



**UNITED WAY**  
Cowlitz and  
Wahkiakum Counties

## IMPACT REPORT

April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

**From strengthening local resilience to advancing health,  
youth opportunity, and financial security,  
United Way is mobilizing our community to action so all can thrive.**



**Together, we are building a healthier, stronger, and more  
connected community.**



Because of you, lives are changing across our community. Your support helps keep children safe, families stable, and hope within reach.

Working alongside local nonprofit partners, we invested in programs and services that addressed our community's most pressing needs—creating lasting impact no single organization could achieve alone.

We're proud to share the measurable results we made together this past year. Behind every number is a real story—a child learning, a family finding stability, and neighbors building brighter futures together.



## Youth Opportunity

*Helping children and youth feel safe, supported, and ready to thrive.*



- **150 children** in foster care experienced stability, care, and a safe place to belong.
- **200 students** started the school year prepared with backpacks and supplies.
- **260+ children** received winter essentials to stay warm.
- **300+ books** distributed to encourage learning and literacy.
- **435 children** participated in a holiday shop, ensuring they could experience joy and celebration.
- **83% of preschoolers** at a local preschool, are kindergarten-ready, with strong developmental outcomes across key milestones.
- Local families gained access to early learning opportunities they otherwise couldn't afford, with preschool scholarships opening the door to safe, enriching environments.
- **4,393 young children** received free, age-appropriate books at home through the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library—delivering **41,275 books** and building a foundation for lifelong learning.
- Families and caregivers were supported with a Kindergarten Readiness Calendar, filled with fun, simple activities, book ideas, and local resources to help children build confidence and skills for a successful start in kindergarten.



## Healthy Community

*Supporting well-being, safety, and recovery for all.*



- **2,000+ individuals** found connection and healing through peer-led eating disorder recovery support, with **800+ hours** of mentorship and education delivered.
- **245 survivors** of domestic violence found safety, with nearly **9,000 nights of shelter** and **700+ personalized safety plans** created.
- **972 individuals** on the path to recovery received support, meals, and community connection, with 19 gaining employment and thousands of meals served.



## Financial Security

*Creating pathways to stability and independence.*

- **787 families** accessed free legal services to address critical needs and build more stable futures, including support for **69 immigrant** clients.
- A local food bank strengthened food access for **1,000 households** each month by replacing a critical freezer—protecting the distribution of **2,000 pounds** of frozen meat weekly and ensuring families can choose from nutritious options in a dignified, shopping-style environment.
- **34,655 individuals** received food assistance—helping families put meals on the table.
- **434 families** received help with overdue utility bills. **539 individuals** received propane for heating and cooking. **391 people** received fuel assistance and **385** received needed auto repairs. **197 individuals** received bus passes to maintain work and essential appointments. **113 people** received work clothing and **230 children** received shoes. **93 individuals** accessed emergency medical, dental, or prescription support.



## Community Resiliency

*Building connection and strength across our community.*

- **2,145 older adults** participated in programs that reduced isolation, fostered social connection, and supported healthy aging.
- A local children’s museum welcomed an average of **400 visitors** each month, creating opportunities for learning, exploration, and family connection.
- **7,000 students** have access to garden-based learning programs, while more than **7,000 pounds** of fresh produce were shared with local families and community members.
- Children involved in the child welfare system now have access to a dedicated, welcoming space designed to provide comfort, support, and a sense of belonging.



## United Way in Action & Day of Caring

*Mobilizing volunteers, resources, and community support.*

- **767 volunteers** gave their time and talent, contributing **3,391 hours** of service—an impact valued at **\$117,972**.
- Through **22 Day of Caring projects**, volunteers supported **18 local nonprofit** organizations with improvements, repairs, beautification projects, and other critical needs.
- Local businesses and community members contributed more than **\$10,300 in donated goods and services** (in-kind contributions), enhancing fundraising events and helping generate additional resources to invest in local programs and community needs.

# Together We Thrive

Together with our dedicated sponsors, Partners in Impact and Board of Directors, we are building a stronger, more resilient community. We thank you for your partnership and leadership.

## Annual Sponsors



## Staff

Lois Smith, Executive Director  
Angela Heinlen, Manager of Marketing & Data

## United Way Board of Directors

Addy Clark, President  
Lisa Favour, Vice President  
James Hoyt, Treasurer  
Charlotte Rosen Rutledge, Secretary

Antonia Bancroft  
Barbara Briggs  
Jill Cooley  
Bart Fimmel  
Jake Hall  
Frankie Hunter  
Ashley Lachney  
Stacey Lane  
Amy McMahan  
Amanda Rasmussen  
Leah White



## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Sponsors

Fibre Federal Credit Union  
The Progress Center  
The Rose Foundation

Rotary Club of Kelso  
Rotary Club of Longview



## Event Sponsors

All Ways Caring  
Anderson & Anderson Advisory LLC  
ASC Steel Deck  
Big Foot Printing  
Columbia Wellness  
Cowlitz PUD  
Fibre Federal Credit Union

Glacier NW a CalPortland Co  
Heritage Bank  
ilani  
JH Kelly  
Kaiser Permanente  
Knife River  
Lower Columbia Longshoremen's Credit Union  
NV Contracting

NW Trailer & RV  
Red Canoe Credit Union  
Smurfit Westrock  
Solvay  
Steelscape  
US Bank  
Westlake  
Wilcox + Flegel

## Partners in Impact

Chai Rivers Recovery Cafe\*  
Children's Discovery Museum\*  
Community Caring Project/Parents' Place  
Community House on Broadway  
Cowlitz County Child Advocates\*  
Emergency Support Shelter\*  
Ethnic Support Shelter

ESD112  
Family Promise of Cowlitz  
FISH of Cowlitz County\*  
Fosterful\*  
Hello Life\*  
Lower Columbia CAP  
Lower Columbia Head Start/EHS/ECEAP

Lower Columbia School Gardens\*  
Progress Center  
St James Family Center\*  
Timberland Legal Aid\*  
Woodland Action Center\*  
Woodland Senior Enrichment Group\*  
YMCA of Southwest Washington\*  
Youth & Family Link

\*United Way of Cowlitz & Wahkiakum Counties Community Impact Grant Recipient



Donate

PO Box 1336, Longview, WA 98632  
[www.cowlitzunitedway.org](http://www.cowlitzunitedway.org)  
360-423-5320