

## United Way Blackhawk Region

205 North Main Street, Suite 101  
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[LiveUnitedBR.org](http://LiveUnitedBR.org)

United Way  
Blackhawk Region



## MEDIA RELEASE

April 9, 2020

For additional information contact:

Mary Fanning-Penny, President & CEO

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## United Way announces COVID-19 Action Fund Grants

(BLACKHAWK REGION) – United Way Blackhawk Region (UWBR) is proud to announce an initial allocation of \$33,476.89 awarded to four nonprofit agencies that applied for funding from the COVID-19 Action Fund. The fund was established to provide flexible resources to nonprofit programs in Rock County and northern Winnebago County that are directly supporting local, vulnerable residents and families. While the fund is not available to individuals, it will support local nonprofit organizations that are well experienced providing health and human services.

To not further burden organizations providing vital services amid the pandemic, UWBR has implemented a streamlined application process. UWBR's volunteer-driven Community Impact Council is overseeing all requests for funding to ensure allocations are made to financially responsible programs, which will be required to report on results of the funding.

This first wave of grants has been awarded to the following:

- **\$15,529.89 to HealthNet of Rock County** to cover partial costs for medications, labs, technical support for the medical staff and clinic and increased janitorial services.
- **\$9,867 to the Micah Project** to sustain its mission to help women bridge the gap between treatment and community living.
- **\$5,000 to Janesville Community Day Care Center** to ensure that families demonstrating a documented need can meet the minimum holding fee and keep their child's place at the center.
- **\$3,080 to the YWCA Rock County** to support YWCA's continuation of critical services to women and children during this time of potential, heightened occurrences of family violence.

COVID-19 Action Fund grants will be released on a rolling basis as fundraising continues throughout the outbreak and recovery phases of the crisis, making it possible to move resources quickly and adapt to evolving needs in our region.

“United Way Blackhawk Region's Community Impact Council will continue its ongoing review of COVID-19 Action Fund applications,” said United Way Blackhawk Region President and CEO Mary Fanning-Penny. “Future grant allocations will be announced as determinations are made.”

Fanning-Penny added the COVID-19 Action Fund, seeded by \$100,000 from United Way Blackhawk Region reserves, has now risen to more than \$195,200 dollars.

“To date we have received donations of all sizes to the Action Fund from more than 110 donors,” said Fanning-Penny. “We are deeply grateful to the community-minded individuals and corporations who have chosen this meaningful way to help during this crisis.”

The following corporate donations have been made to the COVID-19 Action Fund:

- Alliant Energy - \$10,000
- Data Dimensions - \$10,000
- First National Bank & Trust - \$10,000
- Festival Foods - \$6,000
- Schnucks - \$3,000
- Associated Bank - \$2,500
- State Bank of Cross Plains - \$2,500
- Janesville Brick & Tile - \$500
- Century 21 Affiliated - \$200

There is still time to make a donation to the COVID-19 Action Fund. Anyone interested in making a gift of any size can visit [LiveUnitedBR.org/COVID-19](https://LiveUnitedBR.org/COVID-19) or text “**GiveCovid**” to **41444**. Checks made payable to United Way Blackhawk Region’s Action Fund may also be mailed to PO Box 2780, Janesville, WI 53547-2780.

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## **About United Way Blackhawk Region**

United Way fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community. We win by Living United, by forging unlikely partnerships and by finding new solutions to old problems; by mobilizing the best resources; and inspiring individuals to join the fight against a common foe, each community’s most daunting social crises. United Way Blackhawk Region Lives United against poverty, family violence, hunger and homelessness to name a few, by providing community grants and resources to 53 human services programs at 29 nonprofit agencies in Rock County, Wis. and northern Winnebago County, Ill. More information is available at [LiveUnitedBR.org](https://LiveUnitedBR.org) or engage on social media via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

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## MEDIA RELEASE

April 30, 2020

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## United Way announces 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of COVID-19 Action Fund Grants

*Two rounds of COVID-19 Action Fund grants now total \$57,650*

(BLACKHAWK REGION) – United Way Blackhawk Region (UWBR) proudly announces its second round of COVID-19 Action Fund grants totaling \$24,173.32. The fund was established to provide flexible resources to nonprofit programs in Rock County and northern Winnebago County that are directly supporting local, vulnerable residents and families.

The following four nonprofit agencies received a COVID-19 Action Fund grant:

- **\$8,667 to Agrace Hospice Care** to help meet the needs of patients, family members, volunteers and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **\$5,800 to Family Promise of Greater Beloit** for hotel/motel vouchers to shelter families, individuals and couples experiencing homelessness in and around Beloit.
- **\$7,558.32 to House of Mercy Homeless Shelter** for the purchase of hotel/motel vouchers used to shelter Mercyhealth House of Mercy Homeless Center clients who are considered high-risk for contracting COVID-19
- **\$2,148 to the YMCA of Northern Rock County** to reduce the hourly charge for childcare for essential workers from \$5 down to \$3.

Organizations eligible to apply for United Way Blackhawk Region's COVID-19 Action Fund include: 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, groups fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, other charitable organizations able to receive a tax-deductible contribution, such as schools, faith-based organizations or other public entities.

UWBR's volunteer-driven Community Impact Council is overseeing all requests for funding and will release funds on a rolling basis. Future grant allocations will be announced as determinations are made.

"Fundraising for the COVID-19 Action Fund has reached \$248,521, \$100,000 of which was seeded by United Way Blackhawk Region reserves," said United Way Blackhawk Region President and CEO Mary Fanning-Penny. "We are grateful for the generous donations of all sizes that have been made to the Action Fund by 151 local donors and community-minded organizations."

