



Batavia
UNITED WAY



Five Years of Community Impact

2021 - 2026

United is the Way™ to a Stronger Batavia

Who We Are



OUR MISSION

Batavia United Way's mission is to inspire the community to form strong partnerships to creatively address the ever-changing needs of Batavians by securing pathways to better healthcare, expanding youth opportunities, providing financial security, and building a more resilient community.

OUR VISION

Batavia United Way's vision is for all people in the community to have access to resources and opportunities to thrive.

OUR PURPOSE

For nearly 100 years, Batavia United Way has brought our community together to address the challenges facing our neighbors. We do more than fund programs. We identify gaps, connect people and resources, mobilize volunteers, and help create solutions where they are needed most. By working alongside residents, nonprofits, businesses, and community leaders, we help build a stronger, more resilient Batavia.

Because together, we can make a bigger impact than we can alone.
United is the Way™

BATAVIA UNITED WAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President: Emily Bucholz
Vice President: Molly Conklin
Treasurer: Bradley Reedy
Secretary: Heather Engelhart

Members at Large

Cheryl Baer
Andrew Briones
Tom Freeman
Pam Kent
Heather Kwitschau
Jean-Marie Krohse
Paul Motylinski
Amy Nelson
Kim Treger

Batavia United Way Staff Members

Executive Director: Kathy Evangelista
Assistant Executive Director: Christina Marotta



Not Pictured: Molly Conklin, Tom Freeman, Heather Kwitschau

From Our Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Five years can bring a lot of change.

Over the past five years, Batavia United Way has navigated a changing landscape, from the recovery and lingering effects of COVID-19 to rising costs, economic uncertainty, and a decline in traditional employee workplace giving. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: **our community's commitment to helping one another.**

And because of that commitment, we have continued to grow, adapt, and find new ways to make an impact. We have launched new initiatives to meet emerging needs and create opportunities for our neighbors. We introduced **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Batavia**, putting free, high-quality books into the hands of local children each month. We launched our **Community Assistance Fund**, providing critical assistance to our neighbors experiencing financial hardship. We expanded opportunities for volunteers to serve, strengthened partnerships with local organizations, and stepped in where we saw needs that were not being met.

We also found new and creative ways to raise the resources needed to sustain this work. As traditional giving models changed, our community responded with new ideas, new partnerships, and new ways to support Batavia United Way.

Together, we have invested more than **\$750,000 into our community** over the past five years, helping local organizations provide critical services and supporting Batavia households facing difficult choices. Much of this work has reached households identified as ALICE—Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed—our neighbors who are working, contributing to our community, and yet still struggling to make ends meet. They are families navigating the rising costs of housing, childcare, food, transportation, and healthcare. They are neighbors who may be just one unexpected expense away from a crisis.

Our response has never been simply to write a check. We listen. We identify gaps. We bring people together. We connect resources. We build partnerships. And when a need isn't being met, we look for ways to help fill it. That is the story these pages tell.

But this isn't really a report about Batavia United Way. It's a report about what **we have accomplished together.** Every dollar given, every business that sponsored an event, every volunteer who raised a hand, every organization that partnered with us, and every community member who said, "How can I help?" has contributed to this story.

As you look through the next few pages, I hope you see more than numbers and programs. I hope you see children with new opportunities, families finding support, neighbors helping neighbors, and a community that continues to show up for one another.

Thank you for being part of that story and for believing that when we work together, we can make a bigger impact than any of us can make alone. **United is the Way™**

