Dear MUW Supporters,

First, let me add my sincere thanks to those expressed by our United We All Win campaign co-chairs in last week’s newsletter. Your generosity and community spirit enabled us to raise just over $25,000 on GivingTuesday. Those funds count towards this year’s campaign goal and it is crucial we reach our goal this year!

We all know that times are very challenging right now, not only for individuals and families but also for our partners. The agencies who provide critical services to the most needy feel the pinch, too. Here’s what Sarah Harpster, Executive Director of The Community Kitchen shared with me recently:

“The cost of food has risen over 13% since 2021, and over 21% since 2019. We are seeing greater community need as more families are unable to afford to feed themselves. And inflation has reduced the ability of many of our donors to provide as much support to the charities they care about. Other operational costs are also on the rise.”

Melissa Gallagher, Executive Director of The Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center in Antrim adds:

"We have observed a marked increase in calls and walk-ins for people who need help with basic needs such as food, fuel, shelter, and..."
clothing for children. With high inflation and families still dealing with the effects of COVID, our caseload is higher than it’s ever been. With the holidays upon us, parents are stressed about gifts for children too."

**Campaign Update**
Many generous individuals and organizations have already donated this year. But we’re behind where we’d like to be at this point of the campaign, having raised $1,071,931 or 72% of goal. As Sarah Harpster said, many donors are not able to give at their previous levels. Which makes it all the more important, for those of us who can, to give. Some may be even in a position to increase their gifts before the end of the year. And if you haven’t donated to MUW before, you couldn’t pick a better time to start!

We have just over two weeks left to achieve our goal. Please include MUW in your end-of-year gift plans. All donations received before December 31 are tax-deductible. Year after year, you stepped up and made great things happen. We know we can count on you to help us reach our goal!

Sincerely,
Liz LaRose, President

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**PLEASE NOTE:**
With the importance of social distancing, we are limiting the number of hours that our staff come into the office to process gifts received via US Mail. We are asking donors to use our safe, secure donation portal whenever possible. However, we gratefully accept checks from anyone who prefers to donate in that manner and we will ensure that they are processed in a timely manner.
MUW is proud of our outstanding charity ratings!