



ANNUAL

REPORT

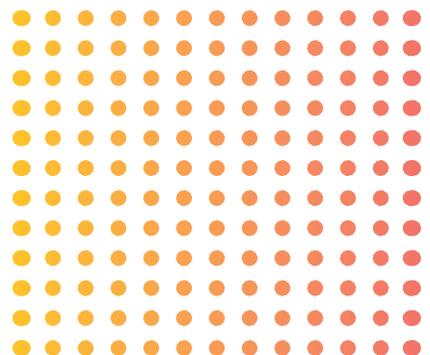
United Way
Southwest
Louisiana

2025



UNITED WAY
Southwest Louisiana

unitedwayswla.org



Corporate Cornerstone

Our Corporate Cornerstone companies designate their gifts to help underwrite United Way Southwest Louisiana's annual campaign, dues and administrative costs. With these designations, United Way Southwest Louisiana is able to maximize the dollars donated to our campaign.

PLATINUM

Total Investment of \$100,000 +



WHITE GOLD

Total Investment of \$50,000 - \$99,999



TITANIUM

Total Investment of \$25,000 - \$49,999



PEWTER

Total Investment of \$10,000 - \$24,999



NICKEL

Total Investment of \$5,000 - \$9,999



COPPER

Total Investment of \$150 - \$4,999



STRONGER TODAY. SMARTER TOMORROW. UNITED FOR GOOD.

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A Message from our President & CEO

This past year has been one of progress, resilience, and unity for United Way Southwest Louisiana. Together with our partners, donors, and volunteers, we have strengthened the foundation of our community and expanded opportunities for those who need them most.

Through our focus areas—Youth Opportunity, Financial Security, Healthy Communities, and Community Resiliency—we have continued to invest in programs that improve lives and create lasting change. From empowering students and working families to ensuring neighbors can access critical resources through 211, our impact grows stronger each year because of your support.

We are also proud to have been part of the first cohort of United Way's rebranding, ushering in a fresh look and renewed energy for our mission. The way our community has embraced this transformation reflects the strength and spirit of Southwest Louisiana.

As we look to the future, our vision is clear: to unite people and resources to build a resilient, thriving region for all. Thank you for being part of this journey and for believing in what we can achieve together.

With gratitude,

Denise Durel
President & CEO
United Way Southwest Louisiana

"Together, we're building a more resilient, united Southwest Louisiana—one filled with opportunity, hope, and lasting change."



Denise leads with heart, hustle, and just the right amount of sparkle. She can turn a challenge into an opportunity faster than you can say "Live United"—and somehow still make everyone laugh along the way.



A Message from our Board Chair



Stephen Dwight brings equal parts grit and grace to every table he sits at. As Calcasieu Parish's District Attorney and United Way Southwest Louisiana Board Chair, he's the guy who believes justice and generosity go hand in hand – protecting his community and championing it by heart.

Stephen Dwight

Calcasieu Parish District Attorney

As Board Chair of United Way of Southwest Louisiana, I am continually inspired by the collective strength of our community. This past year has shown what is possible when individuals, businesses, and organizations come together with a shared purpose – to improve lives and create opportunities for all.

In my role as District Attorney, I see firsthand how vital strong families, quality education, and economic stability are to a thriving community. United Way's work directly supports those goals, addressing immediate needs while building long-term solutions that make our region stronger and safer.

From early childhood education to workforce development and disaster recovery, United Way's impact is felt across every corner of Southwest Louisiana. I am proud to stand beside the dedicated staff, volunteers, and partners who make this work possible and grateful to each donor who invests in the future of our neighbors. Together, we are building a more resilient, compassionate, and united Southwest Louisiana.

Thank you,

Stephen Dwight

Calcasieu Parish District Attorney

“When our community comes together through United Way, we create real change – building stronger families, safer neighborhoods, and a brighter future for Southwest Louisiana.”

– Stephen Dwight, Board Chair, District Attorney for Calcasieu Parish

Meet Our Team

CREATIVE CHAOS CREW

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Where caffeine meets color palettes and every idea comes with a deadline and a dash of sparkle.

IMPACT ARCHITECTS

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Strategic, passionate, and always connecting the dots between need and opportunity to build a stronger SWLA.

PARTNERSHIP POWERHOUSE

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

They turn generosity into action and make fundraising feel like connection, collaboration, and community in motion.

BALANCE KEEPERS

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Quietly turning numbers into narratives and making sure every penny has a purpose.

GROUNDBREAKERS

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Hard hats, big hearts, new ideas and a talent for turning blueprints into real-world change.

Creative Chaos Crew

TAMI CHRISOPE
Vice President



Tami is the creative whirlwind behind headlines, hashtags and happenings at United Way. Whether she's crafting a campaign or turning chaos into coordination with her favorite spreadsheet - she does it all with equal parts strategy and sass.

ASHLEY NORMAN
Director



Ashley is a master juggler of people, projects, and pure chaos—keeping every detail in motion. She keeps the show running and the details dazzling. With her quick wit, creative spark, and uncanny ability to make magic out of mayhem, every project is a success.

Impact Architects

Laurie Martin
Vice President



Laurie is the mastermind behind turning big ideas into real impact. With a heart for service and a brain built for strategy, she connects the dots between community needs and lasting change—usually before anyone else has even found a pen.

KIMBERLIE HECKARD
Associate Director



Kimberlie is the numbers whisperer behind our VITA program, turning tax season stress into sighs of relief. With calculator-level precision and a heart for helping others, she makes sure every return adds up to more than a refund—it adds up to hope.

SARINA CLOONEY
Senior Director



Sarina is the calm voice in a storm and guides people to the help they need through our 211 helpline. With an encyclopedic knowledge of community resources, she proves that connection—and compassion—are the best tools in any crisis.

