



UNITED WAY
Metro Chicago

2025/2026 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

JULY 2025



City Club of Chicago: Revitalizing Historically Disinvested Communities

United Way joined BMO and Austin Coming Together for an engaging conversation about how United Way's Neighborhood Network Initiative has created a blueprint for revitalizing disinvested communities.

NOVEMBER 2025



Response Fund Launches to Address Urgent Needs

United Way disbursed \$250,000 to 24 organizations providing critical food assistance programs amid rising needs.

SEPTEMBER 2025



2-1-1 Contact Center Moves to the South Side

Our 24/7/365 health and social services helpline opened at Xchange Chicago in Greater Grand Crossing, underscoring our commitment to helping residents meet their basic needs and investing in historically disinvested communities.



9/11 Day of Service with Women United and Young Leaders United

United Way's donor networks teamed up with Garfield Park Rite to Wellness Collaborative to beautify the neighborhood through trash pickup, gardening, and painting projects.

"The State of the Social Safety Net"

United Way launched the virtual discussion series, which explores how policy shifts affect basic needs and brings community voices together to showcase how we strengthen the social safety net.

DECEMBER 2025

"Uniting for the Holidays" Reclaims Holiday Joy

Our generous partners and donors provided 250 holiday meals for families in the west suburbs, plus toys and winter essentials for 1,000+ residents in Little Village.



JANUARY 2026

Neighborhood Network Launches in North Lawndale

With generous support from the Steans Family Foundation, North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council is building on a decade of community-driven progress.



OCTOBER 2025



A Toast to Tocqueville

United Way supporters at the \$10,000+ level visited the Aspire Center for Workforce Innovation and learned how the Austin Neighborhood Network's Quality of Life Plan is a thriving model for neighborhood transformation.

JANUARY 2026 (CONTINUED)



Chicago BridgeBuilders Fund Announces Cohort 5

Ten community-based organizations were selected to receive up to \$50,000 in unrestricted funds over two years, plus capacity building and networking.

South Chicago Launches Quality of Life Plan

The blueprint will guide transformative community development projects in the South Chicago Neighborhood Network.

FEBRUARY 2026



ITW Hires Local Residents in Austin

Through United Way's "Commit to a Neighborhood Initiative," West Side residents were hired at ITW's new Grand Avenue mechanical fastening facility.

MARCH 2026



Carole Robertson Center for Learning Unveils Remodeled Space

Supported by United Way through One Lawndale, the renovated flagship site in Little Village houses early childhood education and youth development programs.

APRIL 2026



Brighton Park Neighborhood Council Service Center Ribbon Cutting

The hub is a one-stop shop on Chicago's Southwest Side, providing vital social services and resources for residents.



Women United Annual Breakfast

Women leaders from Chicago's iconic cultural institutions shared how access to resources and learning is critical to building a stronger Chicago region.



April Food Day Helps Thousands Put Food on the Table

The annual event stocked pantry shelves in the Southland and also recognized leaders driving positive change: Vernard L. Alsberry Jr., Advocate Health Care, and Kiwanis Club of the Crestwood/Oak Forest Area.

MAY 2026

Response Fund Invests in Housing Programs

United Way awarded \$250,000 to 20 organizations to immediately address housing and homelessness prevention.



Sankofa Village Wellness Center Celebrates Opening

Garfield Park Rite to Wellness Collaborative cut the ribbon on a new hub bringing medical care, recreation, and community programs to the West Side.



Inaugural ChiNEXT Cohort Graduates

United Way's new program for early career professionals cultivates their journey of civic engagement as future business leaders.



Stronger Neighborhoods Awards

The annual awards luncheon honored Cheryl Francis and PNC and raised more than \$1.5 million to support United Way's work.

JUNE 2026

Sean Garrett Honored at Civic Federation's Annual Civic Awards

United Way of Metro Chicago's President & CEO received the Gage-Msall Award for his outstanding contribution and consistent dedication to civic issues across the Chicago region.



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