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# COMMUNITY Impact Report

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2019

**unitus**  
COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

YOU US UNITUS





136

organizations impacted through volunteer and community support in 2019

## YOU US UNITUS

Since 1937, Unitus Community Credit Union has been dedicated to making our communities stronger, healthier places to live, work, and raise families. Our second annual Community Impact Report, prepared for you here, reflects our efforts toward reaching those goals and keeps us accountable to the communities we serve, without whom we would not be able to participate as fully or successfully in the credit union ethos of people helping people.

We owe a heartfelt thanks to the giving spirit of those communities, our member-owners, our team members, and our allies, whose generosity and support enables us to provide development and mentorship opportunities for youth, uplift and nurture arts and culture programming, teach financial literacy to disadvantaged populations, and improve the quality of life of people in our local and global communities.

In 2019, we invested over \$434,000 in our communities, volunteered 3,234 hours with over 130 local nonprofits, schools, and organizations, taught 158 financial education seminars to over 2,600 students, and provided 23,343 meals to our communities.

I'm proud of all we accomplished this year and look forward to seeing what we'll achieve together in 2020. Thank you for being part of the credit union movement. Together we inspire hope by navigating through life's defining moments.



78%

of Unitus employees volunteered at local non-profits and schools in 2019

### 2019 Top Corporate Philanthropist

Steven Stapp  
President/CEO



## REMOVING BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

At Unitus, we believe everyone deserves to have a roof over their head. That begins with a stable and healthy place to call home. That's also why you'll find Unitus team members volunteering at Habitat for Humanity to help build the very houses we fund—houses that will allow families like the Abidiaziz family, pictured right, to "have a place to call home forever." When we're not on site rolling up our sleeves, we're addressing affordable housing through our partnership with Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) of Des Moines's Affordable Housing Program, which provides a variety of solutions to meet critical affordable housing needs.



# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

**\$15,000 in Unitus Scholarships for student members.** Our Scholarship Program supports students of all ages who demonstrate academic excellence, a commitment to community service, and a dedication to pursuing next-level education.

**\$7,600 to Schoolhouse Supplies' Tools for Schools program.** Our partnership provided a backpack full of school supplies for the nearly 400 students at Vestal Elementary, a Title I school in NE Portland.

**At Unitus, we understand the importance of creating development opportunities to help local youth reach their full potential.** Whether it's helping young adults build successful banking careers through **Bankwork\$**, teaming up with **Children's Book Bank** to gift clean books to kids in need, or partnering with **Play It Forward** to provide music lessons for students who wouldn't be able to participate otherwise, you can find Unitus team members on the ground working to make those opportunities a reality. Just ask Bruke of Play It Forward, pictured right, who shared that taking piano lessons would allow him to "express my emotions musically with my own unique flair . . . and to play for my dog, Barni."



# FINANCIAL EDUCATION

**\$10,000 to Junior Achievement.** Our sponsorship supports Finance Park, a program dedicated to educating middle and high school students the basics of financial literacy through teacher-led class instruction culminating in a simulation day. Junior Achievement reaches more than 44,000 K-12 students in over 1,700 classrooms throughout Oregon and SW Washington. In 2019, Unitus team members volunteered over 280 hours with JA.

**\$15,000 to Financial Beginnings.** Our sponsorship supports financial literacy programs that empower individuals with the real-world skills they need to succeed. Unitus team members volunteered 70 hours with Financial Beginnings in 2019.

**158 financial education seminars taught to over 2,600 students.** At Unitus, we believe financial literacy is a powerful tool. That's why we've made it our mission to improve financial knowledge among our members and community—at any age.

# STUDENT MENTORSHIPS

We believe that genuine engagement with our communities extends far beyond writing a check. It involves sharing knowledge, investing our time, and being present for the people in our community—like Stella, pictured right, whose Rose Festival mentor experience allowed her to make a special connection with a Doernbecher patient and share her own experience battling cancer when she was a child.

Student mentorships allow us to connect with youth like Stella and, in turn, help youth understand and connect with their community. Mentorship also provides students with more opportunities to expand their social, ethical, and cognitive skills. Here are a few of the ways we worked to provide opportunities for youth in our communities last year:

**340 hours volunteered with the Portland Rose Festival Foundation.** As presenting sponsor of the Portland Rose Festival Court Program, Unitus provided 15 outstanding young Court Princesses one-on-one mentorship. Mentors hosted princesses on job shadows, worked together on a volunteer service activity at Doernbecher's, and prepared them to manage their money with a Unitus financial education workshop.

