

# PASSIONATE VOLUNTEERS POWER PHILANTHROPY

LIVE UNITED®

Every team needs a utility player. At United Way of Metro Chicago, Joe Higgins is one of those teammates.

Year in and year out, Joe invests in his community by giving his time, energy and resources. It's not because he has a lot of extra time on his hands (trust us, he's a busy guy), but because he believes in the power of building stronger communities and the work of our Neighborhood Network Initiative.

"I'm really excited about United Way's Neighborhood Networks because, within these communities, we're tackling really complex issues that face individuals, families and neighborhoods as a whole," Joe said. "It's a holistic approach to serving a neighborhood rather than just tackling one problem."

Since his days watching his mother write letters for United Way campaigns at the dinner table, Joe's had a sense of philanthropy instilled in him. And as his life and career have evolved, his commitment to United Way has grown stronger.

In addition to directing External Affairs at Xfinity, Joe leads Comcast's United Way campaign, energizing his colleagues to rally around our mission. He's also the board chair of our North-Northwest Region and chair of United Pride, our LGBTQ affinity group that supports United Way's mission through volunteerism, fundraising and advocacy.

Through all of these roles, Joe never fails to bring a positive spirit and energy to every room he walks into and every person he serves. Marcia McMahon, chief professional officer of the North-Northwest region, can attest to that.

"I've worked with Joe in many capacities over the last 10 years. Joe gives 110% to everything he does," Marcia said. "His love of United Way and his commitment to furthering our mission is palpable. What an amazing and dedicated volunteer!"

Inspired to join passionate leaders like Joe in building stronger neighborhoods? Join a United Way affinity group or sign up to volunteer in your community! ■



Joe Higgins

**INSPIRED TO JOIN PASSIONATE LEADERS  
LIKE JOE IN BUILDING STRONGER  
NEIGHBORHOODS?**

**JOIN A UNITED WAY AFFINITY GROUP  
OR SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER IN  
YOUR COMMUNITY!**

**JOIN THE FIGHT AT [LIVEUNITEDchicago.org](https://LIVEUNITEDchicago.org)**

# A LIFE OF UNITING NEIGHBORS

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Since she was a 13-year-old girl helping a local teacher during her summers off, L. Marie Asad has lived her life in the service of others. Today, through United Way, L. Marie gives back to her community of Chicago in a multitude of ways.

"Organizations come and go, but United Way is a staple in the community. It has a finger on the pulse of the organizations on the frontline of communities," she said. "My favorite thing is to speak to people about why I support United Way."

With a personal goal of creating strong relationships and networks, L. Marie embodies our work to build stronger communities by bringing people together to solve problems. For the last five years, she's served as a United Way South-Southwest Suburban Regional Board member and, more recently, a representative of the Blue Island-Robbins and Bronzeville Neighborhood Networks' steering committees.

An Englewood native, L. Marie now calls the Southland area "home." As a board member, she values the opportunity to give back to her neighbors. April Food Day, an annual food collection and fundraising event serving the south-southwest suburban region, is her favorite way to uplift her community. Last year, the event raised more than 90,000 lbs. of food for local pantries.

But volunteerism isn't her only contribution to improving her community. In her work life, L. Marie unites people to expand low-income individuals' access to healthcare as the community relations coordinator with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois. Though she's been in this role for five years, she's been a lifelong advocate in this work.

Maya Hardy, chief professional officer of United Way's South-Southwest Region, vouches for L. Marie's deep investment in the board and the region at-large.

"L. Marie is a strong supporter of United Way. She rallies her friends, networks, colleagues at work and family to advocate, fundraise and volunteer for United Way," Maya said "She doesn't just talk the talk, she walks the walk!" ■



L. Marie Asad

**WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN  
THE LIVES OF OUR NEIGHBORS ALONGSIDE  
PASSIONATE LEADERS LIKE L. MARIE?**

**BECOME A DONOR OR VOLUNTEER TO JOIN  
OUR FIGHT FOR STRONGER NEIGHBORHOODS  
AND A STRONGER CHICAGO REGION.**

**JOIN THE FIGHT AT [LIVEUNITEDchicago.org](https://LIVEUNITEDchicago.org)**

# UNITED WAY VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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When she's not sifting through spreadsheets in her audit department at KPMG, Sara Clancy lends her leadership skills to a good cause. As chair of United Way's Young Leaders United (YLU) affinity group, Sara leads the team of philanthropic young adults through volunteer projects and planning for fundraising events.

Her energy and commitment to United Way of Metro Chicago's mission made her a natural fit to serve at the helm. Since Sara joined four years ago, she's served on YLU's membership development committee and as co-chair. Though her position has changed, her objective has stayed consistent – she hopes to make a positive difference in the lives of families across the Chicago region.

"I really like United Way's Neighborhood Network [Initiative] and the way it works with multiple organizations to bring about a key change that the neighborhoods are focused on," Sara said. "The biggest reason why I joined was because I feel that United Way has the biggest potential to make a large impact.

In her tenure, Sara's had the opportunity to be a part of the change she hopes to see in the Chicago region. She's volunteered with her fellow YLU members to improve community gardens, paint local schools and served as a practice partner for ESL students, an opportunity that made a lasting impression.

She also helps coordinate YLU's signature event, IGNITE. The festive, mid-winter party has benefited United Way's AmeriCorps volunteers and their work in the 10 Neighborhood Networks for the past two years.

"It's been a great opportunity to see something that's outside of my normal day-to-day," Sara said. "I find it's a fulfilling way to get connected to the community in ways that you don't get to in your normal life. And it's totally doable no matter what line of work you're in or whatever your passion is." ■



Sara Clancy (far right)

**WHEN YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF  
A UNITED WAY OF METRO CHICAGO AFFINITY  
GROUP, YOU JOIN A NETWORK OF NEARLY  
3,000 VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE INVESTING  
IN THEIR COMMUNITY.**

**GET INVOLVED AND HELP US  
BUILD STRONGER NEIGHBORHOODS FOR  
A STRONGER CHICAGO REGION.**

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