



UNITED IS THE WAY

NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2025



A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

Accessing healthcare isn't just about treating illness - it helps people stay healthy, support their families, and contribute to a stronger family. That is why United Way of East Central Iowa (UWECI) is committed to improving access to healthcare for our community.

Accessing healthcare comes with a host of challenges, like transportation, high costs, language barriers, and a limited number of providers, especially in rural areas. For those already facing these obstacles, an unexpected medical expense can quickly lead to a chain reaction of other challenges and needs.

In this issue of United is the Way, you'll see how we're addressing these issues head on - from volunteer drivers helping their neighbors get to medical appointments to our Women United group advocating for funds to support maternal health programs, preventive care, and more.

Whether you're volunteering, investing, or advocating, your involvement is making a tangible impact and providing opportunities for our neighbors to succeed. Together, we're not just imagining a healthier future, we're building it.

United is the Way to improving access to healthcare.



Kristin Roberts

KRISTIN ROBERTS

UWECI President & CEO

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Access to healthcare is essential for individuals and families to lead healthy and stable lives. It means more than just seeing a doctor - it's about preventive care and being able to show up fully at work, at school, and in the community.

UWECI is proud to be collaborating with community partners to find solutions that expand access to care for all. From connecting rural seniors with transportation to vital appointments, to guiding individuals through healthcare options, and championing women's access to healthcare - we're actively working to strengthen the well-being of our community.

8,478

INDIVIDUALS SERVED IN
HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS -
COMMUNITY IMPACT
PARTNER FUND

2,983

WOMEN IMPACTED BY
WOMEN UNITED

119

CLIENTS SERVED BY
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM IN
JONES AND BENTON COUNTIES

228

INDIVIDUALS
SERVED BY SENIOR
HEALTH INSURANCE
INFORMATION PROGRAM
(SHIIP)



“Over the last 20 years, access to medical care in Cedar Rapids has changed. With fewer doctors accepting insurance, many women face limited options. Women United recognized this need early and has steadily increased funds and support to help fund prescriptions, special projects, and care navigation for un-insured and under-insured women.”

—Dr. Johanna Abernathy
Women United Charter Member

CHAMPIONS OF WOMEN'S HEALTH

Women United has been at the forefront in working toward increasing access to healthcare for nearly two decades. In 2026, Women United celebrates 20 years of empowering women through philanthropy. Since its founding, the passionate group has raised over \$3.4 million for women in our community for maternal health programs, preventive care, and more across our community.

This milestone wouldn't be achievable without the groundbreaking 39 charter members who launched this chapter in East Central Iowa. Their leadership laid the foundation for monumental change in our community.

Learn more about Women United at uweci.org/womenunited.

MAKING HEALTHCARE EASIER TO REACH

“I would be in trouble if there wasn't a Transportation Program. We need help. We don't have children and don't know many people.” —Transportation Program Client

In rural communities, accessing healthcare can be a challenge – especially for seniors. Through targeted programs, UWECI is making it easier for seniors to navigate and access the care they need.

Our Transportation Program provides reliable transportation to medical appointments outside of rural counties, ensuring seniors have access to the care they need, when and where they need it.

Additionally, our Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) provides counseling to seniors with questions about Medicare, long-term care insurance, and more, empowering them to make informed decisions about their healthcare coverage.

Together, these programs increase access and help seniors stay healthy and independent.

Visit our website to learn more about our programs at uweci.org/volunteer.

GIVE BACK VIA UNITED WAY

A healthy community starts with access to healthcare, but too many people still face barriers that prevent them from the care that they deserve. Will you join us in making healthcare accessible for all?

Volunteer your time and make a difference in someone's life through the Transportation Program, SHIIP, or Women United.

 [UWECI.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://uweci.org/volunteer)

Invest your dollars with United Way and know that it's going toward removing barriers for our neighbors to access healthcare.

 [UWECI.ORG/DONATE](https://uweci.org/donate)

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