



UNITED IS THE WAY

NEWSLETTER | JULY 2025



A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

If there's one word to describe our community it would be resilient. Throughout recent history, we've overcome several natural disasters like the 2008 and 2016 floods and the derecho in 2020. We also worked through the COVID-19 pandemic together. None of these crises were easy and many people had to rebuild their livelihoods. But, that's what we do together with you, our community, and United Way of East Central Iowa (UWECI).

With most crises being unexpected, it can wreak havoc on a family, especially those who may already be struggling to make ends meet. This is why it is critical to have resources at the ready when disaster strikes. At UWECI, we use our Disaster Fund to support programs that help address the top needs in our community - before, during, and after an emergency.

While it's our hope there will not be more crises to come, we know we have to be prepared. UWECI will come together, take care of one another, and rebuild our thriving community if and when that day happens. Thank you for supporting our community during times of need.

United is the way to building community resiliency.



Kristin Roberts

KRISTIN ROBERTS
UWECI President & CEO



COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

During times of crisis, gaps and drawbacks within our community become exposed. This often means our most vulnerable populations are the greatest impacted when a natural disaster or other crisis happens. By keeping community resiliency at the forefront and ensuring we are prepared for a community-wide crisis, UWECI partners with local agencies to ensure no one is left without necessary resources during a time of need.

UNITED WAY'S 211

United Way's 211 partnership is a lifeline during times of crisis. The 211 network is for community members and connects them to trained specialists offering help with crisis and emergency counseling, disaster assistance, food, stable housing, and much more. This resource is free and confidential, and 211 is able to assist individuals in more than 180 languages. **Learn more at 211iowa.org.**

1,850
CALLS/TEXTS/EMAILS
TO 211 FROM LINN
COUNTY RESIDENTS

2,211
NEEDS ADDRESSED
THROUGH 211

3,033
REFERRALS MADE
THROUGH 211



During the 2008 and 2016 floods, 2020 derecho, and COVID-19 pandemic, individuals and companies gave over \$3.3 million to support UWECI's Disaster Fund.

SUPPORT UWECI'S DISASTER FUND

By supporting the UWECI Disaster Fund, you have the power to ensure our community is ready when another disaster happens. When faced with a disaster like the COVID-19 pandemic or the 2020 derecho, it takes all of us to rebuild our community and restore hope in one another.

Together, we can come together and build a strong, thriving community that not only rallies during its time of greatest need, but also when the odds are stacked against us. Our community has proven time and time again just how resilient it is, and UWECI is committed to building community resiliency.

Join us in keeping our community safe when crises happen by making a gift online at uweci.org/donate or scanning the QR code.



WORKING TOGETHER IN CRISIS

Linn Area Partners Active in Disaster (LAP-AID) is our local Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD).

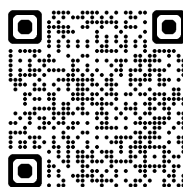


This group is made up of more than 40 health and human service providers and other key organizations seeking to build a better-prepared and more resilient Linn County and East Central Iowa.

A large part of the work this group takes on often comes before disaster strikes - the preparedness stage. LAP-AID is a key member of drills hosted by the Linn County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and other governmental agencies, ensuring our organizations are prepared when faced with a disaster.

In the instance of the 2020 derecho, LAP-AID met daily for months to coordinate a unified response to local needs and became a central hub for connecting residents to vital resources.

To learn more about LAP-AID visit linndisasterinfo.com or scan the QR code.



PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

When the 2020 derecho tore through our community, UWECI worked with several partner agencies and municipalities to implement a program to help with home repairs following the disaster.

The Providing Assistance to Community Homeowners (PATCH) program formed as a coalition of community partners and provided critical home repair and financial assistance to those affected by the storm. Through this program, a total of \$3,442,000 was distributed to help homeowners recover. Funding was made possible by the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, City of Cedar Rapids, Linn County, and UWECI.



PATCH was a nearly four-year long program that restored 292 households. As the program has officially come to an end in 2025, its legacy remains - a testament to what's possible when a community comes together in the face of adversity.