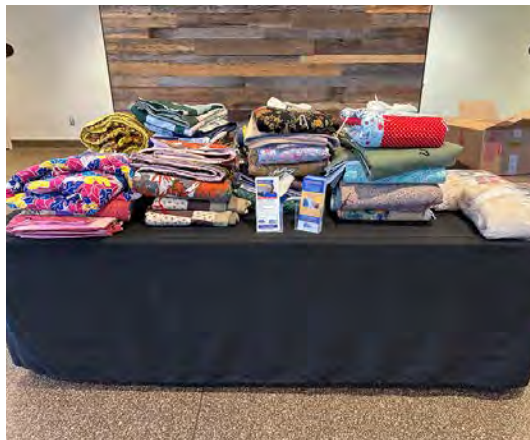


A UNITED WAY FORWARD

A look at the impact of Brown County United Way



Another successful year for Blanketing Brown County

Warmth is essential when it comes to Wisconsin winters. But not everyone has access to heat, making it hard on their physical and mental health. Brown County United Way and the Greater Green Bay Labor Council are aware of the issue and have been working for over a decade to keep people warm through Blanketing Brown County.

“This is the 12th year the Brown County United Way and Greater Green Bay Labor Council have partnered with the community to host a Blanket Drive,”

Brown County United Way’s Chief Philanthropy Officer Corrissa Frank says, “It has been inspiring to see the various groups come together to support the health of our community.”

The blanket drive ran throughout January, collecting over 2,100 blankets from nearly 20 drop-off sites throughout Brown County. Some areas included local fire and police agencies, nonprofit organizations and corporate companies. Many of the donated blankets were brand new or handmade. Others were gently used.

Organizers also hosted a special drop-off event at the Johnsonville Tailgate Village in Green Bay as an opportunity for residents to donate blankets at one location. Nearly 500 blankets were collected and distributed that day.

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“It was amazing to see so many community partners, both new and old relationships, willing to support the drive by either contributing, serving as a blanket drop-off location, or in their being willing to help promote,” says Brown County United Way’s Chief Operating Officer Rashad Cobb.

Since its start in 2012, the community has donated over 25,000 blankets to over 40 nonprofits and agencies serving the area. We can all play a part in ensuring that people have warmth during winter, and that’s what the drive is all about.



Flipping flapjacks for a good cause

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Doctors say it kick-starts your metabolism and helps you stay alert. But not everyone can have a healthy start to their day. So as part of United Way’s “Make A Difference Days,” Brown County United Way’s team prepared and served breakfast for individuals at the New Community Shelter in Green Bay.

“It is an honor to serve meals to each individual at New Community Shelter,” says Information System Strategist Victoria Headrick, “Having an opportunity to meet my fellow community members and helping to lift each other is what a community is all about.”

The team worked in the early morning to serve meals twice this year. Once in mid-December and in January for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Over the two days, they served over 150 people—a perfect opportunity to learn the stories of those who live in our community.

I leave with a full heart of joy knowing these strong individuals are creating a path to a better and brighter future one day at a time,” says Headrick,

“If we can offer them a hot meal during this transitional time in their lives to bring comfort, peace of mind, and connection, then I say let’s get cooking!”

The New Community Shelter has three different services operating year-round, including the Community Meal Program, which is available to any child or adult. Anyone homeless or needing a meal can be served dinner 365 days a year and lunch every weekend and on holidays.



Nine things you may not know about 211

Everyone knows about 9-1-1. But fewer people know about 211, the nationwide service for non-emergency life challenges. The kind everyone faces at some point in their lives when they have no idea where to turn but sure could use some extra help.

Funded in part by local United Ways, 211 is a vital service that connects millions of people each year to help in their communities. **Here are nine things you might not know about 211:**

We can help with complex challenges, whatever they may be. 211 connects people to resources like:

1.
 - Employment and job training
 - Health and mental health assistance
 - Child care and after-school programs
 - Financial coaching
 - Addiction treatment
 - Transportation
 - Affordable housing and rent assistance
 - Legal services
 - Disaster recovery
 - Utility assistance
 - Disability resources
 - Veteran services
 - Tax preparation

2.

211 is for anyone. Everyone faces challenges. Job loss, illness, natural disasters, and other events can upend anyone's life. In those moments, 211 is an excellent resource to have in your back pocket. Best of all, the service is available to everyone, regardless of income level. So spread the word to your friends, family, and co-workers so they are prepared when things take a turn for the worse.

3.

211 is available 24/7/365. That's every day, every hour, every minute of the year. And if you don't feel like calling, you can text or use the website. Check 211.org to find your local texting number and website.

4.

Starting on Feb 11, 2023, 99% of the U.S. population has access to 211. 211 is also available in all of Canada.

5.

211 helps tens of millions of people. For example, in 2021, 211 made almost 24 million connections between people in need and local help.

6.

You'll talk to a real person. A trained, expert specialist answers the call, helps identify the root causes of your problem, and connects you to local resources.

7.

Translation is available in 180 languages, making the service available to millions more people than would otherwise have access.

8.

You can call to find volunteer opportunities in your area. The holidays are a perfect time to check, as 211 often has a long list of local organizations and families that need help.

9.

211 changes lives, like Ryan. He suffered a stroke and was unable to work. As a result, he fell behind in bills and called 211 for help. Ryan was waiting for disability and was behind on almost all bills, including mortgage, utilities, and phone, and needed help with gas money to get to medical appointments. Before his stroke, he had worked two jobs but lost one due to COVID-19. The 211 call specialist provided Ryan with several referrals to address his needs. When we followed up with Ryan, he shared he could get assistance for many of his past-due bills and was still working on others.

Soothing students through calm kits

A recent needs assessment at Howe Elementary Community School in the Green Bay Area Public School District identified that a family's most pressing challenge for their child's success in school was family stress. Examples include parents' divorce, financial stress, drug or alcohol concerns, and domestic violence. In addition, Howe families reported that mental health support was their top request regarding services that would benefit their family. But the need is more than what the school has resources for.



Brown County United Way corporate sponsor, Ruder Ware, created Calm Kits, something that would help students' mental health. The kit is centered around Daniel Tiger, a popular character for young children, who often promote themes centered around compassion for others and offers guidance. The kits include stress balls, journals, fidget toys, mental health resources, and more. Howe Elementary Community School received 80 kits to distribute.



"These kits will be incredibly beneficial for our counselor and social worker to use when working with students to build their mindfulness and de-escalation skills," says Howe's Community School Resource Coordinator Diana Delbecchi. "They will also serve as a universal tool for all kids needing even minimal mental health tools."

Ruder Ware, Business Attorneys for Business Success, provides legal advice to clients on intricate legal issues. Their founder's philosophy of giving back to the communities is to inspire their employees to volunteer and build connections with local organizations to make a difference.

Thank you for believing in the mission of BCUW

How can I support?

- Donate online or through mail:
 - www.browncountyunitedway.org
 - United Way, PO Box 1593, Green Bay, WI 54305-1593
- Pledge a planned gift (bequest, life insurance, real estate, & stock) to provide long-lasting impact
- Volunteer
- Follow BCUW social media accounts and share posts to increase awareness



Contact Corrissa Frank, Chief Philanthropy Officer at corrissa@browncountyunitedway.org with questions about the variety of ways to donate to BCUW.