These past few months have been a challenge and will continue to impact many aspects of our lives. We are excited companies are bringing back employees and the economy is opening back up. During this time the Shelby County United Way funded all partner agencies their full quarterly allocation payment in April. This was their fourth and final payment of the fiscal year. We are currently evaluating the allocation budget for 2020-2021 as the virus will impact the upcoming fall campaign and payroll collections for April and May will be down. To date, the board has approved $65,000 in emergency funding as a response to the COVID-19 virus. $45,000 has been awarded towards mortgage/rent and utility assistance, $10,000 for food programming, and $10,000 to join the Community Foundation and help start the Recovery 2020 Fund.

We always say, when you support the Shelby County United Way, you are changing someone’s life every day, every hour, and every minute. This is never more true than during a crisis. The Shelby County United Way and our partner agencies rang the bell and served our community during these challenging times. Many served an increase in clients served with some seeing new clients based on their service area. Safety protocols had to be put in place, including pick up or curb side service for food at Agape Distribution. Agape is serving over 75 families a day with food. Alpha Community Center and Holy Angels Soup Kitchen are serving 80-90 carry out lunches per day. Both the Y Child Development Center and Wilma Valentine Child Care were approved by the State of Ohio as pandemic child care sites to serve our essential workers and their families. Compassionate Care is still seeing patients and managing prescription assistance and pick up for patients. The domestic violence shelter has had increased activity and operated 24 hours a day. These are just a few examples of the many partner agencies changing lives in our community. Included in this newsletter is a list of many organizations providing critical need programming in the community. As a reminder, the 2-1-1 Helpline is operational 24 hours a day. We are extremely appreciative of your support of the Shelby County United Way. Your support is even more critical in changing lives during this crisis. We hope you all remain healthy and safe.
From Agape Director John Gessler...

Beginning in 1996 Agape Distribution has brought hope and changed lives by providing groceries for at-risk families. The local need was overwhelming. Beginning in a church kitchen, in a short 16 months Agape moved to its present location in late 1997, and then bought the property in 2000.

Six employees, 102 volunteers and 32 groups make this grass roots organization thrive in service to our neighbors. We recorded 26,349 Essential Volunteers hours for 2019, that’s like having 13 additional full-time employees that serve neighbors daily. Agape Distribution is the first stop for families struggling with food insecurity (not knowing the source of one’s next meal).

Good Health Starts with Good Nutrition, an emphasis is on a balanced diet. Through the generosity of friends, each family (of which 41% are working) may shop twice monthly receiving groceries for 36 balanced meals that help ease a struggling grocery budget. Groceries carried home to family dinner tables equals $3,744,490 or $542.44 per family. This is 67 tractor-trailer loads of groceries, a Shelby County miracle!

Shelby County is served by the Mobile Rural Food Pantry, Agape’s Hunger Safety Net. This Mobile Grocery Store travels the backroads of the county to help assure groceries are available to those unable to travel to Sidney. With this unit, those in need county-wide will be served at least once each week. During 2019 6,903 distinct individuals came shopping. Since the Covid-19 pandemic started we have experienced an 18% increase.

Beginning in 1999 Agape began storing shelf-stable groceries in case of a crisis, an eight-week Strategic Reserve is maintained should supply lines be disrupted. This was especially useful during Covid-19, Shelby County’s Hunger Safety Net worked! Continual grocery deliveries to Agape Distribution during Covid-19 have been encouraging, we have a 10-week reserve as of the end of May.

Caring for the nutritional needs of Shelby County families costs Agape $29.16 per family, per year! The average family shops 5 times during the year, making the cost per shopping trip $5.82 for 100 pound of groceries. We are thankful to be holding this Hunger Safety Net with local donors, corporate sponsors and foundations. Agape Distribution is a miracle of collaboration.

PARTNER AGENCY SPOTLIGHT
AGAPE DISTRIBUTION

DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY
123,147 Books mailed since March 2015
2,437 Kids ages 0-5 subscribed in Shelby County
69.63% of eligible kids enrolled
Student United Way finished the year with a Zoom virtual meeting reviewing and finalizing grant applications. They reviewed 14 grant applications totaling over $24,600.00. The students were provided a budget of $10,000 to award to agencies serving the infant to 18-year-old population.