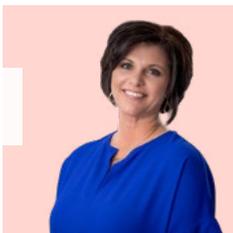
SHENEIKA LEMELLE
Initiatives Manager



Sheneika is the problem-solver with a heart of gold and a Rolodex of resources that could rival Google. She rolls up her sleeves to guide families and connect partners. She's living proof that compassion and determination make the strongest combination.

Partnership Powerhouse

BECKY AINSWORTH
Senior Director



Becky can turn coffee meetings into major campaigns and casual chats into community change. Armed with a killer smile, endless enthusiasm, and a contact list that never sleeps, she makes fundraising look downright fun.

CATHERINE THEVENOT
Campaign Manager



Catherine brings McNeese pride and unstoppable drive to every campaign she leads. A true believer in teamwork and community spirit, she keeps donors inspired and goals on track—while proudly bleeding blue and gold every step of the way.

It takes a special kind of strength to lift a community—and this all-woman team does it daily, heels and all.

They brainstorm, problem-solve, and power through with unmatched determination. When challenges arise, this crew doesn't flinch—they fix it.

Balance Keepers



JENNIFER DIMAS
Senior Director



Jennifer keeps United Way's numbers—and nerves—perfectly balanced. With a calculator in one hand and calm efficiency in the other, she turns spreadsheets into stories of stability and makes fiscal responsibility look downright graceful.



ALISHA JOHNSON
Accounting Manager



Alisha proves that calm can be powerful. Quiet and steady with a smile that never fades, she keeps every number in line and every deadline on track—bringing a little extra sunshine to even the busiest days.



JULIE CARROLL
Administrative Assistant



Julie is the go-to guru who keeps the whole team running smoothly. Whether she's solving problems before anyone knows they exist or lending a hand with her trademark kindness, she's the heartbeat of the office—always ready to help with a smile.



UNITED AGAINST CHILD HUNGER

United Way Southwest Louisiana's United Against Child Hunger Initiative ensures that no child in our community goes hungry when school cafeterias close. Through our Weekend Food Pack program, volunteers and partners come together at Day of Caring to assemble bags filled with kid-friendly, nutritious meals and snacks that children can discreetly take home on Fridays. Each pack represents more than just food—it's **comfort, care, and a reminder that our community is united in making sure every child has what they need to grow, learn, and thrive.**

Groundbreakers



KACEY PATRICK
Project Manager



Kacey is a master builder—of homes, hope, and community. Whether she's managing a construction site or coordinating a volunteer crew, she turns blueprints into blessings and proves that hard hats and big hearts make the perfect pair.

**Fueling Young Futures:
Fighting Weekend Hunger
One Food Pack at a Time**



Meet Our Executive Board

Our Executive Board is where big ideas meet bigger hearts. They are a powerhouse mix of strategists, problem-solvers, and cheerleaders who can turn a brainstorming session into a master plan before the coffee cools. With vision that stretches beyond the boardroom and humor that keeps the mission light, this crew keeps United Way Southwest Louisiana moving forward—one bold decision (and occasional friendly debate) at a time.



Vice Chair

KIRK PELLERIN
Sabine State Bank

Kirk brings financial savvy and small-town heart to the United Way boardroom. As a leader at Sabine State Bank, he knows that strong communities are built on both sound investments and genuine relationships. Kirk is the kind of numbers guy who measures success not just in balance sheets, but in the lives changed along the way.



Vice Chair

BOYD BOUDREAUX
The Evangeline Bank & Trust Company

Boyd is the kind of banker who believes community is the best kind of currency. At The Evangeline Bank & Trust Company, he's known for pairing financial expertise with a down-to-earth approach that makes everyone feel like family. Boyd brings steady leadership, a quick wit, and a genuine heart for SWLA to everything he does.



Treasurer

KEVIN LACY
Investar Bank

Kevin knows that building strong communities takes more than good business—it takes heart and a little humor. At Investar Bank, he's known for turning financial insight into impact, helping people and progress grow. Kevin brings sharp strategy and an easy laugh, proving that leadership and likability can go hand in hand.



Secretary

MISSY AMIDON
CITGO Petroleum Company

Missy brings the energy—literally and figuratively—to everything she does. As a leader at CITGO, she combines sharp strategy with a passion for people, fueling both innovation and impact. On our board, Missy is known for her spark, her leadership, and her belief that when a community comes together, powerful things happen.



Member At Large

JASON MARTINEZ
First Horizon Bank

Jason is where finance meets finesse. At First Horizon Bank, he's known for his sharp insight, calm confidence, and knack for finding solutions that make sense—and make a difference. On the United Way board, Jason brings a mix of strategic thinking and easygoing charm that proves community impact can be both smart and stylish.



Member At Large

FLOYD MITCHELL
Chemical Waste Management

Floyd knows that true leadership means rolling up your sleeves—sometimes literally. At Chemical Waste Management, he's built a reputation for tackling tough challenges with equal parts precision and positivity. On our board, Floyd brings his steady hand, sharp mind, and a down-to-earth sense of humor that reminds everyone that progress and purpose can coexist perfectly.



Past Chair

GREGORY P THIBODEAUX
Turner Industries

Greg has poured his heart—and a good dose of humor—into every moment with United Way Southwest Louisiana. As a leader at Turner Industries, he's known for building more than projects; he's built connections, community, and a legacy of giving back. Greg's passion for our mission runs deep, and his fingerprints will remain on every effort that makes Southwest Louisiana stronger.

