UNITED WAY
Linn, Benton &
Lincoln Counties

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

70 Years of Bringing People Together to Take Action– So, All Can Thrive

United Way of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties
Funding Solutions from the Cascades to the Coast

A LEGACY OF COLLECTIVE ACTION

What becomes possible when communities come together

For 70 years, people like you have stepped up–because you believe everyone in our communities deserves the opportunity to thrive together.

When families face challenges, when children need a strong start, when neighbors need support, the question isn't if we act–it's how we unite to make a difference.

That's where United Way of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties comes in.

We connect people, listen to what matters most, and mobilize resources to meet real needs–quickly, thoughtfully, and at scale. From the Cascades to the Coast, your support turns compassion into action–and action into lasting change.

This report reflects what we've accomplished together–and what's possible as we keep moving forward.

UNITED IS THE WAY™

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To our communities,

This past year brought real challenges to people and families across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties–and once again, our communities showed up for one another.

Across our region, individuals and families continue to face housing instability, rising costs, and financial pressure. In many households, these challenges are part of everyday life.

In response, we worked alongside partners to connect people to critical resources, strengthened programs, and expanded access to local support.

We also saw what becomes possible when people come together in action to support their communities.

We assumed stewardship of Crab Fest from the Greater Albany Rotary Club and began planning for the February 2026 event, continuing a valued community tradition. Through Day of Action, volunteers in Linn and Lincoln Counties packed meals for individuals and families facing food insecurity.

125,000 meals packed–because people stepped up to serve.

At the same time, we invested in long-term solutions. Through the ALICE Summit, we brought partners together to better understand the realities facing working households and strengthened coordinated response efforts. Through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, children are building early literacy skills and entering school ready to learn.

What matters most is not just what we do–but how we do it: through collaboration, shared responsibility, and a belief that stronger communities are built together.

Looking ahead, our focus remains clear: strengthen partnerships, deepen impact, and invest in solutions that create lasting change.

We are focused on solutions that create lasting change–not just temporary relief.

Thank you for being part of this work.

With gratitude,

Kevin Manske
President & CEO

CAUTION

CHANGE STARTS WITH YOU

Turning community support into real impact

Because of your support, real progress is happening across our communities.

Individuals and families have greater access to food, children are building strong foundations through early literacy, and local organizations are better equipped to serve those who need it most.

When people come together, impact grows.

This impact is seen in meals packed during Day of Action, books delivered through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and investments in local community partners–alongside stronger collaboration across organizations and participation in the ALICE Summit.

Behind every number is a person–a parent working hard, a child discovering their first book, a neighbor finding stability after uncertainty.

This is what change looks like in action–and it only happens because of you.

We are not only responding to challenges; we are helping strengthen the systems that prevent them.

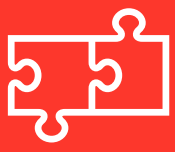
IMPACT AT A GLANCE

$1,264,800
Invested in local nonprofits

125,000
Meals packed for Linn and Lincoln Counties

7,566
Children received books each month

66
Community partners working together



120
People attended inaugural ALICE Summit

UNITED WAY'S IMPACT AREAS

The building blocks to thriving communities

United Way focuses where it matters most–on the conditions that help people and communities thrive and succeed.

Youth Opportunity
Helping children and youth reach their full potential through early learning, literacy, and education pathways that open doors to the future.

Financial Security
Building pathways to stable housing, employment, and financial independence so people can move from crisis to stability.

Healthy Community
Strengthening access to food, health care, and basic needs so individuals and families can build stability and well-being.

Community Resiliency
Preparing and responding together through volunteerism, partnerships, and disaster readiness that strengthen our region when it matters most.

HOW WE CREATE IMPACT TOGETHER

We don't work alone–and neither do our communities. We:

Listen
to local needs and lived experiences

Connect
people, partners, and resources

WHO WE ARE

Connecting people and resources to strengthen communities

United Way of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties mobilizes people and resources to strengthen communities and create opportunities for all. For more than 70 years, we've worked alongside our communities to address their most pressing challenges.

Our Mission

We mobilize people and resources of our communities in collective action to address our most pressing challenges.

Our Vision

We envision thriving communities where every individual and family has equitable access to the resources and opportunities needed to succeed.

