

United Way of  
Southeast Missouri



**TIME-SENSITIVE  
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## **UNITED WAY OF SOUTHEAST MISSOURI PROVIDES FUNDS TO SHELTER HOMELESS**

*Southeast Mo.* - United Way of Southeast Missouri (UWSEMO) presented The Salvation Army with \$3,000 to provide hotel vouchers for homeless citizens on frigid nights like those our region is currently experiencing. Both organizations agreed that during a pandemic, this is the best solution for an area with no overnight homeless shelter.

Zoia Martin, Case Worker for The Salvation Army, said 25 people contacted her just in the last week looking for shelter. She also said she is hearing from more people impacted by the pandemic. "One man had a good job lined up that he lost, because he got COVID and missed too many days. Most people are needing help with rent and utilities, especially as the temperature drops. The need in the community is great."

United Way established a COVID-19 Relief Fund in March of 2020. About 90% of the \$147,000 in the fund has been given to partners in the United Way network to provide relief to area residents financially impacted by the virus. The funds for the homeless are allocations that were not used by a partner who was able to acquire funding from another source.

According to Brandy McIntire, board president of UWSEMO, "Along with everyone else, we never dreamed two years later we would still be dealing with COVID. Like the virus, the need for help is also still with us. We encourage anyone who is secure in their job and their home to give to United Way to help those who are struggling."

Local corporations value the many resources UWSEMO gives to their employees and families and support the organization's operating expenses. This allows 98% of donations made by individuals to remain in Southeast Missouri and go directly to helping people supported by the 28 partners in the United Way network. Donations to the general fund or COVID Relief Fund can be mailed to the United Way office at 1417D N. Mt. Auburn Rd., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 or by making a secure donation at [www.unitedwayofsemo.org](http://www.unitedwayofsemo.org).

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