Dear Friends,

United Way Blackhawk Region’s (UWBR’s) 2018 annual report is a story about the future, not just a snapshot of the past. It tells the story of the work we do with our corporate partners, individual donors and volunteers. It shows how United Way is working within the Blackhawk Region to lead the fight for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community.

The annual report may also be a tool, to introduce (or re-introduce) you to United Way. For donors and funded program partners, it illustrates the work we do together. For prospective corporate partners, it shows how we drive positive change. And for the 8,000+ people who generously give to United Way, it reminds us why we choose to LIVE UNITED.

Please peruse the pages to see where our volunteers awarded 60 highly competitive community grants across the region, each in an effort to fight our community’s most daunting social crises. Observe the power of combined philanthropy, as we distinguish workplaces earning campaign awards and recognize Leadership Circle donors. Take note of our financial accountability evidenced in the highest possible ratings from independent charity evaluators. Be inspired by our ability to mobilize resources, generate impact and galvanize the community.

Lastly, ponder your role in the fight to improve lives and influence change. However you elect to give, advocate or volunteer, we need you and are grateful for your support.

United, we fight. United, we win.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Schlemmer
Chief Operating Officer
Regal Beloit Corporation
2018 United Way Blackhawk Region Board Chair
United Way Blackhawk Region extends a special thank you to the 2018 outgoing board members for their dedication while serving in this valued leadership role.

Greg Ardrey
Alliant Energy

Kelly Bedessem
City of Janesville

Scott Bordwell
BMO Harris Bank

Lori Curtis Luther
City of Beloit

Bernadette Domingo, Ph.D.
Kerry

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Baker Tilly

Derek Hahn
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SSM Health – St. Mary’s Hospital Janesville

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School District of Beloit

Scott Hagedorn
Kerry

Amy Lokrantz
ABC Supply Co. inc.

Matt Reynolds
Blackhawk Bank

Abby Young
Alliant Energy

OUTGOING MEMBERS

OUR MISSION
Improving lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities.
DOLLY PARTON’S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Dolly Parton’s dream was to foster a love of reading among preschoolers and their families so in 1996 she launched Imagination Library to benefit the children of her home county in Tennessee. Dolly wanted to ensure that every child would have access to quality books, regardless of their family’s income. This widely popular program is available internationally and managed by the Dollywood Foundation.

In 2018, UWBR invested more than $180,000 to sponsor Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library in three communities of the Blackhawk Region: Beloit, Edgerton and Janesville. Enrolled children are gifted a FREE, age-appropriate book in the mail each month until their 5th birthday. Alongside book registration is additional online literacy resources for both children and parents/guardians to enjoy.

For more information visit LiveUnitedBR.org/FreeBooks

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIRS

UWBR, in collaboration with Scholastic Book Fairs, is investing $18,000 to sponsor Book Fairs at elementary schools in South Beloit. As part of this three year commitment participating students will receive two free books of their choice during each Book Fair. United Way and Scholastic sponsored Book Fairs include a wide assortment of age-appropriate books including popular series, award-winning titles, new releases and other great reads from hundreds of publishers. Additionally, Scholastic will provide profits of the total sales generated at the Book Fairs back to the schools to use toward education resources.
2018 COMMITTEES

BRAND STRATEGY & MARKETING
Chair, Jen Degarmo, F.I.D.O.
Laura Barten, Barten & Associates
Tracy Bliss, DeCori Design
JoDee George, Bader Rutter
Kim Hesgard, Mercyhealth
Rick Mueller, JAX Custom Printing
Abby Young, Alliant Energy
Katie Crist, UWBR staff liaison

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Tom McCawley, Beloit Health System
Amy Lokrantz, ABC Supply Co. inc.
Jan Compton, UWBR staff liaison

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Allen Brewer, Gateway Community Bank
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Jake Hess, Johnson Bank
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Sue Stein, Nutrition & Health Associates
Jack Walden, Blackhawk Bank
Rick West, UWBR staff liaison

