

# Great Rivers United Way

## Frequently Asked Questions



### **Why should I give to Great Rivers United Way?**

Great Rivers United Way and our Partner Programs are making a difference every day in the lives of children, individuals and families within our five-county region. We all win when a child succeeds in school, when families are financially stable and when people are in good health.

### **Who does Great Rivers United Way serve?**

In 2015, Great Rivers United Way invested in 73 Partner Programs supported by 28 non-profit agencies within a five-county region – La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, Vernon, and Houston. By investing in these programs, we were able to unite people and resources to improve the lives of those in need.

### **Isn't it better to give directly to the agency?**

Your gift, donated directly to any agency, helps our community. The value of giving a gift through Great Rivers United Way is that you address multiple community needs. You can also be assured your dollars are going directly to programs that are being held accountable. To direct your contribution to a specific impact area or agency, just complete the donor designation section of our pledge form.

### **Who decides where the money goes?**

People like you who reside in our five-county region. Community volunteers from all walks of life review program applications, make funding recommendations and prioritize community needs to ensure that your dollars are spent wisely and efficiently within our region. If you'd like to be a part of the community investment process, give us a call at (608) 796-1400.

### **How does Great Rivers United Way ensure financial integrity?**

To maintain fiscal responsibility, Great Rivers United Way staff operates under the oversight of a Board of Directors. Monthly financial statements are reviewed and approved by the Treasurer, Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. An independent audit is conducted annually and presented by the auditor to the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors for approval.

### **What are Great Rivers United Way's administrative costs?**

We keep administrative costs low, investing the majority of funds raised directly to local programs that support individuals and families. For the last five years, Great Rivers United Way's administrative and fundraising expenses have been at less than 15%.

### **I'll never use your services, so why should I give?**

When we reach out a hand to one, we influence the condition of all. By focusing on the areas of Education, Income and Health, together we can create positive change within the lives of others – benefitting our community as a whole.

### **What if I don't want my money to fund a certain program or service?**

First, be sure that program is funded by Great Rivers United Way. If your objection is about a program currently funded, consider targeting your donation to an agency or impact area of choice. You can designate where your donation goes by completing the donor designation portion on your pledge form.

### **Is my United Way contribution tax deductible?**

Great Rivers United Way is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Your donation is tax deductible as long as no goods or services were received for your donation. Please consult your tax accountant for more information.

### **What is the Great Rivers United Way's relationship with United Way Worldwide?**

Great Rivers United Way is a local autonomous organization led by a volunteer Board of Directors. United Way Worldwide is completely separate organization that provides training, research data, items with the United Way logo and other services that are more cost-effective to produce on a national scale. United Way Worldwide has no role in determining how funds raised locally are invested.