

## Fast Facts:

### 18 Reasons to Support Great Rivers United Way

1. Great Rivers United Way unites more than 200 corporate partners, 4,200+ donors, and 52 local programs, who fight for lasting change in our shared seven-county community.
2. Great Rivers United Way fights to increase academic success. During the 2018-19 school year, 92% of youth served by our programs developed soft skills such as communication and time management.
3. Great Rivers United Way fights to increase percent of students reading at proficient or higher. When a child can read proficiently by third grade, they are set up for success for the rest of their school career. Since 2016, Great Rivers United Way Read to Success program has paired adult volunteers with local third graders to improve reading and comprehension skills. Though it has been sidelined due to the pandemic, Read to Success most recently provided more than 70 volunteers who tutor over 100 third graders in 16 area schools.
4. Great Rivers United Way fights to foster early brain development and improve kindergarten readiness. Reading to young children is proven to improve and help along the process of cognitive development. Since January 2020, Great Rivers United Way has distributed 10,164 books to 1,189 local children.
5. Great Rivers United Way fights to stabilize household economic situations so people experience thriving lives. In 2019, 83.5% of individuals served by our programs increased disposable income by accessing benefits and/or reducing household costs.
6. Great Rivers United Way fights for families facing economic challenges to maximize their tax returns. During the 2019-20 tax season, \$234,584 dollars were returned to local individuals and families that leverage our national partnership with MyFreeTaxes.
7. Great Rivers United Way fights for the health of the community. In partnership with other community organizations and its own Great Rivers HUB initiative, GRUW's goal of supporting a healthy and socially-connected community is becoming a reality. In 2019, 16,445 individuals participated in programming for physical activity, nutrition, and accessing healthy food.
8. Great Rivers United Way works across our seven-county region and convenes resources, volunteers, experts, and other service providers for short-term relief and long-term success.
9. Great Rivers United Way invests in local programs in the areas of health, education, and financial stability – the building blocks to a good quality of life. We all win when a child succeeds in school, when families have good health, and when workers have solid jobs.
10. A single gift to Great Rivers United Way helps hundreds of thousands of people. In 2020, 49,864 local people accessed United Way funded programs 488,280 times.

11. A gift to Great Rivers United Way's Community Impact Fund is the most strategic way to invest in the community. Our community's problems are interrelated, and the diverse programs this fund supports work together to address the complex challenges of poverty, mental health, homelessness, and more, in a way that no single agency, donor, volunteer, or sector of the community can do alone.
12. Great Rivers United Way fights for childhood success. By organizing and facilitating nurturing environments for learning, GRUW collaborates with the community to ensure every student is successful in primary school. In 2019, 118 children received individualized literacy support, and 1,306 families were provided with resources and training.
13. Great Rivers United Way has a goal to improve access to prevention and intervention for mental health in our community by 2022. Your gift to its Community Investment Fund allows GRUW to invest in critical prevention and intervention programming for those at risk for mental health crisis and suicide.
14. Volunteers transform communities. In 2020, volunteers logged 7,679 hours of time with an estimated value of \$208,869 on GRUW's website, Ugetconnected.
15. Great Rivers United Way fights for improved health and access to healthcare. In 2019, 16,979 youth and adults received access to health care programs and services, and more than 2,500 individuals gained access to health insurance.
16. Great Rivers United Way fights for youth to gain knowledge and skills to obtain family-sustainable employment. During the 2018-19 school year, 5,152 youth received individualized support and/or participated in out-of-school time programs.
17. Great Rivers United Way fights for financial stability by improving socioeconomic status throughout the community. In 2019, 2,706 individuals benefited from programs that assisted in accessing affordable housing, financial products, and services.
18. Great Rivers United Way supports a healthy and socially-connected community. GRUW houses Better Together, a mental health project that seeks to help youth better understand mental wellness, and enhance coping and resiliency. In 2019, 3,836 adults were trained in skills building programs like Mental Health First Aid, Trauma Informed Care Education, and Mental Health Literacy.