With gratitude,

Kathy Evangelista
Executive Director

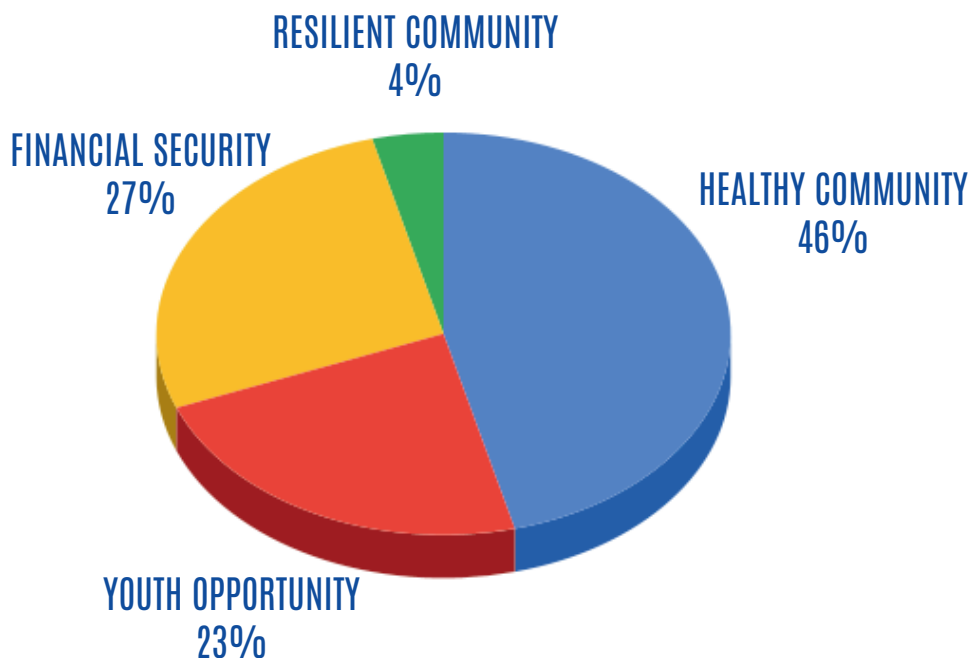




Power of Your Dollar

WHERE ARE DOLLARS INVESTED?

Includes Community Impact Grant funding and Batavia United Way owned programming



Over \$750,000

Invested in Batavia

*From October 1, 2021 - June 30, 2026

35,000

Batavians Received Services

*Note: Individuals may be counted more than once if they accessed multiple programs or services.

Batavia United Way awards Community Impact Grants to non-profit organizations that serve Batavians. Our Board of Directors reviews applications to determine grant amounts based on community need and impact. We also have several programs that we manage such as holiday Adopt-a-Family, Success by 6 preschool scholarships, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and several community service projects that benefit Batavia residents.



Why Our Work Matters



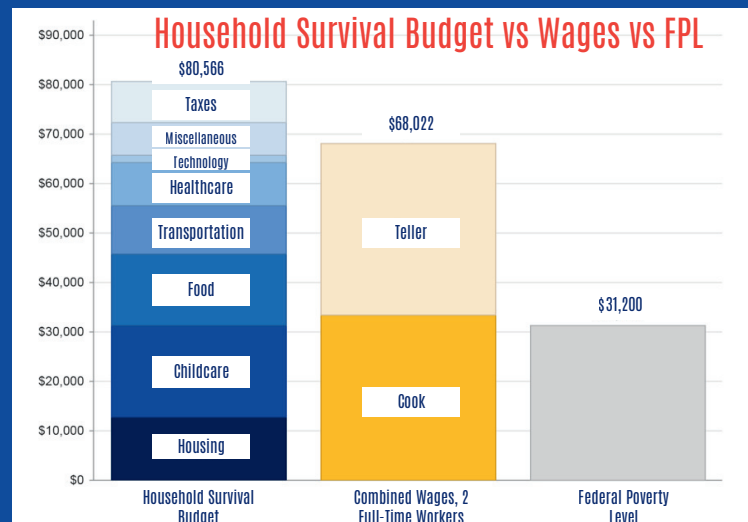
WHO IS ALICE?

ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED

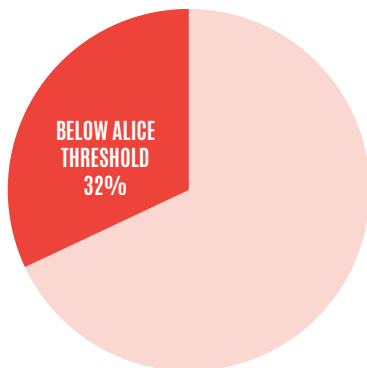


Most people assume poverty is easy to recognize, but many hardworking individuals and families in our community are struggling just to make ends meet, including workers in home health, retail, education, and the food industry. These households earn above the Federal Poverty Level but not enough to afford basic necessities. In Batavia, 32% of households fall below that ALICE threshold of financial stability. Financial hardship is the thread that runs through almost every social issue and that is why Batavia United Way continues to lead initiatives, build partnerships, and invest in programs to give ALICE hope for a better tomorrow.

