving people’s lives. To ensure that a short-term safety net is in place for those in need, funding continues for emergency housing and food pantry support with impact in this area also measured with the aim of assisting individuals and families move toward self-sufficiency.

Over time, data tracking and evaluation will allow the United Way of Adams County and its many partners and supporters to see the impact of investments in the goals and outcomes that form the basis of community impact work. This is a work in progress, and community volunteers are always needed.

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## UNITED WAY CREATES THE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE.

*BECAUSE WE ALL WIN WHEN A CHILD SUCCEEDS IN SCHOOL, WHEN FAMILIES ARE FINANCIALLY STABLE, AND WHEN PEOPLE ARE HEALTHY*

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### EDUCATION – HELPING CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL

Education is the cornerstone of individual and community success. But with more than 1.2 million children dropping out each year, America faces an education crisis. The cost? Billions of dollars in lost wages, taxes and productivity over their lifetimes. These trends are reversible, but only when communities and public, private and nonprofit sectors work together.

The United Way of Adams County and its partners are working toward achieving the following community outcomes:

1. **Youth demonstrate the necessary academic skills to succeed in learning / school.**
  2. **Youth demonstrate skills & competencies to succeed in the workforce.**
  3. **Youth have the necessary social skills to make positive contributions to the community.**
  4. **Youth lead a healthy lifestyle.**
- The *Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)* program offered by the **Advocacy Network for Children** serves the needs of child victims in the area who have been determined by the Juvenile Court Judge to have been abused or neglected. More than 150 such children have been served in the past year by volunteers who go through a rigid screening and education process.
  - **Big Brothers / Big Sisters** helps children reach their full potential through supported one-to-one relationships with adults. One hundred fifty (150) children have been assisted through this program in the past year with 70% of those youth reporting greater success in school and improved attendance.
  - The **Mississippi Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America** provides programs that develop character, trains in citizenship, and strengthens mental and physical fitness in young men and women between the ages of 6-20. Four hundred youth participate in the Scoutreach program, working with 500 adult volunteers in 54 scouting units in the county with an additional 50 youth involved in Career Awareness Exploring.
  - **Cheerful Home** offers sliding scale fees to eligible working families. Many families need this additional financial support due to low wages, increase cost of living expenses, or decreases in state or federal support. One hundred twenty-two (122) children were reached through this program which also includes assessments of the children's social skills and academic readiness.
  - **Cornerstone: Foundations for Families** provides counseling and advocacy services to children under 18 who have emotional, social, and behavioral problems which impair function at home, school, or in the community. These youth are at risk of failing in school and becoming involved with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Cornerstone served 516 youth and family members in the past year, providing more than 1,400 hours of individual and counseling hours. School officials



## EDUCATION – HELPING CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL *(continued)*

reported that 100% of the youth served by Cornerstone exhibited improved behavior and grades, and 99% of the clients did not become involved with either child welfare or juvenile justice.

- **Girl Scouts of Central Illinois** provides an accepting and nurturing environment where girls build character and skills for success in their academics and future careers. Through its community service / leadership development program girls learn the value of giving back and taking action to make the world a better place. More than 800 girls participated, 607 of whom participated in a community service activity, all guided by 220 adult volunteers trained and supported by the organization.
- The **Panther Pride Foundation** oversees the *Adams County Academic Success Initiative* which is centered on implementing *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* in every classroom in every school. Staff will be trained and provided with support to better integrate this work into their lessons and work day. Students learn to work better with each other, with their teachers, and with their families. Initial data show that scores on state standardized tests substantially improve with this foundational work in both reading and math.
- **Transitions of Western Illinois's Birth to Three Early Intervention** program focuses on 1) increasing children's readiness for school, 2) increasing parents' knowledge of early childhood development and improving parenting practices, 3) early detection of developmental delays and health issues, and 4) preventing child abuse and neglect. To do this staff utilizes home visits, screenings, parent sharing centers, and case management assistance. 149 children participated in this program, with 90% of those who completed the program showing improvement or maintenance of age level functioning. More than 4,200 hours were committed to home visits.
- **Two Rivers Regional Council** oversees two programs in this impact area. 1) The *Shoe Fund* program provides a \$20 voucher to enable economically disadvantaged children in school to purchase shoes from Shopko. In the past year 266 such vouchers were redeemed. 2) *TeenREACH* programs provide prevention-focused core services during out-of-school time hours which include life skills, education, recreation, sports, mentoring, cultural activities, and service learning to help youth build necessary skills and behaviors essential to personal development. Seventy-four students enrolled participated in TeenREACH activities in the past year with an average daily attendance of 35.
- The **Quincy Family YMCA** provides a series of school age child care programs aimed at youth between the ages of 5 and 14. By using the YMCA, school sites, and outdoor natural settings, YMCA staff provides challenging activities in both small and large group settings. One hundred sixty-seven (167) youth participated in one of the several child care programs with 93 electing to participate in volunteer opportunities as part of the Summer Day Camp. Big Brothers / Big Sisters partners with the YMCA through a mentoring program; 13 youth chose to participate in this component of the child care programs.

