

# ESSENTIAL SUPPORT FUND

## GENERAL FUND OVERVIEW

United Way of Racine County's Essential Support Fund provides assistance to individuals and families throughout Racine County by helping address urgent, immediate needs. Funded projects focus on ensuring access to essential resources and services necessary for individual and family well-being, including food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, utilities and personal safety.

Essential Support projects aid households experiencing significant economic hardship, including those with incomes below the federal poverty level, families considered ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), individuals qualifying for emergency food assistance and residents facing barriers to obtaining basic services.

The Essential Support Fund opened in December 2024, and this report reflects outcomes from the first round of funding, during which **7,365 Racine County residents** were served.

United Way of Racine County appreciates the opportunity to support community partners through the Essential Support Fund. The impact achieved in the initial funding round was made possible through the generous support of Microsoft Corporation.



## PROJECT RECAPS

### BeLEAF – Sexual Assault Services (SAS)

BeLEAF's Sexual Assault Services program provided a continuation of comprehensive, free support to individuals impacted by sexual assault in Racine County. Services include a 24-hour crisis hotline, 24-hour hospital response, family advocacy through the Racine County Child Advocacy Center, personal and legal advocacy, counseling and therapy, support groups, and community awareness and education initiatives. These services are designed to ensure survivors have access to immediate crisis intervention as well as ongoing support. With support from the Essential Support Fund, BeLEAF was able to maintain service levels and sustain access to critical services, ensuring continued assistance to survivors and their families within the community.



### Racine County Food Bank – Food Purchases

Access to nutritious food is essential to the physical and mental wellbeing of individuals and families and contributes to productivity and reduced healthcare burdens. Through the Essential Support Fund, a one-pound package of ground turkey was provided to every household seeking emergency food assistance in Racine County for approximately three months.



### Health Care Network – Dental Hygiene Program

The Health Care Network (HCN) provided critical dental health services to low-income, medically uninsured residents of Racine County. With support from the Essential Support Fund, HCN was able to expand dental hygiene services by supporting a part-time hygienist. In addition, HCN formalized an innovative partnership with Racine County and the Jonathan Delagrave Youth Development Center, a residential facility serving youth offenders. Through this collaboration, HCN launched a dental hygiene program that delivers preventive oral health services to youth residing at the center.



### Women’s Resource Center of Racine, Inc. – Survivor Support Project

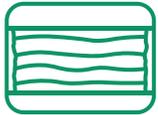
The Women’s Resource Center utilized support from the Essential Support Fund to address survivor needs that extended beyond typical service provisions through its Survivor Support Project. The funds were used to assist with transportation needs, supplement security deposits and rental assistance, cover utility deposits or payments, and supply equipment or clothing necessary for survivors to obtain or maintain employment or pursue training and education opportunities.

“Thanks to this fund, WRC was able to help a mom with three children put down a security deposit for an apartment. Mom had been struggling to save for a security deposit and first month’s rent. This fund made it possible for her to just save for the first month’s rent.”  
– Jori Chambers, Executive Director, Women’s Resource Center

# OUTCOMES



284 preventive dental hygiene appointments were provided to individuals without insurance.



7,000 Racine County residents received access to essential protein through the distribution of ground turkey.



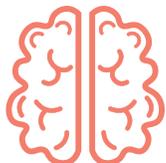
25 domestic violence survivors received direct assistance, including transportation support, security deposits, and help with essential expenses.



271 individual therapy sessions were delivered.



175 educational presentations about recognizing and reporting abuse were conducted.



88% of participants reported an increased understanding of available sexual assault services.



“Ground protein is one of the most requested and appreciated items we distribute at our pantry. It’s versatile, easy to prepare and provides a hearty, nutritious option for individuals and families. Being able to offer it means we’re helping clients put real, sustaining meals on their tables.”  
– Carol Harris, Harvest Outreach Food Pantry