Sarah works full-time as a medical assistant. Her husband drives for a delivery company. Together they earn too much to qualify for many public assistance programs, but rising housing, childcare, and grocery costs leave little room for emergencies. Through preschool scholarships, monthly books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and support from local food programs, their children have opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach.



1 OUT OF 3 HOUSEHOLDS IN BATAVIA ARE ALICE



WHO IS LIKELY TO BE ALICE?

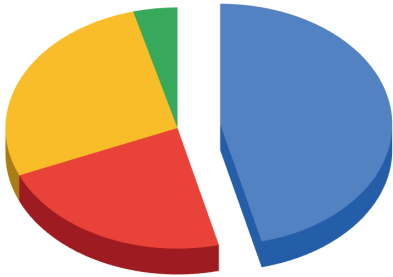
- Single-parent households
- Senior households
- Households under age 25



Building a Healthy Community



46% OF FUNDS INVESTED IN HEALTHY COMMUNITY



A healthy community is one where people can access the care, support, and resources they need to live healthy, connected lives. Batavia United Way invests in local organizations addressing some of our community's most essential needs from food insecurity and healthcare access to mental health, grief support, prescription assistance, and specialized therapy for children. These investments help ensure that our neighbors, regardless of age, income, or circumstance, have the opportunity to be healthier, more supported, and more connected.

ACCESS TO HEALTH & WELLNESS



Providing access to essential medical and dental care for uninsured and underinsured Batavians, prescription assistance for seniors, outpatient pediatric therapy, and preventive healthcare services.

MENTAL & EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING



Funding mental health support, suicide prevention, grief services, counseling and related resources.

NOURISHMENT, CONNECTION, & INDEPENDENCE



Addressing food insecurity, senior nutrition, Meals on Wheels, and programs that help older adults remain connected and independent.

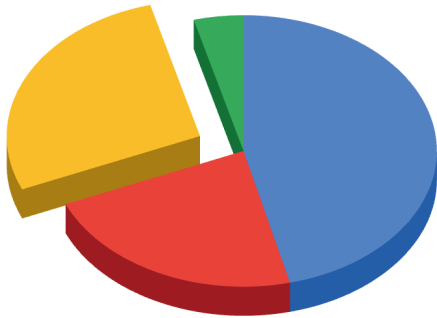
In partnership with Batavia Public Schools, we have collected **5,419 lbs** of soup cans for the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry.



Increasing Financial Security



27% OF FUNDS ARE INVESTED IN FINANCIAL SECURITY



Batavia United Way funds agencies that assist ALICE, low income, and homeless families. These agencies work diligently to provide emergency relief, crisis intervention, hope, guidance and resources to families who may be temporarily suffering through a crisis. In Batavia alone, 20% of all district school children live at or below the poverty level. In the fall of 2025, there were over 115 known unhoused children in the Batavia Public School District.

PROVIDING RENT & UTILITY RELIEF

Sometimes unexpected expenses arise, making it even more difficult to make ends meet. A little assistance can go a long way in relieving some of that financial stress. To date, we have provided \$51,787 in assistance to households struggling to keep up with rent and utility payments.

**161 Households
Assisted with Rent &
Utilities**

INVESTING IN PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL GROWTH & SECURITY

Batavia United Way supports organizations that help individuals build brighter, more stable futures. Literacy Volunteers of Fox Valley helps adults with limited English proficiency improve their language skills and employment opportunities. Lazarus House provides shelter, job training, and interview preparation. We also support Valley Sheltered Workshop's Permanent Supportive Work Program and Prairie State Legal Services, which provides legal representation to those who may not be able to afford it.

**442 Batavians
Accessed Financial
Security Programs**

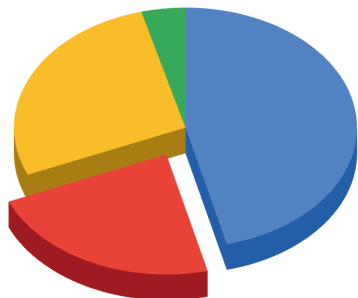
**"This past year, especially, has been a humbling experience in having to ask for help from others. Your help has made my life a bit easier."
-Cheryl S., Batavia Resident**



Expanding Youth Opportunities



23% OF FUNDS ARE INVESTED IN YOUTH OPPORTUNITY



A thriving community starts with its youngest members. We invest in children from their earliest years because strong foundations built early and supported over time help children reach their full potential. For many families, the cost of preschool, books, enrichment, and quality after-school opportunities can create barriers to the experiences that help children learn, grow, and thrive. Our Youth Opportunity investments help open those doors from early learning and kindergarten readiness to literacy, enrichment, and meaningful opportunities to connect and succeed. By investing in children today, we are helping build a stronger, more connected community for tomorrow.

