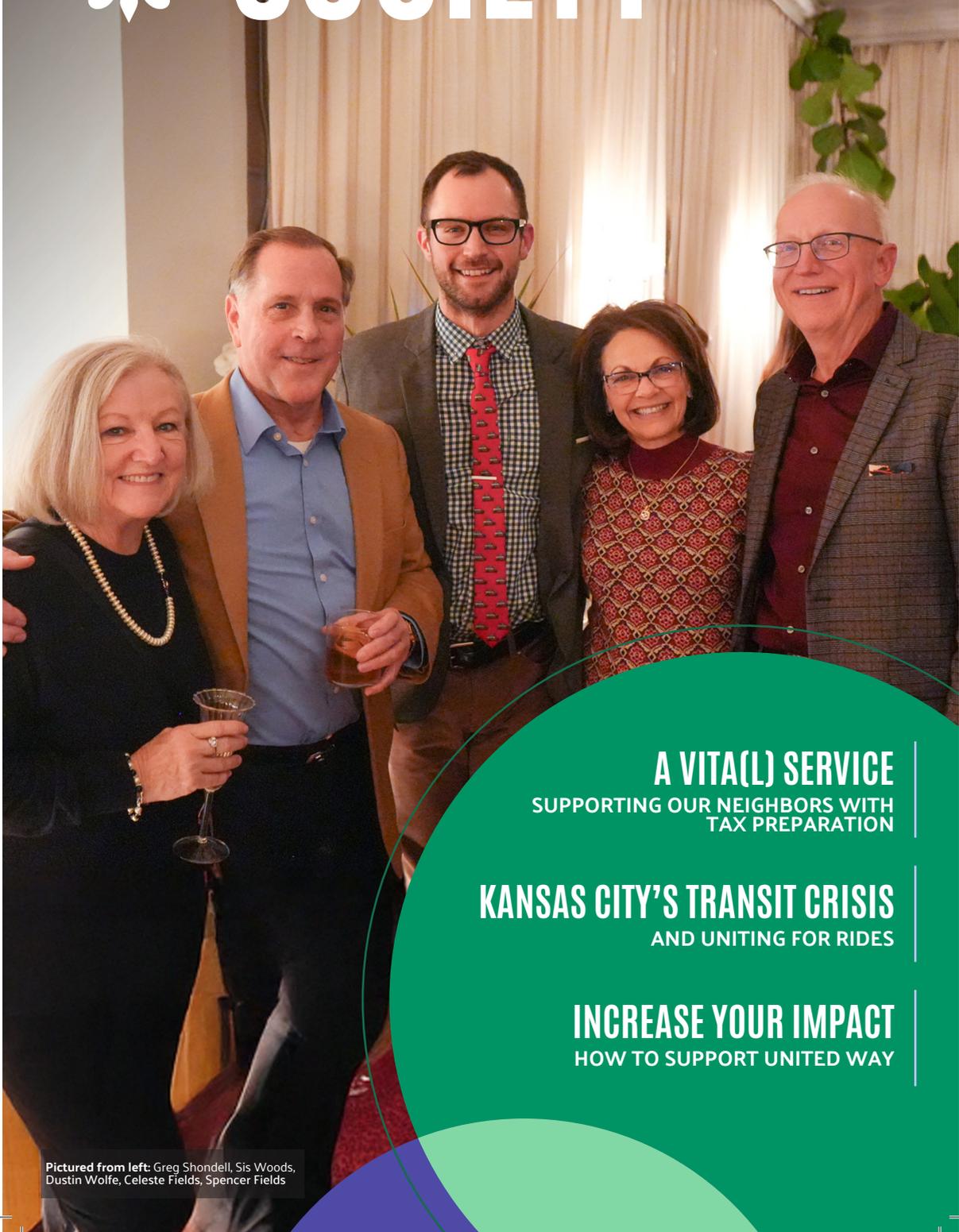




SOCIETY



SPRING 2026



A VITA(L) SERVICE

SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBORS WITH
TAX PREPARATION

KANSAS CITY'S TRANSIT CRISIS

AND UNITING FOR RIDES

INCREASE YOUR IMPACT

HOW TO SUPPORT UNITED WAY

Pictured from left: Greg Shondell, Sis Woods,
Dustin Wolfe, Celeste Fields, Spencer Fields



A message from Patrick Sallee: United Way of Greater Kansas City's new President and CEO.