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### INCOME – HELPING FAMILIES BECOME FINANCIALLY STABLE AND INDEPENDENT

As many as one-third of working Americans do not earn enough money to meet their basic needs. Wages have not kept pace with the rising cost of housing, healthcare, and education and currently, 40 million Americans are working in low-paying jobs without basic health and retirement benefits. For families walking a financial tightrope, unable to save for college, a home, or retirement, United Way is here to help.

The United Way of Adams County and its partners are working toward achieving the following community outcomes:

1. **Community residents obtain the academic certification necessary for desired employment.**
  2. **Community residents have the economic stability to maximize self-sufficiency.**
  3. **Community residents possess the social skills needed to be successful.**
  4. **Community residents maintain the physical ability needed to maximize independence.**
- The **Salvation Army's Family Service Program** provides assistance to individuals and families in need in an effort to help them become more self-sufficient. There is also a food pantry supported by this program. Three hundred (300) clients have been served this year to date with 1,600 referrals made to other services and programs and 3,900 food baskets given out.
  - The **YWCA of Quincy** provides a home and the supportive services needed to address the root causes of homelessness and poverty, serving the most at-risk population for homelessness and one of the most costly to taxpayers – homeless women with disabling conditions and their children. Thirty-five women participated in YWCA programs who, with their children, utilized a total of 17,166 shelter nights and participated in thousands of hours of life skills, financial literacy, and employment training.
  - **Adams County RSVP** offers two programs which are supported by the United Way of Adams County.
    - 1) *Recruitment and Placement* works to provide volunteer assistance to not-for-profit agencies in the county. RSVP volunteers help to meet local needs, providing an important resource for agencies likely facing financial challenges and keeping themselves engaged in the process. More than 400 requests for volunteers were filled in the past year, providing 825 volunteers (many repeating) to meet these request.
    - 2) RSVP recruits volunteer drivers to take clients to medical appointment, both locally and out-of-town. The drivers stay with the client, escorting them into the facility and getting to the right area. This service allows people to get the medical services they need to maintain or improve health and remain independent. Two hundred (200) clients benefited from this service from 600 trips made by 15 volunteer drivers.



## INCOME – HELPING FAMILIES BECOME FINANCIALLY STABLE AND INDEPENDENT *(continued)*

- **Tri-States Audio Information Service** supplies individuals who are blind, visually impaired, learning disabled, or physically disabled access to news and information through closed circuit radios placed in their home or institutional setting or via the Internet. Local programming includes newspapers, magazines, disability-related topics, and novels / short stories. One hundred twenty-six (126) radios were placed and maintained through this service.
- The **Community for Christ Assistance Center** assists families in need with rent/mortgage and utility payments. They also run a food pantry and provide clothing and household items in times of emergency. Serving rural Adams County for the most part, 300 families, most of them with children at home, have received some monetary assistance, and 1,450 food baskets were provided through the food pantry.
- **Madonna House** provides a safe, nurturing environment where homeless pregnant women and mothers with children can live independently and acquire skills that lead to self-sufficiency. More than 200 individuals were served by this program, a total of 1,384 shelter nights, with an additional 8,185 community residents provided with food, clothing or diapers through ancillary services.
- **Quanada** offers two programs – one for sexual assault victims and the other for victims of domestic violence. Each provides counseling, legal / medical advocacy, and other supportive services. The domestic violence program also offers emergency shelter and transitional housing services. The sexual assault program has provided counseling services to 115 clients, responded to 29 hospital requests for services, and provided informational programs to 19,920 students in the community. The domestic violence program has provided shelter to 156 clients, including some children, and provided guidance to more than 1,800 individuals calling the hotline.
- Through its *Client and Family Support Program*, **Transitions of Western Illinois** assists individuals with developmental disabilities to acquire the skills necessary to reach their full potential of living and working in the community, attaining the highest degree of independence possible and then maintaining that independence. Fifty-eight (58) individuals were served by this program, 100% of whom maintained their current independent living arrangement. These clients benefited from 1,951 hours of personal support from staff and 416 hours of service coordination and advocacy services.

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### HEALTH – IMPROVING PEOPLE’S HEALTH

Whether it is a neighbor without health insurance, a victim of abuse, or someone struggling with mental illness or an addiction, United Ways and their partners are working to ensure everyone has access to affordable and quality care. Achieving our goals requires us all to become more aware of health risks and the potential effects they have on ourselves and others, starting from before birth. Working to change policies and practices, such as extending health care coverage, will enable more people to live healthier lives.

