

**People Helped by
Shiawassee United Way**

“Kristy’s” family doctor said she was in need of an eye exam. Living paycheck to paycheck, she could not afford it. Kristy asked a Shiawassee United Way staff person if there was any help. The staff person researched and discovered that since Kristy’s doctor recommended the exam, her medical insurance would cover the expense. “Thank you Shiawassee United Way. I would never have thought to check with my medical insurance.”

“Jennie’s” family lived in such complete poverty that it made her very angry. With Shiawassee United Way sponsored Girl Scouting, she learned how to plant a community garden and was able to attend camp. Jennie also learned how to talk to other people and settle problems peacefully. Jennie was glad that United Way and Girl Scouting gave her a chance to experience a new way of life.

“Mariah & Ben” each work 40 hours per week earning \$10 per hour. With two children, it is difficult for them to meet their family’s basic needs while balancing the demands of medical insurance payments, taxes, and utilities. They need to receive food from the Shiawassee United Way Food Pantry each month in order to properly feed their children. They are thankful that donors see the value in helping hardworking families like theirs.

**Shiawassee Hunger Network
Member Pantries
& Locations**

- Bethany Bible Baptist Church - Morrice
- Christ Episcopal Outreach Center - Owosso
- Corunna Ministerial/Corunna UMC - Corunna
- First Church of God-Loving Hands - Owosso
- New Lothrop Methodist Church - New Lothrop
- Shiawassee Council on Aging - Owosso
- Shiawassee Harvest Ministries - Corunna
- Shiawassee United Way -Owosso
- St. John’s United Church of Christ - Owosso
- Vernon Lighthouse - Vernon

Shiawassee United Way 2015 Annual Report to the Community



Shiawassee United Way
123 South Washington, Owosso
989-723-4987
shiawasseeunitedway.org

Live United! Make lasting, positive change for the people of Shiawassee County

What Does Shiawassee United Way Do?

- ✓ Ensure hungry families are fed
- ✓ Provide the 2-1-1 human service and disaster information phone line
- ✓ Work with people, organizations, schools, & governments to address community needs
- ✓ Provide funding for programs that address root causes of poverty



Shiawassee United Way returned to the community \$180,271 in services and products through the Shiawassee Hunger Network. Your local United Way serves as administrator for this 10 food and/or personal needs pantry alliance with locations throughout the county. In 2015, the Hunger Network Pantries distributed 186,588 complete meals to 22,184 persons. Of the people served, 59% were either under the age of 18 or over the age of 60.



Volunteers at the Shiawassee County Fair’s Junior Livestock Association auction assisting with livestock donations to local Hunger Network food pantries.

Did you know:

- In Shiawassee County, 23% of children live in households that are at or BELOW the poverty level. Shiawassee United Way funds programs that tackle root causes of poverty so there is less of a chance for this devastation to settle into a family for many generations.
- The median household income in Shiawassee County is low enough to qualify a family of four for some human assistance programs. To ease financial burdens, the Shiawassee United Way Food Pantry distributed 24,471 complete meals to community members in 2015. Many of those receiving food ARE employed but live at 200% of the poverty level or below.

You Can Make a Difference in the Lives of Hardworking People Who Need a “Hand-Up.” Look For Your Donation Envelope In Today’s Paper and Give Today. Thank you.

Fair Animal Donations

Many “Thank-yous” to the generous businesses and individuals who donated animals from the Shiawassee County Fair Livestock Auctions to the Hunger Network. Their generosity resulted in \$28,508 worth of processed meat being distributed to hungry families throughout the county.

LIVE UNITED!

GIVE—Donate today using the envelope found in your paper
ADVOCATE—“Like” Shiawassee United Way on Facebook to keep up to date
VOLUNTEER—Visit shiawasseeunitedway.org to complete a volunteer application

Shiawassee United Way's Mission

To unite people and other resources to improve and strengthen the quality of life for all people in Shiawassee County. Visit shiawasseeunitedway.org to review your local United Way's strategic plan in detail.



The 2016 Letter Carriers' Food Drive resulted in Owosso and Corunna community donations of 14,202 pounds of food that was divided among Hunger Network pantries for the families that they serve. Thank you to the donors in these communities, to the Letter Carriers, and to Jackie Vican, Lisa Czarnopys, and Matt Tanner for all of their hard work.

