

## UNITED WAY OF ILLINOIS 2012-2013 Officers and Board Members

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United Way of Rock River Valley  
Rockford, IL

### LIVE UNITED



United Way of Illinois

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### BOARD MEMBERS:

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#### Michael Stephan

Heart of Illinois United Way  
Peoria, IL



# UNITED WAY OF ILLINOIS

## Fiscal 2013 Annual Report



2013 LOBBY DAY IN SPRINGFIELD



**United Way of Illinois (UWI)** is a statewide association of 52 local organizations that create long-lasting community change in helping children and youth achieve their potential, promoting financial stability and family independence and improving people's health.



**Dear United Way of Illinois Members and Friends,**

As we approach our annual meeting, I want to report the progress we have made this year. I continue to be encouraged by the extent to which the people of our state genuinely care about the welfare of their fellow residents. Our organization and those with whom we partner have raised hundreds of millions of dollars and volunteered untold hours of service all for the purpose of improving the wellbeing of the individuals, families and communities we serve. That attitude and the dedication exhibited by our members and those with whom we partner make me proud to have had the opportunity to be the chairman of your statewide United Way organization this year.

Our public policy achievements this year include the following:

1. The Legislature passed an expansion of the Medicaid program to broaden the range of residents who have access to healthcare. That bill aligns with our policy priority to ensure access to care and was supported by a broad coalition of groups including the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois Hospital Association and a wide range of civic and social service organizations.
2. As part of the Common Core Coalition, a diverse group of organizations committed to providing the children of Illinois with the best education possible, United Way of Illinois co-sponsored a series of events that educated over 500 people about the state's new learning standards that will better prepare students for college and the workplace.
3. In support of our policy efforts to reduce unnecessary state administrative burdens on human service providers, legislators were provided with our "Statement on Transparency" to prevent well intentioned proposals from resulting in redundant or undue burden on social service providers.

As we look back on the public policy issues with which we have been involved and the things which we have accomplished over the past several years, we have a right to be proud. Those achievements include enabling legislation to build a statewide 2-1-1 system; the enactment of the Human Services Commission; and simplified audit procedures for our partner agencies who receive state funds.

Clearly our work is not over. We look forward to continuing our efforts in the year ahead with the support of people and organizations that GIVE, ADVOCATE, and VOLUNTEER. Thank you for helping us advance the LIVE UNITED movement throughout the state of Illinois now and in the future.

Sincerely,

**Lane Harvey**  
Chairman  
United Way of Illinois



## Advancing the Common Good Through Public Policy

Our 2013 Public Policy Agenda focuses on four key areas:



### EDUCATION: Laying the foundation for future success

The preschool years are a critical time for children. Early-learning opportunities lay the foundation for success in college, work and life. Quality and affordable early childhood education ultimately will help reduce high school dropout rates.

**To ensure children receive a quality education and stay in school through graduation, United Way will:**

- Advocate to make high-quality, affordable, early-learning opportunities available to all children
- Promote partnerships that support family engagement and community-based involvement to improve student academic achievement
- Support comprehensive and consistent assessment and measurement standards from Pre-K through high school graduation

**SUCCESS:** As a member of the Core Coalition, UWI co-sponsored events that shared with more than 500 people information about the state's new learning standards. Common Core State Standards were designed to better prepare students for college and the workforce. The new standards will be implemented in all Illinois classes by the fall of 2013.



### INCOME: Building strong communities through financial stability

Financial stability has taken on greater importance for many Illinoisans as our economy struggles to rebound. Households that are financially stable and have sufficient income to support their families create a stronger community and economy.

**To ensure families and individuals have the resources they need to achieve financial stability, United Way will:**

- Improve access to income supports by encouraging the streamlining of local and state processes for critical public benefits
- Increase the impact of financial literacy education by advocating for the incorporation of quality standards and savings opportunities

**SUCCESS:** Legislation to eliminate the asset test for recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) will encourage saving among low income families. This allows families with more than \$3,000 in assets to receive cash assistance through the federal TANF program. In addition, the bill will save the Illinois Department of Human Services an estimated \$1 million in administrative costs annually.



### HEALTH: Improving People's Health

Access to healthcare is the key to ensuring Illinoisans can lead healthy lives. Receiving healthcare early in life and throughout adulthood is an important way to prevent obesity and chronic diseases that are becoming more prevalent today.

**To accomplish this goal, United Way will:**

- Support access to health care that connects people to affordable, comprehensive health services
- Promote strategies that develop healthy lifestyles and ultimately combat preventable, chronic disease

**SUCCESS:** UWI actively advocated for a bill that will expand Medicaid to an estimated 342,000 Illinoisans beginning in 2014. The law will give adults without dependent children access to health coverage. Expanding Medicaid will improve the health of vulnerable populations, add jobs to Illinois' economy and bring an estimated \$4.6 billion into the state in the form of Medicaid provider payments.



### COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING: Protecting Non-profits That Promote The Common Good

Much like roads, hospitals and schools, community services are part of our state's vital public infrastructure that must be maintained and strengthened. In order to continue advancing the common good, we must make sure the state has a well-managed network of community services.

**To ensure Illinois has the essential services that protect public health and safety, revitalize local economies and enhance learning, United Way will:**

- Advocate for a state budget that preserves the current level of investment in Illinois' health and human services
- Promote fair, efficient and transparent contracting practices between service providers and government funders
- Support efforts to reduce unnecessary state administrative burdens on human service providers and their programs
- Enhance community resources that ensure a seamless infrastructure of health and human service to support those in need

**SUCCESS:** UWI actively advocated for a state budget for fiscal year 2014 that requires shared sacrifice among state agencies and across functions of state government. Ending years of deep cuts to human services and education programs, legislators passed a state budget that stabilized funding for the Department of Human Services and the Illinois State Board of Education.