United Way of Racine County works throughout the year to positively impact the health, education and financial stability of every resident of Racine County. Our goal is to help improve lives and build a stronger community, and we know this cannot happen if residents do not first have their basic needs met. This is why we partner with community organizations that help Racine County residents meet those basic needs, like access to food, shelter and medical care, and increased independence. When individuals don’t have those basic needs, it is harder or even impossible to focus on longer-term goals like improving health, education or financial stability. Many residents use services from multiple essential services organizations, and many of our partners work together to achieve the best results.

Demographics

- 17,866 of the 23,061 individuals served by United Way partners this quarter accessed essential services programming. 17,711 of these individuals are at or below the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) level.
- 32% of individuals are between the ages of 18 and 44 years old.

Outputs

- Almost 224,000 pounds of food has been distributed since July 1, 2023. Recipients of emergency food were able to make an estimated 207,000 meals.
- 259 Racine County residents needed emergency shelter. These individuals were able to have safe and secure shelter for over 10,720 nights.
- Health Care Network has been able to provide nearly 2,100 medical appointments and 170 dental appointments since July 1, 2023.
- 10 individuals have access to social interaction to develop social skills and 15 individuals have learned independence skills through The Arc of Racine County programming.
The Racine County Food Bank (RCF) provides emergency food through a network of direct-service providers in Racine County, including 11 emergency food pantries, four homeless shelters, seven community meal programs and social service agencies that offer a snack or meal with their programs. Racine County Food Bank continues to receive, sort and distribute an average of 100,000 pounds of food monthly. Without RCF's help, these providers would not have the capacity to accept, store and distribute this volume of food to those in need in our community.

The crew from the Andis Company went above and beyond the call on United Way's Day of Caring event in September, staying overtime to complete 2,000 holiday meal boxes. We're working in collaboration with the Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency to take applications and prevent duplication for distribution of these boxes in December.

Health Care Network (HCN) provides free or low-cost medical, dental and behavioral health care, prescription assistance, and social services for low-income uninsured residents of Racine County. The organization also provides medical case management to help chronic disease patients better manage their diseases and translation services for Spanish-speaking patients. Care is provided by volunteer medical and dental practitioners as well as partnerships with Ascension Health Care, Aurora Health Care and 10 pharmacies across Racine County.

One of HCN's services include a community health worker (CHW) to assist clients in understanding their conditions, manage their chronic disease and connect them to community resources. In one case, a client of Health Care Network was able to get their diabetes controlled, along with the blindness the diabetes was causing. With the help of a CHW, the patient was enrolled in Prevent Wisconsin's vision screen program. This connection lead to a local ophthalmologist successfully performing surgeries on both eyes to improve the client's vision. The patient also had a health screening. The results of this coordinated care recommended the patient to a health screening. Unfortunately, the health screening led to previously undetected cancer diagnosis. The CHW was able to connect the patient with a local hospital and assist the patient to enroll in the local hospital financial assistance program. Through this program, the patient was able to access specialty care at no cost, which allowed the patient to receive radiation treatment for the cancer. As of today, no cancer cells have been detected by the patient's oncologist.

Bethany Apartments

The residents of Bethany Apartments often require legal assistance to be able to understand and navigate the legal system, whether it involves facing their abuser in a divorce, for what they did to the survivor, or other reasons. Currently, a resident is going through a tough divorce from her abuser. It has been an emotional process, but Bethany has been able to provide an advocate for this resident and connected them with Legal Action in Racine. This has been a supportive and helpful process for this resident.