



# 2018-19 IMPACT REPORT

Fighting for the education, financial stability and health of every person in our community.

United  
Way



United Way  
of Greater Topeka

**Thank you for joining the fight for the education, financial stability and health of everyone in our community by donating to United Way of Greater Topeka during our 2018-19 campaign year.**

Last year 456 new donors joined the fight for a better community, even in the face of new tax laws that have affected charitable deductions for individual giving across the country. Twice as many of you stepped up to make a Tocqueville-level investment in the future of our families and children. Corporate gifts, including matches to employee giving, rose by more than \$30,000.

### **Your heart is showing.**

Because of you, we were able to create **brand new tutoring opportunities in three school districts** serving 263 students. The relationships that have been developed with these districts will help us better understand the effectiveness of tutoring interventions and how to work together to create an approach that best fits the needs of an individual school.

Because of you, we are able to continue the hard work of collective impact—**bringing diverse and established partners together in new ways** that will improve service and ultimately make it easier to help those needing a hand up.

Because of you, we expanded our designation list to help **community partners whose work strives toward the same goals** but who may not work in the specific strategies currently being funded.

Our community is experiencing unprecedented need, and there are many trusted agencies worthy of your contributions. United Way works to bring more partners to the impact table, whether through grants, collaborations, task forces or volunteer opportunities. Thank you for supporting this community-building work last year, and thank you for saying yes when the opportunity comes around this year.

**Please pledge loudly this year to JOIN THE FIGHT!**

Jessica Lehnerr  
President & CEO  
United Way of Greater Topeka



**United Way  
of Greater Topeka**





### EARLY EDUCATION

- High-quality early learning opportunities with pre-literacy, social-emotional, and numeracy components.
- Increase access to early education for those at risk.
- Home visits that help develop school readiness traits.
- School readiness education for early childhood providers.
- Summer enrichment programs that enhance pre-literacy/school readiness.

SEAMAN SCHOOLS (MATHES EARLY LEARNING CENTER)  
 TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS (PINE RIDGE PREP PRESCHOOL)  
 PARENTS AS TEACHERS (USD 501)  
 TDC LEARNING CENTERS, INC.  
 CHILD CARE AWARE OF NE KANSAS

YWCA OF NORTHEAST KANSAS  
 DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY  
 CAPITAL AREA SUCCESSFUL START  
 KANSAS PRESCHOOL PILOT



### ON-GRADE ACHIEVEMENT

- One-to-one or small-group interventions with qualified adult tutors.
- Increase access to support, including school-based coordinators.
- Increase self-esteem, self-worth, social skills and life skills while also giving students the knowledge to avoid risky behavior.
- Improve school attendance by addressing individual/family needs.
- Provide after-school/summer enrichment to prevent summer learning loss.

SHAWNEE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS  
 SEAMAN SCHOOLS  
 TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
 COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF MID-AMERICA, INC.

YWCA OF NORTHEAST KANSAS  
 SHAWNEE COUNTY CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE-LEVEL READING  
 BOOK-RICH ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE



### FINANCIAL STABILITY

- Increase access to/participation in training and job-skill development.
- Connect low-income families and individuals to long-term, consistent financial mentors.
- Provide evidence-based, one-to-one and/or group budgeting and money management training.
- Increase the number of youth who understand financial literacy concepts like finance, budgeting, taxes and student loans.

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION MINISTRIES (CaRE PROGRAM)  
 COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS (CIS), INC.  
 OF MID-AMERICA (FUTURENOW: FINANCE)

HOUSING AND CREDIT COUNSELING, INC. (HOPE PROGRAM)  
 VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)  
 MY FREE TAXES



### HEALTH

- Improve access to healthy foods and beverages.
- Increase opportunities for physical activity.
- Advocate for positive changes to local food systems.

HEARTLAND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS  
 SHAWNEE COUNTY FARM AND FOOD TASK FORCE/ADVISORY COUNCIL

DEER CREEK SUMMER READ AND RIDE



### BASIC NEEDS PARTNERS (Food, Rent/Utilities, Healthcare and Prescription Assistance, Safety from Domestic Violence)

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF TOPEKA  
 CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
 COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.  
 DOORSTEP, INC.  
 GRACEMED HEALTH CLINIC  
 HARVESTERS  
 HEALTH ACCESS  
 HOLTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL (JA)

JACKSON COUNTY MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE (JA)  
 JEFFERSON COUNTY SERVICE ORG.  
 KANSAS LEGAL SERVICES, INC.  
 LET'S HELP, INC.  
 LIFEHOUSE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER  
 MARIAN DENTAL CLINIC  
 MEALS ON WHEELS OF EASTERN KS, INC.