During March’s session they started the review process and were separated into three review groups to evaluate all 14 requests. They prioritized the applications and had to collectively agree on which requests to consider and ask follow up and clarifying questions.

In May, they had received the answers from the agencies, evaluated how many to fund, and then finalized the total dollar amount to be awarded to each organization. 8 total organizations received funding from the students and were approved by the Shelby County United Way Board of Directors during the May Board meeting...

Presbyterian Church Munch Bunch backpack programs  
(Sidney and Houston School District) – $2000

Jackson Center weekend backpack program – $1950

Anna Grub Club weekend backpack program – $1950

Wilma Valentine Child Care for playground resurfacing – $1200

Wilson Health for infant HALO safe sleep sacks – $1200

Victim Services for workbooks and sound canceling technology – $700

Big Brothers Big Sisters for their Sports Buddies Program – $500

Anna Schools for a middle school mental health night – $500

The students were great to work with this year and we empathize with the seniors as school has not ended as they would have anticipated. We wish them well as they graduate and look forward to the juniors that return to Student United Way next year.
On Friday, May 15th, the Shelby County United Way partnered with the West Ohio Food Bank and the Ohio National Guard to hold a drive thru food distribution at Sidney High School. Over 35 community leaders and elected officials, including some United Way partner agency directors participated in the passing out of food. The weather held off while cars starting lining up before the 10AM start. During the two-hour time period, we served 213 cars a total of 39,213 pounds of food. A total of 728 residents will benefit from the food. Agape Distribution brought an additional box truck of food to be included in the distribution. We would like to thank all that participated.

Do you or your staff know they can make one phone call and talk to a live person 24 hours a day to get information on all the services available in our community? This service prevents someone from having to make multiple calls to get the information needed. All calls are confidential. Just dial 211 or 855-663-8333.
POWER Membership Renewal Time

THANK YOU to all those that have renewed your POWER membership! Even if your schedule does not allow for participation in our POWER-ful events/activities your $50 annual membership fee will make a true impact towards POWER’s mission to continue to change lives for children and families in Shelby County! If you would like to join our POWER-ful group of 112 women strong or find out more about our women’s initiative group and how we continue to make an impact go to www.Power4Women.org. To Date over $52,000 has been allocated back into the community for children and families in Shelby County through POWER.

POWER-ful Grants

POWER is accepting applications for annual grants for the third year in a row. This year up to $2,000 will be available to each 501(c)(3) agency or government entity. The grant monies will be awarded for projects that fulfill POWER’s mission of providing programs/assistance to initiatives that benefit children and families in Shelby County. There will be a minimum of $20,000 in grant money available through P.O.W.E.R. If you would like more information on the application process, contact Amy West at (937)-492-2101, or at awest@shelbycountyunitedway.org

POWER of the Purse Champagne Luncheon and Fashion Show

We are still working on rescheduling our Signature Event fundraiser that we could not hold this past April. We appreciate all the support and we will let you know soon when the new date will be.
Agape Distribution: The food pantry is still operating normal business hours. Clients will now have curb side service versus going through the store. They will be asked to park in front of the store on Brooklyn and call 937-498-4368 to register. The food will be brought out to the car. In addition to their existing clients, Agape has provided certificates to the local school districts for their qualified students. Those families can also pull up curb side and call in and provide the certificate to the staff member. They are serving over 75 families a day. Agape needs 8-12 volunteers daily. Please call 937-498-4368 to volunteer. Agape’s mobile pantry is still open and will resume their monthly schedule. First Saturday of the Month: Port Jefferson 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and Maplewood 12:30-5:30 pm Second Saturday of the Month: Botkins 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and Anna 12:30 to 3:30 pm Third Saturday of the Month: Russia 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and Fort Loramie 12:30 to 2:30 pm Fourth Saturday of the Month: Lockington 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 12:30-3:30 pm

Alpha Community Center and Holy Angels Soup Kitchen are preparing carry out lunches for pick up 11:30 am to 12:15 pm Monday through Friday. Alpha Community Center’s emergency pantry is also open during the same time frame. They are serving over 90 people a day.

