



# 2022

## IMPACT REPORT



## Dear Friends and Partners,

I'm proud to have spent another year together investing in the potential of children through family stability. Last year brought a greater sense of normalcy for many and reinforced the importance of our commitment to our mission. The need for greater stability is vast, but our initiative makes a significant impact in the lives of families and their children.

The Siemer Institute creates a future where children thrive, families are strengthened, and communities are connected. Essential to achieving this vision is the work of each partner within the Siemer Institute network.

I am continually inspired by the levels of collaboration, engagement, and openness among our partners toward achieving the same outcomes across the nation. And, I am humbled by the bravery and resilience of the families we serve as they overcome hardships and reach their goals through the connection of our providers. Together, we continue to ensure families can maintain stable housing to avoid an unplanned move that disrupts the academic success of their children.

In 2022, we served 16,722 families and 37,507 children with 71% of families in the programs supported by the Siemer Institute having maintained stable housing. We implemented changes to collect and report data more efficiently, created and distributed a toolkit of resources for partners, and held our national summit in person for the first time since before the pandemic.

We also continued to further our collective impact by welcoming new partners in eight new communities across the nation to the network as well as awarding expansion and advocacy grants to many of our existing partners.

This work is challenging, but the success stories ignite passionate and collaborative responses to our society's biggest hurdles. Whether it be a single mom who finds rental assistance after giving birth, or a partner that quickly helps to stabilize families, we know that by working together we are creating positive, lasting change for those we serve.

Because of you, our friends and partners, we are able to make a significant impact on those who need us most. Now is the time to continue to strengthen the lives of families and children by investing in family stability.

**We truly are better together.**



Kim Dorniden  
President & National Director

## MISSION

To invest in the potential of children through family stability.

## VISION

Thriving children, strengthened families, and connected communities.

## VALUES

### STABILITY

Keeping families in their homes and children in their schools fosters security and promotes prosperity.

### OPPORTUNITY

Education has a profound impact on the life of children, families, and communities.

### COMPASSION

We operate with a mindset of empathy and inclusion, and we promote equitable access to resources in every community in which we invest.

### LEARNING

Evaluating programs, measuring impact, conducting research, and working as a community of practice is fundamental to our shared impact on families.

### COLLABORATION

Investing in and leading a national network of partners to solve challenges, leverage support, be accountable, and share ideas is how we serve as agents of change.

## MEET THE TEAM



### Kim Dorniden

President & National Director

- Strategy and mission
- National scope and impact
- New foundational partnerships
- Speaking opportunities and requests



### Robyn Davis

Analytics and Evaluation Director

- Data platform
- Data inquiry
- Reporting questions
- Evaluations
- National data related to the Siemer Institute Family Stability Initiative



### Dayna McCrary

National Program Director

- Current funding partners and service providers
- Grants, expansions, budgets, and program questions
- Partner contact information
- New partner orientation



### Amanda Wampler

National Operations Director

- New partnership development, funding partners, and new program partners
- Communications and media inquiries
- Communities of Practice
- Annual Summit

# OUR FOUNDER'S STORY



*Barbara and Al Siemer*

As a schoolteacher, Barbara Siemer saw firsthand how harmful homelessness and school mobility were to students and classrooms. These experiences inspired Barbara, with the support of her husband Al, to develop a program in 2003 with the United Way of Sarasota and Jewish Family and Children's Services of the Suncoast to address this issue.

When the recession hit in 2008, Barbara wanted to do more. The program expanded to Columbus, Ohio and then, based on the success of the original work, the Siemer Institute was formally launched in 2011. Although the recession had ended by 2011, families continued to struggle — especially families who were already living in poverty.

Recognizing the need beyond their home communities of Columbus and Sarasota the Siemers took their initiative across the nation with the intention of preventing family homelessness and reducing school mobility among low-income families. Since 2011, the Siemer Institute has developed partnerships with 64 organizations across the country.

