

United Way Beginnings

In 1887, Denver, Colorado, was bursting at the seams as prospectors and speculators rushed in droves to the Rocky Mountains. Along with people seeking their fortunes came the usual social problems, problems related to masses of people disrupting the social norms and structure of an unprepared community. No single church or charitable society could handle the massive social issues of the day that were forced upon a growing frontier town.

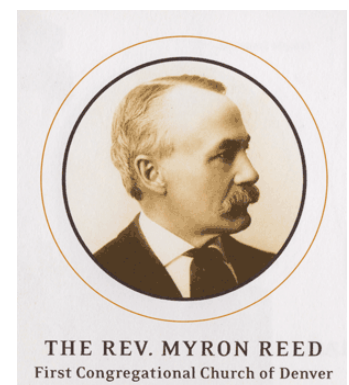
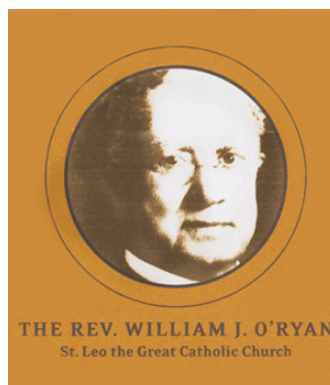
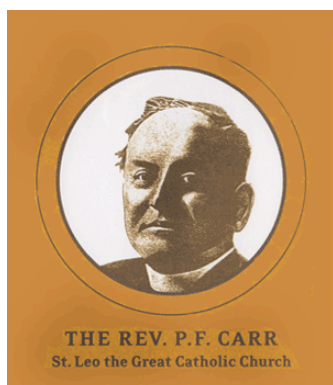
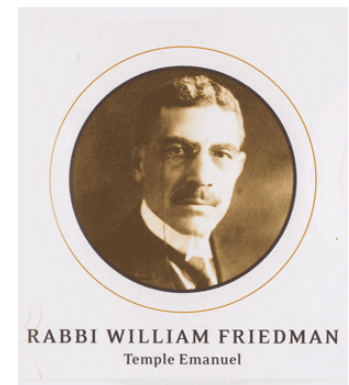
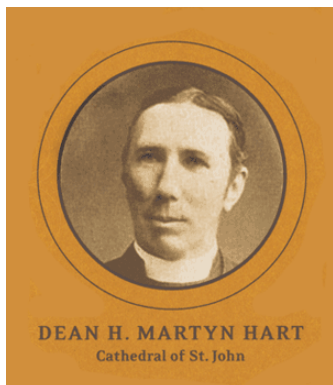
Enter a concerned Denver citizen, Frances Wisebart Jacobs, known as “the Mother of Charity.” She brought together two priests, two ministers and a rabbi who also recognized the need for cooperative action to address their city’s welfare problems. Rev. Myron W. Reed, Rev. William J. O’Ryan, Rev. P.F. Carr, Dean H. Martyn Hart and Rabbi William S. Friedman joined together to plan the first united campaign for ten local health and welfare agencies.

They created an organization that would serve as an agent to collect funds for local charities, as well as to coordinate relief services, to counsel and refer clients to cooperating agencies, and to make emergency assistance grants in cases that could not be referred.

That year, Denver raised an astonishing \$21,700 and created a movement that would spread throughout the country, eventually to become the United Way. More than 125 years later and throughout the country, United Way still is focused on mobilizing the caring power of communities and, in turn, making a difference in people’s lives.

Today, United Way is a national network of more than 1,300 locally governed organizations that work to create lasting, positive change in communities and in people’s lives. Building on more than a century of service as the nation’s pre-eminent community-based fundraiser, United Way engages the community to identify the underlying causes of the most significant local issues. It develops strategies, it marshals the financial and human resources to address them, and then it measures the results.

If you visit the Colorado State Capitol, you will be able to see the great honor bestowed on Frances Wisebart Jacobs. She is the only woman selected for a stained glass portrait in the dome of Colorado’s State Capitol.



History of United Way of Franklin County

In 1944, the Franklin County United Community Fund was incorporated in Frankfort, Kentucky. In the first campaign, Chairman G.W. Wilkinson raised \$49,415. In 1959, the Franklin County United Community Fund became known as the Franklin County United Fund and in 1974 changed to its current name United Way of Franklin County.

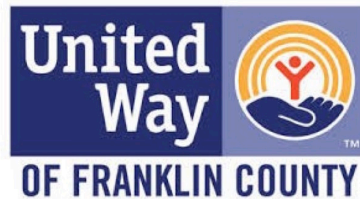
Today, our United Way of Franklin County is a catalyst for social change. We all **LIVE UNITED** to create a stronger and more vital community through innovative and effective programs and services in the focus areas of education, income and health. United Way of Franklin County and its partner agencies work tirelessly to bring hope and a future to the homeless, low-income families, the abused and neglected, and the elderly. UWFC also funds programs for the youth and their families to create financial and emotional stability to help them succeed.

We partner with many local nonprofits, government agencies, policy-makers and businesses to advance the common good by changing lives and strengthening our community.

Who We Are

The United Way in Franklin County began as a way to provide a simple, affordable, and efficient way for people to support their community. Today, the United Way of Franklin County, remains a local, independent non-profit organization, and is the largest private funder of health and human service agencies in our community.

The United Way offers every individual the opportunity to become part of something larger than him/herself. It stresses his/her importance as an individual and as a person who is part of a community that cares collectively for one another.



Our Vision

Our vision is to be an agent for a positive change by identifying the most critical social service needs in Franklin County and organizing resources to eliminate Franklin County's most compelling human service needs.

Our Mission

Our mission is to focus our community on the power of giving by promoting volunteerism and mobilizing financial resources to eliminate Franklin County's most compelling human service needs.

United Way of Franklin County, a local, independent non-profit organization is the largest private funder of health and human service agencies in our community.

Money raised locally stays in the community. Volunteer oversight committees work diligently to ensure that funds are spent wisely on efficient, effective programs that meet high-priority community needs.