

A UNITED WAY FORWARD

A look at the impact Brown County United Way is having on our community

President & CEO receives Outstanding Women of Color in Education Award

Our President & CEO, Robyn Davis, is in the spotlight for a special honor from the University of Wisconsin System (UW System). Davis is one of 13 women who received the 2022 Outstanding Women of Color in Education Award, an annual honor to recognize achievements in advancing equity and inclusion for people of color within the UW System and communities across the state. More than 400 women of color have been recognized for their transformational work in the 27 years this award has been presented.



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Corey King (Vice Chancellor for University Inclusivity and Student Affairs at UWGB), Robyn Davis (Pres. & CEO, BCUW), and Jay O. Rothman (President of the UW System)

"The work that's being done by other women of color and those that represent the LGBTQ+ community is pretty outstanding and impactful," says Davis, "And then you just think, 'OK, I'm in this group.'"

UW Green Bay nominated Davis for work done over the years for the people of Brown County. With BCUW, she leads a team whose work with community partners assists households living at or below the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold. ALICE households range from families to individuals who struggle to make ends meet, despite being employed. Before BCUW, she served as Freedom House Ministries' president, helping the county's most vulnerable. And her work doesn't stop there. Davis has received many accomplishments and awards throughout the year for her work in the county.

Brown County United Way is proud to have a leader that improves the state's status and climate for women and people of color.



IN THIS ISSUE

- New installment of a Free Little Library
- Welcome to the Team, Corriisa!
- Grants awarded through Character Playbook

Grants awarded to middle school groups to kick off service projects

Several Wisconsin middle school student groups will have the unique opportunity to make their mark on communities after being awarded a Character Playbook Community Impact Grant. The \$500 grant from Brown County United Way and the Green Bay Packers will allow students to develop a service project to help their school, neighborhood or community. The project was open not only to all state schools but to nonprofits as well.

"We received nearly 40 project proposals from all across the state," says Cierra Ivey, Brown County United Way's Communication and Engagement Strategist.

"The best part about the review process was listening and interviewing presentations from the middle schoolers. Some of them were very prepared and creative with their presentations. You can tell they wanted to move forward with their service project." After further review, Brown County United Way and representatives from the Green Bay Packers and Everfi narrowed down to 13 grant recipients, with three being from Brown County.

Bay View Middle School students in Howard are planning a service project that fosters ideals of respect and patriotism by cleaning the Suamico Cemetery. They will be educated on cemetery etiquette, rake leaves, clean up

around headstones, plant flowers and place American flags by veterans' graves.

Wrightstown Middle School plans to grow its tutoring program by getting materials for bonding activities and putting together an end-of-year celebration for everyone involved. They hope to get more students involved and decrease the waitlist for tutors.

A nonprofit, Lovin' the Skin I'm In, serving the greater Green Bay area, will support Black and Brown families currently residing in shelters by providing them with various hair care products catered to textured hair.

All service projects have a supervisor who will guide students to complete their goals at the end of the school year.

Welcome to the team, Corriッサ!

Brown County United Way is excited to bring Corriッサ Frank on board as the new Chief Philanthropy Officer! She is responsible for executing a strategic vision and forging collaborative relationships that support the organization's sustainability by ensuring BC UW has the financial resources to meet current and long-term needs. Frank is no stranger to the nonprofit world. Before her work with BC UW, she was the executive director of the Family Resource Center of Sheboygan County, responsible for the leadership, including financial and personnel management, fund development, oversight of programming,

and growth of partnerships within the community.

Frank also served as the Community Partnership for Children Coordinator and Director of Major Giving for the United Way of Sheboygan County, and for a time, served as a grant writer at the Florida Gulf Coast University.

Frank graduated with her Bachelor's in Communications and Public Relations from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and continued for her Master's in Organizational Leadership from Concordia University.

Pictured: Corriッサ Frank, BC UW Chief Philanthropy Officer

Frank tells us that she is passionate about supporting programs that break down barriers for individuals and families and working collaboratively with other organizations to build a healthier community.



Free books available at well-known resource center



New books are up for grabs in front of the We All Rise African American Resource Center in a new Free Little Library. Brown County United Way's Impact Initiative Council installed the Free Little Library to support the development of strong, vibrant neighborhoods in Green Bay. Costs were covered through a Brown County United Way grant.

The Free Little Library was strategically placed in the Navarino Neighborhood due to its proximity to Howe Community School. It is also one of four neighborhoods that Brown County United Way invests in through its Thriving Neighborhood Initiative. There are only a few Free Little Libraries in the area, but all have the same mission, to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all.

"Council members were excited to roll up their sleeves and install this great reading resource for the neighborhood," says Impact Initiatives and Outreach Manager Jill Sobieck.



Council members will collect books throughout the year to keep the library stocked. If you are interested in donating books, please get in touch with Jill Sobieck at Jill@browncountyunitedway.org.



Change doesn't just happen. It's created **together.**

It's been a tough few years. Too many people struggle to pay the weekly grocery store bill, compensate for the learning lost during pandemic school interruptions, and recover from natural and manufactured disasters. Partisan politics and pandemic-fueled isolation fracture our communities.

But we know individuals can change the world. They don't need to be powerful CEOs or elected officials. They don't even need to be adults! Just think about Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg and the change they've made in the world through their advocacy for education for girls and climate change. That's United Way's sweet spot. Our superpower is bringing people together to make positive, lasting change. For example, here in Wisconsin, Brown County United Way invested over 1.25 million dollars in programs and initiatives this past year.

With our partners, experts, community leaders and residents, United Way looks at the most demanding problems and is thoughtful about local solutions that work best in our community. Brown County United Way makes it easy for you to take meaningful action that makes a difference.

That can be volunteering for a program that helps struggling kids shift the odds, like our summer book drive hosted by our Emerging Leaders Society—or speaking up for more support for single moms who makes tough decisions on whether they are going to work or stay home with a sick child—or investing in solutions that are showing results like collecting over 88,000 diapers for families who can't afford them.

Positive change is happening. But it doesn't "just happen." Change is created together. And we're in it together. Just ask volunteers, advocates and donors.

We want Brown County to be a resilient, equitable community that offers opportunities for *everyone* to thrive. We can make it happen, together. People like you are the ones who make change happen.

Start today in your community.
Join us. Donate today.

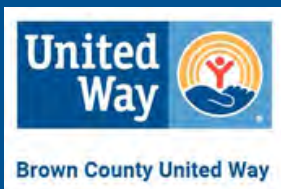
Thank you

for your past gifts to Brown County United Way in support of the work we do. If you are interested in giving now, you can do so any of the following ways:

Give online at
www.browncountyunitedway.org

Send a check to Brown County United Way, PO Box 1593, Green Bay, WI 54305-1593

Contact Steve Zinda, Campaign Strategist at stevez@browncountyunitedway.org



You have received this newsletter because you previously indicated you were receptive to receiving communications from Brown County United Way. If this is no longer the case, you can unsubscribe by emailing cierra@browncountyunitedway.org

112 N Adams St, Ste 201, Green Bay, WI 54301 *** 920.432.3393