To our Tocqueville Members:

I am beyond honored to join United Way and a team dedicated to expanding opportunities for all Kansas Citians. This organization's long-standing commitment to supporting our region's most vulnerable communities is inspiring, and I look forward to contributing to this vital mission.

Throughout my career, more than two decades now, I have been driven by the realization that the zip code you are born in has a direct impact on life expectancy and opportunities that come your way. Frankly, it can have an impact on how we see our potential and the world around us. I don't think that's right or just, so I've made it my mission to serve with organizations working to make a difference in issues of equity and justice. I've been lucky to work at several amazing Kansas City area organizations, with and for incredible people that are committed to the greater good, which has now brought me to United Way--as your new President and CEO.

I look forward to meeting each of you in the weeks and months ahead as we seek to continue to build upon the tremendous work being done here to improve health, enhance youth opportunity, foster financial security and build community resiliency so that all have the ability to thrive.

Your commitment to that mission is extraordinary and appreciated by our team and the 1 in 3 Kansas Citians who rely on United Way supported services each year. Thank you for your commitment to United Way. I'm excited to listen, learn, and embark on this journey with you.

Warmly--

Patrick Sallee
United Way of Greater Kansas City President & CEO



TOCQUEVILLE: OUT & ABOUT

Tocqueville Society members and their families enjoyed an evening, presented by Delta Air Lines, surrounded by art in the Nelson Atkins Donald J. Hall Sculpture Park, with food, drink and miniature golf on the art course.



Tocqueville Society members joined United Way volunteering opportunities through SNAP into Action, Seasons of Giving (presented by Deloitte), and ImpactPalooza to support families in need.



A toast to impact! A thanks for the generosity and commitment you make to our community during Tocqueville's annual winter party, held at Le Lounge.



211 IS MORE THAN A PHONE NUMBER. IT'S THE LIFELINE WHERE PEOPLE FIND HOPE, STABILITY, AND SOLUTIONS.

-Ayesha M.
211 Community Resource Specialist



WHEN CRISIS HITS.... UNITED WAY RESPONDS IN REAL-TIME

In October, a historic 43 day long federal government shutdown had wide-ranging impacts on our community.

The federal government is Kansas City's largest employer with more than 30,000 workers. During the shutdown, all those workers were faced with furloughs or working without pay. Additionally, many government programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) did not issue payments—impacting more than 150,000 individuals in United Way's seven-county service area.

United Way immediately launched the SNAP into Action campaign. Nine volunteer events were held this winter, packing nearly 20,000 meals to support partner nonprofits around the region. United Way released an additional \$400,000 in emergency funding to food pantry partners to help restock shelves that had been wiped out during the shutdown and busy holiday season.

We also issued another round of prepaid debit cards to directly support federally furloughed workers.

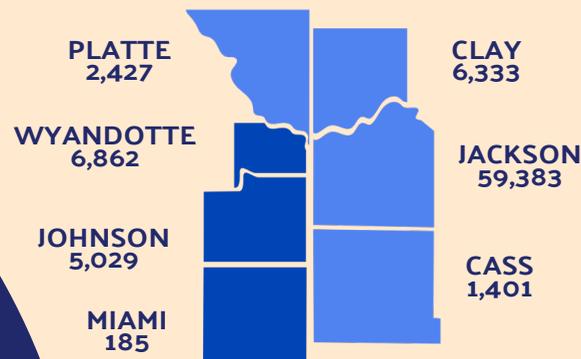
347,839

211 CONTACTS IN 2025
(combination of phone calls and unique web visits to 211kc.org)

2-1-1

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. AVAILABLE 24/7.
7,000+ RESOURCES. 150+ LANGUAGES.

