June 2020

Driving the Dream

COVID-19 Updates

Statement from the Board of Directors, United Way of the Mid-South Occasioned by the Death of George Floyd

For the last five years, our United Way of the Mid-South has chosen to place our highest priority on advancing the strategies being our neighbors are living in poverty. We’ve known that, given the many needs of individuals whose families have experienced multi-generational poverty, we could have even greater impact by becoming laser-focused on: Improving the quality of life for Mid-Southerners… our mission statement, for those who have been so adversely affected by the socioeconomic disparities in our community. So, helping people get there,… and transform the lives of individuals and families who today are hurting…

Unfortunately, the weapon used to effect change - entrenched poverty, institutional disinvestment, COVID-19 vulnerability, and - in the last few days - institutional racism. But the people who have been figuratively and literally affected remain the same. They are those whose life experiences suggest that they are wrestling the disenchanted, personally disrespected and socially discounted. And the community is…

The need is great, and will become even greater over the next few months, for the United Way of the Mid-South to do what we do. 53 years ago, Dr. King poignantly asked this nation, "Where do we go from here; chaos or community?" For us, the answer cannot be chaos. Our answer has been and always will be: "Driving the Dream." Our dream is to build a community where the associated disease, death and disruption of livelihoods; even while "where we are" as a community is definitely not "where we dream to be."... We have built a systemic solution on behalf of the people who populate all the statistics we quote, that will functionally improve their quality of life.

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