33,068 meals provided to seniors who don’t have the ability to cook for themselves

Eleanore loves the community she’s found at United Way of Story County’s partner agency Heartland Senior Services. Her favorite thing to say is “there’s always room for more at the table”. And that’s true thanks to United Way of Story County supporters. Nutrition is of vital importance to helping seniors maintain healthy lives. Often times seniors ability to prepare or access food can become limited as their needs change. However, many across Story County can rely on United Way to help fill the gap. While filling the need for a nutritious meal, the staff at Heartland Senior Services also uses this relationship to monitor any changes in health and can provide referrals during outreach activities.

Meal programs like the one Eleanore attends are one of many ways United Way supporters supply meals for those in need. Other ways we are bridging the meal gap include, summer feeding sites for youth, support of food pantries, and home-delivered meals. Supporting access to nutrition is an important part of our health portfolio. Consider these examples of other programs that fit in our health work:

- Preventative and emergency dental care
- Mental health advocacy and counseling
- Substance abuse counseling
- Activity programs for people with intellectual or physical disabilities

We are strengthening communities from the inside out by making sure people are as healthy as possible. Eleanore, plus hundreds of seniors across our communities, thank you for your support of United Way.

YOU CAN CHANGE THE STORY.

United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community. We have one life. To live better, we must LIVE UNITED.
The bell just rang and class is dismissed. This marks the end of the school day, but not the end of learning for many children on their way to attend after school programs funded in part by United Way of Story County. After school programs like the one you see pictured above, YSS's Kids Club, helps bridge the gap for families that need a safe, nurturing environment for their children while parents finish the work day. Kids Club is held at four school districts across Story County: Ballard, Collins-Maxwell, Gilbert, Nevada, and Roland Story.

Out of school learning can strengthen a child's ability to read at grade level. We know this marker is of huge importance for future success, especially at the level of third grade reading. That's when kids transition from learning to read to reading to learn. From fourth grade and beyond, youth will use their literacy skills in every subject. That means we have a limited time between birth and the beginning of fourth grade to be sure kids are on track with their literacy skills. Early education programming is important to helping kids get off to a great start. Other parts of our education portfolio include:

- Parent training programs
- Iowa Reading Corps
- Well Baby check-up books
- Community advocacy and prevention

We are strengthening communities from the inside out by making sure youth have the building blocks for education. Children that participate in Kids Club, plus thousands of youth across Story County, thank you for your support of United Way.

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2,110 people were served by seven programs that prevented families from becoming homeless.

Thomas, a single dad of three children, found himself in what is not an uncommon situation. His expenses, including housing, were growing and his income wasn’t able to keep up. Faced with potential homelessness, Thomas reached out for help to one of United Way of Story County’s partner agencies, Emergency Residence Project. Thanks to ERP and United Way supporters, Thomas’s life is much different now than it was then. He and his family found stable footing through the Transitional Housing program, which offers an affordable apartment for a short time while families work on decreasing barriers to maintaining housing.

This program is just one of several that prevent families from becoming homeless. By convening community partners, United Way is able to help individuals and families achieve financial stability. Safety net programs, like Transitional Living, are only a part of this work. We also fund programs that build stability through financial education and support programs that are vital to helping people gain or maintain employment. Consider these examples of programs within our financial stability portfolio:

- Women United money management courses
- Emergency rent and utility assistance
- Sliding fee scales at childcare centers
- Wheels For Work

We are strengthening communities from the inside out by making sure people are financially stable. Thomas and his family, plus hundreds of families across our communities, thank you for your support of United Way.

YOU CAN CHANGE THE STORY.