MIRROR, INC.  
 MULTI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. (JA)  
 NEK-CAP, INC. (JA)  
 POSITIVE CONNECTIONS  
 TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION, INC.  
 YWCA CENTER FOR SAFETY & EMPOWERMENT





# EARLY EDUCATION



United Way  
of Greater Topeka

**GOAL:** CHILDREN ARE READY TO ENTER KINDERGARTEN



Pine Ridge Prep



## 61,757

BOOKS PROVIDED  
TO CHILDREN  
UNDER 6 YEARS OLD\*



## 735

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN  
HIGH-QUALITY EARLY  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## \$416,250

UNITED WAY  
DONOR DOLLARS  
INVESTED

### TDC Learning Centers: Connecting the Dots

In the Pre-K room, R. was battling a variety of social-emotional and behavioral issues. Her parents were on board with TDC's referrals and had Family Service & Guidance Center get involved as well. These meetings resulted in recommendations for doctor appointments and intensive testing at Children's Mercy in Kansas City. The doctors actually determined that R. was having seizures.

Thanks to the intervention of her preschool teachers, R. now takes medication to control her seizure activity. Adjusting to medication was difficult, but R. has made improvements socially, emotionally, and behaviorally. Her teachers say Miss R. is a ray of sunshine and has made so much progress. She is a polite, sweet, and caring little girl who is prepared to start kindergarten in large part thanks to teachers who did more than teach letters and numbers.

## \$3million

IN EARLY EDUCATION GRANTS  
MANAGED ANNUALLY BY UNITED  
WAY OF GREATER TOPEKA



## 79%

OF STUDENTS SERVED  
ENTER KINDERGARTEN  
WITH SCHOOL READINESS  
SKILLS

## PARTNERS

- SEAMAN SCHOOLS
- TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- PARENTS AS TEACHERS  
(TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS)
- TDC LEARNING CENTERS
- CHILD CARE AWARE OF NE  
KANSAS
- YWCA OF NORTHEAST  
KANSAS



\* Books provided through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and UWGT's Junior Leader Reader program.



# ON-GRADE ACHIEVEMENT



United Way  
of Greater Topeka

**GOAL:** STUDENTS STAY ON TRACK IN ELEMENTARY READING AND MATH



MEADOWS TUTORING



## 450

CHILDREN SERVED IN  
TUTORING AND SCHOOL  
SUPPORT PROGRAMS

## 74%

REDUCTION IN SCHOOL  
BEHAVIORAL REFERRALS  
AMONG STUDENTS SERVED

## \$306,136

UWGT DONOR DOLLARS  
INVESTED

### USD 450 Tecumseh North, Specialized Tutoring

J. is the perfect example of the successes of this program. He came into 1st grade reading at mid-Kindergarten level and hating reading. His mom emailed his teachers within two weeks of the program telling them that she had seen such a change in J. He was requesting to be read to at home and couldn't wait to stay for Book Club the following day. Since his attitude towards reading improved, he wanted to read his homework sent home by his classroom teacher. He left 1st grade reading at exactly the level he was supposed to, and he now loves reading!

## 68%

IMPROVEMENT IN CHRONIC  
ABSENCES AMONG STUDENTS  
IN UNITED WAY SUPPORTED  
INTERVENTIONS



## 263

CHILDREN SERVED IN NEW  
TUTORING INITIATIVES AT  
LOGAN, TECUMSEH NORTH AND  
MEADOWS ELEMENTARIES



YWCA F.E.A.T.S.