Our Board of Directors embodies the very spirit of United Way Southwest Louisiana—strong, compassionate, and deeply committed to the people we serve. They are leaders who don't just sit at the table; they fire up the pots, stir the jambalaya, and inspire others to believe in what's possible. Together, they guide our mission with vision and heart, ensuring every action we take creates real, lasting change for our community.

Denise Durel

Meet Our Governing Board

Our Governing Board is the steady hand on the wheel and the spark in the engine. They bring wisdom, wit, and a deep love for Southwest Louisiana to every decision—balancing spreadsheets with heart and strategy with soul. Whether they’re guiding policy or jumping in at community events, this group proves that good governance doesn’t have to be dull—it just has to be driven by purpose.



WENDY AGUILLARD
CALCASIEU PARISH ASSESSOR



CURTIS BRESCHER
WESTLAKE CORPORATION



BARRY BROWN
RED RIVER BANK



PAIGE CLAYTON
CLAYSTONEGO INVESTMENTS



GREG DEFRATES
FIRESTONE POLYMERS



TANYA GAUDET
JEFF DAVIS PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM



TONYA GRIFFITH WELLS
WELLS FARGO ADVISORS



TONY GUILLORY
LOUISIANA POLICE JURY ASSOCIATION



NATE KELLER
WARD 3 MARSHAL



DEBRA LASTRAPES
RETIRED, CALCASIEU REFINING



MARVIN LUBIN
RAIN CARBON



JAMES MCGEE



MARCIE MICHALKO
WESTLAKE CORPORATION



PATRICIA PREBULA
ADSOURCE OUTDOOR



SHANA SCALES
LAKE CHARLES MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEMS



JOANNE SOVEREIGN



SCOT TYLER
PHILLIPS 66



TONY WOOD
LYONDELLBASELL

From crisis to recovery to renewal, United Way Southwest Louisiana has stood with our neighbors—meeting urgent needs, rebuilding lives, and shaping a stronger, more united community.

A Message from our Campaign Chair



Curtis Brescher is a natural motivator with a down-to-earth charm that makes everyone want to get involved. He brings the same enthusiasm to United Way that he does to Westlake Corporation – equal parts determination, humor, and heart. If teamwork had a mascot, it would probably look a lot like Curtis: optimistic, energetic, and always ready to roll up his sleeves.



Curtis Brescher

Westlake Corporation

Serving as this year's Campaign Chair has been both an honor and a humbling experience. I have seen firsthand how United Way of Southwest Louisiana brings people and organizations together to create real, lasting change. Whether it's helping a family rebuild after hardship, giving a child access to early learning, or supporting someone on their path to stability, every donation and volunteer hour adds up to something powerful – hope.

At Westlake Corporation, we believe in the strength of community and I have seen that strength reflected in every individual, business, and partner who steps forward to make a difference. United Way reminds us that when we all give a little, together we give a lot. Thank you for being part of that impact and for standing with us to build a stronger, more resilient Southwest Louisiana.

Thank you,

Curtis Brescher
Westlake Corporation

"When we all give a little, together we give a lot – and that's how real change begins."

– Curtis Brescher, Campaign Chair, Westlake Corporation

Our Campaign Cabinet

Industrial Contractor’s Chair	<u>Gregory P. Thibodeaux, Turner Industries</u>
Government Chair	<u>Stephen Dwight, Calcasieu Parish District Attorney</u>
Jeff Davis Chair	<u>Lorena Ceasar, Entergy Louisiana</u>
Education Chair	<u>Holly Holland, Calcasieu Parish School System</u>
Agency Chair	<u>Christy Papania-Jones, St. Nicholas Center</u>
Major Industries Chair	<u>Curtis Brescher, Westlake Corporation</u>
Health Chair	<u>Matthew Welsh, West Calcasieu Cameron Hospital</u>
F.I.R.E. Chair	<u>Barry Brown, Red River Bank</u>
Union Chair	<u>Chuck Bennett, District 5 Louisiana AFL-CIO</u>

Annual Awards

CORPORATE PRIDE

Each year, the Corporate Pride Award honors the company or organization that has provided leadership to United Way both financially as well as worked to create a strong partnership working together to make our community stronger.

West Calcasieu Cameron Hospital

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Honors someone that highlights our broad base of volunteers and their contributions to all of us.

Roslyn Simien

JIM LEIGH AWARD

Awarded to the Campaign Division with the highest percent increase from the previous year.

F.I.R.E. Chair, Curtis Brescher

SPIRIT OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

Honors someone with a positive attitude toward life and an active volunteer in the community.

Timothy Newsome

EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGN AWARD

Honors an ECC who like Leonard Richard is every bit the heart and soul of a company’s campaign.

Monica Sanders-Hidalgo

LEADING COMPANIES

TOP TWENTY-FIVE

1	CITGO Petroleum Corporation	\$1,080,573
2	Phillips 66	\$814,542
3	Westlake Corporation	\$760,630
4	Turner Industries	\$197,400
5	Louisiana Pigment	\$128,362
6	Firestone Polymers, LLC	\$92,274
7	GRACE	\$91,289
8	Rain Carbon, Inc.	\$87,825
9	Calcasieu Parish School System	\$67,094
10	Entergy Louisiana, LLC	\$61,615
11	Biolab, Inc. KIK Consumer Products	\$47,932
12	Calcasieu Refining Company	\$46,552
13	Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office	\$30,998
14	Capital One	\$30,000
15	Chemical Waste Management	\$29,818
16	Alcoa Carbon Products	\$26,880
17	Qemetica US Silica	\$26,034
18	United Way Southwest Louisiana	\$23,509
19	Golden Pass LNG	\$18,000
20	Acadian Ambulance Services	\$16,343
21	CenterPoint Energy	\$14,954
22	RoyOMartin	\$14,842
23	Coushatta Casino Resort	\$14,337
24	Lake Charles Coca-Cola Bottling Co.	\$13,716
25	Beauregard Parish School System	\$12,096

