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United Way of Central Kentucky awards money to 33 agencies

The News-Enterprise May 26, 2019 Updated May 26, 2019

United Way of Central Kentucky announced Friday \$879,725 in community funding to 33 local health and human service programs serving residents in Hardin, Breckinridge, Grayson, LaRue and Meade Counties, according to an organization news release.

The community investment was made possible by the generosity of more than 3,000 individual donors who gave to United Way's 2018 annual campaign.

This year, program funding requests from local non-profit agencies totaled more than \$1.2 million, with funding decisions made by 22 community volunteers dedicating a combined 880 hours of service during the allocations process.

In a strategic effort, Community Investment Team volunteers employ consistent, standardized methods to evaluate and ultimately pay for those programs best positioned to expand educational opportunities, increase access to health care and essential services and improve financial stability, the release stated.

"United Way volunteers are asked to evaluate programs based upon community needs, measurable outcomes, financial transparency, and accountability," said Chad Sarver, general manager of Altec, Inc. and 2019 Community Investment Team chairman. "Working together, it's our hope that these programs awarded funding can create a stronger, more vibrant community."

Grant awards continue to reflect a focus of resources to move more families out of poverty through education and employment, while continuing to meet basic needs, according to the release.

"We measure our success in actual lives changed. Each success story is a testament to the difference that communities can make when we come together to create positive and permanent transformation," said Ron Eppes, United Way of Central Kentucky President & CEO. "But we can't do it alone. To live better, we must Live United."

In 2018, United Way's funded community partners impacted more than 59,000 individuals and families in the region. Program results are reported quarterly by United Way partners and can be found online at www.unitedwayck.org.