Students **experiencing homelessness** are

# 87%

**more likely to drop out of school** than their stably housed peers<sup>1</sup>.

Approximately

# 237,240

**children have been served by the Siemer Institute since 2011.**

Siemer Institute provides funding and support to programs that create housing stability for families with school-aged children who are at risk of homelessness. Along with our partners, we've **served 117,000 families and 237,240 children from 2011 to 2022**, helping to ensure academic success for children across the nation.



<sup>1</sup>SchoolHouse Connection. (February 2019). Number of Students Experiencing Homelessness Reaches All-Time High; Growth in Numbers of Unaccompanied Youth Most Marked. Retrieved from <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/>.

# MEETING THE NEED THROUGH IMPACT

The impact of the Siemer Institute can be seen in the many families who have secured and maintained housing, built the skills and resources needed to thrive, and created a brighter future for their children through stable education.

## HOUSING STABILITY



**SIEMER IMPACT:** 71% of families served by the Siemer Institute achieved housing stability, representing an increase from 67% in 2021.

**Need:** The need for affordable housing has become increasingly urgent due to the rise in inflation. Between February 2020 and August 2022, the nation's average rent increased by 20%, making housing less accessible and affordable for many individuals and families. As pandemic-related government support begins to decrease and eventually disappear, it is expected that the affordability of housing will become even more challenging in 2023.

## INCOME STABILITY



**SIEMER IMPACT:** 62% of families served by the Siemer Institute increased their income, up from 31% in 2021.

**Need:** Across the nation, families are facing an alarming rise in the cost of essential consumer goods such as food (11.8%), electricity (14.3%), and gasoline (59.9%). This is particularly concerning as vulnerable families struggle to keep up with inflation due to stagnant wages. There is a vast need for assistance to help these families cope with the uncontrollable and unexpected increases in the cost of living.

## EDUCATION STABILITY



**SIEMER IMPACT:** 96% of children served by the Siemer Institute remained stable in school.

**Need:** Residential moves during childhood and adolescence can have significant and long-lasting effects on social-emotional outcomes and school performance. Changing schools as a result of a move can be a source of stress for children, disrupting both their academic skills and emotional well-being. It's important to provide support and stability during these transitions to mitigate the negative effects.

# DANELLA, DENISE, AND ONE PHONE CALL



In March of 2021, Danella Hendrix found out that she was pregnant with twins. Already a mother of five, she understood the ups and downs of pregnancy. However, she didn't anticipate the complications that would come with twins.

"Due to complications, a stress test had to be performed and subsequently I had to take my maternity leave early," shares Danella. But Danella's sick days were few and far between. She had planned on accumulating enough paid time off for maternity leave but had not planned for extended maternity leave.

**Off work without pay, she paid her rent in December, right before the twins were born. But the check bounced.**

In January 2022, Danella received notice. She and her family were at risk of eviction. She tried everything, including applying for loans, but she was consistently denied.

Despite the circumstances, she was filled with hope and prayers. Late one afternoon, she started to Google "rental assistance programs." The first link was to the Community Advocates website, whose tagline read "where meeting basic human needs inspires hope."

**Danella immediately called. And then, she met Denise.**

"Denise told me everything I needed to know and do in order to get assistance. I was appalled because I clearly had no other resort, having run out of options on how to pay my balance and current rent."

Behind the scenes, Denise was advocating relentlessly on Danella's behalf by acting as a mediator between Danella and her landlord.

**A few days later, Danella received a phone call from Denise. Community Advocates assisted Danella with the two months of back rent, but also provided her with three months of future rent to give her greater stability.**

"The rental assistance was the most exhilarating thing that ever happened to me other than giving birth to my children. It was a relief, a joyful blessing, and to this day I am truly thankful for the contribution from Community Advocates, and Denise most of all who did all the paperwork and remained in communication with myself and my landlord. It was extremely scary. I didn't know what to do or where to go. This program was a complete life saver. My family and I would have been homeless if Denise and Community Advocates wouldn't have picked up the phone."

Danella took the first step to ask for help. Denise and Community Advocates answered the call. Now, Danella and her family are doing well.

Nearly a year and a half later, she has paid all her rental payments on time, and she has not needed additional assistance.