## PARTNERS

- SHAWNEE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS
- SEAMAN SCHOOLS
- TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF MID-AMERICA
- YWCA OF NORTHEAST KANSAS



# FINANCIAL STABILITY



**GOAL: MORE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES ARE FINANCIALLY STABLE**



**900**

**HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS GOT EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ABOUT FINANCIAL LITERACY**



**74%**

**OF PARTICIPANTS IN FINANCIAL MENTORING REDUCED THEIR PERSONAL DEBT**

**\$159,000**

**UWGT DONOR DOLLARS INVESTED**

## **CIS-FutureNow Finance, Youth Financial Literacy (It's for teachers too!)**

Creating a new generation of financially stable adults starts with today's teens. Impact partner Communities in Schools of Mid-America brings the **FutureNow: Finance** simulation to schools with the help of community volunteers. They measure the students' awareness of personal finance before the event and again after, and they ask the participants to share what they have learned. Teachers have shared how this information has translated into students taking their academic work more seriously, improving study habits and setting goals related to higher education.

This year CIS added Rossville Jr/Sr High School to its schedule (in addition to Topeka High, Highland Park and Topeka West). The students and school staff were very welcoming and excited to host this event. In fact, something rather unique took place in Rossville – a few teachers participated in the simulation event. These teachers were in their mid-twenties and felt that they too could learn something from FNF. The feedback received from the teachers was just as impactful as the feedback from the students. Several teachers said, "I wish I learned this information when I was in school. It would have made my early twenties a lot easier."

**87%**

**OF ADULTS SERVED EARNED JOB-RELEVANT LICENSES, CERTIFICATES OR OTHER CREDENTIALS**

**>80**

**FAMILIES PARTICIPATED IN FINANCIAL MENTORING PROGRAMS**

**\$1,385,100**

**IN TAX PREPARATION FEES SAVED BY LOW-INCOME AND SENIOR TAXPAYERS USING VITA/AARP FREE TAX FILING ASSISTANCE SUPPORTED BY A \$5,000 UWGT INVESTMENT**

## **PARTNERS**

**TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION MINISTRIES**

**COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS (CIS) OF MID-AMERICA**

**HOUSING AND CREDIT COUNSELING, INC.**



# HEALTH & ADVOCACY



United Way  
of Greater Topeka

**GOAL:** MORE INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS AND BEVERAGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.

2018 was the first year UWGT implemented a board-approved Policy Agenda for issue advocacy at the state and local levels. We also support federal advocacy that is consistent with United Way Worldwide priorities. This agenda is part of a comprehensive effort to **ensure child and youth success, promote financial stability and self-sufficiency, support healthy individuals and neighborhoods, and ensure a solid foundation for our community.** That solid foundation includes basic needs like food.

Our advocacy and health work intersected over the past 18 months as United Way oversaw the planning of a new **Shawnee County Farm and Food Advisory Council (SCFFAC).** The SCFFAC will bring together diverse public and private stakeholders to improve access to locally grown and healthy foods and strengthen our community food system.

The SCFFAC will:

- Identify and recommend policy initiatives;
- Educate about healthy and locally produced foods;
- Enhance economic development related to the local food system;
- Increase consistent and equitable access to affordable, nutritionally adequate, culturally relevant, and safe food for all Shawnee County residents;
- Investigate ways to preserve and sustain local resources;
- Coordinate and collaborate with existing programs and resources and other county and state food policy organizations;
- Support local producers, processors, and distributors of food;
- Increase utilization of healthy and locally produced foods in businesses and institutions.



The Council will begin meeting in the second half of 2019.

United Way provides the free **FamilyWize prescription discount card.** FamilyWize negotiates drug prices with local and national pharmacies and can help bridge gaps in coverage for those with a prescription benefit or without.



United Way of Greater Topeka

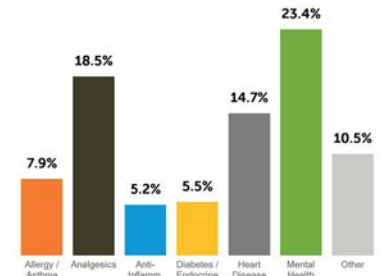
## Health Impact Report

FamilyWize and United Way have partnered to help 11 million people save more than \$1 billion on the prescription medications they need.

### Impact Nationwide and Community



### Impact Locally by Therapy Class



### Impact Locally on Mental Health

Mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being.

Estimates suggest that only half of people with mental illnesses receive treatment. Psychiatric medications are an important part of treatment for many people who live with a mental illness, but the price can often be an obstacle.

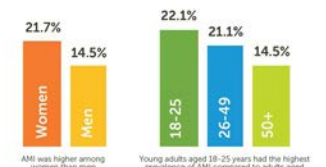


\$ Saved: \$435,795  
People Helped: 3,466  
Average Savings: 49%

### How Common is Mental Illness?

Prevalence of Any Mental Illness (AMI) Among U.S. Adults

In 2016, there were an estimated 44.7 million adults aged 18 or older in the United States with AMI.