776 Batavia Students Supported

INVESTING IN PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS

Learning and growth happen beyond the classroom, too. Batavia United Way invests in enrichment, after-school care, and mentorship opportunities that help young people build confidence, discover new interests, and form meaningful connections—including programs that connect high school students with younger children as mentors and role models.

60 Preschool Scholarships Awarded

SUCCESS BY 6 PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

For many of the children receiving a scholarship from Batavia United Way, preschool was their first experience learning and playing in a classroom setting outside the home. Through that experience, they built social skills, developed greater independence, and strengthened the skills they needed to enter kindergarten ready to learn and succeed.

"I have no words to describe how much she has grown and how independent she has become. I will be forever grateful!"
-Parent of a Scholarship Preschooler



“You can never get enough **books**
into the hands of enough **children.**”
Dolly



**Over 22,000
Books Mailed to
1,137 Children!**

DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY

This beloved early literacy program delivers free, high-quality books in English and Spanish to children every month from birth to age five—no cost, no catch. It fosters a love of reading and ensures every child has books at home, regardless of their family's income.

A COMMUNITY EFFORT - ONE BOOK AT A TIME

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a wonderful example of what can happen when partners come together around a shared goal: putting books into the hands of local children. The Dollywood Foundation provides the program infrastructure and administrative support that makes the Imagination Library possible. Local partners, like Batavia United Way, raise the funds needed for books and postage, while the State of Illinois helps cover 50% of the program's local book costs. Together, these partners make it possible for eligible Batavia children to receive a new, age-appropriate book delivered to their homes each month—at no cost to their families.

Batavia United Way is grateful to the following community partners whose generosity has helped make Dolly Parton's Imagination Library possible in Batavia: The Dunham Foundation, The Batavia Foundation for Educational Excellence (BFEE), Friends of the Batavia Public Library, Rotary Club of Batavia, Batavia Woman's Club, Batavia Mothers' Club Foundation, Sturdy Shelter Brewing, and countless donors.

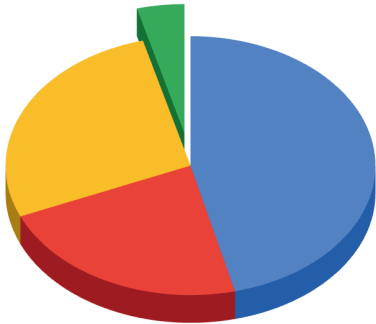
**“Miles is so excited every month when
Miss Dolly's present to him comes. He
can't get enough of those books!”
-Batavia Parent**



Building a Resilient Community



4% OF FUNDS ARE INVESTED IN RESILIENT COMMUNITY



A resilient community is one where neighbors can count on one another—both in everyday moments and when unexpected challenges arise. Batavia United Way helps strengthen that network by connecting residents to resources, mobilizing volunteers, supporting neighbors in need, and building our community's capacity to prepare for and respond to challenges. From snow shoveling and community gardening to the 211 resource line and disaster preparedness, these initiatives foster a connected, prepared, and supportive community. Resiliency starts with neighbors helping neighbors.

Over 1,400
Referrals
From 211

211 RESOURCE HOTLINE

211 connects people with local resources for needs ranging from food and housing to healthcare, utilities, mental health support, and more. Over the past five years, more than 1,400 Batavia residents utilized 211, connecting them with the resources and support they needed to navigate challenges and get their needs met.