Our Values

- **Accountability** – We steward community trust responsibly
- **Collaboration** – We believe lasting change happens together
- **Community** – We center local voices and needs
- **Empathy** – We lead with understanding and respect
- **Inclusivity** – We ensure opportunity for all
- **Integrity** – We act with honesty and transparency
- **Innovation** – We pursue better solutions
- **Adaptability** – We respond to changing needs

How We Work

We listen, invest in proven solutions, and work alongside partners to improve lives in education, financial stability, health, and community resiliency, and turn collective action into lasting impact.

Support solutions that create measurable change

Mobilize volunteers and support where it's needed most

Scale what works so more people can thrive

PROGRAMS IN ACTION

Where community needs become community solutions

We invest in programs that strengthen and expand opportunities across our region.

United for ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)

ALICE households are individuals and families who earn above the Federal Poverty Level but still cannot afford basic needs such as housing, food, childcare, transportation, and healthcare. For many, wages have not kept pace with rising costs.

These households include essential workers–home health aids, childcare providers, and grocery store and retail workers–who keep our communities running while facing ongoing financial pressure. When ALICE households are unstable, local systems–from schools to employers to healthcare–feel the impact as well.

Supporting ALICE households is central to building long-term community stability and opportunity.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

This program provides children ages birth to five with free, age-appropriate books delivered to their homes.

Since 2009, we have partnered to bring this program to the region, becoming the longest-standing partner in Oregon and one of the first statewide.

In 2025, the program served **7,566 children** and delivered **69,429 books**:

- Linn County:
  4,900 children | 45,386 books
- Benton County:
  1,649 children | 14,678 books
- Lincoln County:
  1,017 children | 9,365 books

This program helps children build early literacy skills, confidence, and a strong foundation for school success.

UNDERSTANDING ALICE

ALICE–Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed–represents individuals and families who work and struggle to afford basic needs such as housing, food, transportation, and healthcare.

	Linn	Benton	Lincoln
Households live in poverty or ALICE	43%	45%	47%
Single-mother households live in poverty or ALICE	82%	69%	78%
Seniors (65+) live in poverty or ALICE	47%	40%	49%
BIPOC households are % more likely to live in poverty or ALICE	19%	30%	22%

* BIPOC: Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

Fiscal Sponsorships

We serve as a fiscal sponsor for select community projects that align with our mission and strengthen local impact. This support helps community-led efforts access funding, manage resources responsibly, and bring ideas to life.

In 2025, we supported the preservation and maintenance of Miller Cemetery Association of Millersburg, helping sustain an important local community space.

We continue to support initiatives that are community-driven, mission-aligned, and focus on long-term impact across our region.

Linn County Child Abuse Network (Linn County CAN)

Linn County CAN is a countywide collaboration focused on preventing child abuse and neglect through education, awareness, and coordinated community action.

The coalition brings together educators, healthcare providers, law enforcement, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers to strengthen prevention efforts across Linn County through ongoing collaboration.

Every child deserves to grow up safe, supported, and free from harm.

Each April during Child Abuse Prevention Month, partners place pinwheels throughout the county as a reminder that every child deserves to grow up safe, supported, and protected every day.

Linn County CAN continues to strengthen collaboration and expand prevention strategies through shared community responsibility.

South Benton Advisory Council (SoBAC)

SoBAC strengthens rural South Benton County through local collaboration and community-informed investment.

Created in partnership with the Margaret E. Hull Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, SoBAC ensures resources are guided by local voices and priorities in communities including Alpine, Bellfountain, Glenbrook, Ingram Island, Irish Bend, and Monroe.

Community-driven solutions that reflect local voices and priorities create the greatest long-term impact.

Through ongoing engagement with residents and community leaders, SoBAC supports solutions that reflect local strengths and long-term needs.

Strategic Plans

In 2025, we partnered with three local organizations to strengthen capacity and long-term sustainability:

- Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center (CMLC)
- One2Another (OIIA)
- African American Youth Leadership Conference (AAYLC)

These efforts support organizations in clarifying goals, strengthening operations, and expanding their ability to serve their communities.

Strong communities are built when organizations have the tools, direction, and support to grow their impact.

Workplace Campaign

Our Workplace Campaign bring together businesses and employees across the region to support local community impact through payroll giving, matching gifts, and employee engagement across the region.

This campaign helps fund programs focused on education, financial stability, health, and community resiliency.