Funded Local Programs Address Root Causes of Poverty

Your local Shiawassee United Way looks for long-term solutions that lift people from poverty to productivity. The following are programs that were funded by Shiawassee United Way at other local agencies. These programs address some of the most fundamental issues to making lasting changes in people's lives in the areas of income, health, education, and basic needs. Funds from Shiawassee United Way were able to provide:

- Transportation for persons in poverty who cannot otherwise get to employment, training, medical appointments, etc.
- Girl Scouting to Shiawassee County girls from families in poverty
- Fresh fruits & vegetables to senior citizens living at or below the line of poverty
- Prescription assistance to people without insurance
- GED testing fees for adult students in poverty
- Housing and transportation to women & children leaving domestic violence situations
- Laboratory/diagnostic tests for uninsured Free Medical Clinic patients
- Diabetes education and prevention
- Learning & social opportunities for persons who are developmentally challenged

On average, people receiving federal food assistance receive approx. \$127/month or \$1.41 per person per meal. A family of 4 AT the poverty level earns \$11.65 per hour. It's not about cooking methods or poor spending decisions, its about balancing the costs of utilities, rent, medications, child care, transportation, etc. Hunger Network pantries fill the void so family funds can be used for other basic needs.

It would make sense for people who need help to learn to cook from "scratch"

Remember To Look For Your Donation Envelope In Today's Paper. You Can Make a Difference By Giving Today! Funds donated stay in Shiawassee County.

Shiawassee United Way Board of Directors

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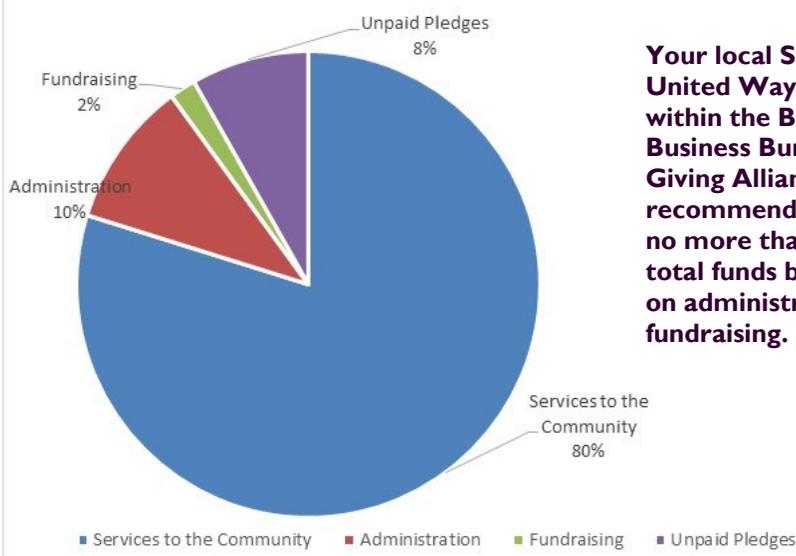
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Thank you to our sponsors:

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- Shaw's Pharmacy
- Waugh's Culligan

Peter is a Veteran with a double limb amputation who was in need of a ramp for his home. He didn't have the financial resources to hire a contractor to complete this project and heard to call 2-1-1 to see if there were any resources available to help. When Peter called, he explained the situation to the Information and Referral Specialist. The Specialist listened carefully and was able to refer him to a program to help with building the ramp and also minor home repair services. The Specialist shared the details of the programs with Peter so he knew what to expect from the organization. The Specialist offered to follow up with Peter in a couple of days to ensure he was able to receive the service he needed. Upon calling back, the Specialist learned the service came to assess his home to build the ramp and make accessibility modifications to his porch. The agency also completed some other modifications to Peter's home to improve his access. Peter was grateful for the agency and for 2-1-1 connecting and following up with him! Shiawassee United Way provides 2-1-1 for EVERY person in Shiawassee County—to be there 24/7/365—whenever life presents challenges and connections need to be made.

Your Local Shiawassee United Way Dollars at Work



Your local Shiawassee United Way is well within the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance's recommendation that no more than 35% of total funds be spent on administration and fundraising.



Visit our facebook page.

Shiawassee United Way



@Shia_UnitedWay



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