TREMENDOUS TWENTY

1	United Way of Southwest Louisiana	\$1,808
2	CITGO Petroleum Corporation	\$765
3	Chemical Waste Management	\$343
4	Phillips 66 with Excel Paralubes	\$319
5	BioLab, Inc. KIK Consumer Products	\$301
6	Firestone Polymers, LLC	\$292
7	Polaris Engineering	\$285
8	Westlake Corporation	\$273
9	Big Brothers Big Sisters of SWLA, Inc.	\$223
10	First National Bank of Louisiana	\$204
11	Louisiana Pigment	\$199
12	Calcasieu Refining Company	\$187
13	SWLA Economic Development Alliance	\$174
14	St. Nicholas Center for Children	\$165
15	GRACE	\$139
16	Calcasieu Parish Assessor's Office	\$108
17	Visit Lake Charles	\$99
18	Calca Solutions, LLC	\$98
19	Qemetica US Silica	\$95
20	Boys Village	\$61

Thousands helped. Communities rebuilt.
Futures restored. Together, we've made
recovery possible—and resilience lasting.

TOP LEADERSHIP GIVERS

1	CITGO Petroleum Corporation	580
2	Westlake Corporation	328
3	Phillips 66	86
4	Turner Industries	81
5	Firestone Polymers, LLC	34
6	Rain Carbon, Inc.	31
7	BioLab, Inc. KIK Consumer Products	22
8	Qemetica US Silica	16



EMPLOYEE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE \$10,000+

CALCASIEU REFINING COMPANY
Russ Willmon

RAYMOND JAMES
Daren Easterling Pippio

EMPLOYEE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

CITGO PETROLEUM CORPORATION

Bobby Eldridge
Brian Hardie
David Wilburn
Desmond Jackson
Donald Lormand, Jr.

Eric Deason
Jereme Smith
Kristin Prejean
Lynette Cormier-Pitre
Matthew Mouhot
Michael Bennett
Richard Butler

Sterling Neblett
Tara Hogan
Tina Gray
Travis Elzey

UNITED WAY SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

Sarina Clooney

ALCOA CARBON PRODUCTS

Patrick & Lauren Crisostomo

CALCASIEU REFINING COMPANY

Adam Judice

CHEMICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

Belinda Spicer

CITGO PETROLEUM CORPORATION

Abe Hare
Addison Flowers
Amy McGarity
Anne Doss
Anthony LeBlanc
Austin St. Mary
Beau Rodrigue
Bethany LeJeune
Brad Moses
Brian Droddy
Brittney Simon
Carroll Richard, Jr.
Casey Chisholm
Chris Leach
Chris Berwick
Christopher Brown
Christopher LeBlanc
Christopher Theriot
Cody Bass
Cody Ross
Cody Tyler
Craig Bushnell
Daniel LeBrun

Darby Quinn
David Spann
Demario Vallier
Derek Bellon
Derek Granger
Donavon Miller
Dustin Guidry
Dustin Landry
Dusty Foster
Emily Chisholm
Ethan Fontenot
Garrett Cole
Grant Labove
Jacob Deranger
Jacob Labove
James Hollier
Jarret Chase
Jason Timman
JD Parden
Jenna Young
Jennifer Gordon
Jenny Richard
Jeremy Istre
Jeremy Richard
JJ Garrett
John Daigle
John Gallien
John McClelland
Joseph Bilbo, Jr.
Joseph Ledoux
Josh Trahan

Joshua Baham
Justin Breaux
Justin Folse
Justin Otis
Justin Rutherford
Kandies Victorian
Ken Miller
Kenneth Raimer
Kimberly Cagnolatti
Lila Jackson
Lloyd Riggs
Lynn Bryngelson
Manuel Fontenot
Marla Granger
Marshall Paris
Matthew Graf
Matthew Hazel
Matthew Peek
Matthew Thompson
Mauricio Martinez
Merrick Peek
Michael Istre
Minda Doucet
Miranda Dickerson
Moon Manuel III
Nevin Andrepoint
Nolan Harrelson
Paul Berzas
Phallyn Folse
Phil Istre
Rebecca Hebert

Reginald Braxton
Rhonda Granger
Rhonda Hazel-Woods
Robert Boxie, Jr.
Romalis Jackson, Sr.
Russell Sonnier
Shane O'Neill
Shannon LaBove.
Sherwin Roy
Stephen Stroderd
Steven Pickering
Tammy Creel
Taylor Joseph
Tim Scharff
Trevor Brown
Ty Mitchell II
Tyler McDonald
Val Harvey
Wallace Browne
William Parker
Willie Scott III
EXCEL PARALUBES
Monica Collins Fontenot
Nichole Wainwright
FIRESTONE POLYMERS, LLC.
Blake Louviere
Daniel Richard
Danny Guidry
Donald Pickle
Greg Defrates

John Head
Kendall Thornhill
Lawrence Lyons
Matt Hebert
Robert Schlicher

LAKE CHARLES COCA COLA BOTTLING COMPANY

Carl Perry

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICES

Ronnie Johns

POLARIS ENGINEERING

Mike & Connie Nodier

RAIN CARBON INC.

Bryan Crochet
Marvin & Annquetta Lubin

RECON MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.

Roger Boyette

UNITED WAY SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

Becky Ainsworth

Denise Durel

Laurie Martin

Tami Chrisope

VALERO ENERGY CORPORATION

George DeLucca

WESTLAKE CORPORATION

Joseph Richard
Kenneth Landry
Mlinda Barbee

ACADIAN AMBULANCE SERVICES

Billy Vincent
Casey Lewis
David Edward
Keith FuIts

AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL

Robert Shanks

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF SWLA, INC.

