



***A Message from:
United Way of McLean
David Taylor***

County's President & CEO:

I managed a few moments of quiet reflection and solitude this morning before the chaos of the morning routine with my now 10 year old daughter reached full swing. I know the weather hasn't cooperated much to this point, and winter has seemed to drag on endlessly.

As I sat in silence, a determined bird made its call to others in the neighborhood, a clear signal, that despite how the skies look or what the temperature gauge reads, spring has arrived in nature.

It wouldn't be a stretch to say many locally don't share the same optimism as that bird did this morning. State Farm's announced job cuts and sale of their historic downtown building certainly can cast a pall over our community. The real estate market seems to be languishing. A number of stores are closing. CIRA continues to report declining passenger numbers at the airport. Local governments are raising fees and slashing budgets.

McLean County faces uncertainties and challenges that haven't been seen in a generation or more. Friends, families, neighbors are being impacted in a very real, very personal way. It is deeply unsettling. Many of the readers of this newsletter have either been affected, or they know someone who has been directly. It can feel hopeless...like this proverbial winter will never end.

As these issues uproot people, we will see the effects firsthand in the social services sector. Because we've had it so good for as long as we have, these changes feel even more dramatic and frankly traumatic as lives are disrupted. Our realities have changed and will continue to in the coming weeks, months, and years.

Fundraising is down. Our state is in a financial mess. Needs are increasing, and there don't seem to be enough resources to go around.

But at the end of the day, Spring is a season of hope, and I'm an optimist who believes there's nothing that we can't solve. Look around, and you'll see buds and hints, both literally and figuratively signaling that things will get better.

Eventually, that bird got others to respond, and in much the same fashion, so will we. As more birds chirped and sang in the early morning, I'm reminded of The Byrds singing "for everything, turn, turn, turn, there is a season." Things happen in their season. Spring is a time for renewal and growth, and I'm confident that we will weather these storms and soon be in full bloom.

United Way of McLean County 3rd Annual Power of the Purse

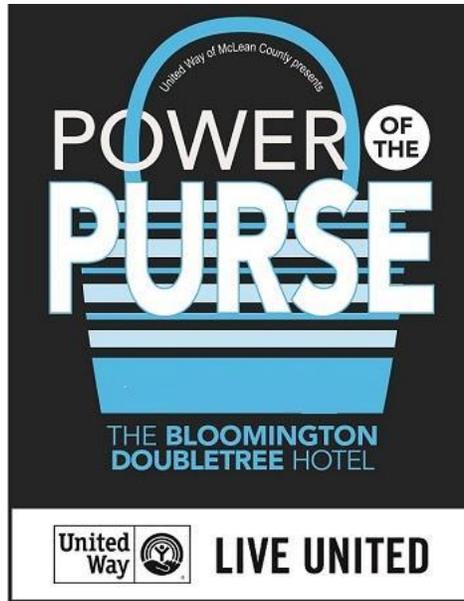
Thursday, May 31, 2018
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
Doors Open at 4:30 p.m.
Food Stations at 5:30 p.m.
Program begins at 6:00 p.m.

TICKETS ON SALE!!

go to:

www.BidPal.net/unitedwaypop

***Proceeds to Benefit the Community Cancer
Center in their fundraising efforts to
purchase a new PET/CT Scan***



Don't miss out on a fun "Girlfriend's Night Out" with over 100 new Designer Purses in the Auction as well as a Top Designer Purse Raffle and a Jewelry Piece Raffle donated by Jack Lewis Jewelers and all for a great cause!

**\$45 Individual Ticket Price
\$430 Girlfriend / Corporate Table (reserved table of 10 includes 2 bottles of wine and chocolates from The Chocolatier.**

All tickets include access to the event and smartphone app for bidding and food stations.

**A Fun 'FREE" Family Friendly Day
Celebrating Volunteerism in McLean County
Uptown Normal**

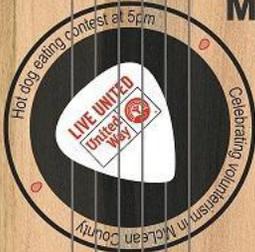
Saturday, April 21

JOIN US 'RAIN OR SHINE' !

United Way of McLean County presents

ROCK the BLOCK

Featuring **Mike & Joe**
w/Special Guests
The Red Scarves



Hot dog eating contest at 5pm

LIVE UNITED United Way

Celebrating 100 years in McLean County

Uptown Normal **April 21** 2018 / 4-9pm

\$5 donations to United Way are encouraged.

For more info: www.uwaymc.org



Rock the Block A Celebration of Volunteerism in our Community Saturday, April 21, 2018 Location: Uptown Normal **48in48**

A "Hack-a-Thon" Creating Websites for Area Non-Profits May 4,5 & 6, 2018 Location: Rivian Automotive

3rd Annual Power of the Purse Raising Funds for Community Cancer Center's PET/CT Scan Machine

Thursday, May 31, 2018 Location: Doubletree Hotel & Conference Center Ticket sales start March 1, 2018