*The Siemer Institute helps fund Community Advocates, which is a service provider of the United Way of Milwaukee and Waukesha County.*

# 2022 INVESTMENT

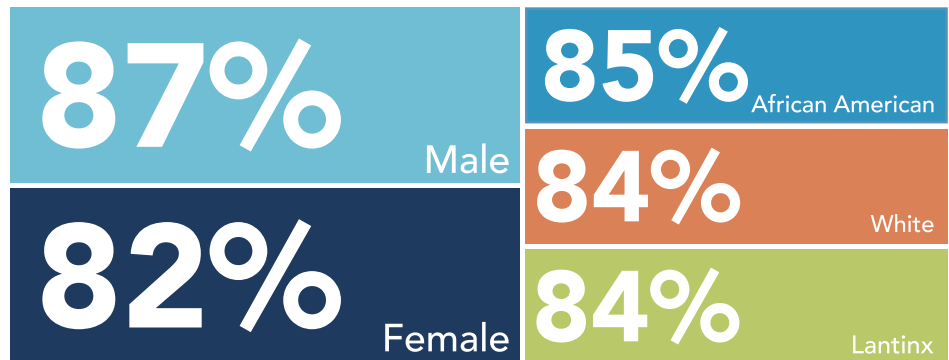
Since 2018, our investments across the network have totaled **\$96,674,750**. Our funding is amplified through partner matching funds in every community we serve. A snapshot of our total network investments for the past five years is as follows:

## TOTAL SIEMER INSTITUTE NETWORK INVESTMENTS 2018-2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Families Served</b>	9,852	10,858	12,729	13,664	16,722
<b>Investment/Family</b>	\$1,141	\$1,463	\$1,374	\$1,663	\$1,744
<b>SI Investment</b>	\$4,662,500	\$6,200,000	\$6,800,000	\$8,500,000	\$10,340,000
<b>Partner Investment</b>	\$6,576,250	\$9,295,000	\$10,690,000	\$14,225,000	\$19,386,000
<b>Total Investment</b>	\$11,238,750	\$15,495,000	\$17,490,000	\$22,725,000	\$29,726,000

### PROGRAM COMPLETIONS

While male-led families completed programs funded by the Siemer Institute at a slightly higher rate than female-led families, equitable outcomes were delivered across the network for race and ethnicity.



# ADVOCACY GRANTS



# \$150,000

As of December 2022, Siemer Institute has granted over **\$150,000** in advocacy dollars.

# \$85 million

The advocacy grants have been a catalyst for partner communities to access just over **\$85 million** in government funds that they would have otherwise not been able to access.

# 100,000

Advocacy grants have impacted the housing, financial, and education stability of more than **100,000 families and children**.



# THINK AND WORK COLLABORATIVELY

## SUMMIT FEEDBACK

“

*We really enjoy these opportunities to connect with peers, learn of what others are doing, and feel a sense of camaraderie.*

“

*Opportunities like these are invaluable for partners to learn and strategize from what other partners in the network are doing.*

“

*The Annual Summit provides an opportunity for United Ways from all around the country to get together and share information, strategies, and beneficial programmatic updates which help inform our work. Our staff regard this opportunity as one of the highlights of their year.*

“

*The sessions are high value because there are always new ideas with which all programs can relate and solutions to challenges are just a conversation away.*

“

*We appreciate the opportunity to engage in comprehensive and integrated conceptual conversations about our collective works, responsibilities, and visions.*



*Barbara Siemer, Al Siemer, Keynote Speaker Amy Blankson, and Kim Dorniden*

At the Siemer Institute, we know that we are only successful when our partners can achieve collective goals and outcomes. Through our Annual Summit and Communities of Practice, we provide opportunities to strengthen relationships, further education, and share best practices.

In 2022, over 250 family stability professionals came together for our Annual Summit in Grapevine, Texas, which was held in person for the first time since 2019. Additionally, we virtually hosted three network-wide Communities of Practice where affordable housing was discussed.



*Milton J. Little, Jr., United Way of Greater Atlanta*



# WHAT OUR PARTNERS SAY

We asked United Way CEOs, United Way program staff, and direct service providers to share what supports provided by the Siemer Institute they value the most.