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Chair, Sherri Stumpf, Blackhawk Community Credit Union
Derek Hahn, Wells Fargo Advisors
Al Hulick, City of Milton
Geoff Rand, First National Bank & Trust Co.
Jan Compton, UWBR staff liaison

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Janette Klaehn, UWBR Board Member
David Wilson, Visit Beloit
Lynn Wood, Quality Resource Group
Denise Peters-Kauihou, UWBR staff liaison

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Secretary, Sherri Stumpf, Blackhawk Community Credit Union
Treasurer, Geoff Rand, First National Bank & Trust Co.
Community Impact Council Chair, Lynn Gardinier, Baker Tilly
Member-at-large, Amy Lokrantz, ABC Supply Co. inc.
Mary Fanning-Penny, UWBR staff liaison
GIVE.

United Way’s 2018 Campaign Champions represent the 3 focus areas of Health, Education and Financial Stability. This outstanding trio was selected to serve in this capacity based on their subject matter expertise and advocacy for United Way’s mission.

From Left: Marc Perry, Regina Dunkin, Steve Pophal

CAMPAIGN AWARDS

CORNERSTONE AWARD
Workplace Campaigns that exceed $100,000
ABC Supply Co. Inc.
Beloit Health System
Kerry
Mercyhealth
Regal

GOLD AWARD
Workplace Campaigns that exceed $75,000 or campaigns with 60% participation and $125 per capita giving.
American Control Electronics
Baker Tilly
Bank of Milton
Beloit Meals on Wheels
Blackhawk Bank
Blackhawk Propane Company
BMO Harris Bank
Culver’s of Beloit
Data Dimensions
Electrol Specialties
Finley Buick GMC
First Community Bank
First National Bank & Trust Co.
Forward Janesville
Janesville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Johnson Financial Group
North American Tool Corporation
Old National Bank
RSM US
Ryeco Inc.
SSI Technologies
United Way Blackhawk Region
Wegner CPAs
Wells Fargo Advisors

SILVER AWARD
Workplace Campaigns of $50,000 to $74,999 or campaigns with 50% participation and $75 per capita giving.
Alliant Energy
Beloit Box Board Co.
Blackhawk Community Credit Union
Century 21 Affiliated-Janesville
Community Action, Inc.
Hagen CPA
Hormel Foods
Janesville Community Day Care
Janesville Gazette
Life Circle
Nowlan & Mouat
Tricor Insurance
United Parcel Service
US Bank
WCLO / WJVL Radio
YWCA Rock County

BRONZE AWARD
Workplace Campaign of $25,000 to $49,999 or campaigns with 40% participation and $50 per capita giving.
Andritz Paperchine
City of Janesville Employees
Consigny Law Firm
Cotta Transmission
ECHO
Ecolab
Fagan Automotive
Gateway Community Bank
HealthNet of Rock County
Janesville Sand and Gravel
JP Cullen & Sons
Meier, Wickhem, Lyons & Schulz
North American Pipe Corporation
Rock County Employees
Roethe Pope Roethe Law Firm
S.M.I.L.E.S.
Salvation Army Janesville
School District of Janesville Employees*
Stateline Boys & Girls Clubs
Taylor Company
The Rock Bar & Grill
Union Bank & Trust Company
Valmet Inc.
Welders Supply Co.
* Based on 2017 campaign
REGINA DUNKIN – HEALTH
In her role as Community Relations and Volunteer Coordinator for Beloit Health System, Regina also serves as the United Way Employee Campaign Coordinator. Tasked with spearheading a Cornerstone Award winning campaign each year, Regina’s engagement extends to serving on the UWBR Campaign Cabinet. Regina is a familiar face in the nonprofit sector, as she previously served for 18 years as Executive Director of the Merrill Community Center. Her extensive community involvement also includes serving on the Beloit Board of Education and Beloit City Council.

STEVE POPHAL – EDUCATION
Steve Pophal is the Superintendent for the School District of Janesville and serves proudly as a member of the United Way Blackhawk Region Board of Directors. Delivering on his promise, Steve is an unwavering advocate for early literacy. Prior to his position with the District, Steve served in many capacities in education including teaching, coaching, and administration throughout Wisconsin.

