

**LIVE UNITED**

**United  
Way**



United Way of Portage County  
uwportage.org

# The Hand-Raiser Quarterly

E-NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL UNITED WAY

*Our Vision: A Portage County where no resident is without food,  
no child is without tools to learn, and no one is without access to care*

## August 2023

United Way of Portage County Third Quarter Updates

### United in Purpose



From left are Karlo Petrak, George DeBord, Andy Malitz, LuAnn Linson Coldwell, Melissa Koher, Lori Graham, Pam England, Geraldine Hayes Nelson, Mary Ann Schaefer, Michele Delgross, Anthony Horton, Ryan Hough and Bill Childers.

### United Way of Portage County Welcomes Seven New Board Members for 2023-24

United Way of Portage County is pleased to announce the appointment of seven new board members. These new directors will provide strategic direction for continued growth to execute the vision of United Way, helping to develop and implement strategies to promote health, education, and access throughout Portage County.

**George DeBord** is Chief Financial Officer for the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Portage County. With more than four decades of community and organizational involvement in a wide variety of organizations and causes – youth education, public health, and critical needs – and his extensive success as a financial officer, George's community service paired with his comprehensive knowledge of planning and leadership of

# 2·1·1

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#### Give.

You can direct your contribution to one of the action areas- Education, Income and Health - or choose all three. As always, we will also process a restricted contribution to qualified 501(c)3 organizations.

[Ways to Give](#)



#### Advocate.

You can make change happen. United Way needs people who are passionate about better education, income and health to stand up and make a difference.

[Advocacy Information](#)



#### Volunteer.

organizational objectives and extensive experience serving on nonprofit boards as both president and chair, differentiates him as not only a visionary executive, but a results-driven director.

**Mary Ann Schaefer**, Administrative Executive for The Davey Tree Expert Company, is responsible for client relations, budget management, and administers Davey's extensive training programs. Mary Ann co-chairs Davey's annual United Way Campaign and in 2020 was promoted to Manager of Administrative Services with Human Resources. A Portage County native, she volunteers throughout the county and had longstanding experience serving as secretary to township boards. Her expertise in strategic planning and operational budgeting, she feels, will be able to contribute future growth to United Way and assist with meeting the current needs of the board and community as a whole.

**Melissa Koher** is the Human Resource Officer for Hometown Bank. With a skillset ranging from financial management and event coordination, she has a master's degree in organizational leadership from Malone University. Previously, she served as campus president of Fortis College and brings with her more than 15 years of leadership experience. This will be her first role on a nonprofit board, and she is eager to serve United Way's mission, and Portage County, "where the need is great."

**Anthony Horton** is Director of Personnel for the Kent City School District. Prior to that he was Principal of Stanton Middle School in Kent, overseeing nearly 700 students and 90 faculty and staff members. He has held leadership and teaching positions for city school districts for almost two decades, specializing in youth education. He is currently a doctoral student at the University of Findlay and desires to contribute toward improving implementation of educational goals and policies as a United Way of Portage County board member. Family and community engagement, creating a safe and welcoming learning environment, and business community partnerships are some of the strengths Anthony brings with him to his first position on a nonprofit board.

**Lori Graham** is a compliance & CRA Officer and Banker for The Middlefield Banking Company. A Portage County native, she has previously served on the United Way of Fulton County as both a board member, participant on the allocations committee, and treasurer. Lori has a professional background in finance and has worked in the banking industry for over 25 years. When asked why she was interested in serving on the UWPC Board of Directors, Lori says, "There are ever increasing needs in our communities, and I feel those of us in a position to assist... [can] do so by participating in an organization like United Way."



**Dana Lawless-Andric** is the Associate Vice President of University Outreach & Engagement at Kent State University. Over the past 20 years, Dana has served on board committees across Summit and Portage counties and has secured millions of dollars in funding over the course of her career. Dana's areas of expertise include strategic leadership and planning, grant writing & development, community and family engagement. She has a deep commitment to educational access and opportunity and is excited to bridge opportunity and increase impact at United Way through the continued partnership with Kent State University.

United Way works with volunteers and local nonprofits to develop the best opportunities for youth, busy working adults and seniors.