The United Way of Adams County and its agency partners are working toward the following community outcomes:

1. **Community residents live in a safe environment.**
  2. **Community residents practice healthy emotional and social behaviors.**
  3. **Community supports a drug-free lifestyle.**
  4. **Community residents adopt healthy behaviors.**
  5. **Community residents have timely access to affordable, comprehensive health care.**
- **Access Health Adams County** provides access to primary care and support to ensure that clients become effective healthcare consumers. Program activities include advocacy, connecting to community resources, coordination of healthcare services, assistance with applications for available programs and more. More than 500 clients benefited from AHAC’s assistance with 64% of those clients reporting a decrease in visits to the emergency room.
  - **Addicts Victorious** offers faith-based counseling. Sixty-seven (67) clients benefited from this program in the last year with 295 people participating in one or more of the support groups offered for different populations (men, women, teens, prisoners).
  - **Cheerful Home’s Outreach Family Support** program strengthens children by providing Assessment and intervention services for children having emotional, behavioral, and developmental problems and assists parents to access resources when concerns arise. As many as fifty (50) families are helped through this service.
  - **Cornerstone: Foundations for Families** provides a sliding fee scale for counseling services to individuals, couples and families who are experiencing a life challenge which affects their mental health and the ability to carry on normal activities of daily living such as working or attending school. Six hundred forty-six (646) clients benefited from this program, receiving 1,413 hours of counseling services.



## HEALTH – IMPROVING PEOPLE’S HEALTH *(continued)*

- **Great River Recovery Resources** has two programs which are supported by United Way funds. 1) The *Adams County Drug Court* program is an intensive program of supervision, drug-testing, counseling/treatment services, and other components intended to interrupt and redirect behaviors of those who commit to up to 18-months in the program. Thirty-eight (38) men and women over the age of 18 have successfully “graduated” from this program since it began; at any one time there are 18-30 clients in supervision. 2) The *Residential Rehabilitation Program* provides 24/7 inpatient detoxification and inpatient residential treatment to adults, age 18 and above, who meet accepted criteria for primary substance abuse/addiction. There were 175 adult admissions in the previous year who received 4,519 nights of care – an average of 25.8 days per admission. These individuals averaged about 8 hours of individual therapy and 100 hours of group therapy during their care.
- **Lutheran Child & Family Services** provides clients with rapid supportive response and guidance around personal crises – historically including such crises as death of a loved one, job loss, divorce, financial challenges, and housing/foreclosure. Seventy-two (72) clients have been served through this program in the past year.
- **Quincy Catholic Charities** offers three programs with support from the United Way: 1) *Supportive Pregnancy Program* provides parenting training sessions for new and expectant mothers and their support person(s); the program also provides emergency material assistance (diapers, baby clothes, other infant supplies) – 18 new mothers were served through the trainings and 463 received some form of material assistance. 2) *MedAssist* provides long-term maintenance medications to those meeting pharmaceutical company guidelines – 464 clients benefited from this program providing them with life-saving medications with a maximum annual cost per client of \$65. There is no cap or limitations on the number of medications a client can receive. Since its inception the Quincy *MedAssist* program has leveraged over \$8.2 million in medications. 3) *Professional Counseling Solutions Program* offers therapeutic services to all people with costs determined by a fee forgiveness scale; there is also a Life Skills training program – 67 clients benefited from therapy services, and 224 people participated in Life Skills sessions.
- **The American Red Cross – Adams County Chapter** offers four programs which are supported by the United Way: 1) *Health & Safety Services* provides education and training to the entire community in areas such as first aid, CPR, lifeguard training and additional instruction that is timely and appropriate. Some courses provide a level of certification which provides benefits well into the future. More than 10,000 area residents are expected to participate in some sort of training through the Red Cross. 2) *Blood Services* ensures that an adequate supply of blood products is available for Blessing Hospital. In the past year there were 9,754 blood donors (some multiple givers) coming to 401 community drives which resulted in 7,877 blood products and 3,048 platelet products collected for future use. 3) *Disaster Services* provides relief to people’s immediate needs – food, shelter, clothing, and mental health counseling – resulting from disaster. Also provided under this program are canteen services for emergency workers, referrals to collaborating agencies, and inquiries from family members outside the affected area. Creating community

## HEALTH – IMPROVING PEOPLE’S HEALTH *(continued)*

- awareness through educational programming is also a component of this initiative. In the past year almost 15,000 community members were reached by some sort of disaster education program with 972 people trained in homeland security and disaster preparedness issues. Three hundred fifteen (315) disaster victims were cared for by the 162 disaster volunteers. 4) *Service to Armed Forces* provides a vital link between military personnel and their families in time of need. This service might be as simple as providing messaging around important family events or it could provide some financial assistance for emergency travel or with assistance that cannot wait. Forty-three cases were handled in this area by the local Red Cross Chapter.
- **Transitions of Western Illinois** makes mental health services available to uninsured adults through the *Mental Health Access for Uninsured Individuals* program in order to maximize the resources available in the most efficient manner. Twenty-seven (27) individuals were provided 105 hours of counseling service in the previous year.