MARC PERRY – FINANCIAL STABILITY
Marc Perry is the Director of Planning and Development for Community Action, a United Way Funded Program Partner. His responsibilities include: oversight of the Merrill Community Center, adult preparation programs, and resource development. Marc has more than 20 years of experience working with youth and adults from diverse backgrounds, he conducts cultural equity trainings, and has won numerous awards for his commitment to social justice, diversity and inclusion.

100% PARTICIPATION AWARD
Presented to companies with 100% employee participation during its workplace campaign.
Baker Tilly
Beloit Meals on Wheels
Blackhawk Propane Company
Culver’s of Beloit
Finley Buick GMC
Gateway Community Bank
Life Circle
Ryeco
S.M.I.L.E.S.
United Way Blackhawk Region
Wegner CPAs
Wells Fargo Advisors

IN-KIND SUPPORT
ABC Supply Co. inc.
Baker Tilly
Beloit Club
Beloit Daily News
Best Events
Dave Hiller
Festival Foods
JAX Custom Printing
Janesville Gazette
Lamar
Megan O’Leary Photography & Design
WJVL / WCLO

2018 EMERGING CAMPAIGN AWARD: ROCK ENERGY SYSTEMS LLC (LANAIR PRODUCTS)
Presented to a business/organization that hosted a first-time United Way workplace campaign, re-established and/or enhanced its campaign in support of the community.

While not a new employee workplace campaign, the team at Rock Energy Systems LLC (Lanair Products) reported significant growth during the 2018 campaign. Employee pledges increased by 96% over the previous year’s campaign and the employee average pledge grew by more than $87.

Thanks for your awesome support, Rock Energy Systems LLC!

PEGGY & EBBIE NEESE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
Presented to companies/organizations whose workplace campaign achieved $500 or more in per-capita giving.
Baker Tilly
Regal
United Way Blackhawk Region
Wells Fargo Advisors

FOUNDATION SUPPORT
Herb Kohl Philanthropies
Neese Family Foundation
Parker Foundation
PPC Foundation
Shomos Family Foundation
Regal Beloit Charitable Foundation
The Presto Foundation
Theodore W. Battenman Family Foundation
We Energies Foundation
William J. Cronin Foundation

IN-KIND SUPPORT
ABC Supply Co. inc.
Baker Tilly
Beloit Club
Beloit Daily News
Best Events
Dave Hiller
Festival Foods
JAX Custom Printing
Janesville Gazette
Lamar
Megan O’Leary Photography & Design
WJVL / WCLO

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Thanks for your awesome support, Rock Energy Systems LLC!
ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY
$10,000 OR MORE

The Tocqueville Society deepens the understanding, commitment and support of United Way’s most generous and community-minded investors. Membership in the Society is granted to individuals who contribute at least $10,000 annually to United Way.

Theodore Batterman
David & Judy Baum
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Kim Hendricks
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PLATINUM LEVEL
$5,000 TO $9,999
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David & Kathy Cullen
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Charles Mowbray
The Shipley Family
Elle & Logan Swart
1 donor chose to remain anonymous

GOLD LEVEL
$2,500 TO $4,999
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$1,000 TO $2,499
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2018 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE DONORS

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2018 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE DONORS


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PLEASE NOTE:
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list, as of March 1, 2019. United Way Blackhawk Region values all Leadership Circle donors and strives to recognize their generosity. Please call to our attention any inadvertent omissions or errors.

ACCOUNTABILITY

United Way Blackhawk Region has attained the 2018 Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar. GuideStar is the world’s largest source of information on nonprofit organizations, providing free information about each nonprofit’s mission, legitimacy, finances, programs, transparency, governance and much more. GuideStar serves to verify that donated funds go to where the donor intended.