[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

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## UWPC Events

[Campaign Kickoff - TBA](#)

*\*Save the Date\**  
**6/28/24 - Day of Caring**

## Upcoming Partner Events

**8/13/2023 Haymaker Community Potluck**  
1-3pm Plum Creek Park in Kent

**Coleman Adult Day** is hosting an educational series, presented by the Alzheimer's Association, **8/17/23 6-7pm**

[Effective Communication Strategies](#)

**8/24/23 6-7pm**  
[Understanding and Responding to Dementia Related Behaviors](#)

**8/31/23 6-7pm**  
[Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body](#)

To register, or learn more, please call 800.272.3900

**9/10/23 Haymaker Farm-to-Table Brunch**

**9/28-9/29/23 Kidney Foundation of Ohio's 48th Annual Renal Symposium**  
*at Wagner's of Westlake in Westlake*

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available for dietitians, nurses, social workers, dialysis technicians and transplant coordinators.

**[Register for the event here.](#)**

**9/29/23 AmeriCorps Seniors Annual Volunteer Recognition**



**Jeff Fowler** has served on the Coleman Professional Services as vice president and treasurer and the Coleman Foundation Board as president and vice president. He has also served as a member of the UH Portage Foundation and was most recently Finance Director of United Way of Portage County. He brings a thorough understanding of the financial needs of United Way of Portage County as a former employee. Additionally, Jeff holds advanced degrees in finance and accounting. His desire to serve on the board is, in part, reflected from the important role United Way of Portage County plays in the community and serves its residents.

11 am at the Kent American Legion

**10-1 Harvest 5K Walk**

The Harvest Walk will take place at Mapleside Farms in Brunswick. All paid participants receive a long-sleeve shirt and admission to Pumpkin Village at Mapleside on event day.

To attend and support the Kidney Foundation of Ohio [Register here](#)

**News from the CEO, Bill Childers:**

[billc@uwportage.org](mailto:billc@uwportage.org) - 330.297.1424 x5

**We'd also like to thank** departing board members *Jean Booth, Colin Boyle, David Dix, Lamar Hylton, and Karlo Petrak* for their many years of service and dedication.



**10/11/23 Senior Celebration Kent American Legion Underwood Hall doors open 11:30 am**

The cost is \$10.00 per person for a sit-down meal, entertainment, and gifts. *Tickets must be purchased at the Portage Senior Center between 9am-3pm Monday - Friday*

**11/12/23 Girls on the Run 5K Run/Walk at Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds.**

[To register click here.](#)

**Be on the Watch for more details... the 2023-2024 Campaign will be kicking off soon...**

**Resource Development**  
Heather Rainone - [hainone@uwportage.org](mailto:hainone@uwportage.org) - 330.297.1424 x3

**2023-24 Campaign Begins!**

July 1 launched the new campaign season! The United Way of Portage County workplace campaign unites employees in all offices and branches of a company, and gives them the opportunity to easily donate through payroll deduction, volunteer for local agencies, and speak out for causes that matter to them. You can become a part of a larger mission and see the difference you make in the community. To make an annual contribution, [visit our website](#).

If your company is interested in sponsoring United Way annually or our great events, please contact [Heather Rainone](#) for more information. We have many sponsorship levels that provide benefits for your business, such as website and newsletter recognition, press release recognition, social media recognition and more!

If you are an existing corporate partner or a new local company who would like to get your workplace campaign started, please contact Heather Rainone at

## 2022-23 Campaign

Our 2022-23 Annual Campaign came to a close on June 30. Portage County Workplace Campaigns brought in \$378,556 in donations during the year. Individual donors, local companies and United Way friends helped us raised more than \$131,000!!

To end the campaign, we had a Matching Gift Challenge. If we raised \$20,000, our anonymous donor pledged to donate \$10,000. With the help of our generous donors, we raised a total of \$31,699 during this Challenge. Thank you to all for your support!

## Coming together for United Way of Portage County!

### United Way of Portage County Annual Celebration

We gathered on Tuesday, July 25 at The Battleground Taproom and Mexican Kitchen in Kent for our Annual Celebration to celebrate our generous donors and volunteers.

