

Miami County United Way - Preschool Scholarship Program

“The United Way provides direction and accountability to promote education, health, and financial independence. That is the umbrella, all three of our initiatives” says Debi Wallick, executive director of the United Way of Miami County. Overall, the organization has one goal, enhance the lives of all Miami County citizens.

United Way has set some bold goals for Miami County, especially under the education initiative. They strive to help youth and adults achieve their full potential in academics, work, and life. Setting a definite goal, United Way wanted to make sure that 85% of children are prepared for kindergarten by a preschool education. Debi explains that “children need to have the opportunity to go to preschool. For that opportunity to be achieved, we need to have that opportunity available.”

United Way decided to partner with the Miami County Community Foundation to make their goal effective, and a reality for the children of the community. Debi says, “the foundation just went hand in hand with our initiative, it was an obvious decision.”

Progress towards United Way's goal came with an opportunity to apply for the Indiana State Association of United Ways grant. United Way of Miami County received funding for the grant through Indiana Association of United Ways in the form of a dollar-for-dollar matching opportunity. While the United Way of Miami County had two years to raise the necessary funds, they achieved their goal within the first year, allowing them to provide this grant to the Community Foundation right away.

The grant is already working towards the United Way's goal. Debi says, “we are just excited to be able to offer the opportunity, it is very rewarding. The funds enable 4-year-olds from low-income families to obtain a preschool education that they would not otherwise be able to afford. Miami County is already seeing the positive outcomes from a quality education in the youth of their community.



United Way of Miami County