CALLS WITHIN OUR SEVEN-COUNTY SERVICE AREA:



Remainder of total calls came from the 23-county region serviced by United Way of Greater KC's 211 operation.

2025 TOP FIVE NEEDS

- UTILITY ASSISTANCE
- HOUSING & SHELTER
- TAX PREPARATION
- TRANSPORTATION
- LEGAL AID





A VITA(L) SERVICE: CONNECTING NEIGHBORS TO FREE TAX PREPARATION

\$220. That is the average cost anyone can expect to pay a professional to have basic tax preparation services performed. Throw in anything unusual or complex, and the costs can quickly climb to \$1,000 or more.

For many low-income households, that’s simply too expensive. But individuals who opt to file on their own often miss out on valuable tax credits or make errors in calculation. Sometimes, these filing errors can result in penalties or reduced refunds.

That’s why The My Free Taxes initiative in partnership with the IRS’ VITA program is so critically important. VITA—the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program—helps people file their federal and state taxes for free and is brought to the community by United Way.

Locally, United Way of Greater Kansas City’s 211 provides pivotal assistance in scheduling tax appointments at local VITA sites. In 2025 our 211 Community Resource Specialists provided more than 6500 VITA referrals, a 51% increase from 2024.

A SURGE IN TAX ASSISTANCE

In 2025, United Way 211 experienced a sharp increase in requests for tax preparation assistance. Over 7,000 individuals reached out for help, making up over 6% of all 211 contacts for the year.

But as demand climbed, access to free tax preparation services have become increasingly limited. Funding limitations, capacity caps, growing waitlists, and even program closures reduced availability at the very moment people need support most. Your continued support ensures families can access free, reliable tax preparation when they need it most.

VITA(L) SUPPORT

Bernita Cauthon is proud to be one of United Way of Greater Kansas City’s 211 Community Resource Specialists. She’s part of a team that answers our community’s call for help 24 hours a day, seven days a week, sifting through a database of more than 7,000 resources to connect individuals to the services they need.

But Bernita is not just a person who takes those calls, she is also someone who has utilized some of the services she tells those calling 211 about. During tax filing season, a service that routinely gets a lot of inquiries is VITA.

Bernita and her sister Sharon have used the VITA services at University of Missouri-Kansas City the past two years.

“Their treatment is first class. They were very respectful of our information. They kept safety and security uppermost in mind,” Bernita shared.

Because she’s had such a positive view of the VITA process, she shares her experiences with 211 callers, letting them know exactly what they can expect at their appointment.

“I think it’s very important that I can speak from an absolutely great personal experience,” Bernita said. “We’ve driven to the VITA site in the snow, the wind, the rain, and they’re there no matter what—treating you with the utmost respect. They do a quality check. And they even have a person at the end who makes sure that the tax forms get submitted.”

If you or someone you know needs assistance of any kind and don’t know where to turn, 211 is here for you. It’s free and confidential. Simply dial 2-1-1 from any phone line or visit 211KC.org to connect with resources near you.



-Bernita Cauthon and her sister, Sharon
VITA recipients

KANSAS CITY'S TRANSIT CRISIS

"FREEDOM." That's the word Nancy M. of Blue Springs, Mo. uses to describe how it felt when she owned her own car. But just more than a year ago, the vehicle a friend had given her just decided it didn't have any go left in it.

"I could go on rides, out to do nature walks, volunteer. I'd go to my job, to the store and different appointments. I can't do that now," Nancy shared with InvestigateTV+ during a recent interview at United Way of Greater Kansas City offices.

Nancy being interviewed by InvestigateTV+ reporter Kristin Crowley in October 2025.



And Nancy isn't alone. The Kansas City metro consistently ranks among the worst US cities to live if you don't own a car. It's estimated 47,000 Kansas City households don't own a vehicle. The impacts are widespread. Individuals without a car have difficulty finding and keeping a job, accessing healthcare and educational opportunities, and more.

And for Nancy, buying a new car simply isn't an option after being diagnosed with colorectal cancer and heart disease. Between chemo, physical therapy, and other ongoing care, she had to leave the job she loved teaching and coaching.

