2015...WHAT A YEAR FOR LAKE AREA UNITED WAY!

Through our initiatives and partner agencies, we improved the quality of life for thousands of Lake County residents by moving families toward financial stability, ensuring that children achieved educational success, and helping to make sure our friends, families, co-workers and neighbors can enjoy good health. All of this was made possible by you—our donors and volunteers.

It was also an amazing year for us as an organization. Our new President/CEO Lisa Daugherty joined our team, and along with our staff and Board of Trustees, spearheaded the first phase of our transition to an issue-focus. This shift was crucial in order to better address root causes of critical issues facing our communities and achieve meaningful sustainable changes in those community conditions. In late October, we began to publicize our new focus: Struggling Working Families living on the edge of survival. We announced that we’d pull out all the stops to help these families with targeted programs and services.

2015 also included Canstruction and Let’s Talk, as well as Pack-a-Palooza and other incredible volunteer activities on our Day of Caring and throughout the year. Our community campaign mobilized thousands of donors through our corporate partners. And our Vanguard leadership circle of donors—who led the charge through their major support—enjoyed each other’s company at several Vanguard Breakasts and after-hours events.

Our 2015 Vanguard roster is included in this report, along with spotlights of a few Vanguard members who wanted to share their reasons for supporting Lake Area United Way. This report summarizes the impact that you helped us make in 2015, and includes all of the year’s major events and activities.

What an amazing year! We’ve made great strides together—reminding us how much is possible when we unite on a community scale. Thank you for making GREAT THINGS HAPPEN in 2015 and demonstrating what it means to LIVE UNITED!

Aaron McDermott, 2015 Chair Person
LAUW Board of Trustees
For Dani Winn, it would be a luxury to watch the evening news. She can’t afford cable television, and her TV, purchased at a thrift store, is so old it doesn’t have a digital tuner. So she mostly watches her 2-year-old son’s DVDs and VHS tapes, also bought at the thrift store (25 cents a pop on half-price Saturdays). There’s also the fact she wasn’t able to buy her son Christmas presents this year. Luckily, her friends, relatives and a local church got Maverick some toys and clothes.

“He did well for Christmas, but as a parent you want to be able to buy your child something,” Winn said, shedding tears, on a recent evening at her Hobart apartment. Her son played nearby with a Mr. Potato Head, unaware.

Winn, a 37-year-old single mother, earned about $19,000 last year. That amount puts her above the federal poverty level but leaves her little ability to afford things that many people consider necessities. She has no wiggle room if, say, her car breaks down or she has to miss work because Maverick was sick.

An example for her son

Winn, for instance, loves her job. She teaches adults with developmental disabilities at the day program at Tradewinds, a social service organization in Hobart. She says she’d keep working there even if she won the lottery. Tradewinds helps her in other ways. Her son has gotten low-cost day care there since he was 8 weeks old, allowing her to go back to work. It also rents her an apartment in Hobart at an affordable rate. That enabled her to move out of a trailer in Gary, where she was afraid to let her son play outside.
One time, when they lived there, they were getting out of the car when Maverick picked something off the ground, quickly put it in and out of his mouth and said, “Look, Mom.” It was a bullet.

Winn realizes that, because of the eligibility guidelines for many government benefits, she could probably live just as comfortably not working. She knows of one person who couldn’t pass a pre-employment drug test and now gets $500 a month in food stamps. By the time she pays her bills, Winn has $200 left for groceries—for the entire month. “That doesn’t really go very far,” she said. But she wouldn’t want to set a bad example for Maverick.

“He has to see that you might not have everything you want, but if you work hard and do what you’re supposed to do, even if you have to save for it, you can have nice things,” she said. “When you do good, good comes back. Us being able to live here is proof of that.”

She continued, “When things are too readily available, people take it for granted and don’t appreciate it as much. I’d rather have him think you have to work hard rather than have things handed to him.”

