

# PROVIDING HOPE

2024 Impact Report



Get Involved. Give Back. Take Action.



# 2024: LOOKING BACK

While we came up short of our campaign goal, raising just over \$400,000, United Way of Cass County still experienced a lot of success, generosity, and impact in 2024.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to secure an \$85,992 matching grant that will support internal capacity building, along with three targeted initiatives: Youth Support Groups through Project Hope, CPR and First Aid Training for local childcare providers, and the Pathway of Hope program through The Salvation Army.

Our staff is dedicated to serving our community, not just through our own work, but through other local organizations as well. In 2024, our staff served on various boards and committees and supported other organizations through events like Downtown Green & Clean, the Kiwanis Flag Program, Walton Library's Mental Health Outreach Event, and many others.

One of the highlights of 2024 was our 17th Annual LIVE UNITED® Day, which brought together over 700 volunteers to work on 46 projects across the county. It's a powerful reminder of what can happen when we all LIVE UNITED®.

We are especially grateful to our Campaign Co-Chairs, Lynne Ness and Kelly Stephenson of Security Federal, for their leadership and dedication throughout the campaign. We had a lot of fun working with them and can't thank them enough for their efforts. To our donors, volunteers, and partners, your support continues to move our mission forward and build a stronger Cass County. We're proud to carry on a legacy of impact that began in 1937 and look forward to continuing to serve Cass County for many years to come.

Thank you for your support,



## OUR TEAM

### Staff



Chris Armstrong,  
Executive Director



Karli Armstrong,  
Impact & Marketing Mgr



Chloe Stouder,  
Admin Assist. thru Dec.



Yoslen Santana,  
Program/Marketing Intern

### Board of Directors

**Alesia Brown (President)**  
Pioneer Elementary School

**Joe Brewer (Vice President)**  
Crossroads Insurance

**Nikki Ellington (Secretary)**  
Horizon Bank

**Josh Reeser (Treasurer)**  
ZMACPAs

**Gabriela Moore**  
Tyson Foods

**Jacob Pomasl**  
City of Logansport

**Kelly Stephenson**  
Security Federal

**Karen McLean**  
NIPSCO

**Carmen Jones**  
Logansport Savings Bank

**Elizabeth Mills**  
Logansport State Hospital

**Mike Barron**  
Tipmont/Wintek Business Solutions

# 2024 CAMPAIGN



Lynne Ness



Kelly Stephenson

Thank you to all who contributed to the 2024 Campaign! We want to thank our Co-Chairs, Lynne & Kelly, for all the work they put into **Providing Hope** to Cass County. The Campaign Chairs play a critical role in our annual fundraising. Their heart for our work and those we serve was evident in all their efforts, and we are so appreciative of their time and commitment.



## DIVISION CHAIRS:

**Leadership:** George Stephenson, Michael & Stephenson

**Large Business:** Jennifer Savini, Logansport Savings Bank

**Small Business:** Katie Loman, Ivy Tech

**Industry & Labor:** Brant Myers, Steinberger Construction

**Health Care:** Andrea Crain, Kroeger-Crain Funeral & Cremation

**Professional:** Stephanie Helton, Tyson

**Residential:** Jennifer Savini, Logansport Savings Bank

**Retired Teachers:** Joe Ness

**Town & Country:** Matt Lewellen, Steinberger Construction & Wes Scott, Scott Family Farms

## AMBASSADORS:

Gina White (Security Federal Savings Bank), Joe Brewer (Crossroads Insurance), Natalie Filbey (Security Federal Savings Bank), Phil Stephenson (Michael & Stephenson Law Office), Joshua Hopper (Logansport Savings Bank), Kim Reid (Galloway Murray & Scheetz), Jessica Hettinger (Security Federal Savings Bank), Bryan Martinez (Security Federal Savings Bank), Bryce McDonald & Sandy Thompson (Lewis Cass Schools), Ashley Gangloff (Logansport Schools), Alesia Brown (Pioneer Schools), Derreck Parkevich (Cass County Family YMCA), Lorri Foster (Logansport Utilities), Ruth Baker (County Commissioner)

## 2024 PAGESETTERS:

- ARaymond
- Cass County Council on Aging
- City of Logansport
- Cole Hardwood
- Consolidated Union
- HTI Logansport
- Ivy Tech Community College
- Lewis Cass Schools
- Logansport Savings Bank
- Logansport Community School Corporation
- Logansport Utilities
- MPI
- Pioneer Schools
- Security Federal Savings Bank
- Small Parts
- Steinberger Construction
- United Way of Cass County

## PAGESETTER OF THE YEAR

**Cole Hardwood**



Pacesetters are companies that run their workplace campaign in July or August, ahead of the regular campaign. These companies help build momentum for the Annual Campaign and “set the pace”. Cole Hardwood’s efforts during the 2024 Campaign stood out, and they received the 2024 Pacesetter of the Year award at our Annual Celebration. Cole Hardwood is a long-time supporter of our work, and we appreciate all they do to make our community a better place!

