Inspired Individuals – Transformed Communities

Tocqueville Society Membership Dinner
Dear Fellow Tocqueville Members,

Welcome to the 2022 United Way of Dane County Tocqueville Society Membership Dinner. It’s an honor to host this year’s celebration at this beautiful venue, The Fields Reserve. Thank you to Baker Tilly and M3 Insurance for their generous sponsorship of this evening’s event.

For the past 100 years, United Way of Dane County has been a change catalyst, bringing the community together to address our toughest issues and most urgent needs. Since 1990, Tocqueville Society members have been inspired to give generously and lead the way in transforming our community.

Tocqueville Society is an amazing group of community philanthropists. Tonight, we honor all past Tocqueville Chairs who have led this endeavor. We also recognize our Tocqueville Legacy Circle members who have endowed their gift, ensuring this work continues for the next 100 years. Thank you to our 10-Year members for your longtime support! And welcome, new members who have joined since last year’s dinner.

Today, our Tocqueville Society includes more than 250 households and continues to grow. Together, we are the driving force of United Way's mission. Because of you, families can obtain and maintain stable housing, children have access to programs that enable them to succeed in school and more people across the community have equitable access to health care — all of which results in more families on pathways toward stability and well-being.

On behalf of United Way of Dane County and the United Way Tocqueville Society, thank you for your ongoing commitment to Dane County! We could not do this important work without your leadership. Enjoy the evening.

Christine Dahlhauser
Managing Partner,
Baker Tilly
A Tradition Worth Keeping

The Tocqueville Society receives its namesake from Alexis de Tocqueville, a French citizen who wrote so enthusiastically of North American volunteerism and giving for the sake of the common good in *Democracy in America*.

Written in 1835, Tocqueville captures the American spirit of community for all:

“America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.”

“When an American asks for the cooperation of his fellow citizens, it is seldom refused and I have often seen it afforded spontaneously, and with great good will…”

For over 30 years you, and those who came before you, have lived out these observations made almost 200 years ago.

**Words from the 1994 Program Booklet:**

The Alexis de Tocqueville Society consists of exceptional individuals, who believe that no community problem is insurmountable, and that the power of the caring individual is strong indeed.

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**1990s**

Tocqueville members quickly emerged as a force of leadership in our community. From our beginning, it was people like you who understood the importance of stepping forward to enact change.

1993 Honorees, Robert and Irwin Goodman, were noted for saying: *They apply the same philosophy to their community commitment as they do to their business – “Be kind and honest to people.”*

Tocqueville Society members are exceptional individuals who believe no community problem is insurmountable. Your leadership and generosity help United Way effectively move resources to meet Dane County’s greatest needs. The Society is an example of leadership giving at its finest.

*United Way believes in and is a community builder. It is much more than a fundraising organization. United Way seeks solutions to community challenges by collaborating with other organizations in an effort to make a difference and meet the needs of our community.*

—Hal Mayer, 1998 Tocqueville Society Chair

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**Our Growth in the 1990s:**

1990: 6 households donated $52,500
1999: 61 households donated $1,142,000
2000s

Tocqueville members sparked transformational change – as our membership grew so did the ways we came together to initiate positive community change. Not just in our gifts but in our collective energy to help our neighbors.

United Way does more than raise money for local nonprofits, we help build the community. We work together with other organizations to find solutions to the most pressing problems in our community, from child literacy to strong families. This is not an easy goal to accomplish.

–Doug and Patti Malmquist, 2000 Tocqueville Society Chairs

United Way is many, many hands coming together to make Dane County a great place to live.

–Dale and Lila Mathwich, 2002 Honorees

You asked United Way to develop solutions and not simply take the same approach to problems every year. United Way responded, and with community input, identified the Agenda for Change. Together with our partners, we are producing results.

–Lau Christensen, 2005 Tocqueville Society Chair

Tocqueville Society has a clear and significant effect on the progress we make in our community’s Agenda for Change. Without the support of leaders like you, we would not be able to achieve these results.

–Mike Victorson, 2009 United Way of Dane County Campaign Chair

Our Growth in the 2000s:

- 2009: 186 households donated $2,969,000
- 2000: 96 households donated $1,660,000

Top: Lau and Bea Christensen with Loren and Boo Mortenson
Bottom Left: Shirley Davie
Bottom Right: Karin and Mike Victorson
2010s

Tocqueville members offer thought leadership to uplift the community. Lending your voice, knowledge and expertise is critical to the success of United Way and our community. Time and time again, members leveraged their passion to give back through civic leadership.