Sidney Salvation Army food pantry is open Monday-Friday 9:00am-3:00pm. Food delivery to shut-ins, 937-492-5013.

FISH Pond Food pantry and prescription assistance is open 11:30 am 2:30 pm Monday thru Friday, they are letting one person in at a time.

Shelby County Veteran Services is open normal business hours. Veteran’s and their families needing food assistance can visit the office or call ahead to 937-498-7282. A staff member will bring the food out to the client.

Jackson Center Fish Pond Food Pantry will remain open normal hours on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

Compassionate Care is operating normal business hours. Patients are to call the clinic to schedule an appointment, 937-492-9400. Screening questions will be asked. Medication can be picked up in the lobby.

The Sidney-Shelby County YMCA opened a Pandemic Child Care Center for all Essential Workers. Starting May 31st the center will re-open to all child care clients, interested families can call 937-492-9134.

Wilma Valentine Child Care opened a Pandemic Child Care Center for Essential Workers. Starting May 31st they will re-open to all clients. Interested families can call Nancy 937-658-6765. For more information Visit www.wvchildcare.com

Dolly Parton Imagination Library books are continuing to be mailed monthly. Please read with your children daily.

New Choices Domestic Violence Shelter is operating as normal 24 hours a day. They are still operating their hotline. Residents can call confidentially 937-498-7261.

Shelby County Victim Services is still operational and on call 24 hours a day for crisis situations.

Sheriff STAR House is operating normal office hours with a limited staff. Advocates are still following the case plan of the children served and in person visits are taking place as needed.

Samaritan Works Saber Living Homes are operating normal business hours, 24 hours a day.

SafeHaven is delivering meals to their clients and calling their clients for wellness checks.

Clear Creek Farms group homes are operating 24 hours a day.

Catholic Social Services is continuing with their Senior Services, including PASSPORT, as well as Counseling and Parenting Services remotely through phone and video chat during normal 8:00am-5:00pm business hours, 937-498-4593.

Family Resource Center is currently providing tele-health services. Therapy sessions are available via phone and video. Care Navigators are available to assist clients with any technological challenges they may face. Services are available for youth and adults. Call 957-710-4616 Monday – Friday from 9 am – 5 pm. Visit Family Resource Center COVID-19 web-page for more information including the Family Toolkit which provides families and individuals with the tools necessary to be well socially and emotionally.

American Red Cross is still responding to disasters and fire emergency needs.

Bridges Community Action Partnership will start seeing customers face to face on an appointment basis starting June 15th. They are providing rent/utility assistance, homeless prevention and shelter services as well as Summer Crisis Program starting July 1st. You can call their office at 937-507-9541 to schedule an appointment.

Please visit coronavirus.ohio.gov to learn more or call during the hours of 9:00 am to 8:00 pm, 833-427-5634.

The 211 helpline is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide information and resources available in our community and the region.
The Shelby County United Way is committed to supporting our community and working with our community leaders during this crisis. We will fulfill our mission to continually identify, evaluate, and make possible the human services needed in our community.

The Shelby County United Way has also partnered with the Community Foundation of Shelby County for a charitable fund - **2020 Recovery Fund**
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Shelby & Darke County - Have youth waiting to be matched with a mentor (937-492-7611)

Shelby County CASA/GAL is looking for volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children (937-498-7447)

Compassionate Care of Shelby County needs trained medical providers willing to volunteer and see patients (937-492-9400)

FISH of Shelby County is an all-volunteer thrift store (937-492-1760)

Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley is in need of volunteers to serve seniors (937-498-4593)

Job and Family Services of Shelby County are recruiting foster parents (937-497-7611)

Alpha Community Center and Holy Angels Soup Kitchen rely on volunteers to cook and prepare lunch meals (937-498-9758) and (937-498-0598)

Agape Distribution Inc uses volunteers daily to stock food on the shelves and unload product (937-498-4368)

POWER-Shelby County United Way will need kindergarten tutors Monday through Thursdays from 9-10 am (937-492-2101), pending school accommodations come fall back-to-school time