## ADVOCACY GRANTS

— *"The advocacy grants are incredibly helpful in developing additional funding streams for programming."*



## ANNUAL SUMMIT

— *"An absolute must to help bring a holistic understanding of the work."*



## ANNUAL UNITED WAY CEO VIRTUAL MEETING

— *"It was great to have the opportunity to engage directly with Barbara and hear her thoughts on the future of our combined work."*



## COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

— *"There are always relatable subjects in these meetings and we look forward to each of them."*



## EXPANSION GRANTS

— *"The expansion grant allowed us to serve more families, leverage additional resources, and expand into a broader geographic area."*



## SUREIMPACT

— *"SureImpact allows us to track the efficiency of the work our staff does with each family enrolled in the Siemer Institute Family Stability Initiative."*

# KEEPING FAMILIES IN THEIR HOMES THROUGH MEDIATION



Relatively small, unexpected expenses are part of life. Your car may need a repair, or you may receive a healthcare bill that you didn't plan for in your monthly budget. Many families can cope with one-time expenses, but for others, these disruptions can create financial hardships. As a result, they may have a temporary inability to pay rent that puts them at risk of eviction, and eventually, homelessness.

Katie McNally, Community Engagement Manager for Jesse Tree, is all too familiar with this recurring situation. Like many communities across the country, the Treasure Valley in Idaho is experiencing a housing crisis. But what isn't ordinary is how few rights tenants have across the state. "If someone is behind on their rent and doesn't pay within three days, a landlord can issue an eviction notice. After that, the process goes fast with people being evicted in as little as ten days," says Katie.

Jesse Tree prevents homelessness by providing emergency rental assistance and eviction mediation to help Idahoans stay in their homes. After joining the Siemer Institute network in 2022, the organization trained employees to become eviction court mediators to support people facing eviction through the court process. A trained mediator attends every eviction hearing in Ada and Canyon Counties, which make up the Treasure Valley, to resolve issues between tenants and landlords. The goal of mediation is to create a payment plan that works for both parties to ultimately keep the tenant in their home. If needed, Jesse Tree provides financial assistance to make payment plans attainable for tenants, but often mediation alone is enough to avoid eviction.

"One of our clients is a 35-year-old woman who had a good job but came down with an infection that led to sepsis. Because she was hospitalized for two weeks, she was unable to work and couldn't pay her rent on time. Her landlord charged her a \$700 fee for being two days late on her rent. She ended up in a revolving door of fees and late rent, racking up \$4,000 and an eviction notice. Her car was repossessed, and she couldn't afford food, but thankfully her story didn't end there. Our eviction court mediator intervened to help reduce her late fees, and now she is living in a new place and was promoted at work. Without court intervention, it is likely that she would have become homeless," says Katie.

The program's success is widespread, with 20% of all evictions in Treasure Valley being resolved by Jesse Tree in 2022. Additionally, Jesse Tree employees were instrumental in introducing and advocating on behalf of Idaho Senate Bill 1039, which was recently passed to prohibit landlords from imposing unreasonable late fees on tenants.

"Most of the people we serve are single parents who run into a one-time issue. They don't deserve to have their lives derailed," says Katie. Support from the Siemer Institute has been instrumental in training more case managers in mediation, directly helping to keep more than 50 families in their homes in 2022. "The fastest growing demographic of those experiencing homelessness is children. By working together within our community and the Siemer Institute network, we are coming up with creative solutions to help families achieve housing stability," says Katie.

# 2022 SIEMER INSTITUTE PARTNERS

To amplify the Siemer Institute's social investment in families and children, we partner with mission-aligned organizations across the country.

In 2022, the Siemer Institute network grew by adding eight new partner sites and expanding the work of nine current partners. New partner cities included: Boise, Fort Lauderdale, Long Island, New Orleans, Oklahoma City, Providence, Research Triangle, and Tacoma. Our program expansions included the following cities: Chicago, Dayton, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Louisville, Madison, San Francisco, St. Louis and Twin Cities.