**198 hours volunteered with Adopt a Class at Vestal Elementary.** As part of the Adopt a Class Program, Unitus team members spent time with 3rd graders at Vestal Elementary in NE Portland throughout the year. Volunteers visited their classroom for educational activities, exchanged letters, gifted them new books, and surprised the class with a field trip of educational fun at the Oregon Zoo.



**920 hours spent with De La Salle High School's Student-Intern Program.**

Unitus hosted four Corporate Work Study students during the 2018–2019 school year and is currently hosting four students for the 2019–2020 school year, providing economically disadvantaged students a chance to gain real-world work experience.

## CREDIT UNIONS FOR KIDS

Community involvement is the core of Unitus' mission. It's a privilege to align our goals with the incredible nonprofits we work with every day and who give so much to our communities. Credit Union for Kids (CU4Kids) is a nonprofit that's especially close to our hearts. Started at Unitus more than 30 years ago, CU4Kids has blossomed into a nationwide force and is currently the third largest fundraiser for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals in the US, raising more than \$185 million for child medical care across 170 hospitals since its inception.



In 2019, Unitus donated over \$44,000 to CU4Kids through sponsorships and internal fundraisers such as Miracle Jeans Day, Lunch at Tiffany's, and CU4Kids Annual Cornhole Tournament.

# HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**\$5,000 donated to Children's Cancer Association.** These funds help transform the pediatric healthcare experience for kids experiencing serious illness by prescribing joy-based programs that focus on the healing power of music, friendship, and nature.

**\$5,000 donated to Oregon Food Bank.** These funds help eliminate hunger at its root causes by filling the gaps for food scarcity in Oregon. In 2019, we provided 23,343 meals to our neighbors.

**\$2,500 donated to Randall Children's Hospital.** These funds help Randall Children's Hospital offer complex care in a setting that lets kids be kids, providing children battling serious illnesses with joy, hope, and freedom of expression.



**24,000 diapers and wipes donated to local families.** In December 2019, Unitus hosted a diaper drive and collected over 24,000 diapers and wipes for PDX Diaper Bank and local nonprofits.

**Dream Come True Program.** Unitus, in partnership with Oregon State University and Portland Timbers/Portland Timbers FC, provided a one-of-a-kind experience to 12 children who are battling or have battled a serious illness, including an invitation to visit a practice and meet the team, optional mid-game honors, and personalized mementos signed by the team and coaching staff.

**Random Acts of Kindness.** In 2019, we hit 12 neighborhoods to provide random acts of kindness ranging from book donations to Cedar Mill and Bethany Community Libraries' after school programs to delivering gloves and hats to unhoused individuals through JOIN to gifting needed items to veterans through VA Portland Health Care.

# ARTS AND CULTURE

At Unitus, we believe a diverse community benefits all. That's why we're dedicated to supporting and nurturing arts and culture programming in the communities we love and live in.

In 2019, we supported events and programs that highlighted and encouraged local arts and culture engagement such as Adelente Mujeres, Milagro Theatre, El Programa Hispano Catolico, Director Park Tango, and Oregon Ballet Theatre.



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## COMMUNITY HEART AWARD

Since 2018, Unitus' Leadership Team has identified one Unitus team member every quarter to receive the "Community Heart Award," which recognizes employees who consistently go above and beyond in giving back to our communities. Congratulations to our 2019 recipients: Rachel Browning (pictured below), Shannon Knight, Karen Salman, and Jason Werts (pictured below).



## LOCAL SERVICE, GLOBAL REACH

People helping people is a philosophy we put into practice every day to help our local and global communities thrive.

In 2019, Unitus pledged \$10,000 to the Worldwide Foundation for Credit Unions to extend our philanthropic footprint internationally and gave \$5,000 to general disaster relief efforts to help our worldwide neighbors during the toughest of times. Additionally, Unitus hosted a fundraiser to support disaster relief efforts for people affected by Hurricane Dorian, raising over \$6,000.

