

2020 Annual Report

Who We Are



Our Mission


The United Way of Ellis county positively impacts lives by strategically channeling community resources.

Our Focus

United Way's focus is on education, health and financial stability-the building blocks for a good quality of life and a strong community.

Our History

In 1953 the people in Ellis County made a commitment to a quality of life. They determined that quality would be maintained by funding a network of caring agencies that would make a difference in the lives of their friends and neighbors. Since then the United Way has been bringing together the residents in Ellis County to care for our community.



Meet our Board of Directors

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Bank of Hays

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Sunflower Bank

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Nancy Jeter
Wonder Woman League

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Midwest Energy

Leaving Our Mark

This year, the United Way of Ellis County was able to leave their mark and help a lot of people. For the holiday season United Way worked with a local organization Can You See Me? to help with a Shop with a Cop event, bringing gifts and necessity items to families in need. The United of Way of Ellis County also received 350 toys this Christmas from the Good360 and Toys for Tots with assistance from the United Way of the Plains, some of which went to the Shop with a Cop families.

These gifts were also distributed to United Way partner agencies to be given to families in need. Toys were destined for KVC Hospital, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Salvation Army's Angel Tree project. We wanted everyone to have a good Christmas, especially when so many were struggling with COVID-19.





United Way was also able to partner with the Schmidt Foundation to distribute free meals this holiday season. These meals were distributed from the Press and Thirsty's by all our amazing volunteers. Thanks to them, 962 meals were distributed to anyone who had registered.

We want to give a special shout out to the EMS workers, our young mission group, as well as everyone else that took the time to help give people a free meal for Christmas. We could not have helped as many people as we did without their help. Thank you for making a positive change within the community!



United Way of Ellis County was also able to bring RealityU back to schools, despite COVID-19. Students from TMP, Hays High and Hays middle school spent some time learning about financial responsibilities and planning for the future. They get to choose careers and other life choices to get a glimpse of the real world and how to be better prepared when it comes to making real life decisions.

This event was put on thanks to the Pando Initiative, business sponsors, and our amazing volunteers. We could not have done any of these without their help.



Wonder Women League



This year, COVID-19 resulted in a world-wide shut down. However, in these times, the Wonder Woman League continued to work in their community to help those who were in need. In April of 2020, the Wonder Woman League made masks and button headbands for workers at Hays Med. Using the donated materials, the group worked to create cloth face masks for the 600 plus workers that worked tirelessly through this difficult time. The WWL ended up making 670 masks, 359 headbands with buttons, and 265 button bands to provide comfort for the masks. Additionally, these amazing women made another 98 masks to be included in the Matthew's gift bags for

traveling families. Another 158 masks were made in appreciation for yearly sponsors, as they continued to show support through the pandemic. In total, this group of women made 926 masks for the community.

Not only was the Wonder Woman League busy making masks, they were also occupied with other projects such as putting together self-soothing boxes. Before, the pandemic, there has been an increase in anxiety seen in children, and after COVID-19, it has only gotten worse. Each box was filled with items that engage the senses and helps effectively manage anxiety. Some of these items



included scented silly putty, bubbles, stress ball, fidget spinner, mini puzzle cube, small hand lotion, pinwheel, Play-Doh, chewing gum, suckers, peppermints, bubble wrap, journal and colored pencils. The boxes will also include inserts about stress and useful websites to visit and other information about mental health. A total of one-hundred-eight boxes were put together and will be split between High Plains Mental Health, Turning Point Mental Health Clinic and Serenity Psychological Services.

Another project was distributing gift bags to residents of the Ascension Living Via-Christi Village and the Good Samaritan Society. Each resident received their own gift bag containing a bag of PoPt popcorn, a hand cream, lip balm, eyeglass cleaning cloth, and snack size bag of assorted mints. In addition to their gift bag, they were able to choose an item or two from a tote containing body wash, emery boards, soft fuzzy socks, chocolates, puzzles, adult coloring books, colored pencils, word search books and facial tissue. Staff at the long-term care

facilities were treated to Daylight Donuts and bags of PoPt popcorn in appreciation of their service.

It is thanks to these incredible women that positive change can be brought to the community. We thank not only the dedicated members, but also the amazing volunteers that help too. They do so much for Ellis County and deserve all the recognition as they continue to create a better community and help those in need that may slip through the cracks. Thank you.



To read more about the projects the WWL has done, visit Haypost articles by Cristina Janney or the United Way of Ellis County website.

