



United Way in 2020: Serving in an unprecedented time

2020 has provided unimaginable challenges which have tasked every facet of our lives. While the year has been trying, United Way of Jasper County staff and board are proud of our organization's role as collaborator, leader and helping hand. Thank you for supporting us as we strive to find ways to continue our work, meet needs in the community and serve individuals. Here are some highlights since December 2019:

- December 2019: United Way of Jasper County, Iowa Speedway Foundation, Magg Family Catering, Heartland Iowa's Toni Peska and Megan Meyer along with many wonderful individuals provided basic needs to 50 students at WEST Academy. Gifts included shoes, coats, clothing, hygiene items, food, eyeglasses and other necessities.

- February 2020: UWJC and Newton elementary PE teachers Heidi Woollums and Eric Vander Velden developed CARDINALS UNITED CARE-A-THON. The event focused on teaching elementary students about personal and social responsibility, caring for their community and helping others. The event also raised thousands of dollars for Newton's four elementary schools and United Way. Funds have been earmarked to assist with food insecurity, purchase new equipment and complete improvement projects at the schools.



- March: More than \$4,000 in emergency food funds in the form of grocery gift cards were distributed to Newton's elementary schools, WEST Academy, Discover Hope, Family Crisis Center, and Colfax and Prairie City food banks

- Announced \$210,000 in UWJC grant funding to 14 nonprofit agencies supporting 18 health and human service programs for Jasper County residents. Agencies funded for 2020-2021 include Camp Fire, Capstone, Clearview Recovery Center, Crisis Intervention Services, Family Crisis Center, Girl Scouts of Iowa, Habitat for Humanity, IMPACT, Jasper County RSVP, Kid Assist, Peck Child Development, Progress Industries, Salvation Army and Willowbrook.

- April: Newton Fire Department and UWJC co-hosted a COVID 19 relief event where members of the NFD offered to shave their hair



when goals were reached. The event raised more than \$3,500 leading to multiple firefighters going bald for a great cause.**

- UWJC awarded a \$13,200 a grant to Jasper County Emergency Management to purchase PPE. Six-hundred reusable gowns were purchased for emergency responders and frontline health care workers. The purchase of the PPE was not possible without the support from UWJC.

- May-June: UWJC distributed 1,000 free cloth masks to individuals in Newton, Monroe and Prairie City and to Jasper County RSVP, MercyOne Newton, Salvation Army, Newton YMCA and Peck Child Development.

- July: Transformed an empty office space to create a safe and private meeting place for survivors of domestic violence to meet with their Family Crisis Center advocated. UWJC also provides free office space to Family Crisis Center.

- August: UWJC collaborated with Jasper County EMA, local churches and individual volunteers to assist with derecho cleanup for elderly and disabled individuals. During Aug. 17-22, more than 1,000 volunteer hours were completed and 93 homes in Newton, Kellogg, Baxter, Colfax, Ira, Mingo and Lambs Grove were assisted.

- Worked behind the scenes to help facilitate Newton Cardinal Football team's Day of Action on Aug. 15. The team raised \$5,000 for their program and assisted dozens throughout the community with a variety of projects throughout Newton.**

- September: Hosted annual school supply drive gathering hundreds of



supplies and distributed to area classrooms in Newton. Also distributing thousands of PPE masks, wipes and sanitizer to Jasper County schools to help fight the spread of COVID.

- Ongoing: Managed COVID 19 and derecho relief funds from United Ways of Iowa and Carson King Foundation, individuals and corporate donations. Funds are assisting with homeless prevention, food insecurity and more.**

- Community Outreach: Hosted free community events including free showing of "Selma," "Back to the Future" and "Shrek" at Capitol II Theater; Hosted "Cupcake for Heroes" distributing more than 200 cupcakes to EMTs, fire, police and sheriff officers in Jasper County; Provided a FREE pop up ice cream truck giveaway; Helped organize Newton Police's annual Shop With Cops event; Purchased 100 books for Newton Public Library's Halloween on the Lawn

***Please note funds raised through grants and collaborative efforts mentioned above do not go towards our general campaign fund. The funds are administered without fees as an additional service to help Jasper County residents.*