

TWO BECOME ONE

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT RECENT CHANGES TO YOUR UNITED WAY

What happened to the previous United Way of Lenawee County?

On June 21, 2016, the Board of the non-profit formally known as the United Way of Lenawee County announced their plan to align with the Lenawee Community Foundation and to dissolve their affiliation with United Way Worldwide (UWW). The Lenawee Community Foundation has since announced that they have established a separate fund, Lenawee Cares, to assume the donations and allocations that were previously managed by the United Way. All unspent donations received to date by the former United Way of Lenawee County, as well as their outstanding obligations, remain with the 501(c) 3 that is now known as Lenawee Cares.

How did Monroe County become involved?

In an effort to ensure that United Way maintains a strong presence in Lenawee County, fighting for the health, education and financial stability of every resident in the community, UWW has requested that United Way of Monroe County step forward to serve the residents of both counties.

The United Way of Monroe County readily offered our support to our neighboring county, and we have begun to make the transition of regionalizing to become The United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties (UWM/LC.)

Will you have an office in Lenawee County?

The United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties has an office located in the Gallery of Shops in Adrian. The address is 136 East Maumee St. Ste. 15, Adrian MI and the phone number is 517-264-6821. The Monroe office is located at 216 N. Monroe St. Monroe, MI and the phone is 734-242-1331.

Will you have staff in Lenawee County?

Operations will be managed initially with our current staff of four full time employees. Mike Smith AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison and April Demers Associate Director will work from the Lenawee office 2 days a week each, and Connie Carroll, Executive Director will begin networking with community stakeholders. Lisa Hatala, Operations Director will manage operations for the region from the Monroe office with support from Cooley Hehl Wohlgamuth & Carlton CPA's. It is anticipated that as funding for Lenawee recovers, a full time Lenawee staff person will be established by year two.

Will there be two United Way Boards?

No, the UWM/LC will work towards establishing a 50/50 representation from both of the counties on our one regional Board, beginning with filling three Board vacancies with Lenawee representatives. The first step will be to identify a Lenawee Community Advisory Committee to assist in the transition and to identify potential candidates for the open positions.

What will happen to funds that are raised in both of the Counties?

All funds that are raised in Monroe County will be used to fund Monroe County allocations. All funds raised in Lenawee County will be used to fund Lenawee County allocations. Financial accounting for each community will be kept independent of one another.

Will there be a United Way Campaign?

Absolutely! We will be running two separate campaigns – one in each County. As always, we are looking for Community Champions to lead the way! Campaigns will be kicked off in the fall of 2016.

Will there be funding allocations made to agencies?

Yes! The United Way will accept applications for funding from non-profit organizations in each County for the 2017/2018 funding cycle in November and December of 2016. The amount of money distributed in each County will be determined by the amount raised in each respective County.

What will happen to 2-1-1 services in Lenawee County?

The Lenawee Community Foundation has announced their intention to eliminate 2-1-1 services in Lenawee County. On August 8, 2016 they issued a 30-day notice to terminate payment for 2-1-1 services.

The United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties (UWM/LC's) has prioritized providing 2-1-1 services with uninterrupted service for Lenawee County. We believe that this is a valuable service that connects people with information and resources to build healthy and safe communities. We are reaching out to our fellow United Way Organizations, the Michigan Association of United Ways, our Labor Partners and all sorts of Community Champions in order to make this happen! Of course, Monroe will continue to receive 2-1-1 services as well.

Are there any additional funds made available to the community because of the United Way?

Yes! United Way organizations are able to accept funding that many other organizations cannot, including donations from SECC State Employee Combined Campaign, allocations from EFSP Emergency Food and Shelter Programs, and State Income Tax Check off. In Lenawee County this equates to an approximate **\$35,000** that will be available to support initiatives!

How can I support the United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties?

GIVE - If you would like to make a donation, or you have a previous pledge to the United Way of Lenawee County and you want for your donation to STAY WITH THE UNITED WAY, please contact Lisa Hatala, Operations Director to ensure that your pledge or employer withholding is routed to the UWM/LC. Again, Lenawee County donations will stay in Lenawee County to fund programs and initiatives addressing education, income and health. Monroe donations will stay in Monroe.

ADVOCATE- If you are interested in serving on the Transition Advisory Board for the UWM/LC, please contact April Demers, Associate Director.

VOLUNTEER - If you are interested in serving on the United Way of Monroe/ Lenawee County Board as a Lenawee County representative, please contact April Demers, Associate Director.