

Photo provided

Jeff Clark (center) opened Home Hearing Helpers in Minooka in 2017.

Home Hearing Helpers in Minooka

SUBMITTED REPORT

When Jeff Clark relocated his family to Minooka in 2015, they quickly fell in love with the community.

"It reminded me of the town where I grew up in the '70s, which was a friendly, tight-knit community that supported its local school and businesses."

A graduate of Northern Illinois University in 1992, and working as a licensed hearing instrument dispenser for 13 years, he thought that one day if the opportunity presented itself that this is where he would open a hearing care center.

That day happened on July 10, when Home Hearing Helpers, or H3, opened at 123 E. Mondamin St., right next to Minooka Family Dental.

"It was important to me to live in the community that I serve," Clark said. "I consider every patient a part of my fam-

ily and a person should be close to their family."

Hearing loss is very personal to Clark as he and his mother both have hearing loss, and his grandmother also suffered from the disability. Clark personally wears hearing aids and he believes this gives him a better understanding of what a person goes through with hearing loss and how to better fit the aids than those in the industry who do not wear them.

"Programming hearing aids is an art, every patient is unique and has different needs," he said. "You can't just push a button on your computer and say there you go, if you don't like how it sounds then deal with it."

Home Hearing Helpers' goal is to help people hear as best as possible regardless of the brand or money spent on the hearing aids. They have accounts with five of the major hearing aid manufacturers, which make up 12 of the biggest

name brands available for customers. This allows them to service most brands of hearing aids and get the best value to pass on to their customers.

"I typically do not recommend hearing aids that I have not first tried out myself to make sure they are going to perform up to my expectations," he said.

H3 also is contracted with nine of the largest third party insurance providers that manage the hearing benefits for companies like Caterpillar, Exelon, Pilkington, IRTA, Chicago Public Schools, and American Airlines, so customers can maximize their hearing benefits.

"My promise is to treat you like family while providing the best hearing care services using the latest technology available to best fit your lifestyle and budget. Give us a chance, we care because we wear," Clark said.

For more information, visit www.h3hearing.com or call 815-255-2888.

Short Biography:

Almost 12 years of experience working with well-known local & global hearing aid companies like Beltone, Zounds, Pharmacy Hearing centers (i.e. Walgreens & CVS),

Sam's Club, Hearing Professionals of America, & Connect hearing.

Grew extremely tired and frustrated with the company first mentality of these organizations so I decided to open my own local place to help people hear better.

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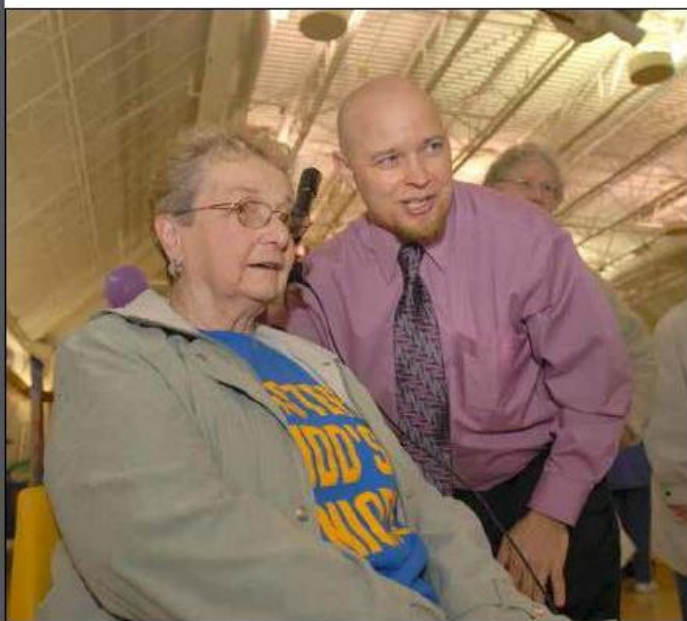


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United Way - LIVE UNITED in Grundy County

SUBMITTED REPORT

United Way of Grundy County's mission and philosophy encourages others to LIVE UNITED in our community. To LIVE UNITED means to work together to solve the problems that destabilize communities: lack of education, unstable sources of income and health problems.

Founded in 1946 as Community Chest, the United Way of Grundy County has been making a positive impact and improving lives in Grundy County for 70 years.

Through the generosity and support of local businesses, corporations and their employees, individual donors, and the community, United Way of Grundy County raises nearly \$500,000 for its campaign annually. The funds raised stay local and are granted to local not-for-profit agencies to assist individuals and families in need in Grundy County.

Annually, through its Community Investment Grants Program, the United Way of Grundy County financially supports local not-for-profit agencies who provide vital programs and services in Grundy County from birth to death and everything in between. These funded programs provide basic human needs, education, health, crisis intervention, transportation, youth, seniors, mental health and disaster relief.

Currently, United Way of Grundy County supports 31 local not-for-profit Community Partner Agencies who provide more than 50 programs and services in Grundy County. Last year, more than 38,000 units of service were provided by the funded Community Partner Agencies to help ad-



Photo provided

Special Events Committee members (left to right) Laura Angwin, Paula Mercer, Heidi Lawton, Karen Nall, Brenda Kreiger, Teddy Dow, Katie Bodine and Megan Borchers.

dress unmet needs throughout the community.

"To LIVE UNITED is the idea that we all win when a child succeeds in school, a family is more financially stable and people stay healthy," stated United Way of Grundy County Executive Director, Karen Nall. "Together, united, we are able to create opportunities that improve lives and make a positive impact in the community."

United Way of Grundy County's staff consists of Executive Director Karen Nall and Associate Director Teddy Dow.

Executive Board Members include President Scott Shannon, Vice-President Ted Cudak, Treasurer Katie Bodine, Secretary Chris Spencer and Past President John Roundtree. Board of Directors include Dan Duffy, Jeff Heap, J.C.

Lawson, Heidi Lawton, Lon Lovellette, Tawnya Mack, Randy Matravers, Paula Mercer, Paul Nordstrom, Christina Van Yperen and Paul Wojtkiewicz. Caroline Portlock serves on the Advisory Committee.

Volunteers are key. Volunteering is a great way to get involved in the community. The United Way of Grundy County serves as a volunteer hub; helping to match individuals with opportunities for volunteering, community service hours and volunteer projects for companies. Volunteers can turn their time and talents into meaningful action and positive change.

United Way of Grundy County's Special Events Committee consists of staff, board members and local volunteers. This Committee plans United Way of Grundy County's annual campaign celebration dinner. Every year, the annual dinner has a theme and although dressing in costume is not required, many of the attendees participate. This year's Hawaiian Luau-themed event will take place on Wednesday, September 12 at the Morris Country Club.

United Way of Grundy County is a member of the United Way of Illinois and the United Way Worldwide. Staff serve on several community committees including the Behavioral Health Alliance of Grundy County, Grundy Partnership for Children, Grundy County Inter-Agency Council, Grundy County COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster), and others.

For more information about the United Way of Grundy County, call 815-942-4430 or visit their website at www.UWGrundy.org. You can also find them on Facebook and Twitter.



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