



United Way  
of Crawford County

# INVESTING IN & improving lives in OUR COMMUNITIES



Quarterly Newsletter of the United Way of Crawford County

Fall 2019

Volume 3 Edition

## Community Resource Representative: Barbara Shimer



As I meet more of the people in the agencies supported by United Way, I am humbled by

the amazing work that is done quietly by so many. We are fortunate to have such great folks who are creative, good at running a quality program with what resources they have and making lives measurably better in Crawford County.

There is still much to do. I hope to unite our area churches and agencies using Charity Tracker, a computer system that connects area agencies and unifies them powerfully.

United Way is reaching into the community to form a Marketing Committee made up of individuals with marketing expertise to help us tell our story. United Way does so many things that sometimes we have to remind ourselves what has been done. None of it would happen without the generosity of Crawford County donors. A Campaign Committee is also being formed

of area residents to help spread the campaign efforts to achieve a wider outreach throughout Crawford County. We want to engage and challenge Crawford County to improve the quality of life and a more secure future for our families and neighbors.

I challenge each one of you to reach out and perform an act of kindness. There is no gift too small. Compassion. Generosity. Patience. A smile. (Throw a coin in the fountain in the new park.) Together we make our community stronger. Contact me [bshimer@unitedwayofcrawfordcountyil.org](mailto:bshimer@unitedwayofcrawfordcountyil.org)



Local Troop 901 at the MPC kickoff





**Partner Agency: Catholic Charities**

Financial assistance (rent, utilities, propane, water, sewer) food pantry, mobile food pantry, medication assistance of various types, tax preparation assistance, legal services for simple civil matters, school supplies for the beginning of the school year, clothing vouchers and clothing at low cost, and counseling are some of the reasons people of Crawford County turn to Catholic Charities for assistance. United Way helps us provide some of these services to the people of Crawford County. Many of the people who are helped by these services you will probably never see or know; however, they know that people within their community are concerned about their welfare and they are grateful.

One lady sends a card, saying that she prays every day for the donors who remember her and give to agencies such as Catholic Charities.

Another lady wrote to us thanking us for helping her with her utility bill. Her husband had been in the hospital for 5 days. Her work hours had been cut and they got behind on their bills. Catholic Charities paid \$100 toward her utility bill and that helped tremendously. She didn't want any other assistance currently.

These are the stories of the people of Crawford County that are helped by United Way support.



**Partner Agency: Crawford Co. Health Dept.**

**Program Developments/Happenings:** I will focus on our Behavioral Health Services. We continue to host Catholic Charities twice a month for in person counseling sessions (with 8-10 clients seen each month). We also continue to host Dr. Harshawat for telehealth sessions each month (averaging 17- clients each month).

We are continuing to research and work on developing a behavioral health center or community mental health center for Crawford County. Our Americorps member attends monthly Community Behavioral Health Association meetings held in Mt. Vernon. She has completed a clinic policy and procedure manual and will assist the department in completing a community mental health center prequalification application.

**Special Events:** As part of our outreach, in September we participated in the Labor Day parade as well as the second annual Mental Health Awareness Day and Out of the Darkness Walk. We also just participated in the Heath Harvest parade.



Partner Agency: Helping His Hands Auto Ministry



Our Second Annual Banquet is on November 7th, 2019 at Highland Woods Community Center in Vincennes.

Tickets/sponsorship opportunities are available and are still needed. Call Tiffany at 812-494-2888

Please join us for dinner, along with a special presentation and live auction. This is an opportunity to make a difference in our community and in the lives of people beyond our home. Sponsorship and donations are needed to help disaster victims; low-income families needing food or vehicle maintenance and repairs; and disabled/ elderly persons needing ramps and low-rise steps. Your generosity will enable us to physically help and minister to those in need!

Beyond making an impact on our future and in the lives of others, this evening will be an opportunity for fun and fellowship with friends. We pray God will lead you to join us in our cause to help those in need.



Enjoying a book from Imagination Library

Partner Agency: SWAN Program  
Developments/Happenings:



October is Domestic Violence Month. SWAN is in the process of providing public education articles and other social and print media to promote this month. It is important that victims of domestic violence know that there is help for them and their children. No one should live with violence in their lives or in their home. For help call 1-888-715-6260

Special Events: Staff has been obtaining city proclamations to help with educating the public on the issue of Domestic Violence. Domestic violence programs are helping victims know that there is help for them and their families.

Staff or Client Spotlight: Legal advocates are available in each county served to ensure that victims of domestic violence can access services in their county of residence.

**How to Donate:** You can locate our pledge cards on our website at:

[www.unitedwayofcrawfordcountyil.org](http://www.unitedwayofcrawfordcountyil.org) or by pushing the Donate Crawford button on the same site or our FaceBook site of the same name.

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**MARK HILL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**