

Why I Give.

“United Way is important to me because I have seen it from all sides – from using their services as a college student, to volunteering for those same services, to teaching our employees at United Companies what United Way is and what it can do for them.”

Katie Kissel

Spirit of United Way Recipient



Katie's first experience with United Way happened when she was a senior in high school. She wanted to go to college, but being from a single parent household with limited income, the cost of tuition and books was not in the budget. Neither Katie nor her mom knew where to start in looking for financial aid options.

Fortunately, Katie's mom saw a flyer in a local grocery store promoting a “Super Saturday” event hosted by United Way where families could have their taxes prepared for free and also receive help in filling out Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms for their students planning to attend college. Katie and her mother attended the Super Saturday event, and United Way volunteers helped them fill out tax forms and a FAFSA for Katie that day.

“Without United Way, there would have been added stress for myself, but especially for my mom, when it was time for me to prepare to attend college.”

Katie received grants and scholarships that paid for her tuition and books at the University of Southern Indiana, without the burden of having to take out student loans. While she was a student at USI, Katie worked in the Financial Aid Office, and realized how United Way had helped her. She wanted to give back, so Katie became a volunteer at United Way FAFSA Workshops where she helped other students fill out their FAFSA forms.

Katie graduated with a degree in management from the University of Southern Indiana debt-free in 2012.

Katie joined United Companies in Human Resources in 2013, and has served as their United Way Employee Campaign Champion for the past several years. Her enthusiasm and addition of creative activities and employee incentives resulted in more support for United Way and campaign growth over the years. In addition to serving as United Companies' Employee Campaign Champion, Katie also supports United Way throughout the year, by volunteering, attending events, and bringing along co-workers to introduce them to United Way.

We're grateful for Katie's tremendous support of United Way and the impact she makes in our community.

“I love this city. I want it to be better. United Way brings all kinds of people, from all different walks of life, together for one purpose: to be better than we were yesterday. We have a chance to change our small portion of the world, why wouldn't we do that?”

United Way



United Way of
Southwestern Indiana

Join United Way's fight for the health, education and financial stability of every person in our community.

GIVE

VOLUNTEER