United Way Blackhawk Region has earned a 4 out of 4-star rating for the 5th consecutive year from Charity Navigator. This rating is based on the ability to demonstrate strong financial health and commitment to accountability of transparency. Only 11% of the 1.5 million charities evaluated by Charity Navigator have received at least 5 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating United Way Blackhawk Region’s trustworthiness to the public by effectively executing the mission in a financially efficient way.
Erick Williams
Project Manager - Fatherhood Initiative, Community Action Inc. of Rock and Walworth Counties
Founder, Derrick’s House

United Way Blackhawk Region’s Excellence in Advocacy Award recognizes an individual that strives to create meaningful change and demonstrates measurable progress toward improving and strengthening our community. The recipient of the Excellence in Advocacy award is Erick Williams.

It is said that excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better. In that way, excellence is seen as alive, fluid, evolutionary. Erick Williams’ passion and commitment to advocacy is excellence in motion.

In his professional role as project manager for the Fatherhood Initiative at Community Action, Inc. of Rock & Walworth Counties, his advocacy focuses on underemployed Rock County men, many of them “fatherless fathers” with criminal histories. The program has three phases: 1) cognitive thinking, parenting and life skills 2) work readiness and 3) job search and placement. With Erick as their guide, the men quickly begin building a community of trust and respect where both their strengths and vulnerabilities can be shared. A participant once said, “He looks you right in the eye and you can see his high expectations there.” He helps the men navigate through old beliefs and habits and encourages them to look through a different lens, to consider a different perspective, empowering them to chart a course that is their own.

In Erick’s time away from work, he has launched Derrick’s House, a home for children awaiting placement in Rock County’s foster system. The children served by Derrick’s House would otherwise be housed in the Rock County Youth Services Center while they wait for a foster family. “I’m going to spoil these kids” he said. “I’m going to celebrate them while they’re here.” Derrick’s House is located in a residential neighborhood in Beloit, and children will be able to stay there for up to two weeks.

Erick was featured in the Northwest Quarterly magazine in 2016 as one of the 25 most interesting people in the Stateline area. Also, in 2016 he received the UAW Local 95 Civil Rights Service Award. In May of 2017, he was awarded a Citizen’s Citation Award by the City of Beloit for aiding a woman in a domestic violence altercation, which led to the arrest of the assailant. In 2017 he was honored to receive the Presidential award from the NAACP.

Erick Williams is the real deal. He’s too busy “walking the walk” to “talk the talk” and besides, you almost have to jog to keep up with him. Motion moves us literally and in Erick’s case it’s moving toward excellence not just for one, but for all.
The Geraldine Hedberg Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to an individual for their outstanding volunteer service to United Way Blackhawk Region. This year’s deserving recipient is Jon Schlemmer.

Chances are...if you have ever been in a room with Jon Schlemmer he has sought you out to offer a warm smile, friendly handshake, and inquire how you are doing. New introductions and friends alike are quickly made to feel at home with his warmth and kindness, as Jon invites all to join his table.

As Chair of United Way Blackhawk Region’s Board of Directors for the past three years, Jon Schlemmer has led the organization with the highest level of integrity and professionalism. Jon’s trusted counsel is revered by all who have the good fortune of knowing him.

Championing United Way’s mission and transformation to the evidence-based Community Impact business model, Jon has facilitated discussions with local leaders, donors and volunteers on the merits of change. He is gracious with his expert knowledge and with a mind for data, Jon lends encouragement, ingenuity, and benchmarking recommendations to all topics to ensure a continued focus on accountability.

In support of United Way’s community campaign, Jon raises his hand every time. Not only is he a generous donor but he doesn’t hesitate to phone a peer executive to encourage their support. Jon helps to set the tone at United Way’s second largest campaign Regal Beloit Corporation, which has achieved impressive year over year increases, high employee participation, and per capita giving. Every year Jon recruits Regal team members to serve as part of United Way’s financial review process for community grants, investment panels, and annual Day of Caring teams. Jon leads by example, never demanding action but rather, inspiring it.