THE CHALLENGES



Even with the KC Streetcar's recent expansion, its total route is only 5.7 miles long. It currently does not service the Northland or any communities in Kansas.



Suburban communities including Blue Springs, Gladstone, Grandview and Independence, all ended bus contracts with KCATA in 2024--leaving those who relied on public transit with few options. Additionally, local zero fare free bussing is slated to end June 1st.



Purchasing and owning a car has gotten more expensive in recent years. Car companies have reduced production of affordable cars and there are fewer used, cheap cars on the market. The average used car costs around \$25,000.

**“Y’ALL WERE
LIKE AN
ANSWERED
PRAYER.”**

-Nancy M.
United Way Ride United recipient



Unable to work and surviving on disability and SNAP (food stamps) benefits, the price tag of a car, plus insurance and maintenance, is simply out of reach.

Without a vehicle, no bussing available in her community, and a host of medical care needs--finding a way to serve needs for daily living like getting to the grocery store and pharmacy has been hard.

Ride United has been a lifeline, providing transportation to and from medical appointments at no cost.

"It's a different life now, with a cancer team and so many things I have to do to stay on top of my health," Nancy said. "I love the 211 number. They do a follow up call to make sure you got the help you need. I'm so grateful for the support."

SUPPORT FROM UNITED WAY

RIDE UNITED | United Way Worldwide launched a ride program in partnership with Lyft. Locally, in 2025, we supported 2,288 rides to 757 unique riders to everything from job interviews and employment to medical appointments, domestic violence and homeless shelters, education, grocery stores/food pantries and more.

DEBIT CARDS | United Way launched our second and third rounds of support through our prepaid debit card initiative in 2025. Twenty partner agencies and 211 worked to deploy direct assistance to families facing financial crisis. The average aid awarded per card was \$952. Transportation was among top needs identified by households awarded funding--including car repairs, gas, ride share, etc.

Support the transportation needs of our neighbors with your unrestricted gift:
unitedwaygkc.org/donate.



UNITED WAY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

TOCQUEVILLE MEMBERS

HELPING SELECT 2026-2027 CLASS OF IMPACT 100

Each Year, United Way of Greater Kansas City facilitates an extensive review process for selection of our Impact 100 group. Just like last year, applications were open to all 501(c)(3) organizations within our seven-county service area, working in the following key areas:

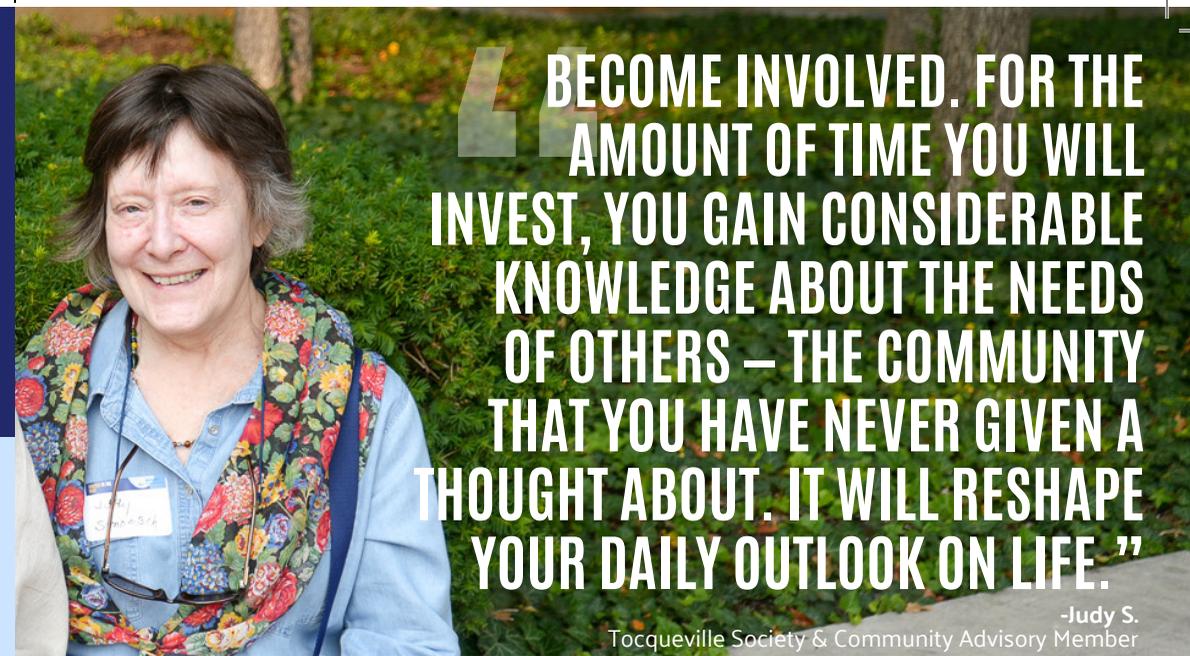
HEALTHY COMMUNITY **YOUTH OPPORTUNITY** **FINANCIAL SECURITY** **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