**Trying to get ahead**

Winn previously went to nursing school for three semesters but had to drop out to care for her sick mother, who has since died. She defaulted on her student loans, and even if she cleared that up, going back to college, while continuing to work and caring for Maverick, seems a daunting prospect. She could potentially take classes online, but doesn’t have a computer or Internet access at home.

She’d love to earn a social services degree, which would open up opportunities to advance at Tradewinds.

The only government assistance she gets is for child and health care for Maverick. She goes to food pantries. She hasn’t seen a doctor since Maverick was born, three years ago, despite the fact she has asthma. She also needs dental work she can’t afford.

To spread out her grocery budget, she buys a bunch of meat on the day of expiration, then has the same meal for weeks at a time. She and Maverick eat a lot of hot dogs and bologna. When she mentioned this on a recent day at her home, Maverick said, “Hot dog! Hot dog!” She handed him one right out of the fridge; he likes to eat them uncooked.

Despite her struggles, Winn chooses to focus on the positives. “There are a lot of people who don’t have the options I have: the friends, the family, the job, the people at work,” she said. And a healthy, happy 2-year-old son, bouncing on a trampoline, a few feet away.

Source: The Times of Northwest Indiana
Families are forced to make hard choices. Repair the car or buy your prescription medicine? Pay for safe, quality child care or pay the utility bills? Hard choices like these may have long-term consequences such as poor performance in school, poor health, major debt, and larger bills in the future. We believe no one should have to make these choices.

The whole community suffers when families have to live on the edge of survival— with added burdens to the educational system, the health care system, and more. When local workers cannot afford an emergency, communities may experience instability, higher taxes, or a decline in economic growth.

“Indiana’s cost of living is beyond what most jobs in the state can provide to working households.”

— ALICE™ Study of Financial Hardship
Let’s Talk
Harnessing the Caring Power of our Residents! 25 Community Conversations, 210 Residents Convened, 3 Priority Issues Identified!

New CEO
In January 2015, we welcomed Lisa Daugherty as LAUW’s President/CEO. Lisa said, “I am honored to be part of such a great network of staff, board, community providers and leaders, as well as donors and volunteers. The commitment to our mission is extremely humbling and the willingness of people to help others makes me feel incredibly lucky and proud to be part of this organization.”

South Shore Funders
Lake Area United Way partnered with area funders to establish “South Shore Funders”, a collaborative group of funding organizations with a common mission: serving as leaders of philanthropic activity for Lake County, Indiana, improving the quality of life through strategic grant making and provision of resources which enables the people of northwest Indiana to help themselves and others.

Agency Capacity Building
Lake Area United Way, in collaboration with Foundations of East Chicago and Legacy Foundation, launched an innovative initiative focused on increasing the capacity of local non-profit organizations through an eighteen month program that includes coaching, consulting services, peer learning sessions, and workshops.
Pack-a-Palooza
This year’s Pack-a-Palooza was the biggest yet with 400 volunteers packing over 115,000 meals for the hungry! The volunteers packed mac-and-cheese meals that were donated to the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana and distributed to pantries throughout Lake County.

Volunteer Lake County!
In 2015 we introduced our Volunteer Lake County! Initiative to increase corporate and individual volunteer engagement. In 2015 we had over 700 volunteers participate in various volunteer projects ranging from our annual Day of Caring to packing care kits for the homeless to making greeting cards for Meals on Wheels clients.

Canstruction
Lake Area United Way, United Way of Porter County, and Congressman Pete Visclosky teamed up once again to bring Canstruction Northwest Indiana to 7 teams of middle school aged students throughout Lake and Porter Counties. The teams built superhero structures out of canned food that was then donated to the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana. Over $32,000 worth of food was donated to help feed the hungry in Northwest Indiana.
IMPACT STATISTICS

8,375 CHILDREN AND YOUTH attended safe, high-quality after-school programs and are on the path to stay in school and earn high school diplomas.

42,000 HOUSEHOLDS maintained financial stability by receiving food and grocery products provided by our partner food pantries and soup kitchens.

1,152 RESIDENTS received counseling, education, and support to help them recover and maintain mental and emotional well-being.

