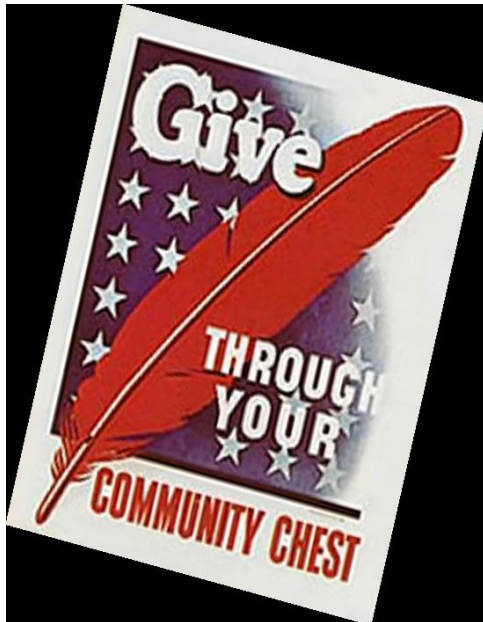


History of the United Way



The United Way movement in this county and across the nation has impacted countless lives since its first inception back in the 1887 when a Denver priest, two ministers and a rabbi put their heads together to plan the first united campaign for 10 health and welfare agencies.

During the first year, they raised \$21,700. Little did they know that they were on the brink of producing one of the most important social inventions in America's history.

In 1923, eight agencies in Kenosha County joined together to form the Community Chest to campaign once a year for funds for all. They were – St. Catherine's Hospital, Kenosha Memorial Hospital, Salvation Army, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, American Legion, Carmelite Sisters and Kenosha Service Leagues.

Over its first 100 years in operation, United Way was called by many names including names like **Community Chests**, or United Funds to name a few. There were dozens of other names as well.

During the war years of the 40's, we experience an increase in health agencies and many other appeals - The name of the Community chest was changed to War Fund and remained so during the duration of World War II. After the war, the War Fund was dissolved and we changed the name to Kenosha Community Fund and it remained so until 1959 when this organization was dissolved in favor a United Fund encompassing all of Kenosha County.

The name changed once again in 1973, when the board of directors sought to broaden the scope of the mission and align with the national United Way movement. They had decided that United Way had outgrown its service station role and had become an instrument by which local United Ways could begin to function as a national force. The board adopted the name **United Way of Kenosha County** (UWKC), which is our organization's name today.

UWKC is separate but a part of United Way of America.

Each United Way must comply with UWA policies and standards but may establish their own by-laws and create additional local policies.