

# Providing funds to help others a way to move on from politics

- Editorial staff
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Two out of three votes for president in Monroe County went to someone other than the Donald Trump/Mike Pence ticket. That lack of enthusiasm for the controversial president-elect and the Indiana governor who will be the next vice president has put many in the county into a funk, like a massive election hangover.

The feeling is based at least partly on the belief that the nation has elected two men who have shown disrespect and a lack of compassion or empathy for people with disabilities, women, the GLBT community, immigrants, minority groups, and people in poverty — people who have felt ostracized from society, and people who may need a hand to make ends meet.

For those who have felt adrift since Tuesday — as well as those who haven't and are pleased with the results — we're offering a way to do something positive today; to make a step toward individual compassion and empathy.

Delivered with today's newspaper is an envelope in which you can put a donation to the United Way of Monroe County.

The theme of this year's campaign is "Empowering your community. One donation at a time."

Just like every vote mattered in the election, every person's donation to United Way will make a powerful and lasting change that will help provide building blocks for a better life. United Way focuses on the three E's: education, earnings and essentials.

United Way works to make sure children enter kindergarten ready to learn; young people graduate school with a plan to succeed; and adults can continue to build job and life skills well beyond their school years.

It works to help working families gain and maintain stable employment in which they can retain and increase income as well as build savings and other assets.

And it seeks to make sure people in our community have access to enough food, a stable place to live, health care, and help if their lives are in crisis.

In doing these things, United Way and its member agencies provide programs that will help people become self sufficient through targeted educational efforts in areas such as nutrition and growing food, getting a job, managing finances, taking care of a home, gaining access to health care and health insurance coverage, and other life skills. The agencies work together as a team to provide the services and a continuum of care.

The envelope provided with the newspaper will accept any amount, of course. Here are some ideas.

A donation of \$1 a week could provide 50 bags of groceries to low-income families.

A donation of \$3 a week could provide 50 door-to-door trips for a senior citizen who can't drive, allowing that person to stay independent longer.

A donation of \$5 a week could provide the flu shot to 26 low-income patients who are at high risk of getting sick during the winter months.

Any donation will help. And it just might help the non-Trump two-thirds of Monroe County refocus and move forward from presidential politics. For the other one-third, it's just a good thing to do.