Our partners span 35 states and include the following:

## ALABAMA

### Funding Partner

United Way of Central Alabama

### Service Provider

United Way of Central Alabama

## ARIZONA

### Funding Partners

Valley of the Sun United Way

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona

### Service Providers

Chicanos Por La Causa

Family Housing Resources

Our Family Services

Primavera Foundation

YWCA of Southern Arizona

## ARKANSAS

### Funding Partner

Heart of Arkansas United Way

### Service Provider

Our House

## CALIFORNIA

### Funding Partners

Orange County United Way

United Way of Greater Los Angeles

United Way California Capital Region

United Way Bay Area

### Service Providers

Abrazar Inc (SparkPoint OC)

Building Skills Partnership

El Centro de Ayuda

Yolo County Children's Alliance

SparkPoint Cañada College

SparkPoint Chabot Las Positas Community College District

SparkPoint College of San Mateo

SparkPoint Contra Costa (Richmond Community Foundation)

SparkPoint Fremont (City of Fremont Family Resource Center)

SparkPoint Marin (Marin Community Foundation)

SparkPoint Napa (On the Move)

SparkPoint Oakland (East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation)

SparkPoint San Jose (San Jose Evergreen Community College District)

SparkPoint Skyline College

SparkPoint Solano (Children's Network of Solano County, Inc.)

## COLORADO

### Funding Partners

Pikes Peak United Way

Mile High United Way

### Service Providers

Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

United Way Bridging the Gap Program

## CONNECTICUT

### Funding Partner

United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut

### Service Provider

The Village for Families & Children, Inc.

## FLORIDA

### Funding Partners

United Way of Broward County

United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades

United Way of Northeast Florida

United Way Miami

Heart of Florida United Way

United Way Suncoast

## Siemer Institute Partners continued

### Service Providers

Catholic Charities of Central Florida  
Community Cooperative  
Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa  
Jewish Family & Children's Service of the Suncoast  
Jewish Family & Community Services  
Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida  
Osceola Council on Aging  
Personal Enrichment Through Mental Health Services\  
The Sharing Center  
United Way Center for Financial Stability  
United Way of Broward County  
University Area Community Development Corporation

### **GEORGIA**

#### Funding Partner

United Way of Greater Atlanta

#### Service Providers

Community Restoration Project  
Crossroads Community Ministries  
Frontline Housing  
Hope Atlanta  
Housing Plus  
Inspiritus  
New Life Communities Ministries  
Project Renewal  
Single Parent Alliance in Resource Center

### **IDAHO**

#### Funding Partner

United Way of Treasure Valley

#### Service Provider

Jesse Tree of Idaho

### **ILLINOIS**

#### Funding Partner

United Way of Metro Chicago

#### Service Providers

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council  
Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation  
WeGo Together for Kids

### **INDIANA**

#### Funding Partners

United Way of Central Indiana  
Metro United Way

#### Service Providers

Edna Martin Christian Center  
Flanner House  
Hope Southern Indiana  
John Boner Neighborhood Centers  
Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center  
Southeast Community Services

### **IOWA**

#### Funding Partner

United Way of Central Iowa

#### Service Providers

Hawthorn Hill  
HOME, Inc  
Oakridge Neighborhood

### **KANSAS**

#### Funding Partner

United Way of Greater Kansas City

#### Service Provider

Jewish Family Services of Greater Kansas City

### **KENTUCKY**

#### Funding Partners

Metro United Way  
United Way of Greater Cincinnati

#### Service Providers

Americana Community Center  
Brighton Center  
Bullitt County Housing First  
Family Scholar House  
Jewish Family and Career Services  
Salvation Army of Louisville

### **LOUISIANA**

#### Funding Partner

United Way of Southeast Louisiana

#### Service Provider

United Way of Southeast Louisiana

### **MARYLAND**

#### Funding Partner

The United Way of Central Maryland, Inc.

