

Imagine if....

Sue Haupt, Communications Director, United Way of Marathon County

Imagine ...

- You are 8 months old and no one pays any attention to you while you sit in a car seat all day.
- You are 3 years old and you've never seen a book.
- You are 10 years old and your parents are never home to help you with homework or attend school events.
- You and your 2 young children, go home tonight and there is no food in the cupboard, you have \$3 in your wallet and you're worried about being evicted or having your utilities turned off.
- You are afraid for your safety when you go home because you've been hit many times and your life has been threatened.

Unfortunately, all of the above situations happen every day, all across Marathon County. United Way and our partner programs exist to meet the most pressing needs in our community.

Our approach is two-fold. First, we want to provide for people's immediate needs, like food, shelter and safety. But, it's also important that we look at the cause, and provide prevention and intervention programs as well.

The United Way of Marathon County annual campaign is currently underway. Now is the time to make your gift. A gift that will:

- Prepare kids to start school ready to learn
- Mentor troubled teens
- Meet basic food and shelter needs
- Teach financial literacy
- Improve access to mental health care
- Reduce drug and alcohol abuse
- Support victims of domestic violence
- Connect people to services and volunteer opportunities

While there have been slight indications the economy is improving, the reality is that hundreds of local families are facing very difficult situations. Many people who lost their jobs in recent years are considered underemployed. They may be working a part-time job, or several part-time jobs, and are still unable to provide for their families.

Frequently callers to United Way's 2-1-1 will comment that they can't believe how things have changed for them. They used to give to United Way through their workplace campaigns and are now calling for assistance with basic services like food, utilities or rent.

You can give through your workplace campaign or mail your gift directly to United Way at 137 River Drive, Wausau, WI 54403. If you prefer to give via our on-line pledging system, go to www.unitedwaymc.org and click on the GIVE button.

Thank you for your generous support of United Way and our partner programs. We couldn't do it without you. Together we can change lives and advance the common good in our community.