# OUR IMPACT

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we're able to make impactful investments that directly benefit thousands of people annually and indirectly benefit the entire community. We support many worthwhile programs and initiatives, including those through our Partner Agencies. In addition to the programs that receive annual funding, we also provide smaller grants that further the Education, Health, and Financial Stability of Cass County.



## Some of our 2024 Impact Fund Beneficiaries:

- Cass County Fire Association
- Walton Library - Mental Health Resource & Awareness Event
- Junior Achievement
- Food Finders Mobile Pantry Sponsor
- Cass County Zero Suicide Task Force
- Additional support to Salvation Army programs
- Conscious Discipline training for LCSC staff



## A LEGACY OF IMPACT

### Honoring dedication to serving others



Presenting the award to Joe's family



Presenting to Lloyd R. Knight

Those who knew Joe Johnson knew him as a kind, generous man with a heart for his community. He served as a United Way Board Member, Chair of the Town & Country Division of the campaign, and in many other capacities. As the 2012 Campaign Chair, he led the efforts to achieve the highest campaign in our United Way's history.

After his passing in December of 2024, the **Joe Johnson Legacy of Impact Award** was created to recognize his many years of service to our organization.

Lloyd R. Knight, the first recipient of the award, has served our organization in many roles as well. Lloyd was the 2022 Campaign Chair, has served on our board and various committees, and led the Industry and Labor Division for several years.

Like Joe, Lloyd has a big heart and has made a lasting impact on our community. He has been involved in so many things, because when you say "Hey Lloyd" he doesn't say no! He has a costume for every occasion and has put many to use helping fundraise.

We are forever grateful for their time and impact!

# OUR IMPACT: COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

We provide annual funding to programs that advance the Education, Health, and Financial Stability of our community through our Partner Agencies. The programs are vetted and overseen by staff and our Community Investment Committee, ensuring that donor dollars are making the maximum possible impact. We were able to support **16 programs** through these **7 Partners** thanks to the generosity of our donors!

- **Scouting America, Sagamore Council**
  - STEM
  - Healthy Lifestyles
- **Cass County Council on Aging**
  - Transportation
- **Cass County Family YMCA**
  - Kids Crew After School
  - Teen Action Agenda
  - Financial Assistance
  - Y Fit Kids Boot Camp
  - Summer Day Camp
- **Felix's Pantry**
  - Food Pantry for LCSC families
- **Food Finders Food Bank**
  - Agency Partner Program
- **Lewis Cass Buddy Bags**
  - Backpack program
- **The Salvation Army**
  - The Lord's Table Meal Program
  - Choice Food Pantry
  - Financial Stability
  - Pathway of Hope

## PARTNER PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### Salvation Army 360 Life Center

A woman accessed services at the Center from a referral from another social services agency. She was homeless and was new to the area after moving in with a family member that was not safe. Case management was provided along with access to other Salvation Army services including emergency shelter. She was able to stabilize in emergency shelter and work towards moving in the area. She found employment in Logansport and moved in with a friend that she felt was very safe and would work with her housing needs.



278 individuals were supported by Salvation Army's financial assistance program



36 kids participated in the Y's Fit Kids Boot Camp, with many showing decreases in their waistline



An average of 163 individuals received weekend food bags from Lewis Cass Buddy Bags during the school year



An average of 232 households received food from Felix's Pantry during each month of the school year



270 youth participated in STEM and Health programs through Scouting America, Sagamore Council



195 individuals were awarded with financial assistance scholarships for YMCA Memberships

## THE FOUNDATION OF IMPACT

### Volunteer of the Year

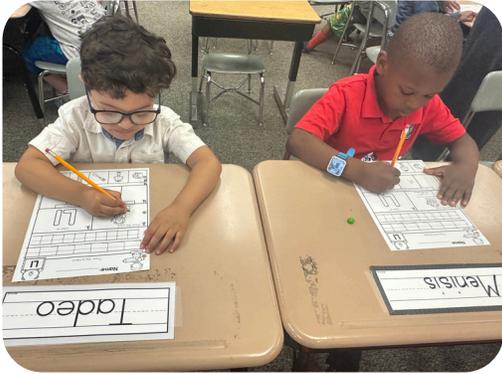


Our volunteers are at the heart of everything we do, working with us to make an impact in our community. Our 2024 Volunteer of the Year was Chef Mike Huffer from Woodbridge. WoodBridge has donated meals for many of our events in the past, including the Rally and Live United Day in 2024.