Jillian Cormier

BIOLAB, INC. KIK CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Adam Hymel
Brandon Landry
Chris Hutton
Christian Istre
Danny Harrison
Delvyn Guillory
Derrick Lastrapes
Dwight Warner
Dylan Savoie
Eric McPherson
John Bourgeois
Kaytlynn Watson
Kyle Guillory
Matthew Martin
Michael Romero
Michael Trahan
Raymond Hubert
Rily Pajares
Sherwood Anderson
Timothy Newsome
Tony Mooney
Ty Taylor

CALCA SOLUTIONS, LLC

Christian Cooper

CALCASIEU COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.

Jacqueline Green

CALCASIEU PARISH ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Wendy Aguillard

CALCASIEU PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM

Sara Ann Pietrowski

CALCASIEU REFINING COMPANY

Alicia LeBlanc

Eric Baldauf

Michael Murff

Urban Showe

CHEMICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

Amanda Deville

Clint Longnion

David Michaelis

Floyd Mitchell

Joel Vincent

Jose Cancel

Larry Cuppy

Kyle Guillory

Paige Authement

Patrick Pilley

Terry Guillory

Travis Harmon

Troy Comeaux

Wyman Deville

CITGO PETROLEUM CORPORATION

Aaron Burch

Aaron Cooper

Aaron Newman
Aaron Reed
Aaron Taylor
Adam Boyd
Adam Hearod
Adam Miller
Aimee Gautreaux
Alex Smith
Alisha Warren
Allen Gibbs
Allyson Miller
Amanda Sonnier
Amber Allen
Andrew Boggs
Andrew Jester
Andrew Kershaw
Andrew Richard
Angela Terrell
Angie Scharff
Anthony Banta
Anthony Broxson
Anthony Koonce
Aron Johnson
Ashley Carrier
Ashley Malveaux-Simpson
Austin Ross
Avonsky Leday
Benjamin Miller
Benjamin Touchet
Benji Baham
Bill Daigle
Billy Creel
Billy Guidry
Billy Holmes
Blake Crochet

Blake Doucet
Blake Johnson
Blake Mcright
Blane Green
Blane Savoie
Bobby Duhon
Brad Myers
Brad Nix
Brad Whittington
Bradley Robbins
Bradley Romero
Brandi Bryant
Brandi Powell
Brandon Alleman
Brandon Gautreaux
Brandon Guillory
Brandon Johnson
Brandon Keeney
Brandon Moses
Brandon O'Banion
Brennan Bebee
Brent Mayo
Brent Myers
Brett Thibodeaux
Brian Corbett
Brian Dyson
Brian Jones
Brian Jones
Brian Meriwether
Bridgett Hill
Bridgette Landreneau
Brittany Akers
Brock Saltzman
Bryan Casteel
Bryan Curot

Bryce Buquet
Bucky Cooley
Cade Rigdon
Caissy McCall
Cameron Pollard
Carl Lockhart
Carolina Caballero
Chad Langley
Chad Manuel
Chad Thibodeaux
Charles Avery, Jr.
Charles Harper
Chazz Dronett
Chellie LaBove
Chris Colley
Chris Deroche
Christopher Burnett
Christopher Clark
Christopher Darbonne
Christopher Dupont
Christopher Fontenot
Christopher Fontenot
Christopher Martin
Christopher Perrodin
Christopher Reado
Christopher Walker
Clifton Goodly
Clint LaBove
Clint Wagnon
Cody Hoffpauir
Cody Hoover
Cody Saivant
Cody Shelton
Cody Zimmer
Cohen Gray

EMPLOYEE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Cole Talbot
Collin Castille
Connie Alleman
Connie Smith
Connor Castille
Corbin Voegeli
Corey Barlow
Corey Dousay
Corey Hart
Corey Snead
Corey Weeks
Cynde Rice-Quiroz
Dallas Cooley
Daniel Ferguson
Daniel Terro
Darrell Gill
Darrell Lyons
David Castro
David Crawford
David Elkins
David Fusilier
David Guillory
David Knighten
David McAnulty
David McDaniel
David Richmond
David Scarborough
David Stogner
David Vogel
David Warden
Davin Brown
Dean Newton, Jr.
Demarcus Newman
Dennis Dugas
Derek Cooper
Derek Cormier
Derek Duplichan
Derek Hardie
Derek Langley
Derek Leleune
Derek Poncho
Derick Ebersole
Derrick Campbell
Derrick Wagnon
Devon Costanza
Devren Cormier
Diana LeBlanc
Dillan Duhon
DJ Sandifer
Donald Carlson, Jr.
Donnie Istre
Douglas Woods
Dustin Dear
Dustin Shafer
Dustin Streets
Dusty Taylor
Dylan Deason
Eddie Pena
EJ Cutright II
Emmett Bobbett
Eric Ardoin
Eric Baldwin
Eric Sonnier
Ernest Daigle
Everett Henry
Falon Ryder
Frank Kowatz
Frank Mougeot
Gabriel Anderson
Garrett Berry
Garrett Dugas
Gary Owens
Gary Vincent
Gem Mcinnis
George Charles
Gilbert Franklin
Greg Bernard
Halie Reeves
Harikrishnan Radhakrishna Pillai
Harry Green, Jr.
Hayden Doucet
Hunter Ardoin
Ian Rodericks
Ike Lavine
Irvin Clark
Isaac Benoit
Jack Desselle
Jacob Hagen
Jacob Meche
Jake Fontenot
Jake Hebert
James Buie II
James Charles
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Focused.
Forward-thinking.
Fueled by purpose.