328 CHILDREN with moderate to severe developmental disabilities received education and therapeutic interventions.

1,489 MILITARY FAMILIES received income support and were connected with vital community resources to address their long-term stability.

$1.1 MILLION + was returned to low-income families who participated in our Volunteer Income Tax-Assistance/Earned income Credit Program.

13,181 INDIVIDUALS received assistance to help pay their utility bills, rent, and other needs.

504 BULLIED, HOMELESS, OR RUNAWAY KIDS in crisis received immediate interventions and support.

556 FAMILIES received home visits by certified counselors to teach new moms and dads how to be effective parents and adequately prepare their children for school.

$3 MILLION + was saved by uninsured or underinsured residents using our FamilyWize Prescription Discount Card.

546 WOMEN AND CHILDREN were protected from violent abusers and received safe emergency shelter.
COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS 2015

PROGRAM PARTNERS | Lake Area United Way invested in 17 local programs that deliver services to residents of Lake County in the areas of Education, Financial Stability, and Health. More than 37,000 of residents received support from our Program Partners.

Program
Before & After School Care
Child Care for Special Needs Children
Community Connections
Counseling
Deaf Services
Financial Stability
Girl Space
Group Habilitation
Legal Assistance
Neighborhood Building Program
Parents as Teachers
Safe Place
School Age Childcare
ScoutReach
Teen Court
Yes We Can! Youth Program
Youth Development

Agency Partner
Crossroads YMCA
TradeWinds Services, Inc.
ARC NWI, Inc.
Catholic Family Services
TradeWinds Services, Inc.
Urban League of NWI, Inc.
Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago & NWI
ARC NWI, Inc.
Indiana Legal Services
Gary Neighborhood Services
Early Learning Partnership
Mental Health America of Lake County
Crisis Center, Inc.
Hobart Family YMCA
Boy Scouts of America, Calumet Council, Inc.
Crisis Center, Inc.
YWCA of NWI
Boys & Girls Club of NWI

BASIC NEEDS PROVIDERS | Lake Area United Way strives to support local programs that aid our neighbors in crisis by providing critical services such as food, shelter, clothing and utility assistance. Lake Area United Way invested in nine local programs that met the needs of 48,841 residents.

Program
Capes House
Comprehensive Emergency Services
Home Delivered Meals
Domestic Violence Shelter
Domestic Violence Shelter
Food Pantry

Agency Partner
Greater Hammond Community Services
American Red Cross
Catholic Family Services
The Salvation Army
Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana
Caring Place
Haven House
St. Jude House
Greater Hammond Community Services
# Financial Summary

## Financial Summary for Fiscal Year Ending 12.31.15
(Subject to Audit)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td>$4,595,312</td>
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</table>

### Expenses

- **Program Investment and Services**: $3,854,270
- **Fundraising**: $420,748
- **Management & General**: $343,217

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$4,618,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues Less Expenses</strong></td>
<td>($22,923)</td>
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### Assets & Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$2,452,634</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$1,060,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets (Fund Balances)</strong></td>
<td>$1,391,681</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT IS THE VANGUARD?

van·guard (noun) [van-gärd]

The Vanguard is a group of like-minded individuals in our community who make great things happen with an annual leadership gift of at least $1,000 to Lake Area United Way. When you join the Vanguard, you join a group of people leading the way to improved lives in Lake County. Together with others, the Vanguard helps build strong, sustainable communities by advancing education, financial stability, and health.

Vanguard members also enjoy Breakfast with the Vanguard events hosted by local community leaders as well as Vanguard After-Hours social events.

