



United Way of Dane County

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

At United Way of Dane County, we are incredibly saddened by last week's attacks in Atlanta. We hold the victims' families and our Asian American community here at home and across the country in our hearts during this difficult time.

The increase in violence towards the Asian American community since the start of the pandemic is unacceptable. **And it goes to show that racism truly is a public health crisis.** If these challenging times have shown us anything, it's that there are many among us who are hurting – and we stand by you all. As our President & CEO, Renee Moe, **so truthfully put it in her personal statement:**

*"United Way believes Black Lives Matter, knows that Hispanic/Latinx community members have been amongst the hardest hit by the pandemic, that Indigenous, Asian, LGBTQ+ and disabled community members are often invisible while at the same time facing significant exclusion and hatred, and that all low-income community members (who are majority white) face education, housing, income and health barriers. **And, we know that we need each other to have a strong community, build understanding and make progress.**"*

At United Way of Dane County, we're working hard to address hurt and suffering by working to provide access to the building blocks of well-being – education, financial stability and health supports. **We have the experience, relationships and knowledge to do this work. But we can't do it alone.**

We're calling on each and every one of you to do the hard work with us. Face your biases and the realities of your privilege (no matter what they may be), and challenge yourself and those around you to treat all with compassion and humanity. Channel your hurt, pain and disappointment into nurturing and supportive actions. **Because while the issues sparked by centuries of racism and the resulting inequities might not be our fault, they are our responsibility. And it's up to us to change how we treat each other.**

At United Way, we will do our part by continuing to bring the community together to tackle the root causes of our toughest issues, and fight to change the systems that enable inequities in our community. And, we will continue to build relationships and trust to foster compassion and the ability to live and work together. The strength that holds us together is community. **Together, we are The Power of Many. Working for All.**

Will you join us?