#### Service Providers

Associated Catholic Charities  
City of Refuge Baltimore  
Cornerstone Franciscan Ministries

### **MASSACHUSETTS**

#### Funding Partner

United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley

#### Service Providers

Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development/Lynn  
Public Schools  
Project Hope Boston

## Siemer Institute Partners continued

### MICHIGAN

#### Funding Partners

United Way for Southeastern Michigan  
United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region

#### Service Providers

Housing Resources, Inc  
Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency

### MINNESOTA

#### Funding Partner

Greater Twin Cities United Way

#### Service Provider

CLUES: Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio

### MISSOURI

#### Funding Partners

United Way of Greater Kansas City  
United Way of Greater St. Louis

#### Service Providers

Avenue of Life  
Beyond Housing  
Community Assistance Council  
Community Services League  
Grandview Assistance Program  
Metro Lutheran Ministries  
Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis

### NEBRASKA

#### Funding Partner

United Way of the Midlands

#### Service Provider

Family Housing Advisory Services, Inc

### NEW MEXICO

#### Funding Partner

United Way of Central New Mexico

#### Service Providers

ABC Community School Partnership  
East Central Ministries

### NEW YORK

#### Funding Partners

United Way of Buffalo & Erie County  
United Way of Long Island

#### Service Providers

Belmont Housing of WNY, Inc  
Housing Help, Inc

### NORTH CAROLINA

#### Funding Partners

United Way of Greater Charlotte  
United Way of Greater Greensboro, Inc.  
United Way of the Greater Triangle

#### Service Providers

Children & Families First  
CrossRoads Corporation for Affordable Housing and  
Community Development, Inc.  
Durham's Children Initiative  
Families Together  
Renaissance West Community Initiative  
Salvation Army of Greensboro  
YMCA of the Triangle

### OHIO

#### Funding Partners

Physicians CareConnection  
United Way of Central Ohio  
United Way of Greater Cincinnati  
United Way of Greater Cleveland  
United Way of the Greater Dayton Area  
United Way of Greater Toledo  
United Way of Summit & Medina

#### Service Providers

Boys and Girls Club of Dayton  
CHN Housing Partners  
Homefull, Inc  
LISC Toledo Financial Opportunity Center Network  
Physicians CareConnection  
Santa Maria Community Services  
The Dakota Center  
Thrive Therapeutics  
United Way of Summit & Medina  
Wesley Center  
YMCA of Central Ohio

### OKLAHOMA

#### Funding Partner

United Way of Central Oklahoma

#### Service Provider

YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Funding Partners

United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania  
United Way of Greater Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey

#### Service Providers

Creative Health Services  
North Hills Community Outreach  
Utility Emergency Services Fund

### RHODE ISLAND

#### Funding Partner

United Way of Rhode Island

#### Service Provider

Community Action Partnership of Providence

## Siemer Institute Partners continued

### SOUTH CAROLINA

#### Funding Partner

United Way of the Midlands

#### Service Provider

Salvation Army of the Midlands

### TENNESSEE

#### Funding Partners

United Way of Greater Nashville

United Way of the Mid-South

#### Service Providers

The Family Collective

United Way Driving the Dream

### TEXAS

#### Funding Partners

United Way for Greater Austin

United Way of Greater Houston

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas

United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County

United Way of Tarrant County

#### Service Providers

AVANCE

Chrysalis Ministries

CitySquare

Communities in Schools of Central Texas

Communities in Schools of Houston

Family Houston

Family Service Association

Foundation Communities

Interfaith Family Services

KLRN

Madonna Neighborhood Center

Pathfinders of Tarrant County

Restore Education

### UTAH

#### Funding Partner

United Way of Salt Lake

#### Service Provider

Utah Community Action

### VIRGINIA

#### Funding Partner

United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg

#### Service Providers

Boys and Girls Club of Metro Richmond

Housing Families First

### WASHINGTON

#### Funding Partners

United Way of King County

United Way of Pierce County

#### Service Providers

Neighborhood House

Reclaiming Our Greatness

Tacoma Housing Authority

### WISCONSIN

#### Funding Partners

United Way of Dane County

United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County

#### Service Providers

Community Action Coalition

Community Advocates

Middleton Outreach Ministry

Sankofa Education Leadership United

Stoughton Area Resource Team

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