

# Top 10 Reasons to Give

**1. Gives you a great return.**

For example, it is estimated that for every dollar invested in our work in early childhood there is a \$7 return. If every child is given a chance at a great start in life, they then have an equal opportunity for success in school and life. When that happens, they grow up and contribute to the workforce, improve our economy and limit future support system costs.

**2. Gets at the underlying cause of problems to find solutions and create lasting change.**



For example, if someone has a need for food assistance, we ask our partners to determine if they would also benefit from budgeting classes or other programs that might help them to improve their employability and path to self-sufficiency.

**3. Supports local partner programs that are held accountable to deliver results.**

You don't have to be the expert on community needs or wonder how your support was used. United Way does that for you through the help of dedicated volunteers.

**4. Stays in our local communities.**

All of us are in some way touched by United Way, because you never know who or when you might find yourself looking for support. Your contribution helps people right here in Marathon County.

**5. Is used where it's needed the most.**

United Way coordinates the community LIFE report which looks at data and trends to identify priorities and set a community agenda.

**6. Gives you an opportunity to get involved in meaningful work.**

We engage volunteers on committees, in the office, at events, and through groups like Women In Action and Emerging Leaders.

**7. Brings together people and organizations who have passion, expertise and resources to get things done.**

For example, the Housing and Homelessness Coalition is working to end homelessness by maximizing and strengthening existing resources, developing new, relevant solutions, and seamless delivery of services. It helped launch the Wausau Area Warming Center.



**8. Supports special projects that fill a gap in the community.**

For example, the Career Closet is a project of Emerging Leaders run by volunteers providing donated clothing to help people have suitable clothing for their job interviews.

**9. Offers critical connections for people to get the help they need.**

United Way's 2-1-1 provides free, confidential community service information and referrals 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, an online searchable database, and publishes resource directories and guides.

**10. Strengthens services through increasing volunteers**

United Way RSVP is a specialized volunteer group, where members who are 55+ receive personal volunteer placement, connections with each other and the community. The value of RSVP member volunteer hours for the past 4 years is over \$2 million.



United Way Volunteer Connection's purpose is to connect volunteers and organizations with opportunities to serve. They also lead projects including Bundles of Joy and Make a Difference Day and offer web site connections to volunteering opportunities 24/7.