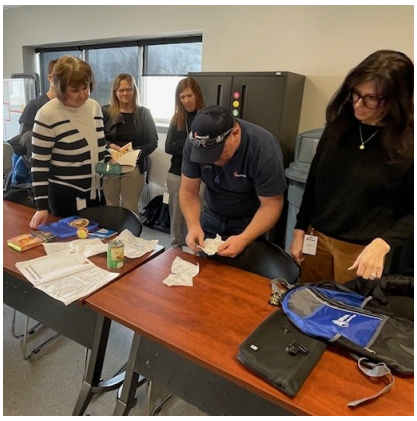
United Way of Southeast Missouri

February 2025 Newsletter

Could YOU Escape Poverty?



This month, we had a great time sharing our Escape from Poverty Packs with Mondi Jackson, LLC. This escape room in a backpack is a fun and educational team builder to help our community understand how hard it is to live in poverty and the many resources in the United Way network that help.

Escape from Poverty Packs offer local businesses, schools, churches, and other groups a portable escape room experience that provides participants with a better understanding of the causes of poverty and the many organizations funded by UWSEMO working to address it. Every $150 raised allows us to build and bring a pack to your event or workplace. Each pack is designed for up to 10 participants.

If you want your team to hack the pack, contact us!

Can YOU Hack the Pack?

Preparing for the Next 70 Years

Pictured: Community Investment Committee Volunteers. October 2024.

For the past 70 years, United Way of Southeast Missouri has invested in programs that not only meet immediate needs but also address their root causes. As we look ahead to the next seven decades and beyond, our focus will shift toward helping individuals and families move from merely surviving to truly thriving. To align with this vision, future funding will be directed specifically toward programs that foster long-term financial stability and self-sufficiency.

To support this transition, 2025 will serve as a one-year funding cycle, allowing us and our valued partners to adapt to this new direction. During this time, we will continue to fill critical gaps in our community, develop programs that support working individuals, and invest in neighbors who need just a little extra help to achieve financial stability. In 2026, we will fully implement a funding model designed to provide greater support to programs that break down barriers to self-sufficiency.

We look forward to announcing our 2025-2026 partners in June!

Time-sensitive Volunteer Opportunity

If you could help thousands of people in your area from the comfort of your home, would you?

Every 3 years, United Way of Southeast Missouri opens grant applications. In 2022, over 1 million dollars in funding was requested by local organizations. As much as we wish we could fund all of those wonderful programs, it's just not possible for a small United Way located in rural Missouri. Luckily for us, United Way staff members don't have to make funding decisions; we tap into the wisdom of our community and a committee of volunteers!

You can play a vital role in helping to determine which programs and agencies will receive UWSEMO funding for Fiscal Year 2025 by reviewing and scoring grant applications. We provide guidance and a clear rubric to make the scoring as easy and objective as possible. Applications are being reviewed now! Volunteer here.

Do you believe in 'a place for everything and everything in its place?' Are you good at Tetris? Do you have super

strength and want to show off a little?

Then we need your help!

Help Us Pack or Move!

Also, if you have boxes in good shape, we'd appreciate some! (If you can pry them away from your resident cats, children, or spouse who is "saving them for a project."

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE!

We hope you will help us celebrate the purchase of our new building and come to our open house on April 25 from 4-6 pm. We will have games, music, and cake to celebrate our 70th Year of Giving!

Want to help plan our party? Email ciera.schlie@unitedwayofsemo.org.

UWSEMO Funded Partners 2022-2025

Big Brothers Big Sisters Eastern Missouri

Cape Girardeau County Public Health — Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Mississippi Valley Therapeutic Horsemanship

Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri

EPIC — Every Person Impacts Community

S.M.A.R.T. Senior Services

ONE CITY

girl scouts of the missouri heartland

Cape Girardeau Adult Education & Literacy Center

The Hope Center USA

AgingMatters

fosteradopt connect

Voices for Children — CASA

American Red Cross Southeast Missouri

Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeast Missouri

LFCS — growing hope — Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri

First Call for Help — Basic Needs, Education & Work, Health and Well Being

Civil Air Patrol — U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

Jackson Ministerial Alliance
Jackson Senior Center
Little Whitewater Baptist Church Food Pantry
Scott City Ministerial Alliance
Student Emergency Funds at regional public schools

Thank You, 2024-25 Corporate Investors!

First State Community Bank

Southern Bank

Century Casino

Chris Hutson, CLU® CFP® ChFC®

Innovative Orthodontics

United Way of Southeast Missouri | 573-334-9634 | www.unitedwayofsemo.org

STAY CONNECTED

Visit our website

United Way of Southeast Missouri | 1417 D North Mount Auburn Rd. | Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 US

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!