STATE, LOCAL UNITED WAYS STAND BEHIND JACKSON COUNTY RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY WORKER DISLOCATION

Local United Ways, Labor Liaisons, Michigan 2-1-1 to Support Human Service Needs


The Association, which serves approximately 60 local United Ways, supports a network of 18 AFL-CIO Community Services Labor Liaisons at local United Ways across the state. Michigan’s AFL-CIO Community Services Labor Liaisons work directly in their communities assisting union members and non-profits to complete a wide range of local initiatives. Liaisons are uniquely positioned to represent the interest and needs of both organized labor and United Way, making them an essential part of United Way’s response to a worker dislocation event. The Michigan United Way Network is poised to mobilize community assets to address the basic needs of dislocated workers.

“At the Michigan Association of United Ways, we believe it’s critical to serve our fellow community members in their time of need while honoring a partnership with the labor community that has lasted more than 70 years,” said Mike Larson, President and CEO, Michigan Association of United Ways. “We are deeply concerned about those affected by the strike. Now more than ever, these individuals will need the support of community organizations to weather the storm.”

At the same time, Michigan 2-1-1 centers have joined together in a statewide effort to support dislocated workers in need of human services assistance in Jackson. Managed locally by Lifeways with support from United Way of Jackson County, 2-1-1 is a free, confidential, statewide communications network that provides referrals to shelter, food, utilities and a range of other health and human services. 2-1-1 employees have been trained to provide support to dislocated workers and are prepared to best support community members throughout the duration of the worker dislocation.

2-1-1 is accessible by phone, text message, and web and is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The organization is supported by a network of regional 2-1-1 centers, responding to more than 340,000 requests for assistance annually on behalf of nearly 7,000 nonprofit and government agencies.
and their 40,000 services, each year. United Ways in Michigan invest over $3.3 million per year in 2-1-1, over half the annual operating budget of $6.5 million to operate the system.

Meanwhile, United Way of Jackson County is connecting with local partners to determine local needs and how the community can step up to support those affected, according to Colleen Sullivan, Labor Liaison at UWJC. Among those activities:

- Accepting cash gifts to stock local food pantries in anticipation of increased demand.
- Offering budgeting tools and sample letters to send to creditors.
- Developing a financial counseling program and a peer support network.

Check the UWJC website, www.uwjackson.org, on the Labor page, located under the Our Work menu, for more tools and resources as they become available.

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**About MAUW**

Michigan Association of United Ways (MAUW) is a partner in developing powerful responses to current and emerging issues in local communities. The State Association provides leadership in policy influence and capacity building to affect positive change. MAUW serves approximately 60 local United Ways that represent the largest network of non-governmental service providers and service funders in Michigan, collectively raising and distributing significant resources to support local health and human service organizations.

**About United Way of Jackson County**

United Way of Jackson County mobilizes people, organizations and funds to create a community rich in opportunities to eliminate poverty and allow all people to achieve financial stability and success. We are committed to helping 5,000 Jackson County residents develop a pathway to financial success by 2025. Visit our website at www.uwjackson.org, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.