In addition to welcoming our seven new board members and thanking our outgoing board members, we recognized outgoing board member Karlo Petrak as Volunteer of the Year! Congratulations to Karlo and our new board members and thank you to all of our generous volunteers and donors!



## Ways to Give to United Way of Portage County



Visit our website  
[www.uwportage.org](http://www.uwportage.org)

### UWPC Community Impact



Scan this QR code

For more information about United Way of Portage County events or sponsorships, please contact Heather Rainone at [hrainone@uwportage.org](mailto:hrainone@uwportage.org) or call 330.297.1424, x3

## Community Impact

Maureen Gebhardt - [maureng@uwportage.org](mailto:maureng@uwportage.org) - 330.297.1424 x4

# United Way Day of Caring June 23, 2023



Day of Caring is the single largest volunteer event held annually on the 4th Friday in June.

**THANK YOU** to the 90 volunteers who helped many nonprofits throughout Portage County at 14 different project sites. Local businesses, social service agencies and residents from all corners of the county come together to make a positive, lasting impact. The annual volunteer day is a great team-building exercise for local companies and groups that are looking to give back to our community. This event is also made possible through sponsorships.

**A big thank you to this year's sponsors, Willoughby Supply Co., Hometown Bank, Portage Community Bank and AMETEK.**



*Next year the event will be held on Friday, June 28th, 2024 so mark your calendar and save the date!*

## Providing Funding Through UWPC Annual Community Impact Grant Review Process

United Way of Portage County funds numerous health and human service programs in our community through our partnership with multiple agencies. Program review and grant making is governed by a volunteer review team and approved by the United Way Board of Directors.



*To review a list of our current Community Funded Partners, click [HERE](#).*

The Awards are funded by resources made available through the most recent UWPC Campaign

United Way values accountability, transparency, and openness throughout all stages of the decision-making process.



## Providing Funding through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program & American Rescue Plan Act

The United Way of Portage County Emergency Food and Shelter Program has received a grant of \$67,940 from the EFSP National Board Program, a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Portage County Emergency Food and Shelter Board is composed of local representatives of the national organizations as well as Portage County government, local housing authority, emergency management agency, and non-profit organizations serving low-income households. **The local board is accountable to the national board for the use and awarding of the funds.**

**Funds will be made available for housing, utility, and food assistance programs.**

The local EFSP Board awarded:  
Community Action Council - \$13,588 for utilities  
Family & Community Services (HESS) - \$27,176 for housing  
Change Hunger - \$27,176 for food



## Our Community Funded Partner Programs

Maureen Gebhardt - [maureng@uwportage.org](mailto:maureng@uwportage.org) - 330.297.1424 x4



### Coleman Adult Day Services

Coleman Adult Day Services provide a medical model of daytime care for adults with dementia and Alzheimer's in a safe, supportive, and socially stimulating setting, including daytime care for a small number of adults with developmental disabilities. They are currently accepting new clients! Tours can be booked Mon-Fri between the hours of 9am-4pm and offer a free 4-hour Trial Day for prospective clients. **Volunteers:** If you have a special talent, are musically inclined, have a certified pet therapy animal or would like to share your time with the elderly population, contact Bambi Simon (330) 296-3214 to learn more about volunteering at Coleman. **Events:** Coleman Adult Day is hosting an educational series, presented by the Alzheimer's Association, every Thursday in Aug from 6-7pm. Learn more at Coleman Adult Day Services on [Facebook](#) or their website [colemanadultday.org](http://colemanadultday.org).

### Haymaker Farmers' Market

"Power of Produce" kids club, a weekly program teaching healthy eating habits at Market to kids 12 & under, returned in Spring 2023. Kids can try samples of produce from the Market, do fun activities, and receive \$2

of tokens for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables at Market! Last year Haymaker Farmers' Market increased access to healthy, fresh, local foods--our food assistance programming increased by 50% to over \$90,000 of local foods distributed to people who need it (including but not limited to, WIC Perks program and the Produce Perks Midwest "Fruit and Vegetable Coupon" program for TANF eligible families). Haymaker administers these food benefit programs so more local farmers and food businesses can participate – strengthening the local economy and keeping food dollars in our communities. Visit <https://www.haymakermarket.com/> or follow them on social media on [Facebook](#) @Haymaker.Farmers.Market.



