



United Way of the Flint Hills

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Mission Statement: Building a vibrant community by focusing on education, income, and health.

What is United Way? United Way is a local, non-profit organization meeting local needs. The United Way identifies issues facing our community's residents and seeks solutions to those problems. Most often, we provide grants to local organizations that have proven track records in improving lives. Over the past several years, we have also adopted several of our own initiatives and programs to enhance the offerings of our local community partners.

How much money is distributed by the United Way? This year, we have distributed nearly \$500,000 to organizations in our eight county service area.

What communities are served by the United Way? The United Way of the Flint Hills serves residents in the following counties: Chase, Coffey, Greenwood, Lyon, Morris, Osage, Wabaunsee, and Woodson counties.

How are the funds allocated? Non-profit organizations must submit a detailed application for funding each year, and the application is reviewed by a group of community volunteers. The volunteers visit each of the organizations in order to get additional information about the organization and their need. There is no guarantee of funding after one year, and the process for each applicant is taken just as seriously in year ten as it was in year one.

What does it cost to run United Way? United Ways, in general, have long been recognized as one of the most efficient and economical of all charitable organizations, and the United Way of the Flint Hills is no exception. Our overhead costs are approximately 16%, which is significantly lower than many other organizations. Charity Navigator suggests that in order for a non-profit to be successful, it must not have an overhead ratio of more than 33%. The United Way of the Flint Hills is proud that our ratio is well below the recommended ratio.

Is the United Way at work year round? Although United Way is most visible in the community during the fall and winter fund-raising campaign, it is at work all year round. In addition to review funding applications in the winter, we run our own programs, and are active on local, regional and national committees, such as Healthier Lyon County, Mobilizing Literacy Task Force, United Ways of Kansas, and United Way Worldwide's Financial Stability and Health Cohorts. We also monitor and take action on public policy that impacts our community's residents and the nonprofit sector.

Here's an example of some of our work:

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library was launched in 2013 in our community; this program sends free books to children under the age of five in our community. Over 1,700 children receive books each month which will help prepare them for kindergarten and beyond. This program is funded by the United Way of the Flint Hills, the Jones Trust, the Hopkins Foundation, the Trusler Foundation, and the Capitol Federal Foundation.

Summer Climbin' is our summer program designed to engage children and their families in summer learning and fitness. Research shows that children lose two months of literacy and three months of math skills during the summer months, and this program's goal is to stop those losses.

FamilyWise Prescription Savings Cards are available to all members of our community and can be used to secure a discount on prescription medicines not covered by insurance.

2-1-1 is a free and confidential service that helps people across our community find the local resources they need 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Simply dial 2-1-1 from any phone to be connected with a resource specialist or text your zip code to 898211 to receive assistance on your mobile phone.

What organizations receive funding from United Way of the Flint Hills? The United Way is proud to award funding to these deserving organizations in 2018:

American Red Cross
Building Blocks Child Care Center
Camp Alexander
CASA of the 8th Judicial District
Catholic Charities of NE Kansas
Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation
Coffey County Resource Council
Emporia Child Care
Food for Students
Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland
Help House of Osage County

Housing and Credit Counseling, Inc.
Jayhawk Area Boy Scouts
Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters
Kansas Children's Service League
Kansas Legal Services
LEAP!
Morris County Care & Share
Plumb Place
Sacred Heart Child Care Center
SOS, Inc.
The Salvation Army