When workplaces come together, small contributions become lasting community impact.

In 2025, Workplace Campaign collectively raised **$713,165**, demonstrating the power of collective giving in action across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties.

Every contribution helps connect people to resources and strengthens long-term community solutions.

UNITED WAY
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Lincoln Counties
LIVE UNITE
United Way of
Linn, Benton & L
Counties
EXIT

2025 EVENTS

Community events that bring people together for lasting impact

Our events bring people together to learn, connect, and take action. Throughout the year, gatherings like the ALICE Summit, Day of Action, and Pig Out for Parton strengthened partnerships, built awareness, and mobilized community support across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties.

ALICE Summit

We hosted our inaugural ALICE Summit, bringing together businesses, nonprofits, and community partners to deepen the understanding of ALICE households and strengthen local response efforts.

The summit focused on using ALICE data to improve collaboration, inform funding strategies, and enhance services across the region. Participants also engaged in sessions on leadership, communication, collaboration, and board development to strengthen organizational capacity.

Crab Fest

We began a transition year to assume stewardship of Crab Fest in partnership with the Greater Albany Rotary Club, continuing a long-standing community tradition.

Planning began for the 2026 event, scheduled for February 7 at Calapooia Brewing Co., ensuring the event continues to serve as a meaningful community gathering and fundraiser.

Day of Action

Day of Action brings together volunteers, businesses, and community partners to take hands-on action that strengthens local communities, with a focus on meeting critical needs such as food access.

In 2025, volunteers packed **75,000 meals in Linn County** and **50,000 meals in Lincoln County** for people facing food insecurity.

We are grateful to all who made this effort possible and continue to support this important annual effort.

Pig Out for Parton

Pig Out for Parton, held April 27, at Sybaris Bistro, supported early childhood literacy through a five-course dining experience benefiting Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

The event raised **$52,000**, including a **$25,000 match from the Wheeler Family Charitable Fund**, expanding access to books and early learning opportunities for local children.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Businesses and organizations driving local impact

We work alongside businesses, donors, Workplace Campaign partners, government, and community organizations to mobilize resources and strengthen local communities across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties. Together, these partners help fund local nonprofits, support programs and initiatives, and drive meaningful community impact.

- 44 North Credit Union
- AmeriTitle
- ATI Specialty Alloys & Components
- Benton County, Oregon
- Bi-Mart – 9th Street
- Bi-Mart - Albany
- Bi-Mart - Corporate
- Bi-Mart - Corvallis
- Bi-Mart - Lebanon
- Bi-Mart - Lincoln City
- Bi-Mart - Sweet Home
- Boulder Falls Inn Event Center
- Central Willamette Credit Union
- Citizens Bank
- Citizens Bank, Albany
- City of Albany
- City of Corvallis
- Concrete GPR
- Costco Wholesale
- Danaher Corporation
- Debbie & Toby Blasquez
- Dicentra Fund of Oregon Community Foundation
- The Dollywood Foundation
- Esta Rose Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
- Fitzpatrick Painting & Construction
- General Dynamics
- Georgia-Pacific
- Greater Albany Rotary Club
- Hewlett Packard (HP)
- Hollingsworth & Vose
- Hub International NW
- Jones Lang LaSalle
- Judson's Heating and Plumbing
- Key Bank
- Knife River
- Lincoln County, Oregon
- Linn County, Oregon
- MoreInk
- Murphy Company
- Network for Good Campaign
- Newport Chamber of Commerce
- NW Natural
- Oregon Coast Bank
- Oregon Coast Veterans Association
- Oregon Freeze Dry
- Oregon State Credit Union
- Partnership for Community Health
- PCL Construction
- Raytheon
- Rogue Brewery
- Rotary Club of Lebanon
- Rotary Club of Newport Oregon, USA
- Rotary District 5110
- Rotary of Albany
- Samaritan Health Services
- Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund
- Sweet Home Rotary Club
- Sybaris Bistro
- Target Distribution Center
- United Way Fox Cities
- United Way of St Joseph
- U.S. Bank
- VFW Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Walmart Stores
- Weyerhaeuser
- Wheeler Family Charitable Fund

COMMUNITY IMPACT PARTNERS

Organizations working alongside us

We invest in local nonprofits through a transparent, community-led review process that ensures accountability, quality programming, and measurable impact. This process helps guarantee donor dollars are directed responsibly toward programs that strengthen communities across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties.

