



***Mission Statement:***

The United Way of West Ellis County, in partnership with you, improves the health, prosperity and education in our community.

***Overview:***

For over 74 years, the United Way of West Ellis County (UWWEC) has been a driving force to get lasting results for Ellis County. We believe in the power of unity to create lasting change, whether it's by encouraging innovation or giving existing organizations the ability to do more, we won't stop until the job is complete. Bold goals are set for our local community and progress is measured to ensure we're achieving the goals, together. Our focus on education, income and health means we provide both short-term relief and long-term solutions to create lasting change.

The United Way of West Ellis County is the largest granting organization in the county and we support the best existing community agencies in education, income and health, so we can achieve our shared community goals. We also strive to be social innovators and identify gaps in existing local services and implement programs to fill them. One of our core objectives is to help our local agencies improve their organizational efficiency and operations and forge partnerships to encourage collaboration which leads to lasting results. In 2022, the UWWEC awarded over \$290,000 in grant funds to 27 area agencies that have a tremendous impact on our community.

Overall, the United Way's goal is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world. The United Way of West Ellis County is in the business of creating lasting change in community conditions that improves local families' lives. It is not how many individuals we provide for and serve. It is not how many programs we fund or how many partners unite. What matters are the bottom-line results, the lives we change, and the communities we shape.

## **Focus Areas:**

- **Education** - Education is the cornerstone of individual and community success. The United Way of West Ellis County partners with several agencies & implements local programs that seek to improve the education of the students in our communities.

We are focusing on providing early child-hood opportunities for local students to enter into the school system ahead of the curve. There are after-school and summer programs that give students a fun place to do their homework or receive tutoring. In addition, we fund agencies who offer mentorship programs to at-risk students. These programs have aided in lowering the drop-out rate for the students of Ellis County.

- **Health** - Whether it is a neighbor without health insurance, a victim of abuse, or someone struggling with mental illness or an addiction, the United Way is working to ensure everyone has access to affordable and quality care. The United Way of West Ellis County partners with numerous agencies in our area who work every day to improve the physical and mental health of our citizens. We fund agencies who advocate and care for victims of abuse by offering them case management, counseling, and a place to feel safe. Our partnership with three senior centers also helps ensure that our elderly population are taken care of both mentally and physically. Local agencies who fight to end the cycle of drug addiction by educating the next generation, and their parents, on the dangers of drug use are supported too. When you donate to the United Way of West Ellis County, you are providing a healthier life for men, women, and children who have a wide array of needs.
- **Financial Stability** - As many as one-third of working Americans do not earn enough money to meet their basic needs. Wages have not kept pace with the rising cost of housing, healthcare, and education and currently, forty million Americans are working in low-paying jobs without basic health and retirement benefits. For families walking a financial tightrope, unable to save for college, a home, or retirement, United Way is here to help.

The United Way of West Ellis County partners with local agencies who have made it their goal to see the members of our community achieve financial stability. One of our agencies is the only homeless shelter in the area and works tirelessly to ensure that its residents regain self-sufficiency. These residents learn basic household duties like laundry, cleaning and cooking, while also learning how to keep a job and manage their income. We also fund several agencies who work with those who cannot afford their rent or groceries to feed their families. Whether it's by offering financial counseling, a place to live, or a food pantry, these agencies work hard to improve the lives of Ellis County residents.