

# IMPACT SPOTLIGHT: FINANCIAL STABILITY

United Way strives to move people toward financial independence so that our entire community can thrive. Those living in financially unstable homes frequently struggle when it comes to other foundational basic needs, such as good health and quality education. Without a stable and sustainable income, people can find themselves falling behind rather than moving forward in creating a good life for themselves and their families. Together, we're providing job training, financial literacy courses, job coaching, tax filing assistance, and more in an effort to make Mower County stronger.

## UNITED WAY OF MOWER COUNTY INITIATIVES & COLLABORATIONS

### MYFREETAXES



- Free state and federal tax filing for individuals earning less than \$66,000
- MyFreeTaxes is the the only free, national, online tax filing product offered by a nonprofit

### FAMILYWIZE



- Prescription discount card with average savings of 40% - no strings attached
- Discount card is available for everyone with and without health insurance coverage



## UNITED WAY OF MOWER COUNTY PARTNER AGENCIES & PROGRAMS



- Catherwood Childcare Scholarships (PRC)
- Competitive Placement (Cedar Valley Services)
- Community Supported Employment (Cedar Valley Services)
- Financial Coaching (IMS)
- Thrift Store (Cedar Branch)
- Work Program (Cedar Branch)
- Employment & Social Services (Welcome Center)
- Childcare Scholarships (Apple Lane)
- Workforce Success (Workforce Development)



### IMPACT IN ACTION: CATHERWOOD PROVIDES A HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR CHILDREN

"Catherwood has become a home away from home for many of our children whose parents work long/non-traditional hours. We even have one set of siblings who call Catherwood their home, and their actual home 'mom's house'. Catherwood provides a positive and secure environment for children, and it shows in their comfort with our program and the positive rapport that they build with our staff. Parents and guardians appreciate our program and the flexibility it offers, as well as the funding opportunities we assist with so that they may remain employed despite needing to pay for childcare. Oftentimes, our service with parents extends beyond meeting their childcare needs. We have helped parents complete energy assistance applications, find free legal services, and find preschool openings just to name a few. When we talk about the positive effect of the program, it is also important to note how our staff feel working at Catherwood. One of our main leads has seen the program strengthen, most recently with our United Way Day of Caring event. She was so happy to see the community's effort in revitalizing Catherwood and reports that she 'feels so good about working here.'"

### IMPACT IN ACTION: MULTICULTURAL NEWCOMERS WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS

"Beh Reh and Nga Meh are a married couple with three children who moved to Austin in search of better opportunities. Although they knew many families and friends when they moved here, they didn't know who to turn to for help with basic needs such as finding a house or apartment, where to find a Karenni interpreter, and where to get services within the community. When they found out the Welcome Center provides those services, without hesitation they came to our office and asked for help. They couldn't have been happier to find out that the staff could address their needs in their own language. The Refugee Social Services worker helped them find a house, provided interpreting at many places, and registered their kids for school. Also, Our Refugee Employment Services worker was able to help the husband to get a job he wanted. After the three months we worked with them, they came back to express how thankful they were to get a lot of help from us. The family now has a safe home, all three children are in school, and the husband is working full time at QPP."



*Great things happen when we Live United!*