

UNITED WAY FACT SHEET

About United Way

The United Way system includes more than 1,300 community-based United Way organizations. Each is independent, separately incorporated and governed by local volunteers.

Our experience tells us that the best way to help the most people is to focus on the root causes of a community's most serious problems. It takes the whole community--working together--to pull it off.

So we bring together people from all across the community--people from government, business, faith groups, nonprofits, the labor movement, and ordinary citizens--to tackle the issues that matter most. If it requires fundraising, going to City Hall, or just getting people to work together, that's what we do.

United Way is focused on the results: the lives we change and the communities we shape. We know that's what matters to you.

Mission

To improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities.

Vision

We will build a stronger America by mobilizing our communities to improve people's lives.

To do this we will:

- Energize and inspire people to make a difference
- Craft human care agendas within and across our communities
- Build coalitions around these agendas
- Increase investments in these agendas by expanding and diversifying our own development efforts and supporting those of others
- Measure, communicate, and learn from the impact of our efforts
- Reflect the diversity of the communities we serve

History

In 1887, a Denver priest, two ministers and a rabbi recognized the need for cooperative action to address their city's welfare problems. The Rev. Myron W. Reed, Msgr. William J. O'Ryan, Dean H. Martyn Hart and Rabbi William S. Friedman put their heads together to plan the first united campaign for ten health and welfare agencies. They created an organization to serve as an agent to collect funds for local charities, as well as to coordinate relief services, counsel and refer clients to cooperating agencies, and make emergency assistance grants in cases which could not be referred. That year, Denver raised \$21,700 and created a movement that would spread throughout the county to become the United Way. Over 118 years later, United Way is still focused on mobilizing the caring power of communities and making a difference in people's lives.