

FAST FACTS

25 Great Reasons to Support Great Rivers United Way



Great Rivers United Way

1. Great Rivers United Way unites more than 200 corporate partners, 3,400+ donors, and 51 local programs, who fight for lasting change in our shared seven-county community.
2. In 2021, Great Rivers United Way funded services were utilized once every 44 seconds.
3. Great Rivers United Way fights to increase academic success. During the 2020-21 school year, 94% of youth served by our programs developed soft skills such as communication and time management.
4. 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. Read to Success most recently provided more than 70 volunteers who tutor over 100 third graders in 16 area schools.
5. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Americans ages 10 to 34. In 2021, Great Rivers United Way funded programming answered 1,277 crisis calls; a necessity to serve people at their most vulnerable times.
6. 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 2021, Great Rivers United Way has distributed 4,980 books to 415 local children.
7. Great Rivers United Way fights to stabilize household economic situations so people experience thriving lives. In 2021, 86% of individuals served by our programs increased disposable income by accessing benefits and/or reducing household costs.
8. Great Rivers United Way fights for families facing economic challenges to maximize their tax returns. During the 2020-21 tax season, \$64,021 dollars were returned to local individuals and families that took advantage of Great Rivers United Way's partnership with MyFreeTaxes.
9. 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 2021, 17,083 individuals participated in programming for physical activity, nutrition, and accessing healthy food.
10. A single gift to Great Rivers United Way helps hundreds of thousands of people. In 2021, 32,854 local people accessed United Way funded programs 716,493 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. Half of all lifetime mental illnesses begin by age 14, 75% by age 24. Great Rivers United Way funded programming provided 4,143 Coulee Region youth mental health prevention, intervention, and treatment services in 2021.

Continued on reverse...



13. 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 2021, 655 children received individualized literacy support, and 1,551 families were provided with resources and training.
14. Great Rivers United Way has a goal to improve access to prevention and intervention for mental health in our community by 2023. 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. In 2021, Great Rivers United Way funded programming provided 41,834 meals to those in recovery and prevention programs.
15. Forty percent of child abuse victims also report experiencing domestic violence. In 2021, Great Rivers United Way funded programming served a total of 1,096 people experiencing domestic violence and 402 children experiencing child abuse. An additional 186 families were served in 2021, by GRUW funded programming, to prevent child abuse.
16. Volunteers transform communities. In 2021, volunteers on GRUW website Ugetconnected logged 6,260 hours of time. This is an estimated value of \$178,667 given back to the Coulee Region!
17. Great Rivers United Way fights for improved health and access to healthcare. In 2021, 15,965 individuals received access to health care programs and services, and more than 200 individuals gained access to health insurance.
18. Great Rivers United Way fights for youth to gain knowledge and skills to obtain family-sustainable employment. During the 2020-21 school year, 6,549 youth received individualized support and/or participated in out-of-school time programs.
19. Great Rivers United Way fights for financial stability by improving socioeconomic status throughout the community. In 2021, 2,250 individuals benefited from programs that assisted in accessing affordable housing, financial products, and services.
20. On average, it takes a victim seven times to leave an abusive relationship before staying away for good. Exiting the relationship is the most unsafe time for a victim. With Great Rivers United Way funding, 3,327 nights of shelter were provided to those experiencing Domestic Violence in the Coulee Region.
21. More than 400 seniors get help every year from United Way through home delivered meals, respite care, transportation to medical appointments, and more.
22. Great Rivers United Way sits at the table of some of our community's most pressing topics to advocate for those utilizing various community services. Staff at Great Rivers United Way are involved and invested in 55 community collaboratives, initiatives, and committees.
23. Investment in the development of our youth is the key to generations of success. In 2021, GRUW funds provided training to 278 youth development staff to provide quality programs and services to our most vulnerable population.
24. Having a livable wage allows community members to buy goods and services, live a quality life and support our community's economic growth. In 2021, Great Rivers United Way funding assisted 2,528 individuals with job skills training to work towards securing a livable wage.
25. 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.