We are grateful to Jon Schlemmer for his remarkable volunteerism and unwavering commitment to United Way’s mission. We are proud to honor him with the Geraldine Hedberg Volunteer of the Year Award.
The Live United Award is presented to a company that displays exceptional support to United Way through its workplace campaign and volunteer support. This year, we honor Blackhawk Community Credit Union.

Blackhawk Community Credit Union (BHCCU) has announced plans to break ground in the fall of 2019 on a new 130,000-square-foot, four-story headquarters on the banks of the Rock River in downtown Janesville. Even before the first footing is laid, the locally-owned credit union is already firmly cemented in the foundation of the Blackhawk Region. Blackhawk Community Credit Union’s exceptional support of United Way is an example of the BHCCU team’s sense of altruism to the communities in which the credit union serves.

“Our employees give to the United Way because we believe in their mission to solve local problems through leadership and community building,” said Blackhawk Community Credit Union President/CEO Sherri Stumpf. “We love that by demonstrating compassion, sharing and volunteering we can help the United Way to make this area a better place to live.”

In its most recent United Way workplace campaign, the BHCCU team increased pledges by 13% over the previous year while also increasing the average pledge by more than $40. Over the past four campaigns, BHCCU has averaged employee participation of 63% with a campaign year best of 72%.

In addition to supporting United Way financially, members of the BHCCU team are also strong advocates and volunteers of United Way’s mission. Stumpf is in her second term as a member of UWBR’s Board of Directors and serves as Vice Chair and Chair of the UWBR Finance Committee. In September 2018, a team of seven volunteers from BHCCU assisted United Way in sorting and packing more than 900 T-shirts for distribution to Day of Caring volunteers. Fifteen BHCCU employees donned the volunteer T-shirts of their own and went to work at three community-service project sites for United Way’s Day of Caring.

The BHCCU headquarters building, expected to be completed in 2021, will feature a 10,000-square-foot General Motors Legacy Center. It’s very apparent that Blackhawk Community Credit Union already has its own legacy of giving, advocating and volunteering, which is proudly recognized by United Way Blackhawk Region with its prestigious Live United Award.

LIVE UNITED AWARD

LIVE UNITED

DAY OF CARING RECAP

UWBR’s annual Day of Caring in September was another record-breaking success with 916 volunteers. Volunteers represented 34 different companies and completed 117 projects at 44 nonprofit agencies. Thank you to all who participated, donating $91,105 worth of service.

Kerry volunteers provided outside clean-up at the YWCA Rock County.

Dozens of volunteers from the City of Janesville installed new playground equipment at Janesville Community Day Care.

Angus Young Associates’ employees constructed a Little Free Library for the north Main St. neighborhood in front of United Way.

Kerry volunteers provided outside clean-up at the YWCA Rock County.
United Way supports programs to help residents of Rock County, Wisconsin and northern Winnebago County, Illinois enjoy healthy lives by:

- Increasing awareness and access to healthcare resources.
- Promoting healthy lives through education and activities.

In 2018-2019, United Way Blackhawk Region approved $475,660 community dollars in the following programs:

**AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN**
- Case Management

**BELOIT HEALTH SYSTEM**
- Palliative Care

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**
- Child and Family Services
- FACE-Kids
- Recreation for Adults with Disabilities

**COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.**
- Personal Responsibility
- Empowerment Program (PREP)

**EPILEPSY FOUNDATION**
- Supportive Care

**FAMILY SERVICES OF SWANI**
- Individual and Family Counseling
- Sexual Assault Recovery Program
- Youth2Youth 4 Change

**HEALTHNET OF ROCK COUNTY**
- Dental Care
- Primary Medical Care
- Vision Care

**LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES**
- Counseling Program
- Life Enrichment Center

**NUTRITION & HEALTH ASSOCIATES**
- Prenatal Care & Nutrition Education

**S.M.I.L.E.S.**
- Equine Assisted Therapy

**STATELINE FAMILY YMCA**
- Beloit Youth Membership Scholarships
- Beloit Youth Program Scholarships

**YWCA OF ROCK COUNTY**
- CARE House

*$303,774 has been paid in 2018 with the remaining to be paid in 2019.

