

2019/2020

YEAR IN REVIEW

July 2019

→ [United Way of Elgin merged with United Way of Metro Chicago](#), expanding the organization's footprint.

August 2019

→ A loaned executive program, now called the United Way Ambassadors, was renewed. With the generous support of BMO Harris Bank and ITW, 11 ambassadors were hired to work alongside United Way Corporate Engagement Managers, **expanding United Way's reach with 264 corporate partners.**

September 2019

→ Rick and Cate Waddell made a **\$1 million charitable commitment** to support economic development in Austin through the Neighborhood Network Initiative.

→ José Rico, United Way's Chief Partnership Officer, expanded his role by becoming the first director of **Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation for Greater Chicago.**



October 2019



→ [BMO Harris Bank announced a \\$10 million gift](#) to United Way in support of Mayor Lori Lightfoot's South and West Side investment plan. Through the **largest corporate gift in United Way of Metro Chicago's history**, BMO Harris Bank is deepening its impact in the Chicago community with a specific focus on resident-led efforts guided by Austin Coming Together.

→ Mayor Lori Lightfoot **recognized United Way's community development work** and invited United Way and BMO Harris Bank to join the Invest South/West press conference.

November 2019

→ Sean Garrett, United Way President, and CEO, made [Crains' Chicago Business "2019 40 under 40"](#) list and was recognized for leading United Way's neighborhood revitalization efforts to greater heights.



December 2019

→ The Pritzker Traubert Chicago Prize, a program awarding one \$10 million investment to a Chicago neighborhood, **announced their six finalists.** Three of the six projects were submitted by **lead agencies of United Way Neighborhood Networks:** South Chicago, Auburn Gresham, and Austin. (Spoiler alert: Auburn Gresham was awarded the prize.)

January 2020

→ [Cheryl and Zed Francis made a \\$500,000 commitment](#) to facilitate work in the Austin Neighborhood Network.

→ Sean Garrett, United Way President and CEO, was featured as one of [Chicago Tribune's 2020 "10 executives to watch."](#)

February 2020

→ United Way partners with the Northwestern University Kellogg School Center for Nonprofit Management to [launch the inaugural Board Leadership Institute](#), a new program that **prepares philanthropic business leaders for service** on the boards of directors of local nonprofit organizations.

March–April 2020

→ United Way of Metro Chicago, in partnership with other Illinois United Ways, publishes the [Illinois ALICE report](#). The report details the economic and social challenges faced by families that live above the poverty line but don't make enough to meet their basic needs. **Data revealed that 36% of households in Illinois are classified as ALICE** (this is prior to COVID-19 pandemic).

→ [The Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund](#) was launched in partnership with The Chicago Community Trust and the City of Chicago, raising more than \$34 million. **One-hundred percent of the funds** raised went to community agencies across the Chicago region for basic needs and neighborhood-led support.

→ United Way of Metro Chicago provided technical and program assistance to launch the **Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund** which raised nearly \$31.5 million that was deployed across the state.



May 2020

→ The annual Stronger Neighborhoods luncheon was canceled because of social distancing restrictions. However, our **loyal and generous donors raised \$400,000** to support United Way's effort in the region.

→ José Rico, Chief Partnership Officer, was appointed to the **City of Chicago's COVID-19 Recovery Task Force**, serving on the Mental and Emotional Health Committee.



June 2020

→ United Way closes the campaign year with **250+ media hits generating 400 million impressions.** A significant amount of coverage was generated by BMO Harris Bank's \$10 million gift, The Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund, the ALICE report, the launch of the City of Chicago's Invest South/West Plan, and the Chicago Prize finalist announcement.

→ United Way — in partnership with the City of Chicago, Chicago Public Schools, Kids First and other funders — launched [Chicago Connected](#), a \$47 million program to connect **100,000 CPS families** to broadband internet service.

→ Barrington Area United Way merged with United Way of Metro Chicago, creating a **deeper impact in the North-Northwest Suburban region.**

→ A reinvigorated Tocqueville Society, led by Randy Lyon, Vice Chairman of Baird, raised a total of \$9.6 million, an increase over the prior year.

→ Thanks to the generosity of our donors, United Way's **2019/2020 Campaign raised more than \$47 million**, while the Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund raised **an additional \$34 million.** Through this combined effort, \$81 million was invested in the Chicago region to—

- support households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
- strengthen community-led coalitions working to build stronger neighborhoods and improve outcomes for their neighbors
- continue to support individuals and families throughout the region who need a helping hand