

UNITED WAY OF THE MIDLANDS CONTACT:

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United Way of the Midlands Receives Grant from Wells Fargo

United Way of the Midlands (UWM) is proud to announce it has been awarded a grant of \$86,000 from Wells Fargo. The grant is supporting healthy food and hunger relief programs in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area.

A strong community depends on an accessible and affordable food system for all people – one that provides services to meet current food needs and builds capacity to provide healthy food for generations to come. Yet, in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area, about 1 in 7 people experience food insecurity because they lack reliable access to affordable, nutritious food.¹ This includes children, seniors, working adults and individuals in poverty.

People struggling with food insecurity are faced with the choice of putting food on the table or paying for other basic needs such as utilities, rent or medications.² Parents and guardians may skip meals to ensure their children have enough to eat, or they may eat less nutritious food because it is less expensive, which increases the risk of diet related diseases. Children who do not have enough to eat generally have poorer health, do worse in school and have higher hospitalization rates.³

Wells Fargo's contribution will allow UWM to continue to improve food security and nutrition through program investments in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area. It will also support access to immediate food and other food resources through UWM's 2-1-1 information and referral helpline. Food queries consistently represent one of the top three needs expressed by helpline customers. In 2017, the helpline received 4,500 calls related to food needs.

"Wells Fargo is always happy to support the United Way's many efforts to create healthy, more resilient communities," said Kirk Kellner, Wells Fargo region bank president. "This grant to help address hunger issues, along with financial support and volunteerism for other United Way programs is a small part of what makes the ongoing collaboration so strong and successful on behalf of our local communities."

Join us on Tuesday, May 29 from 11:00 – 11:30 AM at Wells Fargo Regency Branch, 10010 Regency Circle, to see Wells Fargo present their check to UWM. Speakers include Kirk Kellner, Wells Fargo region bank president; Shawna Forsberg, UWM president and CEO; and Mariel Harding, UWM director of community impact health and food security.

"We are honored to be awarded this generous grant from Wells Fargo and continue a partnership to make our community stronger," said Shawna Forsberg, UWM president and CEO. "The grant will allow United Way to invest in vital programs and partner with organizations to support over 102,000 residents in our community who are considered food insecure."

About United Way of the Midlands

Thanks to donors, volunteers and community partners, United Way of the Midlands (UWM) is not only focused on addressing our community's human needs today; it is focused on what can be and what should be. It is building on today's strong partnerships to create even more comprehensive human service efforts tomorrow, so our community can solve some of the root causes of poverty. UWM is community-based, community-focused. Thanks to those who share their strength, UWM is COMMUNITY STRONG. Please visit UnitedWayMidlands.org for more information.

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¹U.S. Department of Agriculture food insecurity report cited by Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition: Food Insecurity <http://centerfornutrition.org/foodinsecurity/>

²www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/hunger-in-america/hia-2014-executive-summary.pdf

³www.sustainabletable.org/280/food-security-food-access