

Thank You Ball State!

Because of your generous fundraising efforts and personal donations over the last few years, United Way of Delaware, Henry and Randolph Counties has met and even exceeded our campaign goals. Decades ago, our board of directors created an Emergency Fund to address emergent nonprofit needs. Thanks to your support, we've been able to replenish funds that were granted out to help agencies when unbudgeted emergency expenses arose—like having a boiler go out in the middle of winter. This Emergency Fund allowed us to respond to the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic without hesitation. Because of your support, this emergency funding was available for local non-profits who continue to serve our most vulnerable populations. ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families have been some of the hardest hit by the economic strains of the pandemic. These are the same families that United Way has been working to help for years through the various programs and organizations they fund in our community.

Within the first four months, United Way was able to provide over \$100,000 to nearly 30 non-profits assisting those struggling the most with the difficulties presented by the pandemic. Funding support for emergent needs included food distribution, childcare, utility and rent assistance, support for our shelters and treatment centers, safety equipment, and support for remote learning. During the pandemic, our United Way has convened non-profits, funders, and partners together for weekly meetings to discuss the needs they are seeing across the county and led discussions on how best to meet those needs, collaborate and share resources. As we now transition to recovery, United Way of Delaware, Henry and Randolph Counties has been awarded \$1.1 million to be invested in long-term recovery and resiliency, made possible through a partnership between Lilly Endowment, Inc. and Indiana United Ways.

Even amidst these difficult times, our United Way has not lost focus on our Bold Goal to have all third graders reading at grade level by 2024. With the second half of the Spring Semester being completed online, many children are at risk for experiencing what is known as “summer slide”—losing ground on the reading skills built over the previous school year. Thankfully, we were still able to safely host our Summer Book Give-Away and deliver approximately 7,500 books to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders of Grissom, Longfellow, and South View Elementary Schools! Each child was able to choose their own twelve books to add to their home library, ensuring that they are interested in the content of the material. This makes them more likely to read throughout the summer months, helping to maintain and improve their reading ability during the school break.

None of this important work would be possible without your help and support of United Way's annual campaign! Thank you, Ball State University, for your extraordinary commitment to our community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jenni".

Jenni Marsh
President & CEO
United Way of Delaware, Henry, and Randolph Counties