Over several weeks, applications submitted by nonprofits are reviewed by United Way's Community Advisory Members, a diverse group of more than 200 community and business leaders. The group evaluates organizations for their demonstrated work and outcomes to address the critical challenges facing the Kansas City region today, as well as for their fiscal responsibility.

We're so grateful for the Tocqueville Society members who volunteered time to be part of the advisory process, reviewing the hundreds of applications received.

2026-2027 IMPACT 100 COHORT TIMELINE

- **NOVEMBER - DECEMBER**
 - Community Advisory Members review Impact 100 applications
- **JANUARY**
 - Community Advisory review sessions
- **FEBRUARY - MARCH**
 - United Way internal review by Executive leadership, Board comprised
 - Community Impact Committee, and finally approval by the United Way
 - Board of Trustees
- **APRIL - MAY**
 - Notifications are sent; Public announcement of upcoming cohort



BECOME INVOLVED. FOR THE AMOUNT OF TIME YOU WILL INVEST, YOU GAIN CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE NEEDS OF OTHERS – THE COMMUNITY THAT YOU HAVE NEVER GIVEN A THOUGHT ABOUT. IT WILL RESHAPE YOUR DAILY OUTLOOK ON LIFE.”

-Judy S. Tocqueville Society & Community Advisory Member

WHAT IS IMPACT 100?

The Impact 100 is a group of nonprofit organizations within United Way of Greater Kansas City's service region that are working to meet today's most critical health and human service needs. Each organization must meet a high bar of organizational accountability in terms of finances, governance, and community impact. Impact 100 organizations are diverse in the type of work they do, the geographic regions, and demographics served. **The 2025 Impact 100 list includes:**



Scan to view the full list of currently funded Impact 100 partners.



EVICTION PREVENTION

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

“IT REALLY TAKES A TOLL, NOT KNOWING IF YOU’RE GOING TO BE ON THE STREET OR NOT.”

Steve S. | Kansas City, Mo.

Retirement isn’t exactly how Steve & Lorie S. of Kansas City pictured it. The past four years have been riddled with health problems.

Steve has Legionnaires’ Disease, has undergone four major spine and shoulder surgeries, and had a recent cancer scare. Lorie suffers from severe back and joint pain, and just recovered from a year-long eye condition that left her unable to see.

“It’s very stressful. We were going through this a long time,” Lorie said.

Both of them have been declared disabled, but because Lorie was a stay-at-home mom of three, only Steve has enough work history to qualify for disability benefits.

“We’d get on our feet, kind of, and then something else would happen,” Steve said.

With stacks of medical bills, a single income has been tough to get by on. They’d been making it work, until their rent was raised by \$270--twice.

“I came to a realization that as much as we loved the place, that unless they took housing vouchers, there was no way we could stay,” said Steve.

The couple is thankful for support from 211 and United Way Impact 100 partner Mattie Rhodes Center, which helped keep them afloat. But Steve & Lorie knew they needed a long-term solution to their housing situation. After a lengthy wait, they finally got a housing voucher and scoured the metro in search of an affordable place.