### Girls on The Run

**GOTR** is a confidence-building program for girls in 3rd through 8th grade, inspiring all girls to build their confidence, kindness and decision-making skills while building a sense of connection in a team setting. On average, Girls on the Run serves 1500 girls annually. At the core of their mission Girls on the Run Northeast Ohio serves as one of the preeminent organizations designed to enhance girls' social, emotional and physical skills and behaviors to successfully navigate life experiences. With the addition of more sites delivering the program, there will be even more opportunities

to participate. Currently, **GOTR is recruiting coaches** for the upcoming fall season which runs from the week of September 11- November 12. **They are always looking for volunteers.** Contact Mackenzie Smith at [mackenzie.smith@girlsontherun.org](mailto:mackenzie.smith@girlsontherun.org) or by calling 234-206-0786 EXT 702 or [visit their website](#).

### Portage County Senior Center

Portage County Senior Center offers social and recreational activities, as well as daily lunches, to all Portage County senior citizens ages 50 and better. *New seniors are always welcome.* Advance registration required: *sign up before Tuesday of the prior week for lunch.* Food is provided and delivered hot by [Center of Hope](#) and we ask for a \$1.00 donation. The Portage County Senior Center processed and delivered 750 packets of Farmers Market coupons to our senior citizens in Portage County. The seniors received coupons worth \$50.00 to use at various local farm markets. They redeem the coupons for fresh fruits and vegetables in the area. Visit their [website](#) to learn more.



### Foster Grandparent & Senior Companion Programs/Family & Community Services, Inc

AmeriCorps Seniors civically engages individuals 55 and better in meaningful and purposeful volunteer opportunities that keep them physically, mentally, and socially engaged which leads to improved health outcomes and an independent, quality life. The stipend programs provide a modest stipend, meal allowance, and mileage reimbursement to enable

low-income seniors to volunteer. **Ongoing recruitment:** Individuals 55 and better who meet the income qualification for the programs' stipend to serve as either tutors and mentors to youth or as companions to socially isolated seniors. *For more information contact* FGP: Macy Martin: [mmartin@fcsohio.org](mailto:mmartin@fcsohio.org), SCP: Susie Ferrell: [sferrell@fcsohio.org](mailto:sferrell@fcsohio.org), their office (330) 677-3939, or on social media [Facebook/Instagram](#) @americorpsseniorsfcs

### Kidney Foundation of Ohio

The Kidney Foundation of Ohio provides direct financial assistance to patients suffering from renal (kidney) disease that enables them to receive their lifesaving medications and treatments. In 2023 so far, Kidney Foundation of Ohio has assisted more than 600 individuals impacted by kidney disease.

They also help pay for medication costs, transportation to and from dialysis, and emergency situations related to health care. **Volunteers needed:** for the Harvest Walk on Sunday, October 1 at Mapleside Farms in Brunswick to assist with checking walkers in, distributing food, and passing out t-shirts. *To volunteer* contact Annette at [afetter@kfohio.org](mailto:afetter@kfohio.org) or (216) 771-



**KIDNEY FOUNDATION**  
OF OHIO, INC.



### Hope Town

Hope Town promotes long-term recovery, self-initiative, and increased independence by providing residents with access to the resources they need to make lifestyle changes. Hope Town Recovery Housing aims to remove common barriers to successful recovery by providing affordable housing in conjunction with other services to help residents and the recovery community at large sustain quality of life improvements. Hope Town has opened a 15-bed female

recovery house in Windham to go along with the 20-bed male house. They also run Hope Town on Wheels, a transportation service to provide rides to medical appointments, treatment and recovery meetings! Many of the residents are getting jobs and successfully graduating treatment. [Read more at their website.](#)



For more volunteer opportunities, sign up or login in here to our volunteer portal. Make a difference today by joining us at UWPC to unite people with resources to improve the quality of life of families and individuals in Portage County.

<https://uwportage.galaxydigital.com>

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**Follow United Way of Portage County for events and updates**



**You are *not* alone.**  
If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. *Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org*  
**There is always hope.**



**LIVE UNITED**