

Ensuring all can thrive in Southwest Louisiana

2024-2025

INITIATIVES & PARTNERS

From strengthening local resilience to advancing healthy communities, youth opportunity and financial security, United Way Southwest Louisiana is mobilizing communities to take action so all can thrive.



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ALLEN | BEAUREGARD | CALCASIEU | CAMERON | JEFF DAVIS

CONNECTIVE

RESPONSIVE

SCALABLE



United Way Southwest Louisiana mobilizes communities to action so all can thrive.

For more than 85 years, United Way Southwest Louisiana has partnered with local communities to co-create solutions to people's most pressing challenges. We take a comprehensive approach, listening and responding to local needs.

With our partners, United Way Southwest Louisiana creates pathways to better healthcare, education and job opportunities. Over 100,000 individuals receive the help they need each year to build the foundations for a brighter future.

As part of a global network of more than 1,000 United Ways, we help share innovations and scale impact to improve lives worldwide. Together, we're working towards a future where every person and community can rise.

COLLECTIVE IMPACT is the idea that large-scale social change can only be achieved when all stakeholders work together, instead of in competition or isolation.

LIFE-LONG CHANGE

United Way Southwest Louisiana possesses an in-depth understanding of the community's needs through continuous engagement and assessment. We identify critical service gaps by actively listening to the community and collaborating with various funded partners with the expertise to address specific issues ranging from education to basic needs. When gaps persist beyond the reach of these partners, United Way steps in with its in-house Initiatives, ensuring that every need is met. These Initiatives are dynamic and designed to adapt and expand in response to the evolving challenges within the community.

United Way Southwest Louisiana is also shifting its impact areas to keep pace with changing needs and maximize impact. This strategic shift allows us to clearly define and focus on new ambitious goals to ensure that all community members can thrive. By evolving our approach and continuously seeking to fill service gaps, we demonstrate a steadfast commitment to supporting every individual and family in Southwest Louisiana.



HEALTH



HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Improving health and wellbeing for all



EDUCATION



YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

Helping young people realize their full potential



ECONOMIC MOBILITY



FINANCIAL SECURITY

Creating a stronger financial future for every generation



BASIC NEEDS



COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

Addressing urgent needs today for a better tomorrow

FUNDED PARTNER AGENCIES

United Way Southwest Louisiana Elevates Community Impact Through Strategic Grant Allocation

United Way Southwest Louisiana organizes an annual grant cycle with the help of volunteers and experts in various fields. The funding is allocated based on four specific impact areas and is intended to address critical needs in the community. The organization's community investment volunteers thoroughly evaluate each 501(c)(3) organization to ensure that they align with United Way's mission, vision, and principles. Before receiving any donor's gifts, each organization must demonstrate its ability to meet the requested needs.

The Board of Directors holds ultimate responsibility for the annual allocation of grant funds.

United Way Southwest Louisiana takes seriously the responsibility of using donors' gifts effectively and strives to maximize their positive impact on a daily basis. Thanks to support from many individuals, the team has been able to serve 1,112,121 residents from 2020 through 2023, despite the challenges posed by two hurricanes and a pandemic.

United Way Southwest Louisiana is committed to meeting community needs at the forefront. Our 24/7 monitoring and cutting-edge resources ensure that every individual and family in the region can thrive. Through our 211 resource hotline, people can access support for various needs, from childcare to rent and utilities.

By leveraging data from 211 callers, we can effectively direct vital resources to where they are most needed. This empowers us to develop targeted community investment strategies and efficiently deliver goods and services. Our approach is especially invaluable in the wake of natural disasters as it aids federal, state and local governments in swiftly providing emergency assistance.



