

OUR PROGRAMS & RESOURCES



Salina Area United Way has launched United Volunteers a community-wide resource hub, offering diverse volunteer opportunities with multiple organizations across the area. Whether you're passionate about helping those in need, supporting local causes, or making a positive impact, United Volunteers will connect you with the perfect opportunities to get involved.



Reality U is an interactive financial literacy program for students. After completing Reality U Online to imagine their life at age 26, students receive a paycheck and scenario to practice managing monthly expenses. Community volunteers run booths like housing, transportation, and more, and each session ends with a debrief that connects financial choices to success in school today.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, administered locally by Salina Area United Way and Ellsworth Counties, mails free age-appropriate books each month to children under 5. Funded by the Dane G. Hansen Foundation and supported by local partners, the program has mailed over 155,500 books to date.



In summer 2024, Salina Area United Way partnered with Community Action of Topeka to help individual who have unforeseen circumstances and are behind on their utility bills, rapid rehousing, or are facing eviction. Applicants must go through proper screening prior to applying.



The Salina Area United Way's United Network provides community access to essential resources, including broadband internet, printing, online job searches and applications, educational opportunities, trainings, DCF services, and other local resources—all in one convenient place.



RAWR (Raising Active Wild Readers) prevents the 'Summer Slide' by providing free books to kids through Summer Meal Programs. Children ages 0-18 can choose books to build their home libraries, with new and gently used books collected year-round and distributed each summer.



VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) is a free, volunteer-run program sponsored locally by Salina Area United Way. It helps individuals and families earning \$60,000 or less with basic federal and state tax returns, electronic filing, Earned Income Tax Credits, and Homestead Tax Credits.



United Way 2-1-1 is a free, confidential service connecting people to resources across Kansas and nationwide. Call 2-1-1 to speak with a trained specialist, text your zip code to 898-211, or search 211Kansas.org to access over 2,000 community programs and services.



SingleCare prescription discount cards are free for everyone—no age, income, or insurance requirements. Show the card or app at participating pharmacies nationwide and save an average of 45% on medications.



EARLY CHILDCARE INITIATIVE

Salina Area United Way has launched the Early Childcare Initiative Fund to address the urgent childcare crisis in Saline County. This initiative is designed to stabilize the childcare workforce, expand access to affordable care for families, and build long-term sustainability for the sector.

Through this initiative, United Way provides wage-supplement grants that ensure childcare professionals earn at least \$15 per hour, helping to retain current staff and attract new educators to the field. At the same time, the fund will support the opening and expansion of licensed nonprofit childcare centers so that more families can access safe, high-quality care close to home.

In addition to direct support, United Way will actively identify and secure additional state, federal, and private grant opportunities to bring new resources into the community, multiplying the impact of local investment. To guarantee sustainability, the organization is also committed to building a \$10 million endowment that will provide permanent support for the childcare workforce well into the future.

By investing in the Early Childcare Initiative Fund, partners help ensure that children in Saline County have access to the care they deserve, working families have the stability they need, and childcare professionals are compensated with fair and livable wages. This initiative represents a transformative step toward solving one of the community's most pressing and persistent challenges.

2025-2026 EARLY CHILDCARE PARTNERS