A Message from our Community Investment Committee Chair



Jason Martinez is the kind of guy who can make spreadsheets sound inspiring and community meetings feel like pep talks. With his banker's precision and a heart for service, he keeps impact and efficiency perfectly balanced. Whether he's crunching numbers or connecting people, Jason brings energy, wit, and a can-do attitude that makes giving back look downright fun.

Jason Martinez

First Horizon Bank

Serving as Community Impact Chair has given me a front-row seat to what makes United Way Southwest Louisiana truly unique – its deep commitment to transparency, accountability, and community-driven change. Every dollar raised through United Way is invested with care and intention, thanks to a team of trained, educated volunteers who review, evaluate, and decide how funds are distributed. These community members, not United Way staff, ensure that donations are used where they'll make the greatest and most lasting impact.

Through this process, we've strengthened programs that build stability, improve education, support health, and enhance community resiliency across our region. It's inspiring to see neighbors helping neighbors, each effort adding up to something far greater than the sum of its parts.

At First Horizon Bank, we believe that lasting change happens when people work together and through United Way, that belief becomes reality. Thank you to everyone who gives, serves, and leads with heart. Together, we are creating real opportunities for every person and every family in Southwest Louisiana to thrive.

Thank you,

Jason Martinez
First Horizon Bank

"Real change happens when neighbors help neighbors – and through United Way, that spirit of community becomes action."

– Jason Martinez, First Horizon Bank

Community Investment Committee

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MARJORIE HARRISON Calcasieu Parish Library

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United Way Southwest Louisiana's **WriteStart Project Initiative** bridges critical gaps in education—especially in rural areas—by providing the essential tools and resources schools and families need to succeed. Instead of individual backpacks, WriteStart supplies bulk school materials, covers school fees for ALICE families, and funds professional development for teachers to strengthen classroom instruction. The initiative even supports school-wide needs like walkie talkies for safer drop-off and pick-up procedures. In communities where resources are often stretched thin, WriteStart helps create equitable learning environments where students, educators, and families can all thrive.

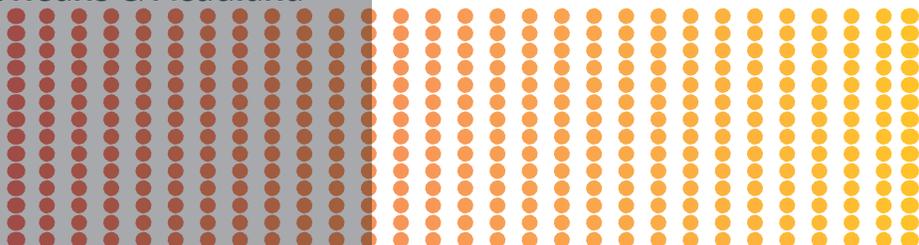
Funded Partner Agencies

2024-25 partners

Our **partner agencies** are carefully selected through a thoughtful and transparent process led by trained **Community Investment Volunteers**—local leaders who dedicate their time and expertise to ensure every partnership aligns with United Way Southwest Louisiana’s goals and objectives. These volunteers review proposals, assess impact, and make funding recommendations based on community need and measurable outcomes. By investing in agencies that share our vision for long-term change, we ensure that every dollar donated supports programs that move the needle on education, financial stability, health, and community resiliency. It’s a collaborative effort that keeps our mission focused, our impact accountable, and our community moving forward together.

Abraham’s Tent
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 Beauregard Community Concerns Inc.
 Beauregard Council on Aging, Inc.
 Big Brothers Big Sisters of SWLA
 Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana
 Boys Village
 Business & Workforce Recovery Solutions, Inc.
 Calcasieu Council on Aging
 Catholic Charities of SWLA
 Faith Share
 Family & Youth Counseling Agency
 Girlie Girls Mentoring Program
 Girl Scouts of LA - Pines to the Gulf
 Holy Ground Homeless Outreach GIM
 Iberia Comprehensive - Merryville Community Health Ctr
 Jeff Davis CADA Inc.
 Junior Achievement of SWLA Inc.
 Kay Dore Counseling Center at McNeese
 Literacy Council of SWLA Inc.
 New Covenant Faith Community Development Corporation
 Oasis A Safe Haven
 Once Was Inc.
 Project Build A Future
 Second Harvest Food Bank of New Orleans & Acadiana
 St. Nicholas Center for Children
 SWLA Youth Foundation
 The Salvation Army
 United Against Human Trafficking

**Innovation,
 collaboration, and
 compassion—our
 blueprint for impact.**



Our Community Impact

165,820

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVED LAST YEAR

Building a Stronger Southwest Louisiana—Today and Tomorrow

United Way Southwest Louisiana continues to evolve, focusing our energy where it matters most. Our refined **Impact Areas—Youth Opportunity, Community Resiliency, Healthy Community, and Financial Security**—reflect a modern, proactive approach to community change.

This transformation isn't just about keeping pace with the times—it is about leading with purpose. We are leveraging innovation, collaboration, and local insight to not only meet today's needs but also anticipate tomorrow's challenges.

By investing in forward-thinking solutions and empowering local partnerships, we're creating a stronger, more sustainable foundation for every generation. Our commitment remains clear: to build a community that doesn't just recover—but rises, thrives, and leads with resilience.



United Way Southwest Louisiana stepped into the gap after the pandemic and back-to-back hurricanes, sustaining critical services until our funded partner agencies could fully revive. As a result, last fiscal year we directly provided 44% of all services and resources through our own Initiatives, Special Projects, and Casework Management Portfolio, while our partner agencies delivered the remaining 56% using United Way funding.

**WE'RE NOT JUST RESPONDING TO CHANGE—
WE'RE DRIVING IT.**



United Way Initiatives provided 85% of all resources since the 2020 pandemic.

