

overview

A basic principle of the AFL-CIO Community Services Program is that the union member is, first and foremost, a citizen of the community who cooperates with other citizens in making the community a good place in which to live, to work, to raise children and to retire. The union member is concerned about the availability of adequate health and human-care services for the entire community. From this basic principle, organized labor developed a working relationship with United Way of America that has lasted for more than 60 years and is grounded in the shared belief that voluntarism is the essence of a democratic society.

The Department of Labor Participation's primary responsibility is to serve as liaison between the AFL-CIO and United Way of America consistent with the April 4, 1979 Cooperative Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations and the AFL-CIO Community Services Policy adopted May 23, 1990.

For the continuance of this cooperative relationship, programs are conducted at the national, state and local levels in an effort to provide ongoing services to the total community.

“The Labor movement and the United Way movement have a lot in common—we have a rich history and heritage of caring about human needs, justice, fairness and opportunity. We succeed together when we put our community first.”

Brian A. Gallagher
President and Chief Executive Officer
United Way of America

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations

815 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006

John J. Sweeney, President

Richard L. Trumka, Secretary-Treasurer

Linda Chavez-Thompson, Executive Vice-President

AFL-CIO Office of State and Local Affiliates

Michael J. Cavanaugh, Director

Christopher A. Marston, Community Services Coordinator

AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison With United Way of Rock River Valley

Trisha Welte

AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison

Member of I.B.E.W. Local 364

612 North Main Street, Suite 300

Rockford, IL 61103

Phone: (815) 986-4822

Fax: (815) 968-9042

Email: Trisha@UnitedWayRRV.org

www.unitedwayrrv.org

www.wevolunteer.com



United Way
of Rock River Valley

AFL-CIO Community Services and United Way Partnership



United Way
of Rock River Valley

AFL-CIO Community Services and United Way Partnership

labor and united way working for a better community



national involvement

local involvement

Organized labor is a partner with United Way of America. There are four AFL-CIO representatives serving on United Way of America's Board of Trustees, two of them on the executive committee.

Department of Labor Participation

The Department of Labor Participation serves as liaison between the national AFL-CIO and United Way of America, and is staffed by eight AFL-CIO Community Services Liaisons: a vice president, an assistant director and an assistant to the vice president who all make up the department located at United Way of America's national office in Alexandria, Virginia; five regional directors operate from regional offices across the country which mirror the five regions of the AFL-CIO.

Labor Letters of Endorsement Program

Contributions from employees in workplace related campaigns account for approximately two-thirds of the funds that United Ways raise each year. Through the Labor Letters of Endorsement Program of the Department of Labor Participation, the AFL-CIO president and the AFL-CIO Office of State and Local Affiliates ask presidents of AFL-CIO affiliated unions, state federations and central labor councils to endorse United Way campaigns and communicate those endorsements to their memberships. This support encourages individual union members to volunteer their time and contribute their resources to United Way campaigns. It also encourages local unions and central labor councils to endorse and support United Way campaigns.

Labor Recognition

The Joseph A. Beirne Community Services Award, established by United Way of America's Board of Governors in November 1974, honors the memory of one of the most remarkable labor leaders of our time. This annual award recognizes labor leaders who have rendered outstanding United Way volunteer service.

AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison Network

190 full-time state and local AFL-CIO Community Services Liaisons serve as links between their state federations and central labor councils and United Ways in 180 communities across the United States. In addition, 20 local labor agencies and five state labor agencies receive direct United Way support.

Key areas of responsibility include:

To implement the key elements of the AFL-CIO Community Services Program:

1. Provide service to workers and their families
 - Information and Referral
 - Strike & Unemployment Assistance
 - Specialized Education
2. Provide service to the community
 - Positive Community
 - Fundraising
 - Community Projects
 - Volunteer Recruitment
3. Build local unions and capacity for the central labor council
 - Community Services Committees
 - Union Community Activist Network (UCAN)
 - Volunteer Database
 - Community Contacts
 - Staff Support
 - Diversity/Leadership
4. Improve support systems, public and private for workers and their families
 - Community Forums
 - Volunteer Mobilization
 - Boards & Committees
 - Public Policy Education
5. Improve the social and economic conditions of working families to reduce their need for services and assistance
 - Living Wage
 - Research & Education
 - Economic Development
 - Letter Carriers Food Drive

“Our vision for Community Services is to create positive community change for working families. We will achieve this by cooperating with our many partners, the most significant of which is the United Way.”

John J. Sweeney
President
AFL-CIO

