

COME ONE, COME ALL

Here's How You Can Get Involved This Fall!

The Phillip Covey VOLUNTEER —of the YEAR— AWARD

Thursday, November 16

Reception with Cash Bar ■ 5–6pm

Dinner & Program ■ 6–7:30pm

DoubleTree Hotel & Conference Center

10 Brickyard Drive, Bloomington

**Volunteers do so much to enrich our community.
Let's give them the well-deserved spotlight!**

Our annual Phil Covey Memorial Award of Excellence honors a local volunteer for outstanding service to our community. Dozens of area nonprofits have submitted nominees and one will be the 2023 recipient at our dinner and ceremony at the DoubleTree Hotel & Conference Center.

Join us for dinner, inspiration, and celebration! Purchase tickets for \$35 by Friday, November 10 at bidpal.net/voy23 or via the QR code on the left.



Thursday, October 12
5–7:30pm

Lakeside Country Club

1201 Croxton Avenue, Bloomington

There's power when we work together for good. **Power of the Pub** brings together people like you who want to see everyone in McLean County find pathways to prosperity.

Join us for complimentary appetizers, a cash bar, and a lively evening with a silent auction, games and prizes, a 50/50 raffle, and a quick word about our partnership with the **Dolly Parton Imagination Library** (DPIL).

With your \$26 Power of the Pub ticket, a child is registered for one year in DPIL and will receive a free book each month!

Purchase tickets for \$26 by October 6 at bidpal.net/popub23, via the QR code on the left, or for \$30 at the door.



PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY

Fall Update 2023

PARTNERSHIPS MAKE HEALTHCARE MORE ACCESSIBLE



Everyone deserves quality healthcare. But many McLean County residents face barriers to the care they need.

Now healthcare is going straight to those who need it via a mobile healthcare clinic. The new unit was commissioned by Carle Health at a celebration ceremony on August 16, 2023.

Your support through United Way plays a vital role in this innovative solution. United Way coordinated and convened the partnership between Carle Health, the City of Bloomington, the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA), Tinervin Family Foundation, and the Town of Normal. Gifts from each partner, as well as \$150,000 from United Way donors like you, funded the \$750,000 unit.

It's a prime example of how our Community Partnerships work. Thank you for investing to make solutions like this available for neighbors across our county!

David Taylor
President & CEO
United Way of McLean County

YOU MAKE 180UNITED POSSIBLE

What is 180United? It's the mindset at **United Way of McLean County**, to help at-risk, vulnerable residents of McLean County make a turnaround for themselves and their families. Some are struggling financially or emotionally. Others are facing employment or housing instability.

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YOU MAKE 180UNITED POSSIBLE *continued*

They are finding support from United Way of McLean County to make a 180-degree change in their lives. And you are helping make that possible.

180United is about working together with community partners to open doors to real change for those who need it most. **But we can't do it without you.** Your support creates meaningful change for others and opens real pathways for people to access education and training, mental health support, housing assistance, childhood literacy, and more.

Will you give \$180 so more neighbors find 180-degree change? That's just \$15 a month to spark lasting change in McLean County!

SPARK CHANGE WITH YOUR \$180 GIFT

GIVE ONLINE: www.UWmclean.org/donate

GIVE BY CHECK: payable to United Way of McLean County; mail to P.O. Box 1348, Bloomington, IL 61702

INTERESTED IN PLANNING GIVING? reach out to David Taylor at dtaylor@uwaymc.org.



First Steps for 75+ Workforce180 Students

Workforce180 is in its fourth year already — and it's our biggest cohort of students yet! More than 75 young adults are getting vital support this year. They are overcoming obstacles to continue their training and education, with the support of our Workforce180 staff team, volunteer mentor support, Heartland Success Coaches and Mid Central Community Action's Financial Opportunity Center.

You can cheer on the next generation of pre-school teachers, nurses, paramedics, law enforcement, and construction workers with your gifts that make Workforce180 available!

Meet Tom Frazier

As you can see, **WORKFORCE180** is growing! We've recently welcomed Tom Frazier to our team. Tom retired as the Director of the Bloomington Area Career Center and is a great fit to provide support for our students, mentors, and partners.



IMPROVING HOUSING STABILITY ACROSS THE COUNTY

When the pandemic was at its height in 2020, it exacerbated the housing demand already unfolding for many neighbors across our county. We knew our commitment to collaboration could help. So we launched the Housing Coalition as a short-term initiative connected to the pandemic's duration.

While the pandemic has now eased, given the critical need for more affordable housing in McLean County, the Coalition — composed of over 70 housing stability stakeholders such as shelters, social service agencies, schools, government, and faith-based organizations — continues to convene monthly. This work to coordinate housing resources for area residents will continue as long as the need persists.

Our focus this year has been on the development of a new community resource — the Housing Stability Navigator — whose role is to connect residents with available, accessible housing that meets their needs and their budget. Mid Central Community Action hosts this new community resource, and in July hired Janet

Hood to fill the role. Janet has been on the job for about 60 days and is already having considerable impact. According to Janet, Mid Central Community Action has completed 10 cases for the first month's rent with an additional 26 cases currently in progress as customers strive to find available housing options that are within their budget. A majority of the completed cases were working mothers with children, who were often living with family members, in hotels, or in their vehicles. Of those rehoused, 70% were employed full-time in areas such as healthcare, service industry, retail, and manufacturing, and only 30% of the cases completed thus far were on a fixed income (Social Security or Disability). All customers served are working or have a source of consistent income to ensure continued housing stability. As a community, there are still major challenges to serving vulnerable unhoused community members; the most prominent being lack of affordable workforce housing.

We look forward to sharing more about this support system as it takes shape in the next few months.

If you know someone in need of housing support, connect them with the Housing Stability Navigator at 309-834-9201.