- Agape Respite Center •
- Albany Public Schools Foundation •
- Arcoiris Cultural •
- BB360 (Formally B'nai Brith) •
- Boys & Girls Club of Albany •
- Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis •
- Boys & Girls Club of Greater Santiam •
- CASA of Linn County •
- CASA-Voices for Children • •
- Cascade Pacific Council of Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America) •
- Coastal Range Food Bank, Inc. • •
- Community Outreach Inc. •
- Corvallis Environmental Center •
- Crossroads Communities •
- Fish of Albany •
- Furniture Share • • •
- Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington • • •
- Jackson Street Youth Services •
- LBCC Foundation • • •
- Lumina Hospice & Palliative Care •
- Mid-Willamette Family YMCA •
- Obria Medical Clinic •
- Old Mill Center for Children & Families •
- One2Another •
- Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments •
- Philomath Youth Activities Club •
- Sharing Hands •
- South Corvallis Food Bank •
- Stone Soup Corvallis, Inc. •
- Strengthening Rural Families •
- Sweet Home Emergency Ministries (SHEM) •
- Volunteer Caregivers •
- Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers (VIC) •

Program Location Key

- Linn County •
- Benton County •
- Lincoln County •

18 – L to R: Kevin, Bobby, Carol, Chris

OUR TEAM

Working together to serve our region

A small but dedicated team works across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties to mobilize resources and strengthen community partnerships.

Kevin Manske
President & CEO
Kevin leads regional strategy, partnerships, and community impact initiatives. He has been active in the Linn and Benton county communities for over 30 years, serving on multiple local boards and committees. He joined the team to focus on strengthening community impact across our region. In his free time, he enjoys the outdoors, fishing, traveling, cooking, and playing drums.

Bobby Williams Herrera
Director of Resource Development
Bobby leads fundraising, donor engagement, and campaign strategy. He has lived in Albany since 2001 and has been active in the Linn and Benton county communities for over 15 years. He co-founded Giving A Hoot, a local community cleanup initiative in Albany. Outside of work, he enjoys binge-watching TV shows, exploring new foods spots, and traveling with his husband, Lester.

Chris Sherrod
Director of Community Impact
Chris oversees programs, funding allocations, and nonprofit partnerships. He joined the team in 2021 and works with community partners, stakeholders, and local officials to maximize regional impact. He has a background in nonprofit and government program development. Outside of work, he enjoys collecting records, spending time outdoors, and being with friends and family.

Carol Elam
Director of Community Relations
Carol leads marketing, media, public relations, events, and partnerships. She holds degrees in Graphic Design, Digital Imaging, and Human Development and Family Sciences, and brings over 20 years of experience in marketing, sales, event planning, and graphic design. In her free time, she enjoys writing, volunteering, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

We are grateful to our full team–past and present–for their contributions to this year's impact.

GUIDING LEADERSHIP

Community leaders advancing local impact

Volunteer leaders help guide our mission and strengthen community investment.

Board of Directors

- Linda Amedo
- Mareesa Barrett
- Steven Broncheau
- Belit Burke
- Evelle Cleary
- Dr. Jeannie Davis
- Rebecca Eisenbacher
- Andrew Keating
- Jo Ann McQueary
- Kamile Melton
- Gamael Nassar
- Dr. Marshall Roache
- Greg Roe
- Laurie Roe
- Paul Shaffer
- Steve Sharpe
- Gabe Sheperd
- Rebecca Tolentino

Executive Committee

- Linda Amedo – Community Impact Chair
- Belit Burke – Chair
- Rebecca Eisenbacher – Secretary
- Laurie Roe – Incoming Chair
- Steve Sharpe – Treasurer
- Rebecca Tolentino – Past Chair

Community Impact Committee

- Linda Amedo - Chair
- Cindy Bond
- CeeAnn Callahan
- Woody Crowbar
- Elizabeth Cunningham
- Anna Dvorak
- Rebecca Eisenbacher
- Taylor Gilmour
- Daniel Helfrich
- Jeff Hintzman
- Andrew Keating
- Steven King
- Susan King
- Kamile Melton
- Jolyn Meza-Wynkoop
- Shannon Rose
- Paul Schaffer
- Natalie Schaefer
- Bryan Steinhauser
- Chelsie Steinhauser
- Rebecca Tolentino
- Christy Valencia
- Allyson West