ABRAHAM'S TENT

Serves hot lunch Monday to Saturday for individuals in need

ASSIST AGENCY

Assists low- income individuals and families with bills, legal aid and food vouchers

BEAUREGARD ARC

Provides employment opportunities for citizens with developmental disabilities

BEAUREGARD COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Operates June Jenkins Women's Shelter providing housing/services to domestic violence victims

BEAUREGARD COUNCIL ON AGING

Provides home-delivered meals and social services for the elderly

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF SWLA

Provides children with one- to-one relationships with adult mentors

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF ACADIANA

Provides a safe place for life enhancing programs and character development experiences

BOYS VILLAGE

Providing direct coordinated educational support for children in shelter

BUSINESS & WORKFORCE RECOVERY SOLUTIONS

Comprehensive disaster recovery assistance for small businesses, non-profits and faith-based organizations

CALCASIEU COUNCIL ON AGING

Provides seniors with transportation and home-delivered meals

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SWLA

Provides basic needs assistance and disaster response

DMM GOD INSPIRED HOLY GROUND

Mind to Thrive casework program for unhoused individuals to reach self-sufficiency

FAITH SHARE OUTREACH

Community resources for Cameron parish families

FAMILY & YOUTH COUNSELING AGENCY

Provides affordable counseling, child advocacy, autism support and youth leadership

GIRL SCOUTS OF LA - PINES TO THE GULF

Scholarships provided to engage girls in activities, academic success and leadership

GIRLIE GIRLS

Provides mentoring and self-confidence activities for teen girls

IBERIA COMPREHENSIVE-MERRYVILLE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Provides comprehensive health services to residents in the Merryville area

JEFF DAVIS CADA

Provides shelter and basic emergency needs and services to battered women and dependent children

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SWLA

Provides financial literacy instruction to students

KAY DORE COUNSELING CLINIC AT MCNEESE

Provides affordable mental/behavioral health services and suicide prevention/education programs

LITERACY COUNCIL OF SWLA

Provides adults with instructional programs to improve educational skill levels

NEW COVENANT FAITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Operates Bethesda House for transitional living for males over age 18

OASIS A SAFE HAVEN

Provides shelter and counseling for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence along with their children

ONCE WAS INC

Provides veterans with holiday appropriate basic needs

PROJECT BUILD A FUTURE

Provides homebuyer counseling and financial education programs

SALVATION ARMY

Provides emergency assistance and an emergency shelter

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

Provides food distribution and disaster response to local food pantries

ST. NICHOLAS CENTER FOR CHILDREN

Educational services for children with autism, developmental delays and neurological disorders

SWLA YOUTH FOUNDATION

Education program for middle/high school students on human trafficking, relationship abuse, etc.

UNITED AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Client services for victims of human trafficking

IN-HOUSE INITIATIVES

Addressing Critical Community Needs Through Targeted Initiatives

United Way Southwest Louisiana's Initiatives play a crucial role in addressing the unmet needs within our community. By deeply understanding our residents' specific challenges, we identify areas where existing programs fall short and endeavor to provide vital support and resources. Our focus spans essential areas such as education, income stability, health, and basic needs, effectively tackling issues that current services must address or comprehensively address.

A proactive approach ensures that individuals and families in need receive the crucial assistance they require, establishing a safety net to help them survive and thrive.

United Way Southwest Louisiana's unwavering commitment to filling these gaps exemplifies our dedication to creating an inclusive community where no one is left behind and everyone has equitable access to the necessary resources and support to succeed.

OUR PROMISE United Way Southwest Louisiana mobilizes communities to action so all can thrive

United Way Southwest Louisiana's United Against Child Hunger Initiative stands as a pioneering effort in the battle against child hunger, being the first to craft Weekend Food Packs for children enrolled in summer feeding programs. Celebrating its 11th year of operation, the Initiative has successfully distributed over 45,000 food bags, marking a significant milestone in its journey to alleviate hunger among children during the critical summer months when school-based meal programs are not available.

Beyond addressing immediate needs, this program has taken a leadership role in capacity-building within the community by sharing its knowledge and practices. It has taught other nonprofits how to replicate this support model, extending its impact and fostering a more comprehensive network of care and support for children facing food insecurity. This approach fills a vital need during a vulnerable time for many youngsters. It empowers other organizations to join the fight against child hunger, exemplifying United Way Southwest Louisiana's commitment to community upliftment and sustainable change.