The following corporate/foundation donations have been made to the COVID-19 Action Fund:

Alliant Energy - \$10,000

Associated Bank - \$2,500

Century 21 Affiliated - \$200  
Data Dimensions - \$10,000  
Festival Foods - \$6,000  
Hearing Care Associates - \$100  
Janesville Foundation - \$5,000  
Kiwanis Club of Janesville- \$1,000  
Schnucks - \$4,988  
U.S. Bank - \$920

Dan & Patti Rashke (TASC) Family Foundation - \$1,000  
Ecolab - \$16,500  
First National Bank & Trust - \$10,000  
Janesville Brick & Tile - \$500  
Janesville Morning Rotary - \$2,000  
Neese Family Foundation- \$20,000  
State Bank of Cross Plains - \$2,500

There is still time to make a donation to the COVID-19 Action Fund. Anyone interested in making a gift of any size can visit [LiveUnitedBR.org/COVID-19](https://LiveUnitedBR.org/COVID-19) or text “**GiveCovid**” to **41444**. Checks made payable to United Way Blackhawk Region’s Action Fund may also be mailed to PO Box 2780, Janesville, WI 53547-2780.

“United Way is always on the front lines of community problems, both everyday problems and crises. The COVID-19 pandemic is no exception,” Fanning-Penny stated. “In addition to raising funds and awarding grants from the Action Fund, United Way provides community members with impactful ways to both get help and give help.”

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## **For Help**

Dial 211. United Way’s 24/7, free and confidential information and referral helpline. The 211 system across Wisconsin is working tirelessly to meet the needs of callers and community members searching for information and support due to the public health emergency.

- Text COVID19 (no hyphen) to 211211
- Visit [LiveUnitedBR.org/211](https://LiveUnitedBR.org/211)
- Dial 211 for information and referrals. Wait time may be longer than usual due to high call demand but call specialists will help as soon as available.

## **To Volunteer**

United Way can help you “Get Connected” to local, safe and virtual volunteer opportunities and requests for in-kind material donations in the Blackhawk Region. Visit [LiveUnitedBR.org/volunteer](https://LiveUnitedBR.org/volunteer).

## **About United Way Blackhawk Region**

United Way fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community. We win by Living United, by forging unlikely partnerships and by finding new solutions to old problems; by mobilizing the best resources; and inspiring individuals to join the fight against a common foe, each community’s most daunting social crises. United Way Blackhawk Region Lives United against poverty, family violence, hunger and homelessness to name a few, by providing community grants and resources to 53 human services programs at 29 nonprofit agencies in Rock County, Wis. and northern Winnebago County, Ill. More information is available at [LiveUnitedBR.org](https://LiveUnitedBR.org) or engage on social media via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

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Blackhawk Region**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

June 24, 2020

For additional information contact:

Mary Fanning-Penny, President & CEO

[mfanning-penny@lubr.org](mailto:mfanning-penny@lubr.org) or (608) 314-8422

## **United Way announces COVID-19 Action Fund Grants**

***Three rounds of COVID-19 Action Fund grants now total \$66,761***

(BLACKHAWK REGION) – United Way Blackhawk Region proudly announces its latest round of COVID-19 Action Fund grants totaling \$9,111. Three rounds of UWBR’s COVID-19 Action Fund grants now total \$66,761. United Way’s volunteer-driven Community Impact Council is overseeing all requests for funding and releasing grants on a rolling basis, working to address both the acute and long-term recovery needs of the crisis.

The following nonprofit agencies received a COVID-19 Action Fund grant:

- **\$6,350 to Janesville Boys & Girls Club** to help provide equipment, supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure the health and safety of the Club children, staff, and families.
- **\$2,761 to Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Rock County** to reimburse volunteer drivers for delivering meals from food pantries in Beloit, Clinton, Janesville and Orfordville, to eligible individuals and families.

“Our community trusts United Way as its philanthropic partner because we have a unique finger on the ‘pulse’ of our region’s needs,” said United Way Blackhawk Region President and CEO Mary Fanning-Penny. “We steward generosity and direct dollars where they’re needed most, to local effective programs making the greatest impact.”

The fund was established to provide flexible resources to nonprofit programs in Rock County and northern Winnebago County that are directly supporting local, vulnerable residents and families.

“We want to remind service providers that eligibility for the COVID-19 Action Fund is open to all 501(c)(3) nonprofits and other charitable organizations able to receive a tax-deductible contribution, such as schools, faith-based organizations or other public entities,” Fanning-Penny added. “This fund is designed to move resources quickly to meet the evolving needs of our region.”

Fundraising for the COVID-19 Action Fund has reached \$283,150; \$100,000 of which was seeded by United Way Blackhawk Region reserves. Generous donations of all sizes have been made to the Action Fund by 213 local donors and community-minded organizations. A complete donor list may be viewed at [LiveUnitedBR.org/COVID-19](http://LiveUnitedBR.org/COVID-19).

While United Way is winding down its fundraising for the COVID-19 Action Fund, donations will still be accepted. Anyone interested in making a gift of any size can visit [LiveUnitedBR.org/COVID-19](https://LiveUnitedBR.org/COVID-19) or text “GiveCovid” to 41444. Checks made payable to United Way Blackhawk Region’s Action Fund may also be mailed to 205 N. Main St., Suite 101, Janesville, WI 53545.

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