**United Way of Southwestern Indiana -** Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What is UWSWI’s mission?**

A. To unite resources to understand and address priority community issues

**Q. What does United Way do?**

A. We focus resources on improving critical community issues so all can thrive. We accomplish that through **awarding grants** to local non-profits, serving as a **fiscal sponsor** for groups and organizations, **engaging** with our diverse community, **operating programs** that enhance literacy, and **advocating** for policies that ensure equity.

**Q. How does UWSWI raise money?**

A. We create a Campaign Cabinet of volunteers, including some of our Board of Directors members, who ask for donations from individuals, trusts/family foundations, and employees that participate in a workplace campaign. We hold a summer golf scramble as a fundraising event, and we seek grants from a variety of funders.

**Q. What is your funding model?**

A. UWSWI uses a single-issue funding model. All the money we raise supports non-profit groups and organizations helping people move forward on the path out of poverty.

**Q. Why should I give to UWSWI when I already give to the organizations you are currently funding. What’s the benefit of giving to UWSWI?**

A. After 100+ years of service, we know our communities’ greatest challenges, how they are connected, and proven ways to bring people and resources together to address them.

When you give to United Way of SWI, the power of your dollar is amplified. It’s combined with other donations to generate an investment large enough to move the needle on complex issues like generational poverty. Major dollars create major results that last.

**Q. Can people designate money to a specific nonprofit organization?**

A. No. Donors can choose to restrict their dollars to one of our four Pathways (Mental Health, Empowering Employment, Thriving Next Gen, and Social Stability & Growth) or one of our programs (Imagination Library, K-Camp, VITA, and Amplify!). We no longer pass money directly to other nonprofit organizations.

**Q. What counties does UWSWI serve?**

A. United Way of Southwestern Indiana serves Vanderburgh, Warrick, and Spencer Counties in Indiana. We can only raise money in these counties, and we can only fund organizations based in or who primarily serve the population of these counties. The UWSWI office is located inside Innovation Point on Main Street in downtown Evansville.

**Q. Does UWSWI send the money they raise to Washington D.C.?**

A. No. All money raised in our community stays in our community – it is not sent to a national or global headquarters.

**Q. What are Pathway Grants?**

A. Pathways to Potential is United Way SWI’s issue-based, competitive grant process to address the root causes of poverty. There are 4 pathway grant categories:

* Empowering Employment – Empowering individuals with the resources they need to secure and maintain employment
* Thriving Next Gen – Equipping children and youth with skills needed to thrive both socially and academically
* Mental Health – Advocating for and improving mental health care access and awareness
* Social Stability & Growth – Strengthening relationships that serve as a safety net and alliances that expand opportunities for growth

**Q. How often do you award Pathway Grants?**

A. Two of the four Pathway Grants are awarded each year as part of a two-year cycle. In 2025, we will award grants for Social Stability & Growth and Empowering Employment. In 2026, we will award grants for Mental Health and Thriving Next Gen.

**Q. How much money have you awarded to Pathway Grant recipients?**

A. In the second round of Pathway grants, we awarded more than $4.2 million to local non-profit organizations.

**Q. Do you have any outcomes or stats from the Pathway Grant recipients?**

A. Yes. Here are some impact results from 2024:

* 61,330 books mailed to local kids through Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
* 94% of students in Thriving Next Gen grantee programs improving school behavior
* $2.25 million awarded through Pathway grants to 12 local nonprofits
* 276,000 hours of emergency and second-shift childcare provided
* 70% of participants moving from crisis toward social and financial stability
* 3,300 people securing a reliable ride to work
* 92% of K-Campers increased academic and emotional school success indicators

**Q. Does UWSWI operate/manage Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library?**

A. Yes. United Way of Southwestern Indiana administers Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library for children (age 0-5) who reside in Vanderburgh or Spencer County in Indiana.

**Q. How do I register a child for Imagination Library or sponsor books for a child?**

A. You can register a child for the program or donate $31 to provide one year of books to a local child by visiting unitedwayswi.org/imagination-library.

**Q. Does UWSWI directly fund The Haitian Center of Evansville?**

A. United Way of Southwestern Indiana serves as the fiscal sponsor of The Haitian Center of Evansville. We receive and process donations on their behalf. United Way retains none of their donations.

**United Way Pathways**

**Empowering Employment -** Programs connecting people with resources needed to secure/maintain a job

**Mental Health -** Advocating for and improving mental health care access and awareness

**Thriving NextGen -** Providing youth with the skills needed to thrive both socially and academically

**Social Stability & Growth -** Strengthening networks/relationships to increase social and financial stability

**United Way Direct Programs**

**Kindergarten Readiness Camp -** Improve literacy and social skills for children with no or limited preschool

**Dolly Parton's Imagination Library -** Monthly book gifting program for children ages 0-5 at no cost to parents Volunteer

**Income Tax Assistance (VITA) -** Free tax prep/e-filing for individuals and families with limited income

**Amplify** - Connect people to essential resources and make trust-based investments in grassroots initiatives