# BASIC NEEDS

Basic needs underpin all of UWGT's impact areas by helping those in crisis with food, rent/utilities, safety from domestic violence, and health care/prescription access, as well as Christmas Bureau in Shawnee and Jackson counties.



United Way  
of Greater Topeka

## WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE

IN OUR COMMUNITY



▶ NEIGHBORS HELPED IN 2018

### JACKSON COUNTY



THE MOST IMPORTANT NUMBER OF ALL IS 1...EACH ONE THAT IS HELPED, EACH INDIVIDUAL, MATTERS.

## CHRISTMAS BUREAU



TO DATE UWGT TOTAL INVESTMENT (2012-2018) ▶ **\$34,500**

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

United Way is honored to support the Christmas Bureau in Jackson County. Food and essentials go to Jackson Countians in need, including 55 seniors, 129 families, and 370 children who receive three toys apiece. Christmas Bureau served more families and more children in 2018 than in 2017.

This year's \$2,500 investment brought the five-year total Christmas Bureau investment to \$34,500 of holiday help.



WWW.UNITEDWAYTOPEKA.ORG

## PARTNERS

Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka  
Catholic Charities  
Community Action, Inc.  
Doorstep, Inc.  
GraceMed Health Clinic  
Harvesters  
Health Access  
Holton Community Hospital (JA)  
Jackson County Ministerial Alliance (JA)  
Jefferson County Service Org.  
Kansas Legal Services

Let's Help  
LifeHouse Children's Advocacy Center  
Marian Dental Clinic  
Meals on Wheels  
MIRROR, Inc.  
Multi-County Health Dept. (JA)  
NEK-CAP (JA)  
Positive Connections  
Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries, Inc.  
YWCA Center for Safety & Empowerment

# 1,728

SHAWNEE COUNTY HOUSEHOLDS ADOPTED

# 408

ADOPTERS



# 6,049

INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING 3,354 CHILDREN AND 2,695 ADULTS

# \$365,000

INVESTED BY THE COMMUNITY DURING CHRISTMAS BUREAU

# 2.1.1

Get Connected. Get Help.™

# 4,443

CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE ANSWERED BY 211





# VOLUNTEERING



3,435  
volunteers

United Way is working to become **THE connection** for volunteering in and around Shawnee, Jefferson and Jackson counties.

## Corporate Volunteering

- **Team Building with a Purpose:** Engaging employees strengthens talent retention, boosts morale and provides leadership opportunities.
- **Business Visibility:** Community involvement helps employers reach a broader audience, improving client relationships and brand recognition.
- **Community Credit:** Identifies businesses as industry and community leaders.



United Way  
of Greater Topeka

89%

of employees surveyed in 2017 believed companies that sponsor volunteer activities offer a better overall working environment than those that do not.

\$850,348  
of volunteer labor

## Individual Volunteering

- Connecting nonprofits with volunteers who share their passion.
- Tracking our entire community's investment in volunteering through TopekaVolunteers.org
- Helping individuals recognize the true community value of volunteer engagement.

[TopekaVolunteers.org](http://TopekaVolunteers.org)

# Collaboration/Collective Impact



United Way  
of Greater Topeka

As a leader and convener, United Way of Greater Topeka works to bring partners together for the good of the community. We share goals and data to create better conditions for the community as a whole. UWGT serves as the fiscal agent for early education grants totalling nearly \$3 million annually. We are a Community Champion and program manager for **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** and the lead for the **Shawnee County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading**.

## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (Shawnee County)

Providing a free book every month to kids from birth to their 5th birthday to improve school success



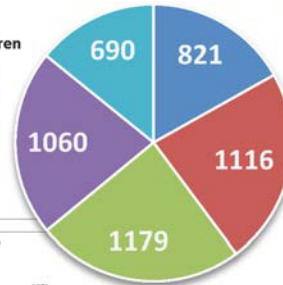
Illustration: Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library

### Year 2 Results

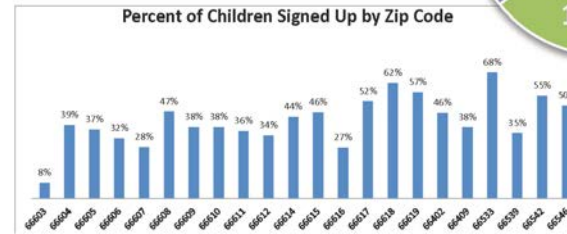
Total Enrolled = 4,866 (April 2018-March 2019),  
44% of Shawnee County children under 5 years old

#### Age of Children

- 4-5 years old
- 3-4 years old
- 2-3 years old
- 1-2 years old
- 0-1 years old



Do you know any child in your zip code who should enroll?



