May your holidays be filled with the blessings of family, laughter, and good food shared in a warm, safe home.

UNITED WAY Southeast Missouri

November 2025 Newsletter

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Now Serving Families!

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The Birth of Something Great

We could not have been more delighted with the ribbon cutting marking the grand opening of our United for Childcare Resource Center. Over 30 people attended, including Rep. John Voss and Sen. Jamie Burger, and honored guests from ServMO AmeriCorps, who funded the Center. (Meet our first AmeriCorps member further down.) The large crowd indicates the interest in this desperately needed Center and the resources it will bring to families, employers, and childcare providers.

One of the resources offered will help parents who don't qualify for the childcare subsidy. UWSEMO has been chosen as 1 of 7 organizations across the state to manage a new cost-sharing program between these parents, employers, and the state. Child Care Works allows interested employers to pay a portion of childcare costs for employees and reserves coveted spaces in childcare facilities. We are excited to bring this opportunity to our region and proud to be trusted with launching it. If you are a provider, employer or parent eager to learn more, **email Matt Ellison.**

Feed Hope. Fuel Local Food Pantries.

Across Southeast Missouri, food pantries are seeing more families seeking help. Rising food costs and delays in SNAP support are making it harder for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and working families to make ends meet.

This #GivingTuesday, we're asking for your support to help match funds set aside by our Community Investment Committee, doubling the impact we can make together.

The **Food Pantry Fund** ensures pantry partners in Cape Girardeau, Bollinger, Perry, and northern Scott Counties can keep their shelves stocked during this busy season. Your generosity provides nutritious food, stability, and hope for neighbors facing tough choices.

Every dollar you give stays local and helps seniors, disabled adults, and working families put food on the table.

Be part of the solution. Together, we can help more families move from surviving to thriving.

Donate Today

Leadership in Motion

This month, Elizabeth had the pleasure of attending the United Way Council of States hosted by United Way of Greater Kansas City in beautiful downtown KC. As the chair of the Missouri United Way State Association, Elizabeth represented United Ways across the state.

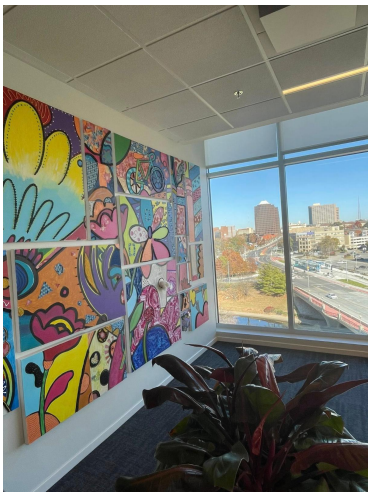
Elizabeth was surprised to learn that while some United Way state associations are volunteer-led, like Missouri's, other associations employ representatives. As dedicated representatives, they can provide greater support to struggling and small United Ways, assist with mergers, offer guidance on new programs and processes, and advocate at the state level.

Despite this difference, many United Ways across the nation are tackling similar challenges, such as the shortage of affordable, quality childcare, food, or housing. Many United Ways have created programs that are uniquely their own. For example, UWSEMO's United We Work transportation program and our United for Childcare Resource Center are programs that are currently unique to Southeast Missouri.

The group also spent time discussing how federal decisions are impacting

local families. Many working parents depend on Headstart, SNAP, and other supports that were halted and delayed by the government shutdown. Many of the families and individuals United Ways serve are just one crisis away from homelessness. Like UWSEMO, United Ways around the country are working to bridge the gap with the support of generous donors and volunteers who understand just how difficult life can be for people trying to do all the “right” things.

Elizabeth returned from KC encouraged and reminded of the important role UWSEMO plays right here at home. Progress doesn’t happen alone. It takes committed partners, generous donors, and people who care deeply about their neighbors. With your support, we can continue providing creative solutions and building a stronger, more resilient Southeast Missouri where every family has the chance to thrive.



Welcome Aboard!

Join us in welcoming our newest team member, Eva!

Eva joins us as an AmeriCorps Member serving as a Childcare Planning Specialist with our brand new United for Childcare Resource Center. Eva is originally from Poplar Bluff, Missouri. She spent a significant amount of her childhood and adolescence in Rockland, Maine (home of the Lobster Festival). She is currently working on her prerequisite courses for Nursing and will be applying to programs for next fall.

When asked what motivates her to serve, Eva said, ”What motivates me to serve with AmeriCorps is the simple desire to give back. I had a close friend serve for a year with FEMA Corps and the passion with which she served really inspired me. She believed in what she was doing, and was enthusiastic about helping others. I want to emulate that spirit of giving.”

Eva chose to serve with United for Childcare because she witnessed her own sister struggle with the need for childcare and understands balancing a career and a family is challenging enough without proper resources. Her personal investment is the desire to help mothers in similar situations thrive.

Your United Way Needs YOU!

United Way of Southeast Missouri is growing our team!

Through our new United for Childcare AmeriCorps program, we are seeking members with varying skills to help expand access to affordable, quality childcare across the region.

We are also accepting applications for a Marketing & Events Intern for Fall 2025.

Learn More

Welcome, 2025-2026 UWSEMO Funded Partners!

American Red Cross Southeast Missouri

Big Brothers Big Sisters Eastern Missouri

Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeast Missouri

Cape Girardeau Adult Education & Literacy Center

Co-Responder Unit CRU Cape Girardeau Police Department

EPIC Every Person Impacts Community

First Call for Help

fosteradopt connect

O.A.K.S. Center of Jackson Older Adults Keep Serving Jackson Senior Center

JAG Jobs for America's Graduates

LFCS Growing Hope Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri

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

Mississippi Valley Therapeutic Horsemanship

Safe House of Southeast Missouri

United for Childcare

United We Work United Way of Southeast Missouri

Read to Succeed

The Cottage Domestic Violence Shelter

Student Emergency Funds
at regional public schools

Thank You, 2025-26 Corporate Investors!

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