Champions Circle

Platinum

Daryl & Corina Beam
Don & Millie Bickle
Mike & Dianna Briney
Larry & Margie Caspers
John & Jayne Clarke
Kent & Lisa Colwell
Gary & Louann Geist
Dave & Sonya Herl
Patrick Parke
Paul & Pat Phillips
Gary & Mary Ann Shorman
Randy & Tammy Walker
Tim & Sandee Werth

Gold

Nancy Apel
Tim & Susan Bickle
Craig & Kris Dewell
Brian & Michelle DeWitt
Sharon Dreher
Stan & Carol Dreiling
Larry & Judy Getty
Dale Gottschalk
Scott & Jana Horsfall
Stanley & Joni Jackson
David Kohtz
Ernesto Lopez-Corona
Dr. Tisa Mason
Mike & Rena Morley
Mark & Janet Niehaus
Aaron & Brendan Pfeifer
Andrew & Kathy Rupp
Shane & Stacy Smith
Phillip & Linda Stahlman
Michael Stremel

Silver

Troy Basgall
James & Deborah Braun
Jack & Jessica Dennis
Shawn & Kara Denton
Cindy Elliot
Timothy & Michele Flax
Deborah Ludwig
John & Renee Moritz
Dustin & Kristy Schlaefli
Cindy Strube
Fred Taylor
Brett & Julie Zollinger
Josh & Shauna Zweifel

Bronze

Mike & Jill Arensdorf
Patty Bacondrind
Rex & Debbie Ball
Marcia Bannister
Michael W. Barnett
Andrew Beck
Shirley Bollig
Jeff & Drala Braun
John & Connie Braun
Allen K. Brooks, Jr
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Kurt & Kathy David
Jim & Shelby Doty
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Koerner Kennel
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Cody & Kelly Lewis
Lifetime Dental Care PA
Stuart & Lauren Lowry
T.R. & Susan May
Bobb Meckenstock
Kim & Todd Meier
Sammy & Marva Miller
Kathy Mitchell
Dr. Mary Christin Mohn
Robert & Diane Muirhead
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Charlotte Schulte
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Terry Siek
John & Shelbi Solida
Gene & Cheryl Stramel
Ron VanEpps
Deanna Wellbrock

Corporate & Employee Donors

\$35,000+

Hays Med
Midwest Energy Inc.

\$25,000+

Fort Hays State University
Dillons

\$10,000+

Bank of Hays
Eagle Communications
Planning Insurance Inc.

\$5,000+

Unified School District #489
UPS
Nex-Tech Inc
Warehouse Inc
Adams Brown Beran & Ball
Sunflower Electric Power Corporation

\$2,500+

Beam Dental Office
City of Hays
Commerce Bank
Wal-Mart

\$1,000+

Auto World Inc
DaMar Resources Inc
Developmental Services of
NW Kansas
Ellis County
EnerSys
Enterprise Holding, LLC
Equity Bank
First Care Clinic
First Kansas Bank
Golden Plains Credit Union
Hays Area Children's Center 489
Hays Rotary Club

High Plains Mental Health
James Motors Co Inc
Jeff Pinkney CPA, Inc.
Klaus Masonry LLC
Midwestern Pipework
Northwestern Printers
NuStar Energy
Sunflower Bank
Werth Wealth Management

Under \$1,000

Alan Pfeifer Construction
Ameriprise Financial
Arthur's Pizza and Mexican Food
AT&T
Baconrind Appraising
Border States Electric
Brian Ruder Agency-American Family
Brungardt Hower Ward Elliot and Pfeifer
Casual Graphics
Charities Aid Foundation of America
Classic Quality Body
Clinkscales Elder Law Practice PA
Davidson Chiropractic
Eli Lilly & Co
Ellis County Bar Association
Emprise Bank
Fedex Ground
Field Abstract & Title
Flax Lawn & Landscaping
Foley Equipment
Golden Plains Trucking
The Good Coin
Gordons Carpet Center
Gorham State Bank
Gutch's Bar and Grill
Harfmann Accounting
Hays Chevrolet
Hays Veterinary Hospital
High Plains Farm Credit
Hearing Solutions LLC
Heartland Building Center
Holy Family Elementary School
I-70 Truck Repair
Jeter Law Firm
Kansas Natural Gas Operating LC
Kennemer Orthodontics

Koerner Kennels
Lifetime Dental Care
Meckenstock Group
Network for Good
Northwest Distributors
O'Reilly Auto Parts
Servicemaster of Hays
Simpson Farm Enterprises
Stanion Wholesale Electric
State Glass Co
Thomas More Prep-Marian
High School
TJS Enterprises
Voss State Farm Insurance
Wells Fargo Community Support
Western Aluminum and
DBA ABC SEA



United Way of Ellis County
**CHAMPIONS
CIRCLE**

Agency Shout Outs

We work with agencies throughout Ellis County that offer a wide range of service. Some of these include rental assistance, child education services, employment opportunities, and mental health assistance, just to name a few. Each agency has the amount of money they received this year from us.

American Red Cross- \$8,170

Big Brothers Big Sisters- \$35,000

Cancer Council- \$21,000

Catholic Charities- \$6,000

Center for Life Experience- \$3,000

Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation- \$7,000

City of Ellis- \$2,000

Court Appointed Special Advocates- \$18,000

Developmental Services of - \$23,000

Northwest Kansas

Early Childhood Connections- \$5,475

First Call for Help- \$42,000

Hays Senior Center- \$10,000

Hays Area Childrens Center- \$37,639

KVC Wheatland- \$5,000

Options-\$15,000

Parents and Children Together- \$4,716

Western Kansas Association on the- \$15,000

Concerns of the Disabled

Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center- \$2,000



Talk to Us



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