

# SALINA AREA UNITED WAY

Salina Area United Way's mission is to **improve lives** and **strengthen the community** through Education, Health and Financial Stability.

## OUR PROGRAMS



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a free book gifting program administered by the Salina Area United Way and Ellsworth Counties. A free age-appropriate book is mailed to participants each month. The program is paid in full by the Dane G. Hansen Foundation in their 26 counties. Partnering with Saline County Health Department, Heartland Early Education, Child Care Aware of Kansas, and childcare centers, over 155,500 books have been mailed to date.



VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) is an IRS-sponsored program which assists in income tax preparation for Basic Federal Tax Returns and electronic filing, State of Kansas Tax Returns, Earned Income Tax Credits, and Homestead Tax Credits for moderate and low-income individuals and families making \$56,000 per year or less. Salina Area United Way in the last 6 years has done over 7,500 returns and more than \$7.6 million has come back in refunds. The Salina Area United Way is the sponsoring agency for the VITA program in our area. VITA is completely free to participants and completely volunteer run.



Call 2-1-1 and talk with a live, highly trained 2-1-1 call center specialist. Calls are free and confidential. Text your zip code to 898-211 to have referrals sent to your phone. Search online at 211Kansas.org. The United Way 2-1-1 call center has more than 2,000 programs in its comprehensive database of nonprofits, government agencies, and community-based organizations. 2-1-1 connects callers to resources that provide human services across the entire state of Kansas and across the nation.



*Raising Active Wild Readers*

RAWR (Raising Active Wild Readers) helps to prevent the "Summer Slide" by encouraging kids to read during the summer. Partnering with the USD 305 Free Summer Meals Program and the Salina Public Library, Salina Area United Way volunteers and staff distribute books at grab and go meal sites. Youth select free books, which are theirs to keep for their home-library. The program runs throughout the summer at meal sites in Salina. Over 3,600 books were distributed this summer, 2023, and more than 17,000 books have been given out in 9 years.



Reality U is an interactive financial literacy simulator made for students! Before the simulator, the students complete the Real U Online to decide what they want their life to look like at 26 years old. When they arrive at Reality U, they get a paycheck and life scenario based on their answers so they can practice paying their bills for the month. Your community will get to volunteer running booths such as housing, phone, transportation, and more! We wrap up each session with a debrief that empowers students to connect their financial future with what they do in school now.



FamilyWise prescription drug discount cards for prescription medication are for everyone, with or without insurance. There are no usage, age or income limits. Show the FW card or the mobile app on your phone to the pharmacist. The discount, on average 45%, varying by medication, is applied to your prescription medicine and accepted at pharmacies nationwide.