

OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE



United Way
of East Central Iowa

Donors, volunteers, and partners from across Eastern Iowa make it possible for United Way of East Central Iowa (UWECI) to navigate and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in many ways. United Way was built to lead communities through challenging and changing times. No matter the obstacles or odds, we fight for our neighbors. This pandemic has taught us we are nimble and ready to address challenges facing our community at any time. Thank you for being here for East Central Iowa.

LAP-AID

Linn Area Partners Active in Disaster (LAP-AID) rallied individuals from nonprofit organizations and communities to expedite Linn County's response to COVID-19 and provide long-term recovery resources. UWECI is the hub and fiscal agent of the collaborative effort of more than 40 local nonprofits and has many leaders from UWECI. Through community collaborations, we were able to do the following:



A 3-part Op Ed series
on maintaining good mental health
in The Gazette.



360 boxes of food
delivered to homebound residents
through the Pantry Pickup Project.



A COVID-19 resource sheet
containing information on how to find
unemployment assistance, paying bills,
and much more.



**A database of
volunteer opportunities**
for agencies in need during the
pandemic.

VOLUNTEERING

UWECI rallied local nonprofit organizations to centralize volunteer opportunities in a special COVID-19 section of our Volunteer Now portal, allowing them to post and update their most urgent volunteer needs. These volunteers aided area nonprofits during a great time of need. Additionally, UWECI's Volunteer Engagement team pivoted their plans for Day of Caring and hosted the event virtually, gathering volunteers from across the area to participate in virtual activities and appropriate social distance-friendly projects.

COVID-19 CARE FUND

In March 2020, UWECI created the COVID-19 CARE Fund to address and support the emerging needs of the most vulnerable individuals in East Central Iowa through funding health and human service nonprofits with COVID-related projects and needs.



\$40,000
committed to the fund by
UWECI upon activation.



over \$200,000
received from individuals
and companies.



50%
of funds have been distributed
to 22 local agencies and
nonprofits so far.

Ongoing distribution rounds will happen based on dollars remaining in the CARE Fund.

NONPROFIT RESOURCES & SUPPORT

UWECI collaborated with community partners to establish resources for all communities. We were able to launch:



The Impact & Needs Assessment Survey

measured multiple times how the pandemic is creating challenges for all nonprofits in our area.



Nonprofit News

is a weekly newsletter to nonprofit agencies. It shares updates on funding, programs, virtual events, and outreach opportunities.

CONNECTING COMMUNITY

Our communities thrive when we leverage strengths and partnerships to help others. The past months showcased the great things that happen when our communities are connected. Through this connecting power, we did the following:



Hosted 3 book drives
in Linn, Jones & Benton Counties and collected thousands of books for area students.



Donated 57,000+ diapers
to the Eastern Iowa Diaper Bank, with the help of Women United and UWECI.



250 boxes
of culturally appropriate food delivered to the refugee & immigrant community in East Central Iowa.



Raised over \$2,400
for the community during #GivingTuesdayNow and KWWL "We Fight For Iowans" special.



Gathered and delivered educational materials
to migrant children in Williamsburg.



Conducted a food drive
for area seniors with local partners Lindale Mall, HyVee, and KZIA Radio.

OUR CREDO

We fight for the education, financial stability, and health of every person in our community.



Learn how you can help at uweci.org

