

SIoux EMPIRE UNITED WAY HISTORY

From a modest beginning in 1929, the Sioux Empire United Way has continued to grow in response to community needs.

In the **1930's**, under the name Community Chest, the Sioux Empire United Way began its legacy with nine member agencies. Americans were facing the Great Depression and insurmountable need. The Community Chest stepped in and raised emergency funds to assist those in need.

As the **1940's** began, and our country faced World War II, the Community Chest became the United Community Fund and War Chest Campaign. We helped soldiers through the USO and United Seamen, as well as provided relief funds for 11 occupied countries, while continuing our support for local agencies.

In the **1950's**, we changed our name to the United Fund of Sioux Falls, and began providing funds to the YMCA, YWCA, Red Cross, Family Services, and Boys Club.

We merged with the Community Planning Council in **1960**.

Drug and alcohol abuse were identified as top issues in our first needs assessments in the **1970's**. The United Way directed funds to address these problems in our community.

In the **1980's**, women began to enter the workforce in higher numbers. The first childcare initiative was launched with the goal of making quality childcare available to everyone.

"Youth at Risk" was identified as a serious issue facing the community in the **1990's**. As a result, the United Way launched programs aimed at these youth in order to address the rising need.

Research on the importance of a child's first years of life surfaced during the beginning of the decade. In the **2000's**, the United Way is addressing the issue with initiatives such as Success by 6 and Ready to Read! In the coming decades, our population of older adults will continue to grow. The United Way wants to ensure this population maintain their way of life and independence by supporting the Workers on Wheels program.

No one can know what the future will bring...but we do know that the Sioux Empire United Way will be here, meeting the growing and changing needs of our community, for the generations to come.