

METRO UNITED WAY

Tackles Tough Community Challenges with Compassion, Collaboration

BY LAUREL MALLORY, METRO UNITED WAY

Tackling the toughest challenges facing our region takes compassion and collaboration—two things central to Metro United Way’s mission. The nonprofit recently released its 2025 Impact Report, illustrating the depth and scope of its work.

Metro United Way brought together 5,964 donors, 7,124 volunteers, 253 corporate partners, and 1,000+ nonprofit partners to help 36,748 people in 2025. Let’s dive in.

Highlighting the Challenges

Metro United Way’s work focuses on three priorities: thriving kids, strong households, and an equitable community. These priorities were selected based on data illustrating areas of persistent need in our region.

For example:

Kentucky is 36th in the country for child well-being, with 21% of children living in poverty.

Indiana is ranked 25th in the country for child well-being, with 15% of children live in poverty.

In both states, about 60% of 3- and 4-year-olds are not in preschool.

Since 2020, there has been a 55% increase in homelessness in our region.

Nearly 4 in 10 people don’t have even \$400 to cover a minor emergency without having to borrow or sell a possession.

21% of individuals struggle to afford the basics of housing, transportation, food, and child care.

The poverty rate for African Americans in the Louisville area is 26%, compared to 10% for white residents.

The current life expectancy for Jefferson County residents is about 74.8 years, but drops to 70.7 for non-Hispanic Black residents. And life expectancy in west Louisville is 12 years shorter than that of east Louisville.

The average income of the top 20% of Louisville area residents is 15.7 times greater than the average income of the bottom 20%, ranking Louisville 9th out of 17 among its peer cities for income inequality.



Addressing the Need

Metro United Way tackles these challenges through a diverse array of innovative programs and established solutions.

It serves as the backbone for the Ready for K Alliance, which brings together more than 100 partners working to ensure kids from 0 to 5 have everything they need to thrive.

More than \$340,000 was invested in projects that improve outcomes for children and families.

Metro United Way’s Ages and Stages Developmental Screening Hub screened 819 children to ensure on-track development, while also responding to the basic needs of all families in the program.



Our Mission

PORTLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL is committed to producing students who love God, love people, live differently, and advance the Kingdom of God through their families, professions, personal endeavors, and service to their community. (Matthew 22:37-40)

Our Vision

Our vision is to produce culture changers for Christ. We aspire to graduate students who love God, love people, and live their lives in ways that measurably, sometimes radically, impact their community, our nation, and the world for the cause of Christ. (Matthew 22:37-40)



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It collected 23,000 diapers for those in need and distributed 32,500 books through its network of Little Free Libraries.

Free tax prep services secured more than \$11 million in returns.

Financial coaching helped nine people become first-time homebuyers, 172 people reduce debt, and 78 improve annual earnings and savings.

The nonprofit's free 211 helpline answered 14,053 calls for help.

Key investments helped 101 homeless students with reliable transportation to school, and 386 families were helped with housing stabilization.

Metro United Way invested \$450,000 in community-led initiatives in underserved neighborhoods of Louisville and Jeffersonville.

It awarded 40 college scholarships to young men of color and provides ongoing essential mentorship to help them meet their higher education goals.

And it supports more than 20 Black-led organizations to strengthen their capacity, expand community reach, and drive systems-level change.

Through its robust volunteer engagement program, the nonprofit also created more than 107,000 impact kits that were distributed to 120+ nonprofits across the region. The kits help address folks' basic needs like food, backpacks, diapers, laundry essentials, and more—providing dignity and hope to every person receiving them.

Responding in Realtime

Metro United Way's nimble and collaborative nature was on full display when thousands of families in the Greater Louisville region faced uncertainty and delays in federal SNAP benefits during November's government shutdown. Within a matter of days, the nonprofit launched its Hardship to Hope Food Relief Fund, distributing more than \$600,000 in grocery gift cards to eligible families.

"Words cannot express the amount of gratitude I have," one recipient said. "Because of you and your generosity, I will be able to get groceries for my children and I. I just lost my job prior to the SNAP benefits ceasing so everything hit at once. Thank you for making a way for me, I truly can't thank you enough."

All in all, the Hardship to Hope Food Relief Effort fed nearly 10,000 people throughout the beginning of November, including more than 6,000 children.

Get Involved in the Solutions

Support this work and help Metro United Way lift 260,000 people From Hardship to Hope by 2030 at metrounitedway.org. The nonprofit hopes to raise \$75 million to accomplish this goal.

While on its website, find volunteer opportunities and learn more about how Metro United Way plans to leverage every dollar raised to better our community. The full 2025 impact report is also there, complete with stories of hope and testimonials from partners and people the nonprofit helped throughout the year.



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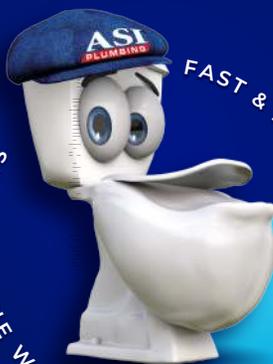
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