



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

United Way of Dane County has been here for our community for nearly 100 years – through times of prosperity and times of crisis. During the Great Depression and two world wars, our community fundraising met urgent needs. And, more recently, United Way has coordinated responses in the aftermath of 9/11, various natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic. Our ongoing focus to build family and community well-being makes United Way uniquely positioned to not only react, but to ensure positive, lasting change.

"When disaster faces our community, we support the efforts of emergency response agencies and we understand it is imperative that we assist long-term recovery efforts by leveraging our expertise in fundraising, community-led stewardship of investments and accountability for effective, measurable strategies that create stability." – **Renee Moe**, President & CEO of United Way of Dane County

Here are just a few examples of United Way's emergency response efforts over the past few years:

2020 COVID-19 Recovery and Relief

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, our community has seen a vast increase in hardships. In 2020, our 211 calls were up nearly 400%, people were losing their jobs and finding themselves in need of food, housing and utility assistance. Additionally, we saw an increase in requests for personal care items and mental health support, and parents and students needed educational resources to help them adapt to a virtual learning environment.

In response to this crisis, we launched the Dane County COVID-19 Emergency and Recovery Fund with the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County and Selfless Ambition last spring. 941 individual and corporate donors invested \$2.3M to provide financial relief for individuals and families affected by the pandemic. And local and national businesses stepped up to donate many in-kind items to help our community through this difficult time.

"Thank you for your generous support and quick action to distribute COVID-19 Relief Funds in 2020. Our collaboration was able to serve a total of 637 people in our community. These dollars have had an immense impact on helping vulnerable households with basic needs during this challenging time." -**Kristin Rucinski, Executive Director, The Road Home Dane County**

2018 Flood Relief

In 2018, disaster struck our community when several counties were hit by historic rainfall and flooding. Wisconsin Emergency Management and the Governor called on 211 to lead the efforts of reporting flood and storm damage across the state. This data was used by FEMA to grant our state a Major Disaster Declaration. United Way also formed a Flood Relief Fund to help flood victims in their long-term recovery. Dozens of individuals and local business owners generously invested nearly \$50,000 in the fund.

2018 Sun Prairie Disaster Relief

On July 10, 2018, a gas leak explosion devastated the city of Sun Prairie. Immediately following the explosion, 211 took more than 45 calls from those directly affected. United Way staff helped 20 individuals and families find resources at the Multi-Agency Resource Center at Sun Prairie High School. The Bank of Sun Prairie called upon United Way to help facilitate the distribution of more than \$614,000 in relief from hundreds of generous donors. United Way provided expert assistance in the direction of funds in a planful and constructive way.

Through fires and floods, and unprecedented pandemics, United Way of Dane County is dedicated to helping the community respond to emergencies of all kinds. We have been there for our community for nearly 100 years, and we're just getting started.