We are shifting our impact areas to more clearly define our ambitious goal of ensuring all can thrive, underlining our dedication to making a significant, positive change in the lives of those we serve.

EDUCATION → YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

LITERACY KITS

Distributed to children across Southwest Louisiana, each kit includes books and volunteer- designed props or games to make the reading interactive

WRITESTART PROJECT

Provides school supplies, admin fees and necessary support to children and teachers in need. Providing supplies year-round ensures teachers and students can focus on learning

BORN LEARNING TRAIL

Bilingual interactive signs installed on trails or playgrounds that offer engagement and learning opportunities for young children and their families or caregivers

SUMMER OF SERVICE

Specifically designed teen volunteer program has human services projects each summer that focus on community members most in need and illustrate the value of serving

SUCCESS BY 6

Addresses the lack of access to quality early education childcare for working ALICE families by funding a year of learning for the child with goals and objectives for the parents

HEALTH → HEALTHY COMMUNITY

CRISIS CHAT

A confidential online chat operated by licensed crisis counselors for anyone going through a difficult time, having thoughts about suicide or just needs to talk

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Addressing the epidemic of human trafficking in the region through partnerships and Initiatives

833.TXT.TEEN

This texting platform for teens serves anyone ages 13-22, in any type of crisis. It provides confidential access to 24/7 support from professionally-licensed counselors

EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER PROGRAM (FEMA)

Provides grants to nonprofits supplying basic needs for the unhoused in Calcasieu parish

SINGLECARE PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT PROGRAM

A partnership focused on improving the health of individuals, families and communities by helping to make prescription medications more affordable

ECONOMIC MOBILITY → FINANCIAL SECURITY

VITA - VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

IRS certified United Way volunteers offer free income tax prep for low-income individuals, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speaking taxpayers

CAL-PRI - CALCASIEU PRISONER RE-ENTRY

This vital program is a link between formerly incarcerated individuals and the resources available to help them succeed with a new life in the job market and community

MATCHED SAVINGS PROGRAM

This program teaches saving and budget habits for those working toward the purchase of a liquid asset. Participants are encouraged to build a down payment with a dollar match upon graduation.

BANK ON SWLA

Partnerships with banks and credit unions work to ensure low-income households have access to safe and affordable financial products and services

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EMPLOYMENT

Equips low-income workers with the necessary skills and resources for a more successful job placement

ALICE - ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED

Our report on families working and earning above the Federal Poverty Level yet unable to afford basic expenses, rarely qualifying for assistance

CASEWORK MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO

Scalable caseworker program that can address disaster assistance quickly or everyday benefits programs for any government, nonprofit or company's needs

BASIC NEEDS → COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

SWLA VOAD - VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER

Provides a place where governmental, faith-based and non-profit organizations can cooperate, communicate, coordinate, and collaborate in the event of a disaster

211 | 898-211

An easy-to-remember phone number that links people in need to relevant information in the complex maze of human services with an accurate database of public and community-based resources, even during a disaster

THE PATH HOME

Program matching resources with the individuals and families needing assistance with issues surrounding homelessness

UNITED AGAINST CHILD HUNGER

Weekend Food Packs are created for the Summer Feeding Programs in Southwest Louisiana so children have access to easy-to-eat foods over the weekend

BUILD BACK THE BLOCK

Gentrification of ALICE neighborhoods through grants and partnerships with the goal of saving areas decimated by natural disasters

STRONG HOMES

Proactive effort to prepare the homes of ALICE families for the potential threats caused by inclement weather

EMPLOYEE CRISIS FUND

Allows employers to offer a program that helps employees cope with unexpected hardships while an external nonprofit partner oversees the process

POWER TO CARE

Entergy Louisiana's Initiative aimed at assisting senior citizens during high utility bill seasons

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