Event/Marketing Committee

- Belit Burke
- Greg Hamann
- Andrew Keating - Chair
- Arthur Meeker
- Laurie Roe
- Sarah Steen

Finance Committee

- Debbie Blasquez
- Belit Burke
- Pat Eastman
- Avril Koehler
- Laurie Roe
- Steve Sharpe - Chair
- Rebecca Tolentino

Resource Development Committee

- Erica Bennett
- Evelle Cleary
- Ryan Hanson
- Jo Ann McQueary
- Lesley Ogden
- Greg Roe - Chair

Strategic Planning Committee

- Linda Amedo
- Erica Bennett
- Belit Burke
- Lesley Ogden
- Laurie Roe
- Rebecca Tolentino

We are grateful to the volunteer leaders who guide our mission and ensure accountability to the communities we serve.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Turning resources into measurable community impact

We are committed to responsible stewardship of every dollar entrusted to us to maximize our collective impact across the region.

In 2025, $1.26 million was invested back into local communities across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties.

Funding is distributed through the following categories:

- **Community Investments $225,000**
  Grants to local nonprofits addressing critical community needs across our region
- **Designations – $120,000**
  Donor-directed gifts to specific agencies or programs
- **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library $118,000**
  Early literacy program serving children ages birth to five
- **SoBac – $22,800**
  Community-based investment supporting rural South Benton County communities
- **Managed Grants – $779,000**
  Pass-through funding supporting regional programs

Every dollar is directed with care, accountability, and a focus on strengthening local communities.

Includes grants managed through our annual cycle, including the City of Corvallis Social Services Fund and Modernization Grant, awarded by community volunteers.

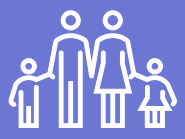
$164,500
Food Security

$323,300
Human Services

$129,000
Preventative Services

$328,000
Shelter and Support Services

$320,000
Youth and Family Services



22 – updated brand identity

LOOKING AHEAD

Building what comes next–together

The past 70 years have shown what is possible when communities come together.

That same belief continues to guide our work today.

We remain focused on strengthening partnerships and investing in long-term solutions that create opportunity for future generations.

Across education, financial stability, health, and community resiliency, we continue working to expand access and pathways for all.

We are not just continuing a legacy–we are building what comes next.

When we act together, we can improve lives.

Get Involved

Change happens when people take action together.

Whether you give, volunteer, advocate, or partner, your involvement helps strengthen our communities.

Ways to Take Action

- **Donate** – invest in local solutions that create lasting change →
- **Volunteer** – share your time where it matters most
- **Advocate** – use your voice to strengthen community systems
- **Attend Events** – join efforts that bring people together
- **Business Partnerships** – engage your organization in collective action

Stay Connected

Because staying connected means staying part of the impact.

- **Get stories that matter**
  E-newsletter signup:
  office@uwlbl.org
- **See impact in real time**
  Follow us on social →
- **Explore more ways to help**
  Visit: unitedwaylbl.org

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70 YEARS OF IMPACT

How collective action shaped our region

For 70 years, people across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties have come together to strengthen their communities.

From the Cascades to the Coast, we have helped mobilize people and resources to address urgent needs and build long-term solutions.

Together, we move from challenge to change.

70 Years of Community Action

- **1950s–1970s | The Beginning of United Action**
  Communities across the region begin organizing coordinated fundraising efforts to better meet local needs. Early United Fund models emerge, laying the foundation for collective giving.
- **1980s–1990s | Building Local Identity**
  United Way organizations in the region formally establish county-level identities, strengthening local ownership and accountability in community investment.
- **2000s | From Charity to Impact**
  The focus shifts from fundraising alone to long-term solutions. United Way evolves into a community impact organization–investing in education, financial stability, and health.
- **2010s | Collective Action at Scale**
  Partnerships deepen across nonprofits, schools, businesses, and volunteers. Data-driven investment strategies and coordinated funding models strengthen regional impact.
- **2020s | Mobilizing for Today's Challenges**
  United Way responds to urgent community needs while continuing long-term systems change–supporting families, expanding access to resources, and strengthening resilience.
- **Today | United is the Way Forward**
  A connected network of people and partners continues to mobilize resources so all can thrive–from the Cascades to the Coast.

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