For supportive community members and engaged civic leaders, membership in the Tocqueville Society provides a tangible way of getting involved and investing in sustained change for Dane County.

–Rich Lynch, 2010 Campaign Chair

The leadership of Tocqueville Society ensures that our entire community has the opportunity to pursue and achieve their dreams. We are proud to lead these efforts alongside an inspiring group of engaged and innovative volunteers and philanthropists.

–Mary Schmoeger and Julie Rupert, 2015 Tocqueville Society Chairs

Tocqueville Society leverages the passion and philanthropy of leaders from across our community to tackle Dane County’s critical problems through United Way’s proven strategies. I’m proud to be a Tocqueville member because I know my gift is maximized to make the greatest impact in our community.

–Jim Power, 2017 Tocqueville Society Chair

I like being a part of Tocqueville because its priorities overlap so much with our priorities for giving – education, housing stability and child hunger. And, we like that Tocqueville is so well respected in the community and can carry a strong voice for change on our behalf.

–Betty Bergquist, 2019-2020 Tocqueville Society Chair

Our Growth in the 2010s:

2010: 202 households donated $3,222,000
2019: 242 households donated $4,125,000
2020s

Tocqueville Society steps up in a challenging time – further proving just how integral you are to The Power of Many. Working for All. Members like you bring visionary leadership that prioritizes the well-being of Dane County. We’re beyond grateful!

“It’s the ability of United Way to pull together the public, private and nonprofit sectors. It is that interconnectivity across the ecosystem that really sets United Way apart…”

–Dan and Patti Rashke, 2020 Honorees, on why they give to United Way

We are incredibly grateful for the generous leaders in our community who recognize the impactful work being done by United Way of Dane County. Tocqueville gifts propel meaningful research, programs, community connections and change that otherwise would not exist – building a foundation for families and our community’s well-being.

–Christine Dahlhauser, 2022 Tocqueville Society Chair

Our Current Impact:

250 households donate $4,570,000

Tocqueville Society: A Tradition Worth Keeping

The progress made thus far on the Agenda for Change is the result of a community-wide effort to address the issues that matter to our community. At the core of that effort is Tocqueville Society.

–Dan Stafford, 2008 Tocqueville Society Chair

At some point you have to realize that it’s not about what you’ve accomplished, but what you can do for other people.

–Marv Levy, 2010 Honoree

Give as much as you can as often as you can, and just be kind.

–Edye and Jac Garner, 2019 Honorees

Everyone deserves an opportunity to have happiness, a sense of pride, a safe space to live and learn and love and grow. Our endowed Tocqueville Legacy Circle gift with the United Way of Dane County Foundation will make this possible for families in our community.

–Dorothy Steffens and Laura Williams

Top: Irving Levy, Marv Levy (seated, l, r), Jeff Levy, Leslie Ann Howard (standing)  
Middle: Edye and Jac Garner  
Bottom: Dorothy Steffens
Our deepest appreciation to

for underwriting support of our
2022 Tocqueville Society Membership Dinner.

We extend thanks to each and every one of you for your commitment to United Way as members of the Tocqueville Society.

You are changing lives in our community, measurably and for the long term.

Tocqueville Society was created by United Way nationally in 1984 to celebrate the legacy of Alexis de Tocqueville, whose 1835 Democracy in America celebrated the impact of North American volunteerism and giving for the sake of the common good. Today, 410 Tocqueville Societies across the network connect like-minded philanthropic leaders from over 23,000 households who invest more than $568 million annually. In Dane County, Tocqueville Society was launched in 1990 by Jerry M. Hiegel and Oscar G. Mayer and today has grown to over 250 households among its ranks who have invested over $73 million in our community to improve lives.

These resources have been invested in effective community strategies, increasing literacy and graduation rates, decreasing family homelessness, increasing pathways to family-sustaining wages and much more.

Your support is leveraged many times over as United Way convenes the community to tackle the toughest issues, collaborate on key initiatives and measure results through community-wide metrics within the Agenda for Change.
Our Community’s Agenda for Change

Education
Students succeed academically and graduate from high school prepared for higher education, career and community.

Income
Dane County families are economically stable.

Health
A Dane County absent of racial health disparities.

2Gen (Multigenerational Approach)
Families with children under five who are experiencing poverty have coordinated access to cross-generational supports to meet their needs in the areas of education, income and health.

Through collaborative work with local businesses, nonprofits, community leaders, donors, volunteers and families, we’re addressing big-picture issues no one person or organization can solve alone. That’s The Power of Many. Working for All.