## Kansas Preschool Pilot Grant

(Convener, Fiscal Agent)

The Kansas Preschool Pilot (KPP) is an "evidence-based program focused on implementing curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices that, when implemented with fidelity, prevent later academic and behavioral challenges in elementary and secondary educational years." **The KPP grant supports children aged 3 through 5 who are not eligible for kindergarten.** At least 50% of the children enrolled in the Kansas Preschool Pilot must meet at least one of the at-risk criteria.

## Capital Area Successful Start

(Fiscal Agent)

Capital Area Successful Start (CASS) is the Shawnee County collaborative that receives funding from the Kansas Children's Cabinet and **delivers services to at-risk children** in our county.

This funding is part of the Master Tobacco settlement dollars that flow into our state and utilized to support efforts focused on school readiness. All efforts funded by the Kansas Children's Cabinet align with the Blueprint for Early Childhood. Shawnee County receives this funding because of the number of at-risk children in our community and the low test scores reported by USD 501 Topeka Public Schools.

## Shawnee County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Leading more than 20 partners in the fight for 3rd-grade reading proficiency

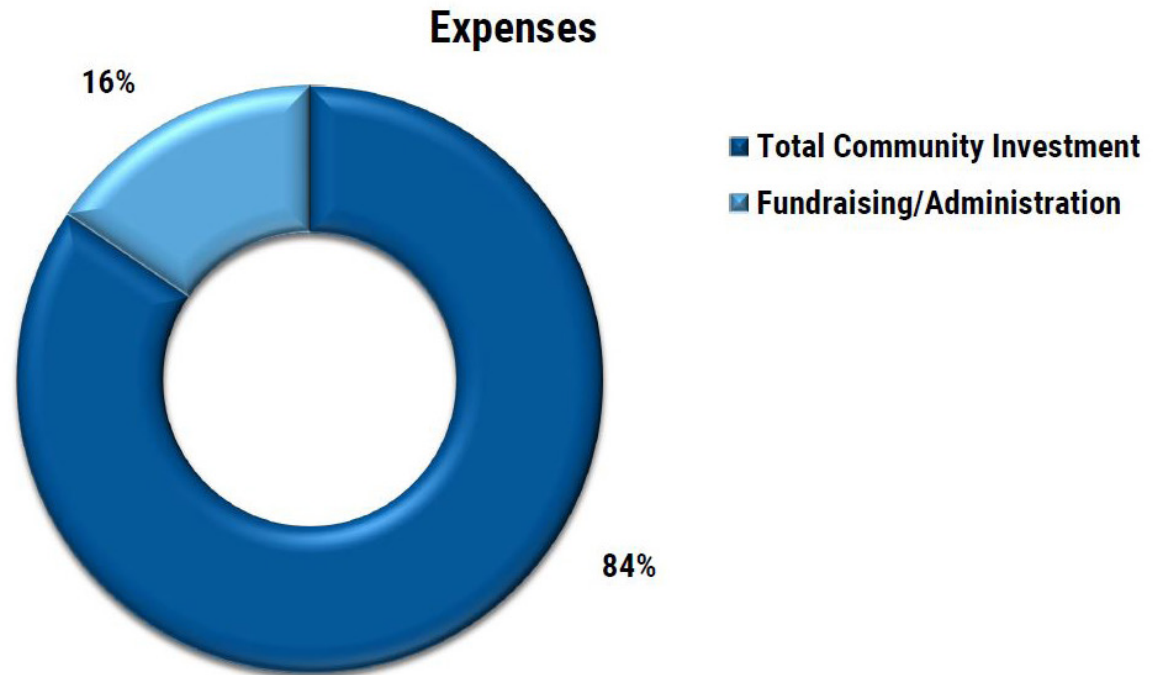
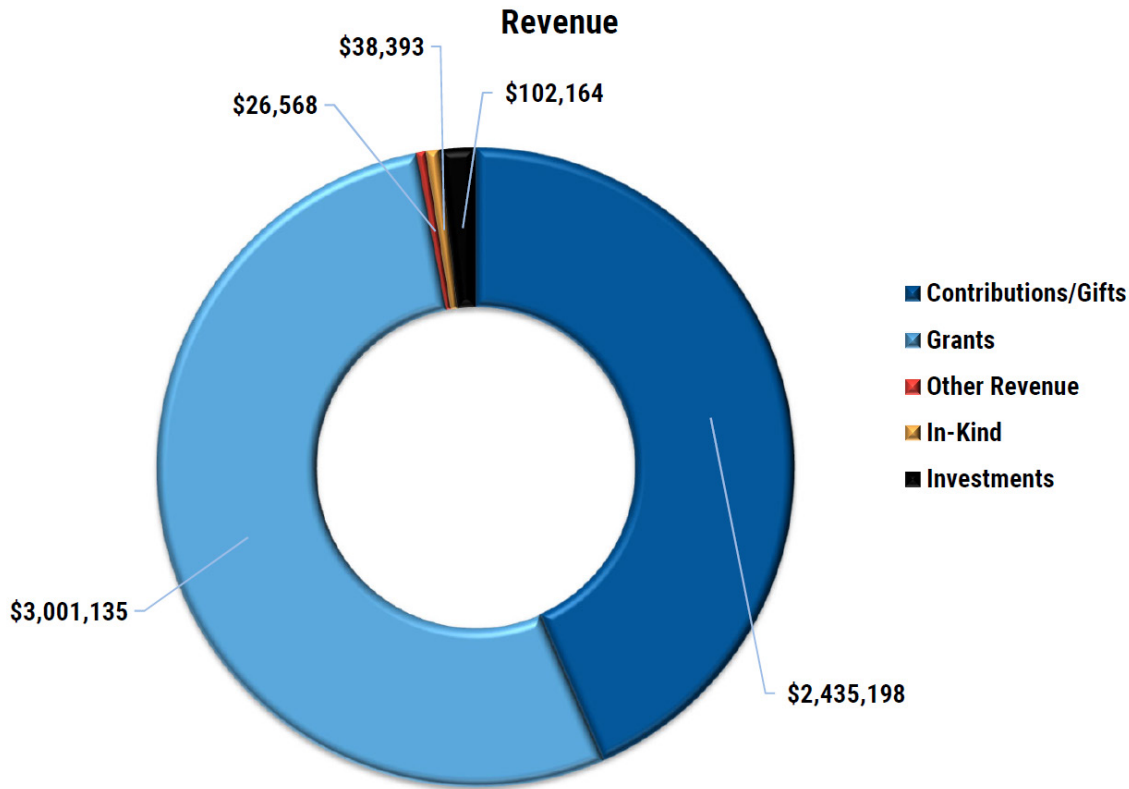