Seniors are the
Fastest Growing
ALICE Population

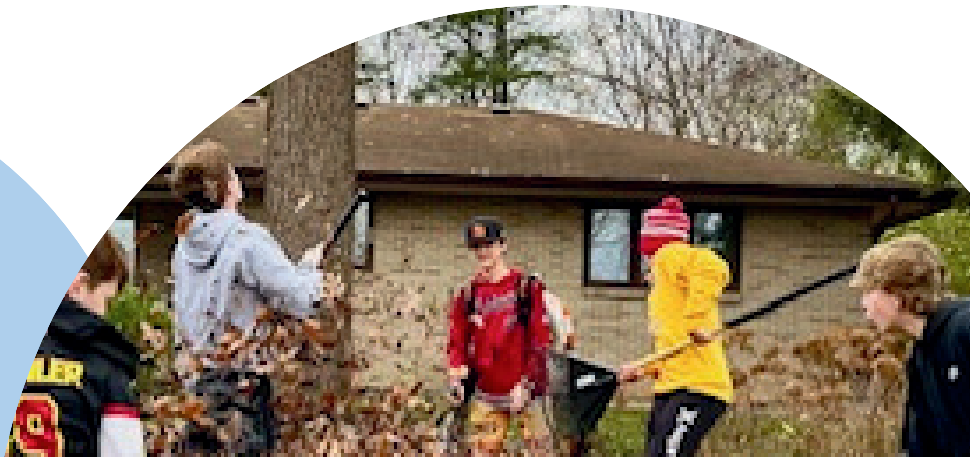
SENIORS SUPPORTED THROUGH VOLUNTEERS

Sometimes building a stronger community means simply lending a hand. Through volunteer programs like Snow Angels and fall leaf raking, we connect community volunteers with older adults and other residents who may need a little extra help maintaining their homes and navigating seasonal challenges. These simple acts of service do more than clear a driveway or yard—they help neighbors remain safe, independent, and connected to the community they call home.



211

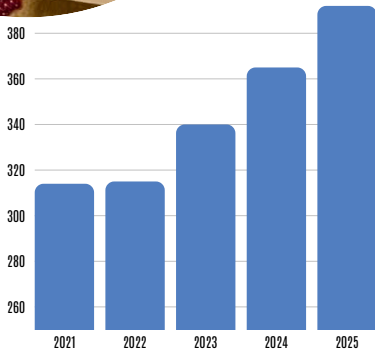
Get Connected. Get Help.™



SPREADING JOY THROUGH ADOPT-A-FAMILY



Over 350 Students
Served Each Year



WHEN A COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER, EVERY CHILD'S HOLIDAY SHINES BRIGHT

Batavia United Way Adopt-a-Family is more than just a holiday gift program. It is a community-wide effort to support local families with gifts, warm clothing, household necessities, and the reminder that their neighbors care.

The program relies on key community partners:

- Batavia Public Schools: Identify students, gather wishlists, and ensure needs are met
- 200+ Sponsors: Individuals, families, businesses, book clubs, faith groups, scout troops, and neighbors who provide gifts and stockings.
- Community Partners: Step in to fill additional needs like providing coats, socks, underwear, additional funding, gift cards, and bags of household necessities.
- Volunteers: Nearly 100 volunteers each year step up to work behind the scenes.

From organizing and shopping to sorting, delivering, and filling the gaps, countless people play a part to brighten the holidays for hundreds of Batavia families each year.

GROWING NEED

In five years, Adopt-A-Family has grown from serving 314 students to 392 students – a 25% increase.



“As a hardworking mother, the holidays can sometimes feel overwhelming, especially when you’re doing your best and still come up short. Being supported in this way has meant more to us than words can fully express.” - Batavia Parent



Connected to Community: Events



Batavia United Way's events are about more than raising funds—they're about bringing people together, celebrating our community, and creating opportunities to make a difference side by side. From celebrating Dolly Parton's 80th birthday to racing along the Fox River at the annual Bat Race, these moments bring neighbors, businesses, volunteers, and supporters together for a common purpose.

Every event is another reminder that when we come together, we can make a bigger impact than any of us can make alone.



Connected to Community: Volunteers



Batavia United Way is so incredibly thankful for our amazing volunteers who give their time, energy, and heart to make a difference in our community. We are truly lucky to be part of such a special community, where everyone has the opportunity to contribute, lend a helping hand, and make a meaningful impact. Our volunteers are a wonderful reminder that when we come together, even the smallest acts can make a big difference.

Over 5,000
Volunteer Hours



Connected to Community: Impact Partners



Each year, Batavia United Way invests in local organizations working to address the needs of Batavia residents through our Community Impact Grants. Local agencies apply for funding and provide detailed information about their programs, the Batavia residents they serve, and the outcomes they are working to achieve. Our Community Impact Grants Committee carefully reviews each application and considers the needs and priorities of our community, using information such as ALICE data, 211 trends, community needs assessments, and other measures of local impact to help guide funding decisions. Through this process, we direct resources where they can help address the greatest needs and support programs that are making a meaningful difference for Batavia residents. Over the past five years, our grantmaking has helped strengthen the network of organizations working to make Batavia a healthier, more connected, and resilient community.

