

LENAWEE UNITED WAY

Testimonials show how United Way impacts local agencies and their clients

By Christine MacNaughton

“Live United” is not just a phrase you have heard and seen throughout the county and beyond. It has a strong meaning of giving back — through financial contributions, volunteering, and advocating for a better tomorrow for each and every one of us.

Lenawee United Way does the critical but largely invisible work of a community change agent required to reach community goals. United Way recruits people to the cause, secures commitments for action, and pulls together the expertise and resources to get it done.

One of the most familiar ways this works is accomplished is through our partnership with community organizations to fund programs that are engaging in strategies within our goals of education, financial stability and health. By doing so, we are striving to fulfill the belief that we all win when a child enters kindergarten ready to learn, or when families are financially stable, or when people maintain a healthy lifestyle. Each of our funded partners has a hand in contributing to reaching those community goals.

We asked some of our funded agencies what United Way means to



their programs, and below are their comments:

■ “There are still uninsured people in our community and also those with large deductibles they can’t afford. United Way funding allows our agency the opportunity to provide counseling services to individuals and families who desperately need our help.”

Sue Lewis, Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee, Hillsdale.

■ “Lenawee United Way is a strong leader in our community, helping all of us understand what true collective impact is and how we all gain strength when together we agree on goals and together we work toward achieving them.”

Lynne Punnett, Habitat for Humanity.

■ “Community Action Agency has many different programs and funding sources but only one

United Way. They are an organization that lives in our community and sits at the table with us as we serve our ALICE clients. As a result they fund the most effective cost efficient programs that Community Action Agency offers.”

Burt Fenby, Community Action Agency.

■ “The support from Lenawee United Way ensures our ability to provide ongoing treatment and health care for the uninsured and underinsured. Most recently, funding by United Way allowed us to provide services to many individuals helping with tobacco addiction and educating patients on nutrition and wellness programs to address weight and obesity issues as well as to assist them with self-management skills for their diabetes. Lenawee United Way means we can better serve our community and continue our mission of providing health care to our community members, regardless of age, ethnic

background or ability to pay.”

Julie Helinski, Family Medical Center.

■ “Leadership! They look at the big picture and pull together public and private partners together to work toward solving community challenges. Lenawee United Way brings the community together.”

Dan Buron, Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Michigan.

“Live United” means working together, not as individuals, to be a part of the change — the essential change — to impact systems benefitting our entire community. Thank you to all of the agencies that have not only adopted, but have embraced and profess the “Live United” philosophy!

Visit us at lenaweeweb.org, or find us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Christine MacNaughton is the community impact manager for Lenawee United Way.

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