

Lucas Camuso-Stall

Sr. Director, Public Relations & Advocacy

lucas.stall@unitedwaytoledo.org

(419) 254-4652 office | (765) 977-3712 mobile



United Way of Greater Toledo
Serving Lucas, Wood,
& Ottawa counties

United Way Announces \$7.9 Million in Community Grants

[June 16, 2021, TOLEDO, OH] – United Way of Greater Toledo (UWGT) is proud to announce that 61 external programs and seven internal UWGT strategies across Lucas, Ottawa and Wood counties, focusing on education, financial stability, health and housing, will be part of a three-year grant cycle, totaling \$7.9 million in the first funding year alone.

“Without our United Way donors, advocates and volunteers, we could not leverage the dollars, and therefore implement the strategies, needed to create real, meaningful change in our community,” said Wendy Pestrue, president and chief executive officer at UWGT.

Over 180 applicants submitted grant proposals, while 133 moved forward with an interview conducted by 65 community reviewer volunteers, who either held human services expertise or had direct experience utilizing assistance programs. Each grantee, both internal and external, was officially approved by United Way’s Board of Directors.

“More than a year ago, when we first began planning the re-opening of our grant application, we of course had no idea how this impending pandemic was going to drastically change our community. I think that, if there was a time to learn about how United Way could be a better organization for the people, it was this year,” said Jill Bunge, senior director of community impact and lead staffer for UWGT’s grant process.

UWGT will be providing grants to programs at familiar community organizations, which all can be [found here](#). Additionally, funding will be given to new grantees such as Connecting Kids to Meals, Great Lakes Community Action Partnership, Ottawa County Senior Resources, Social Services for the Arab Community and Community Center-Based Hubs at The Tabernacle and the Wayman Palmer YMCA Branch, to name a few.

Lastly, internal UWGT impact programs receiving funding are initiatives such as Labor’s Adopt-A-Family, Dolly Parton’s / Ohio Governor’s Imagination Library and United Way 2-1-1, which received over 100,000 requests from community members in need during the pandemic.

“I cannot express the deep gratitude that I have for our community volunteers, who were the drivers behind all our grant decisions. The next three years are going to be very exciting as we watch these programs flourish and continue to do powerful things,” said Bunge.

United Way of Greater Toledo proudly serves the residents of Lucas, Ottawa and Wood County in Northwest Ohio. Our human services nonprofit fights to strengthen education, financial stability, health and housing resources for every child, adult and family. By uniting the caring power of people through giving, advocating and volunteering, together, we can tackle our community’s toughest issues.

###