"We are so very very grateful for the investment Batavia United Way makes to the people we serve everyday. This contribution to the work that we do to take a great deal of burden off for men, women and children we support and we couldn't do it without you."

- Kristi Athas, Lazarus House

See Our Latest
Partner Investments



"We are so grateful for the grant from Batavia United Way as it helps us impact children, adults, and families all across the city of Batavia. Thank you for what you do and how you contribute to the community."

- Sarah Russe, Tri City Family Services



SUICIDE PREVENTION
SERVICES OF AMERICA
HERE FOR LIFE.



Living Well
Cancer Resources



food for health
Fox Valley



TUG
Career Services



Connected to Community: Funding Partners



WITH DEEPEST THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Batavia United Way appreciates support from our donors. Support may be in the form of individual giving, workplace giving, employee campaigns & direct payroll deduction programs, corporate grants and gifts, sponsorship of events, as well as in-kind donations or services, or a combination of these facets.

CORPORATE DONORS

A Accurate Door	ComEd/Exelon	First State Bank	Portillo's
Advanced Windows & Siding	CommScope, Inc.	Fontana Capital Partners	Principal Financial Group
AIM Physical Therapy	ConAgra	Fresh Thyme Market	QT9 Software
All of Us Research	Consolidated Garage Door	Garage 31	Raising Canes
Amcort Flexibles NA	Constellation	Groot	Ronald Murphy Dentistry
American Water	Covenant Living at the Holmstad	Hand & Stone Massage & Facial Spa	Salesforce
Ameriprise	Crawford, Murphy, & Tilly	Henkels & McCoy, Inc.	SC Johnson
AT&T	Culvers - Batavia	Holzl Homes	Southern Company Gas/NICOR
Bankers Bank	DayForce, Inc.	Illinois Tool Works (ITW)	Sturdy Shelter Brewing
Batavia Animal Clinic	Discover Financial	K. Hollis Jewelers	Supervalu
Batavia Enterprises, Inc.	Deloitte	Kirk Family Dentistry	Target
Batavia Public Schools	Delta Airlines	Kari Edwards - Your Front Door Realty	Union Pacific Railroad
BFC Print	EcoLab	Marsh & McLennan Companies	U.S. Bank
BMO	Emagine - Batavia	Microsoft, Inc.	Waubensee Community College
Boyce Body Werks	Energy City Brewing	Morgan Stanley	The Williams Companies
Bulldog Plumbing	Engineering Enterprises, Inc.	Nationwide	Wazio Orthodontics
Caterpillar	Enterprise Charitable Entities	Nicor Gas	Whiskey Acres Distilling
Casey's General Store	Fifth Third Bank	OnPath Financial Group	Zachry Industrial
Clorox Company	Fire 'n' Ice Heating and Cooling	PNC Financial Group	

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

We are grateful for the support of community organizations who provided grants or contributions.

Aldi	Bomba Socks
Batavia Mothers' Club Foundation	Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley
Batavia Rotary Club	The Dunham Foundation
Batavia Township	Nicor Gas
Batavia Woman's Club	Walmart

A LASTING LEGACY

The family of a Batavia resident chose to honor the life of their loved one through a generous IRA gift to Batavia United Way following his passing. That gift continues to make an impact today, a lasting reminder that generosity can extend far beyond a lifetime.

AND TO EVERY INDIVIDUAL DONOR...

Behind every community organization are the neighbors who quietly choose to give year after year. To every Batavia resident and individual donor who has supported Batavia United Way over the past five years: **thank you.** Your generosity, whether through an annual gift, a monthly contribution, a special donation, or a gift made in honor or memory of someone special—helps keep our work moving forward.



Batavia UNITED WAY

TOGETHER, WE MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT

Big change happens when a community comes together.

Thank you for being part of the impact—whether you give, volunteer, show up, or use your voice to support our community. Every contribution matters. Every act adds up. And together, we are building a stronger Batavia.

DONATE

Your gift fuels our mission and helps create meaningful, lasting change in our community.



VOLUNTEER

Share your time, talents, and energy to make a hands-on difference in the lives of others.



ADVOCATE

Use your voice to spread awareness, inspire others, and help our mission reach further.



United is the Way™

Connect with us
on socials



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