

# FAQs

## Typical Questions and Their Answers

**Q. Why should I give to United Way?**

- 1) United Way of Greater Battle Creek addresses some of our community's most pressing problems and measurably improves the lives of individuals in need. We raise dollars that fund more than 51 local programs operated by more than 33 non-profit agencies. The programs address needs in one of the following three priority areas: Strong Families, Bright Futures and Safety Net.
- 2) 100% of every individual donation helps people in need. Overhead costs are covered by corporate sponsors.
- 3) Your dollar gets results. Each program is examined, in detail, to ensure it produces meaningful and measurable results. Think of United Way of Greater Battle Creek as a mutual fund for charitable giving. United Way acts as your giving advisor by researching community needs, investing in programs that help meet those needs and then monitoring the programs for measurable results.

**Q. Why should I give to United Way when I'll never use the services?**

- A.** Chances are, you or someone you know has benefited. Job loss, illness, disabilities and the problems of growing up and growing old know no boundaries. United Way funds programs that benefit everyone.

**Q. Doesn't the government take care of people who need services?**

- A.** Because of current changes in government funding, many programs receiving federal funds have experienced a reduction or elimination of funding.

**Q. Can I designate to an agency of my choice?**

- A.** While contributors can designate to a particular agency, we encourage you to consider choosing the Community Solutions Fund, the pool of undesignated donations. This gives United Way staff and volunteers the flexibility to evaluate the community's most pressing needs and respond to the needs appropriately, as well as to carefully monitor how donor dollars are invested and ensure they bring about measurable and positive results.

All recommendations to fund programs from the Community Solutions Fund are made by volunteers who go through extensive training in program evaluation. Before making funding recommendations to United Way of Greater Battle Creek's Board of Directors, the allocation teams spend many hours reviewing applications, meeting with staff responsible for the programs and discussing the potential impact of programs in the community.

## FAQs (continued)

### Typical Questions and Their Answers (continued)

**Q. How can I designate to an agency?**

**A.** Designations of \$50.00 or more may be made to any agency that meets 501(c)(3) health and human service requirements. A pledge form and a separate designation form will need to be filled out. Designations will be acknowledged by the agency.

**Q. Why do some agencies charge for services?**

**A.** United Way funds only a portion of an agency's budget. The balance comes from government grants, fees from people who can afford to pay for services and other sources.

**Q. How much should I give?**

**A.** Each person must make his/her own decision, since your contribution is a voluntary expression of concern for human beings. One hour's pay per month is offered as a guideline for consideration.

**Q. How much of my donation goes to cover administration costs for United Way of Greater Battle Creek?**

**A.** Every penny of your investment helps people in need. Each individual gift collected directly funds United Way services and vital community programs that help local people. Several corporations generously sponsor United Way's fundraising and administration costs, so your gift is guaranteed to have a direct impact on the lives of people living right here in the Battle Creek area.

**Q. What is the local United Way's relationship with United Way of America?**

**A.** United Way of Greater Battle Creek is a local, autonomous organization led by a volunteer board of directors. United Way of America is a completely separate organization that provides training, research data, items with the United Way logo and other services that are more cost effective to produce on a national scale. United Way of America has no say in how our local United Way is administrated or how it invests contributors' dollars – that is done by local volunteers like you.

**Q. I can't afford to give right now.**

**A.** You don't have to. Just pledge your gift and spread small payments throughout the year. You may use payroll deduction or direct billing by United Way.

**Q. I live out of town. Where should I give?**

**A.** We recommend contributors designate to the United Way in the community in which they reside.

**Q. How can I get help?**

**A.** Anyone can receive help or information by calling 211.