To join the Vanguard, contact T.J. Holsen at tjholsen@lauw.org
Joseph Atkins
Dr. Daniel Bade
Ruby D. Bakhouche
William R. Ball
John and Ann Barney
Brady Barth
Calvin and Cathy Bellamy
Lisa M. Bernal
Randall J. Bertalan
Ruth A. Best
Alicia Bohnsack
Craig A. Bonaccorsi
James E. Bradley
Patrick Brennan
John and Mary L. C. Brett
Joe Brichta
John T. Brock
Frederick Brown
Roy A. Brown
Scott G. Brum
Deborah Brunetti-Posey
Maggie Byrne
Lisa Carpenter
Wendell L. Carter
David W. Cebulski
Thomas Cerwinske
Richard Cioni
Dale S. Clapp
Brian L. Cloutier
Chadd Cornelius
Ronald J. Cortheil
Timothy Cottingham
Mark K. Craney
Irvin L. Cross
Tim Crutchfield
Thomas Dabertin
Lisa M. Daugherty
Shellie Dell
Robert D. Early
Tina Ebenger
Rev. Dr. Leroy Fassett
William Festa
Ramona Fissinger
Mary L. Frankovich
Jennifer Fredericks
and Brian DeFries
Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson
Mary Kay Gaboyan
John Gauderman
Aaron Gawrys
Stephanie Gerdes
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Alberto Guzman
Robert L. Hammer, Jr.
Charles T. Hansotte
Thomas L. Hargrove
Dr. Kimberly-Joy Harris
Raymond R. Hawkins
Christine Heinz-McCarty
Robert Heisse
Don Herald
Christina Herrera
T.J. Holsen & Abby Corso
Kathy A. Householder
Mark Hunter
John Jamicich
Michael Jasaitis
John G. Johnson
Tammie R. Jones
Lynette A. Jones
Dr. Gary E. Jones
Sanford Kauffman
Thomas Paul Keilman
Sean Kelleher
D. Mark Kelly
John and Rose Kennedy
Rosemary Kennedy
Charles Kerr
Lewis R. Kimberly
David Kirchoff
John R. Knoepke
Eric Koch
Dave and Mary Koester
Sue Kolby
Richard and Sylvia Komyatte

**DAN BADE**

“The United Way is the most effective vehicle to be engaged in your community and to protect those individuals that need help and are unable to fend for themselves.”

**AL & DEB SPAJER**

“In over 45 years together, Debbie and I always tried to “help out”. There is no organization better at this than United Way. Whether it’s children and education, families and financial stability, seniors and better living, United Way is always there. We’re both proud to have helped out a little along the way. And we intend to keep right on helping.”

**LYNETTE A. JONES, JD**

“I am so glad to be a member of The Vanguard. United Way is an essential part of the city of Gary and all of Lake County. From the work they do to support early childhood education and seniors to the work they do to inspire healthy families, we all have a connection to and a reason to support this organization.”
BRAD VOSBERG
“This December it will be 30 years that I have contributed to Lake Area United Way. I have been a past board chair and I look forward to serving with my colleagues on Day of Caring every August. I hope to be a part of Lake Area United Way for the next 30 years!”

MAGGIE BYRNE
“I know that there are people in my community who could use a hand up. I simply feel that if there is something I can do to help make someone’s life better, then I should do it. That’s why I support Lake Area United Way.”

SYLVIA & RICH KOMYATTE
“Through my husband’s experience as a board member and chair of the United Way campaign, we had opportunities to meet so many hurting people being served by United Way agencies. We also observed first-hand what United Way fostered throughout our communities—hope. We are proud to be long time supporters of United Way, especially to be members of the Vanguard.”

We wish to acknowledge and thank the Vanguard givers at NIPSCO, NiSource and United States Steel Company who wish to remain anonymous.

Our apologies to any individuals inadvertently omitted.
2015: LAKE AREA UNITED WAY BROADCASTS ITS NEW FOCUS ISSUE.

1 IN 4

OF LAKE COUNTY’S WORKING HOUSEHOLDS IS ON THE EDGE OF SURVIVAL.

HELP BRIDGE THE GAP.

DONATE TODAY.

Visit www.lauw.org
219-923-2302
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Lake Area United Way believes that every hard-working family should reach a place of stability, independence, and success. When you support Lake Area United Way, you help working families achieve their fullest potential.

VOLUNTEER. GIVE. TODAY.
Visit www.lauw.org
219-923-2302