



BUILDING STRONG & SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

LIVE UNITED

Did you know there is a lack of safe spaces and educational opportunities in the Rock River Valley's priority neighborhoods? United Way's Strong Neighborhood initiative aims to fix that.

Between lack of employment and social services deserts, many area neighborhoods find themselves in a hole that is difficult to climb out of. United Way targets those neighborhoods — where the unemployment rate is high and residents are less able to afford educational opportunities that could lead to jobs — and offer those resources through our Strong Neighborhood Houses. That work ensures that under-served communities in the Rock River Valley are not being left behind.

We're turning outward to neighborhood residents to find out what their needs are, and providing programs that meet those needs. Programs include free translation

services for local immigrant families, summer programming for kids out of school, and block parties for residents to meet and engage with their neighbors and area police officers in an informal setting. Officers stop and spend time at the houses daily, providing resourceful spaces for residents to meet with police officers outside of police district headquarters.

United Way currently operates three Strong Neighborhood Houses — serving Rockford's Ellis Heights and Midtown neighborhoods, and at Marie Avenue in Machesney Park serving residents in both Machesney Park and Loves Park.

Many area communities face challenges, but **our Strong Neighborhood Houses empower and provide resources to residents to overcome those obstacles**, building families up and creating a happy and healthy community.

United Way agency partnerships strengthening our neighborhoods

- Angelic Organics Learning Center
- Boys and Girls Club of Rockford
- Crusader Clinic
- Discovery Center Museum
- Imagination Library
- Rockford Area Arts Council
- Rosecrance, Inc.
- Rockford Today Multicultural Consultants
- St. Mark's Lutheran School Uniform Co-op
- 211 Information and Referral
- YMCA of Rockford
- Youth Services Network
- Zion Development Corporation

Read more about United Way of Rock River Valley's work in our community's neighborhoods at unitedwayrrv.org/strongneighborhoods.



United Way of Rock River Valley