



# Income



**Goal: More people are on pathways out of poverty, ending family homelessness.**

When more individuals have jobs earning family-sustaining wages and safe and affordable housing, they are less stressed and more able to provide for themselves and their families – better positioning the entire community and our economy to thrive. At United Way, we’re invested in local nonprofits and programs that help families get what they need to be economically stable through job training, homelessness prevention and affordable housing.

**Measure: People living above 200% of the Federal Poverty Level in Dane County.**

## Addressing Family Homelessness

At United Way, we believe everyone deserves a place of their own to call home. But finding safe and affordable housing in Dane County isn’t always easy. By investing in programs that help families avoid eviction and rapidly re-house those that do become homeless, we’re helping parents/caregivers and their children build a solid foundation for success across all areas of life. **Through our Reducing School Mobility Collaborative** – a program focused on keeping families in their homes and kids attending the same school, funded, in part, by The Siemer Institute – **we were able to help 174 families in 2023 at risk of losing their housing with financial assistance and individualized case management** with our partners at Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin (CAC), Cultural Practices that are Relevant, Stoughton Area Resource Team (START) and WayForward Resources.

## Journey Home

Led with our partners at JustDane, Journey Home works to reduce recidivism (return to prison) and creates a stronger community. This is accomplished by helping recently-incarcerated individuals find housing, employment, support and treatment as well as transportation and education. **In 2023, resource specialists met one-on-one with 446 individuals, getting them the support and resources they need to thrive in our community.**



**21,630** *Dane County Neighbors Supported in 2023*



**HIRE Initiative:**

In 2013, we launched our HIRE Initiative – a program that focuses on helping adults prepare for and find steady employment. We partner with six local nonprofits and 50 local employers through this initiative and, in 2023, we helped 613 people find new or better employment – 320 of those landing in jobs paying \$18+/hour.

Mike was one of those people.



When Mike was looking for a new career path, he turned to our HIRE Initiative. Through the support of our partners at the Latino Academy, he began pursuing his Commercial Driver’s License (CDL), knowing it would lead to a well-paying career. This collaboration provided Mike with financial support for his CDL training, covering costs and furnishing resources for study materials. Once he received his CDL – after training with enthusiasm and determination – we helped to place him at a job earning \$28/hour, plus great benefits.



*I really respect United Way’s commitment to the work we’re all doing – because we need that umbrella organization that pulls us together. Together, we can align with a greater vision for community and make greater impact.*

*– Karen Menéndez Coller, Executive Director, Centro Hispano.*

