



**2021**

**UNITED WAY OF LAPEER  
COUNTY NEWSLETTER**

**United Way  
of Lapeer County**

Give. Advocate. Volunteer. Live United.



## **RETROSPECT: A LOOK BACK ON THE LAST YEAR**

Though COVID-19 has had an enormous impact on our lives in the last year, United Way of Lapeer County has stayed committed to serving the community. Our dedication to the education, income,

and health of Lapeer county residents has not wavered. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lapeer realized how important it is to come together and do what we can with time, talent and financial resources. This is what it means to LIVE UNITED.



**UWLC has awarded more than  
\$24,000 from our COVID-19  
Emergency Response Fund since  
March 2020.**

## VITA Program

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## Lapeer High School Varsity Letter Scholarship

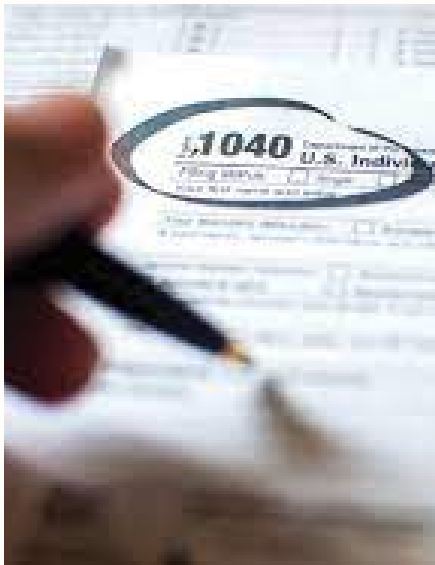
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## Digital Galaxy Volunteer Software

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## VITA PROGRAM

In April, United Way of Lapeer County kicked off our collaborative with the Volunteer Tax Assistance Program. VITA provides free tax preparation to individuals, enabling Lapeer county residents to avoid the high cost of preparation fees. Despite many challenges--including the pandemic, tax law changes and a filing season that was over a month longer than anticipated--millions of people benefited from the VITA program this year, showing that VITA is more than a program: its a cause. Now, we are already preparing for next year and we want you to get involved! United Way of Lapeer County is looking for FAST TAX site volunteers. You can learn to prepare taxes and make a difference in our community at the same time. We need YOUR help, contact our office at 810-667-2912.



In 2020, United Way of Lapeer County brought back \$103,000 to residents of Lapeer County with free in-person and online tax preparation.

In 2021, United Way of Lapeer County assisted with 71 returns representing 89 individuals.

# LAPEER HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY LETTER SCHOLARSHIP

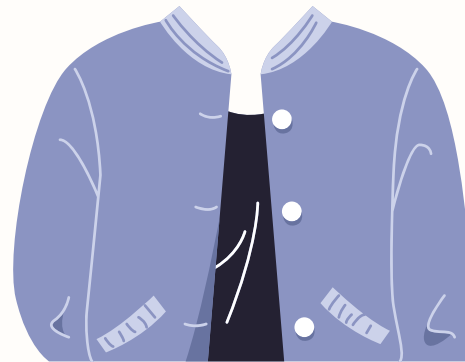
For the 2nd year, United Way of Lapeer County has partnered with Lapeer Community Schools to provide a Varsity Letter and scholarship program. In this program, high school students with 90 or more service hours can earn their Varsity Letter for volunteering in their community and high school, and all seniors that apply are entered into a \$1,000 scholarship. United Way of Lapeer County is dedicated to recognizing and rewarding students for their efforts to provide for our community. Applications were due May 21st and have been reviewed and selected.



New LICA Food  
Pantry!

Partner  
Highlight

Text to Give



Varsity Letter in Community Service 2020-21 School Year United Way of Lapeer County partners with Lapeer Community High School to recognize high school students who have made an exceptional commitment to community service (90 volunteer hours).  
\*\*\*DEADLINE TO APPLY IS MAY 21st, 2021\*\*\* Contact NHS Advisor Mrs. Wolski for an application!

## BENEFITS OF VARSITY LETTER IN COMMUNITY SERVICE (VLCS)

Set and achieve a challenging goal for volunteering! You can list your VLCS as a unique and outstanding achievement in your college, scholarship, and job applications. Unlike national awards for volunteering, your VLCS is connected to your high school, just like a varsity letter for athletics, academics or music.

## REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Be a student in grades 9-12 at Lapeer Community Schools.
- Complete a minimum of 90 volunteer hours between June 1st, 2020 - May 21st, 2021.
- Track hours and provide verification information on





## **GALAXY DIGITAL VOLUNTEER SOFTWARE**

United Way of Lapeer County is excited to announce that we will be adding Galaxy Digital Get Connected volunteer management software to our website. It will be our go-to tool to increase volunteer engagement, develop long-term relationships, and track community impact. This platform will connect all of our local nonprofits and volunteers to communicate needs in an easy to reach, centralized location. We know that our partners and other regions of the community are always looking for a helping hand, and might not know where to look. With this new initiative, we will be able to connect volunteers with organizations in an easy to access and use software.



## **NEW LICA FOOD PANTRY!**

The Lapeer Interfaith Community Association (LICA) is comprised of five local churches and has been providing food for those in need for more than thirty years. They host a soup kitchen/dinner Monday-Friday through out the year, have three food pantries and a weekly pop up pantry food giveaway. In June, UWLC donated \$5,000 to LICA for them to start building a new LICA soup kitchen/food pantry, which will be located on 1680 N Lapeer Rd.





## **PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: THE FAMILY LITERACY CENTER**

The Family Literacy Center was established in 1980 to help community members reach literacy goals. They help students get their GEDs, which opens doors to education, employment, and self-sufficiency. The Family Literacy Center tutors elementary students who struggle with literacy, and they offer playgroups to prepare children for entering school. In 2021, United Way of Lapeer County granted the Family Literacy Center \$7500 so that they can continue providing their invaluable services to our community. Their efforts to maintain a high regard for education in Lapeer is what we look to support, and in giving to our partners we continue our mission to Live United.

## **TEXT TO GIVE!**

When you donate to United Way of Lapeer County, you are investing in our community. Your donation supports programs in the areas of education, income, and health. It is through the generosity and community support of donors that United Way of Lapeer County is able to provide funding to our agencies, who in turn provide the services that are vital to improving the quality of life for our neighbors in Lapeer county.

*If you are interested in donating, please text 810-250-4527 to give or learn more at <https://united-way-of-lapeer-county.snwbll.com/2021-campaign>*