Youth Opportunity

32,328

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVED LAST YEAR



1,089

local children



SUMMER IMPACT GRANT

Tuition assistance grants for ALICE families allowed children to attend camps focused on arts, STEM or athletics on scholarship.



1,800

local pre-school children

IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, we mailed **41,398 books** to local preschool students last year.

"We love Imagination Library! Everyone in the family gets excited when my daughter receives a new book!"
-Shelby

55

teen volunteers

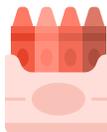


SUMMER OF SERVICE

Teen volunteers gave **135 hours** of their summer to assist with many activities to benefit others.

4,613

local students & teachers



WRITESTART PROJECT

Students and teachers were supplied with supplies, professional development and school uniforms.

1,250

local students



LITERACY KITS

11,500 United Way Southwest Louisiana Literacy Kits have been distributed in our five-parish region since the inception of this valuable Initiative.

Community Resiliency

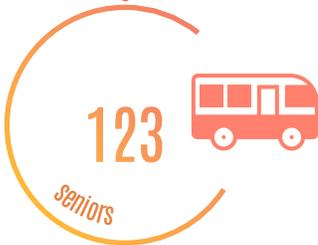
32,618

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVED LAST YEAR



211 RESOURCE LINE

182,019 total callers assisted in Southwest Louisiana since the 2020 global pandemic.



TRANSPORTATION TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Seniors need transportation to important medical appointments.



STRONG HOMES

A partnership with CITGO Petroleum Corporation allowed ALICE families to have trees removed or trimmed that threatened homes prior to hurricane season.

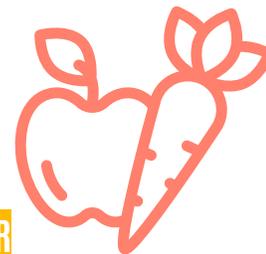


Whether it's one day or every week, there's a place for everyone to make a difference and shape a stronger community.

Healthy Community

90,277

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVED LAST YEAR



211 CRISIS CALLS

Individuals in a personal crisis use 211 to be transferred directly to a live, trained counselor.



MEALS

Since 2020, United Way Southwest Louisiana has provided over **2,421,853 meals** to individuals in the region.



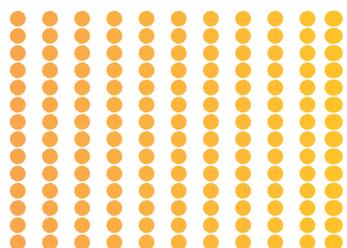
UNITED AGAINST CHILD HUNGER

50,000 Weekend Food Packs have been distributed to children in Southwest Louisiana in the past 12 years. Volunteers prepare the packs each year at the Day of Caring.



COUNSELING

United Way Southwest Louisiana funded counseling using a mix of online, phone, texting and in-person channels.



From crisis to recovery to renewal, United Way Southwest Louisiana has stood with our neighbors—meeting urgent needs, rebuilding lives, and shaping a stronger, more united community.

Financial Security

10,597

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVED LAST YEAR



VITA (VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE)

29,565 free tax filings have been prepared since 2020, bringing over \$19,935,583 back to Southwest Louisiana. VITA has grown 17% in that time period.

It was very easy to schedule an appointment, the volunteer was great at making me feel comfortable and it was QUICKLY done. I plan on using the service this upcoming year.

-JoAnn M.



EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EMPLOYMENT

This critical Initiative assists individuals with fees required to get TWIC cards, licenses and other certificates required for employment.



SUCCESS BY 6

ALICE families struggling to afford high quality early learning for their pre-school children were provided with a full year in order to finish college or trade school.



CAL-PRI (CALCASIEU PRISONER REENTRY)

Individuals returning from incarceration were provided with resources such as transportation, employment assistance, housing and bikes to ensure successful transition.



MATCHED SAVINGS PROGRAM

Individuals are shown how to budget and save in a new savings account and when the goal is reached their savings are matched.

Volunteer Central

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT

Volunteers are the heartbeat of United Way Southwest Louisiana.

Their time, talent, and compassion fuel everything we do—from assembling literacy kits and mentoring youth to rebuilding homes and responding in times of crisis. In 2025, our volunteers continued to show what community truly means: rolling up their sleeves, stepping forward when challenges arise, and proving that lasting change starts with everyday people doing extraordinary things. Together, they turn generosity into action and action into impact—one hour, one project, one life at a time.

8,140

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Every hour donated builds momentum for change—turning compassion into measurable impact across Southwest Louisiana.

819

VOLUNTEERS

Whether it's one day or every week, there is a place for everyone to make a difference and shape a stronger community.

#

OPPORTUNITIES

Whether it's one day or every week, there is a place for everyone to make a difference and shape a stronger community.

Every hour given creates a ripple of change
across Southwest Louisiana.



Special Projects



Building Hope Initiative

The recipient of the home is a 60-year-old community helper who has continued to rent while working full-time. Preferring to remain humble, he has been pivotal in the community's recovery efforts following recent natural disasters and meets the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) criteria.

Summer Impact Grant 2025 Awardee

*Imperial Calcasieu Museum
Branch Out Summer Arts Camp
Director, Ashley Royer*

Branch Out did more than explore art this summer! It showcased art through culture and history! Our campers got to explore cultures from around the globe with "Passport to Art!" And they got to explore archaeology with "Shipwrecked on Sallier Street." We were able to combine powers with the La Division of Archaeology, and they added additional educational programming for our camps this summer. Thanks to Grants and Sponsors like United Way SWLA, we were able to make Branch Out Summer Art Camps more accessible and were able to register 50 scholarship students who participated free of charge!



Our Impact Since the Pandemic

In 2025, United Way Southwest Louisiana stands stronger than ever—refined, resilient, and ready for what’s next.

