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### COVID-19: United Way in Action

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To: staff <staff@smrld.org>

Mon, Mar 16, 2020 at 2:43 PM

Tina



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Subject: COVID-19: United Way in Action  
To: <tinahubert@smrld.org>

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Helping people.



United Way's role has always been to mobilize the community to help our neighbors in need. During times of crisis like this, it is important for nonprofits, businesses and government to work together quickly and efficiently to provide vital services and support needed. Below are updates on what our United Way is doing to help the community during the COVID-19 pandemic:

### **Crisis Relief Support Partnerships**

The widespread crisis we are experiencing is developing on an hourly basis. Support efforts will warrant timely and consistent monitoring along with immediate and long-term response. We are working with local nonprofits, community partners and government agencies to quickly determine the needs of our region, including childcare, food, lost wages, transportation, rent assistance and more. We are currently working with Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) to coordinate efforts and identify support operations needed to serve our community. Additionally, last week we agreed to serve as an advisor to the St. Louis Community Foundation to assist with deploying resources where they are most needed.

### **United Way's COVID-19 Crisis Fund**

United Way is working closely with key corporate partners to galvanize a response that will raise funds to:

- Address the lack of cleaning and sanitation supplies, food resources, personal care, baby supplies, hygiene items, and access to health resources and childcare services (including distribution of food, hot meals and household products).
- Provide basic needs support to prevent homelessness and aid in stabilization of community residents (including emergency utility, rent and mortgage assistance).
- Respond to calls for mental health and trauma counseling for children and adults.
- Support the unique needs of seniors throughout our region.
- Provide employment support for those who become ill or displaced.

Individuals interested in supporting this fund can [give here](#). 100% of the dollars raised through this fund will go to the immediate, intermediate and long-term support for those impacted by COVID-19 and the economic fallout.

### **United Way 2-1-1**

The United Way 2-1-1 Navigation Center is already serving as a vital resource for our most vulnerable populations, and as of last week we began helping to answer an increasing number of calls from those being directly and indirectly impacted by COVID-19. Over 1,000 calls were answered on Friday alone.

Missouri residents: For general questions about COVID-19 and Missouri's response, contact 877-435-8411 or visit [health.mo.gov](http://health.mo.gov).

Illinois residents: For general questions about COVID-19 and Illinois' response, contact 1-800-889-3931 or visit [dph.illinois.gov](http://dph.illinois.gov).

Our community response team is continuously monitoring local and national resources available and updating our resource database. You can find more information on available resources [here](#) or dial 2-1-1 for assistance.

**Organizational Precautions**

Our staff's safety is important to ensure we can provide these critical services to our community. As such, we have suspended all conference and business travel, cancelled upcoming volunteer and community events, moved all meetings to be held virtually, and the large majority of our staff will be working remotely starting this week.

We are incredibly grateful to once again witness the generosity and compassion of our amazing region. We thank you for your support and partnership.



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