Chef Mike volunteers his time to coordinate everything necessary and to prepare the food. On Live United Day this past year, Chef and his team made over 340 lunches for our volunteers! Chef has been a part of United Way for many years, and we appreciate all he does!

# CASS COUNTY READING RAILROAD

When children receive the supports and resources needed to build skills throughout their formative years, we're all better off in the long-run. Cass County Reading Railroad seeks to provide our community's children with books and programs that do just that. **Over 3,000 children are served annually** through four key programs: Beginnergarten™, Business Partners, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and First Grade Library Visits.



**Beginnergarten™** is one of Reading Railroad's signature programs, created many years ago to address the growing need to ensure children were entering kindergarten ready to learn. Children are assessed at kindergarten registration and invited if their assessment score is under the threshold. This program provides **FREE kindergarten readiness preparation** to participants, providing instruction in the key skills needed to start their academic career.

Beginnergarten™ students also further their social skills, understand the school environment, learn cafeteria expectations, and build other skills students need to be successful in a school setting. Some children do not have preschool experience, so Beginnergarten™ helps them develop these skills. Thanks to our supporters and our partnership with Logansport Community School Corporation, we were able to **serve 100 children** through this program in 2024.

**Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** provides an age-appropriate book to Cass County children each month from birth to age five. In 2024, **17,831 books were mailed** to Cass County children. This program ensures that children have access to quality reading materials at no cost to families.

The Imagination Library covers administrative costs of the program. Reading Railroad and United Way of Cass County serve as the local affiliate and cover the cost of books and postage. The State of Indiana began covering half of the bill for local affiliates starting in September of 2023. Children must be signed up for this program.



# LIVE UNITED® DAY

It's amazing to see how much LIVE UNITED Day has grown in recent years, and the growth is a testament to how our community comes together to help others. The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual LIVE UNITED® Day brought **over 100 more** volunteers than the previous year. Each year on this day, we get to witness so many selfless people serving our community. Thank you to everyone who contributes to making this day a success, especially our committee!



## Committee

**Co-Chairs:** Amy Cunningham, Security Federal & Kailin Bauman, Steinberger Construction  
**Galveston Chair:** Karen McDonald  
**Royal Center Chair:** Stacy Rans, Empower Juice & Yoga  
**Project Manager:** Phil Olson, Steinberger Construction  
**Committee Member:** Steph Helton, Tyson Foods  
**Committee Member:** Arin Shaver, Logansport/Cass County

## By the numbers

- 707 volunteers
- 46 projects
- \$88,000+ in volunteer labor
- 28 organizations received volunteer support
- 2,632 hours of service

# LIVE UNITED® DAY AWARDS

## Zagajewski Construction & McCord's Do It Best



Zagajewski Construction and McCord's Do It Best worked together to ensure a ramp was completed for a local family. McCord's donated the materials for Zagajewski to complete the ramp. Due to the length of the ramp, it was also necessary to adjust a fence and gate. Zagajewski donated the materials and additional time to make sure this project was complete. These two companies have played a big role in LIVE UNITED® Day for many years and are always quick to lend a hand when needed!

## Transco Railway



Transco Railway started volunteering for LIVE UNITED® Day a few years ago, and they have tackled some big projects over the years. This year, they worked to revitalize the Clymers Cemetery. Transco was tasked with cleaning up shrubs, removing trees, and painting. They also spent many hours digging out grass that had grown over the sidewalks. Transco's efforts led to an amazing transformation of the cemetery, and they have become a key group for this annual event!

# LOOKING AHEAD

We've faced increasingly challenging fundraising environments the last several years, but we look forward to continuing to work towards our campaign goals in 2025. To remain sustainable, we will work to diversify our revenue to replace lost funds. Another exciting aspect of the upcoming year will be renewing our strategic plan.

Although revenues have declined, we'll continue working to meet the community's needs and focusing on our own internal programming. Cass County Reading Railroad is a critical piece of our work and will continue offering quality programs to help local children reach their full potential.

We look forward to the continuing trend of Co-Chairs and working with Milt & Chris Hess throughout the 2025 Campaign!



## NEW FACES

### 2025 Incoming Board Members



Sarah Cole,  
Cole Hardwood



Jenny Sera,  
Traction Rec

We will welcome two new board members in 2025: Sarah Cole & Jenny Sera. We're excited to add them to our team and look forward to their contributions to our organization! They will both serve on our Resource Development Committee, in addition to Board Member duties.

## Stay Connected

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 [uwaycassco](https://instagram.com/uwaycassco)

 [linkedin.com/company/united-way-of-cass-county](https://linkedin.com/company/united-way-of-cass-county)

 [uwayofcasscounty.org](https://uwayofcasscounty.org)

 E-mail [karmstrong@uwayofcasscounty.org](mailto:karmstrong@uwayofcasscounty.org) to sign up for periodic e-mail updates



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