Our strategic rebranding, launched in 2024, was more than a visual update, it was a reflection of who we have become since the challenges of 2020. It captures our evolving mission to address the most pressing needs in **Youth Opportunity, Community Resiliency, Healthy Community,** and **Financial Security.**

Years of serving through pandemics, hurricanes, and extreme weather have shaped us into a more agile organization. One that acts quickly in crises while maintaining focus on long-term recovery and stability. This experience guided our transformation, ensuring our structure and strategy mirror the heart of our community and the urgency of its needs.

Today, our evolution represents more than progress, it signifies purpose. United Way Southwest Louisiana remains dedicated to **resilience, inclusivity,** and **innovation,** continuing to fill essential service gaps and empower lasting change for every neighbor we serve.

2020	766,460
2021	101,365
2022	147,888
2023	96,408
2024	91,447
2025	163,547

1,367,115

Our total community members served since 2020

44%

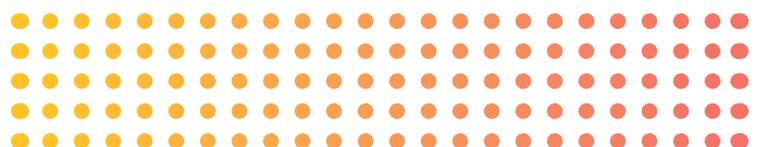
DIRECT SERVICES SUPPLIED BY UNITED WAY SWLA

From Funder to First Responder:

United Way Southwest Louisiana Leads

When Our Community Needs It Most

United Way Southwest Louisiana has evolved from a traditional nonprofit that primarily funded other organizations into a **first-responding force for community recovery and resilience.** While we continue to invest in a strong network of partner agencies, our mission has grown to include immediate, hands-on response when crisis hits. During COVID-19, hurricanes, floods, and freezes, we were often the **only organization with doors open and boots on the ground,** providing critical aid, coordination, and comfort when our neighbors needed it most. Today, we’re not only a trusted funder but also the first call parishes and mayors make when facing complex challenges that demand swift and innovative solutions. That unwavering presence in times of crisis has strengthened public trust and confidence in United Way Southwest Louisiana, proving that we are not just funders—we are **doers, problem-solvers, and a dependable lifeline** for the people who call this community home.



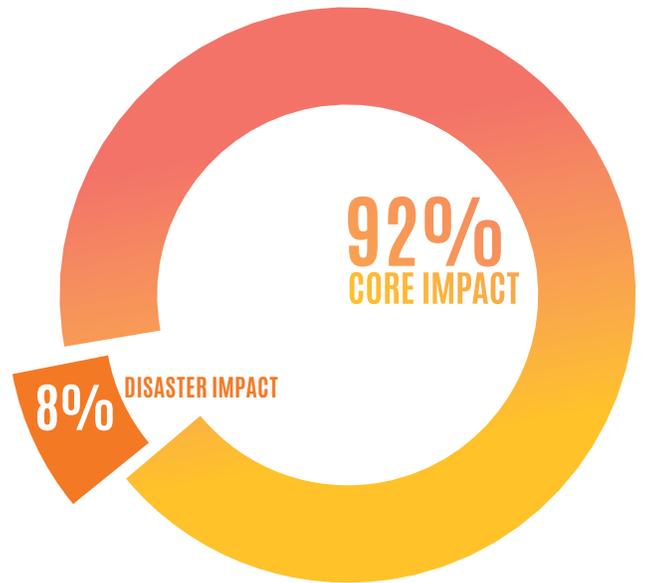
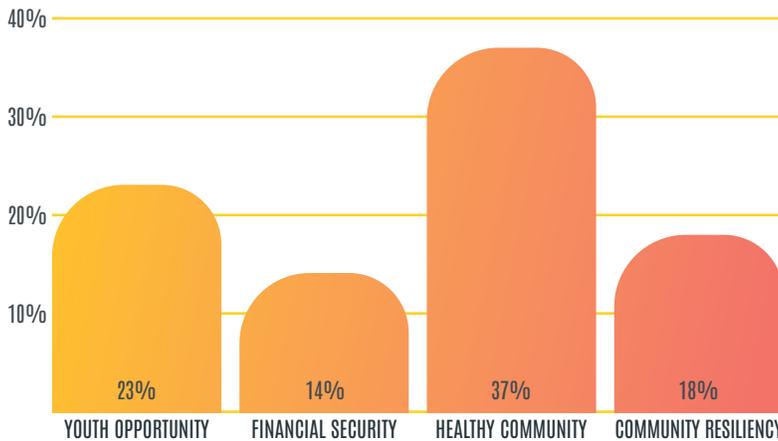
Distributions

July 2024 - June 2025



As the oldest nonprofit member of the Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance, United Way Southwest Louisiana is proud to strengthen both lives and our local economy. By helping families achieve financial stability and long-term success, we create a ripple effect of growth, resilience, and opportunity across our region.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT	\$3,675,194
CORE IMPACT	\$3,396,653
DISASTER IMPACT	\$278,541
CENTRAL SERVICES	\$1,122,595
TOTAL	\$4,797,789



Figures are taken from the Financial Statements for year ended 6/30/2025, audited by Steven M. DeRouen Associates CPAs.

Financial Investment Committee

<u>Barry Brown</u>	Red River Bank
<u>Blake McCaskill</u>	First National Bank of Louisiana
<u>Boyd Boudreaux</u>	The Evangeline Bank & Trust Company
<u>Harry Hank</u>	Retired, PPG Industries
<u>Kevin Lacy</u>	Investar Bank
<u>Kirk Pellerin</u>	Sabine State Bank
<u>Roxanna Mize</u>	Retired, First National Bank & Trust Company

Get in Touch

With Us



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Southwest Louisiana

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