The Campaign for Grade Level Reading (CGLR) is a national collaborative effort that works to ensure children from low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career, and active citizenship. The Campaign focuses on an important predictor of school success and high school graduation: grade-level reading by the end of third grade.

UWGT leads the Shawnee County CGLR as an extension of its education impact work. Through a network of community partners, the Campaign works to reduce gaps in school readiness, chronic absenteeism, and summer learning loss for children in Shawnee County. **In 2019, Shawnee County CGLR earned its fourth national Pacesetter Award in recognition of community-wide collaboration.**

# FINANCIALS

Numbers shown are unaudited. Audit reports and IRS 990 filings are posted on our website as soon as they become available: [unitedwaytopeka.org/about/financials](http://unitedwaytopeka.org/about/financials).



## Board of Directors (2018-19)

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Larry Robbins, Topeka Public Schools

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## Tocqueville Donors

Thank you to our Alexis de Tocqueville Society members for making an extraordinary investment in our community. These visionary donors contribute \$10,000 or more yearly and make it possible to continue the fight for a stronger community.

John B. Dicus

John C. Dicus

Anthony Minella

Allen and Judy Corzine

Dave Parker

Debra and Randy Clayton

Ron Simmons

Teresa Brown

Doug Wolff and Nancy Yost

John and Janis Guyot

Joe and Janet Aleshire

Anonymous (2)



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