“Mattie Rhodes connected us with Jim at United Way, and we stayed in touch more than a year,” Steve shared. “He was an angel,” said Lorie.

United Way’s eviction prevention initiative supported them, helping secure a new apartment, covering moving costs, rent, and application fees/deposits.

“United Way truly stepped in, covering all the things we couldn’t,” Steve said. “As you get older, to have that safety and security is huge. At 30, I might not be so worried, but certainly it’s a much bigger concern when both of us are 61.”

The couple is incredibly thankful to United Way, who gave them the push they needed to stay on track with the process to find a new, affordable apartment. They’ve got a whole new outlook on life now—one that is happy, secure, and has them eager to pay it forward.

“You guys saved us, and we want to give back any way we can,” Lorie said. “Just thank you, thank you so much for all you’ve done for us.”

BY THE NUMBERS

REAL-TIME SOLUTIONS

48,557

RENT, UTILITY REFERRALS PROVIDED BY 211

564

HOUSEHOLDS SERVED THROUGH EVICTION PREVENTION WORK IN 2025

2,096

KCMO RIGHT TO COUNSEL REFERRALS MADE IN 2025



Legacy Society

Our Legacy Society members have established their planned giving intentions with United Way, taking a meaningful step to secure the future health and well-being of the Kansas City community. Planning ahead is a powerful way to ensure your philanthropic giving continues as part of you and your family's lasting legacy. Such planning enables us to prepare for the future, meet community needs, and ensure health and stability for every member of Kansas City.

WHY JOIN OUR LEGACY SOCIETY & DOCUMENT YOUR PLANNED GIFT:

- **HONORING YOU** | Documenting your planned gift provides us clear direction as to your wishes, ensuring your intent is met and allowing us to celebrate you now.
- **RECOGNITION** | Receive special updates, recognition, benefits and invitations to special events.
- **INSPIRE** | Sharing your name along with your plans encourages others to support United Way of Greater Kansas City—the best way to respond to community needs now and into the future.
- **HOW TO JOIN** | Connect directly with our philanthropy team by emailing philanthropy@uwgkc.org

FREEWILL 



As a friend of United Way, FreeWill is delighted to help you create your legal will. It is 100% free to you, and most people finish in 20 minutes or less. The service also provides you the ability to create a free revocable living trust. **Learn more at <https://freewill.com/UnitedWay>.**

United Way of Greater Kansas City recognizes that a planned gift commitment is a non-binding provision and that circumstances of your gift planning may change. Any information about your planned gift will remain confidential, unless otherwise noted, and you can opt to receive as much or as little communication as you prefer.

WAYS TO CONTINUE YOUR IMPACT

PLANNED & ESTATE GIFTS, REAL ESTATE DEDUCTION

Leave a legacy through your estate plans or gift real estate holdings. Donating property to United Way can allow you to bypass capital gains taxes on appreciation, claim a fair market value tax deduction and avoid selling costs.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS (DAFS)

Donors with a DAF, a tax-advantaged, flexible charitable investment account, can make charitable contributions, receive immediate tax deductions and recommend grants to United Way.

IRA & RETIREMENT GIVING

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your retirement account allows those 70 ½ and older to give directly from an IRA to United Way tax-free and satisfy all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

STOCKS & SECURITIES

You can make a non-cash gift through stocks, bonds, or mutual funds to support the causes you care about while avoiding capital gains taxes, receiving fair market value deduction or taking advantage of carry-forward provisions.

STAY CONNECTED

IMPACT STORIES, UPCOMING EVENTS, UNITED WAY UPDATES, AND MORE | UNITEDWAYGKC.ORG





PO Box 843940
Kansas City, MO 64164-3940

SAVE THE DATE

April 16 | Purposes for Promise

Presented by  BLACK & VEATCH

April 20 - 24 | Seasons of Giving

July 16 | The Waymaker™ Awards

Presented by  Hallmark

Fall 2026 | Tocqueville Society 40th
Anniversary Celebration

SCAN TO SECURE
YOUR PURSES FOR
PROMISE TICKETS!