United Way Blackhawk Region partners with FamilyWize to lower the cost of medicine for residents in the Blackhawk Region by distributing free FamilyWize prescription discount cards. The free cards cover all FDA-approved drugs and are accepted at 39 local pharmacies.

**FREE PRESCRIPTION SAVINGS CARD**
We envision a region where all children and youth will have supportive learning and development opportunities to grow and become responsible adults by:

- Supporting children and youth through early learning and care services, before and after school programs, character and leadership development and recreational experiences.
- Emphasizing academic success for children of all ages.
- Expanding opportunities for children and youth to bond with peers, mentors and positive role models.

In 2018-2019, United Way Blackhawk Region approved $689,082 community dollars in the following programs:

- **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF JANESVILLE**
  Positive Youth Development
- **COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.**
  Community Kids
- **FAMILY SERVICES OF SWANI**
  CASA of Rock County
- **LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES**
  Runaway & Youth Services (RAYS)
- **MERRILL COMMUNITY CENTER**
  Afterschool Summer Youth
- **RETIED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)**
  Intergenerational Program
- **SALVATION ARMY—JANESVILLE**
  Youth Development Corps/Community Center
- **STATELINE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**
  Youth Development & Guidance
- **STATELINE FAMILY YMCA**
  Beloit Childcare Afterschool Care & Day Camp Scholarships
- **SALVATION ARMY—BELOIT**
  Corps Community Center

*$439,388 has been paid in 2018 with remaining to be paid in 2019.
United Way is focused on ensuring individuals and families have their basic needs met and achieve self-sufficiency by:

- Connecting people with critical resources for emergency or basic needs.
- Assisting in identifying and overcoming obstacles/barriers to self-sufficiency.
- Increasing access to skills training education and other support systems that enable people to achieve self-sufficiency.

In 2018-2019, United Way Blackhawk Region approved $1,093,859 community dollars in the following programs:

**AMERICAN RED CROSS OF SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN**
- Disaster Services
- Service to the Armed Forces

**BELoit MEALS ON WHEELS**
- Home Delivered Meals

**COmmunity Action, INC.**
- AWARE
- Fatherhood Initiative
- Fresh Start
- Transitional Living Program

**ECHO INC.**
- ECHO Way Home

**EgERTON COMMUNITY OUTReACH**
- Client Services
- Food Pantry

**FAmILY PROMISE OF GREATER BELoIT**
- Emergency Shelter for Homeless Families

**FAmILY SERVICES OF SWANI**
- Beloit Domestic Violence Survivor Center

**JANESVILLE COMMUNITY DAY CARE CENTER**
- Ruger Site Tuition Assistance

**KANDU INdUSTRIES INC,**
- Waiting List Project

**MERRILL COMMUNITY CENTER**
- Senior Program

**PROJECT 16:49**
- Robin House Transitional Living Program

**RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)**
- In Home Groups
- Seniors Volunteering for Seniors

**SALVATION ARMY—BELoIT**
- Feeding Program
- Food Pantry
- Rental Payment Services

**SALVATION ARMY—JANESVILLE**
- Family Social Services Assistance Program

**S.M.I.L.E.S.**
- Scholarship Fund

**STATELINE LITERACY COUNCIL**
- Adult Basic Education
- English as a Second Language

**YWCA OF ROCK COUNTY**
- Alternatives to Violence
- Child Care Program
- Immigrant Outreach Services
- Transitions for Women

*$726,462 has been paid in 2018 with the remaining to be paid in 2019.
UWBR is proud to offer our community a free, web-based, mobile friendly volunteer platform, Get Connected. Since its launch in 2016, 48 local nonprofit agencies have registered with Get Connected. In 2018 alone, agency’s needs were viewed 5,598 times. If you are interested in learning more about the volunteer opportunities available in our community or are looking to post volunteer opportunities within your organization, visit LiveUnitedBR.org/Volunteer.

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