

UNITED WAY OF EAST CENTRAL IOWA ADVANCING THE COMMON GOOD

December 2016



Friends Never Say Goodbye

As I pen my last letter to our United Way supporters, I am reflecting on the past twelve years and the generosity of our community, the compassion demonstrated for those in need, and the power of people working together. It has been an honor and privilege to lead United Way and observe the results from collaboration and cooperation.

We have accomplished so much in the last decade despite economic challenges, natural disasters, and political changes. We launched new programs to help individuals and families be more self-sufficient, increased literacy through the Campaign for Grade Level Reading and RED Ahead (Read Every Day to get Ahead), and impacted the health of many uninsured women through our Women's Leadership Initiative.

Our philanthropic footprint has grown through annual campaigns, a centennial celebration, and planned giving. But the need is always more than the resources available, and there is more work we can do.

United Way's success has been, and will continue to be, completely dependent on you — the donor, investor, partner agency representative, volunteer, board member, or trustee. You make it happen; we are simply the catalyst and connector. Collective wisdom, energy, creativity, and optimism keeps us moving forward.

I will miss United Way and all of you, but I am confident the good work we have started will continue. Our community will improve today, tomorrow, next year, and in the next decade. We can all do our part by working together to make Eastern Iowa an even better place to live, work, and play.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lois Buntz".

Lois Buntz
President and CEO
United Way of East Central Iowa



United Way
of East Central Iowa

Save the Date

2016 Campaign Celebration Breakfast
February 23, 2017
Cedar Rapids Marriott

The Power of You

Thank you to all of the companies that ran workplace campaigns this year! When you and your employees support United Way, good things happen in our community for everyone. The progress we've made, lives we've changed, and results we've produced wouldn't have been possible without the Power of You!

End of Year Giving

It's not too late: make a difference with a gift to United Way! To count as a 2016 United Way donor, give online, by phone, or by mail before December 31. Your donation to United Way helps change lives all year round, and we appreciate your support!

uweci.org/donate
319-398-5372

United Way of East Central Iowa
317 7th Avenue SE, Suite 401
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Community Condition Snapshot: Food



Food is essential to our daily lives. The quantity and quality of food affects not only our quality of life, but also our productivity; we need nutrients to be energized and ready for work or school. However, many in our community don't have consistent access to food.

United Way researches our community's condition to identify root causes of critical challenges. Read more about issues, strategies, and success stories in East Central Iowa at uweci.org/reports.

Companies Give Back By Volunteering



CONVERGE CONSULTING

Converge Consulting employees made a difference at Waypoint's Kids Point program by reading Halloween stories to children.

This fall, United Way worked with Converge to identify what type of engagement activities would interest their employees. Their team is passionate about empowering children and adults to develop skills needed to succeed in school and life.

Converge employees had fun reading and acting out stories. The kids were so eager to have someone read to them and make them laugh, especially when President Jay Kelly tried to read a scratch and sniff Halloween book.

Jay explained, "I have been so lucky and have had success in my life. But success without fulfillment is hollow. So to be able to give back and make a difference in someone's day goes a long way."



ROCKWELL COLLINS

The Datalinks Program employees at Rockwell Collins volunteered their time to update United Way's Born Learning Trail near the Bever Park pool.

United Way's Born Learning Trail provides fun, learning activities to help children explore the world around them. Families can do these activities while on a walk, at the playground, or anywhere they spend time together. Alongside increasing children's vocabulary, Born Learning Trail improves academic and developmental skills to encourage physical and cognitive development.

Our thanks to Rockwell Collins for their continued support of education programs in our community!

Is your organization looking to get involved in the community?
Contact Sue Driscoll at sue.driscoll@uweci.org to find volunteer opportunities for your employees.