



United Way of the Lowcountry's mission is to mobilize resources to solve human problems.

/ision

Our vision is to be the leading force for social change to improve **basic needs**, **education**, **health** and **economic mobility** outcomes for the citizens of Beaufort and Jasper counties.

Values

Accountability • Responsiveness • Integrity
Innovation • Stewardship • Diversity
Courage • Results



United Way of the Lowcountry

Give. Advocate. Volunteer

UNITED WE WIN!

Wow, what a year! Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, our community was truly strengthened during a tremendously difficult time.

Last year we were able to make sure that our partner agencies continued to receive the United Way funding they were depending on—especially during the early stages of the pandemic. Throughout one of the most challenging years any of us has ever experienced, we continued to invest in 38 nonprofit programs focusing on Education, Health, Basic Needs and Economic Mobility.

While our partner agencies needed help, our neighbors were also facing dire situations. United Way's HELPLINE was able to provide 5,633 referrals for community members to receive the assistance they needed. Many of these folks had never needed help before and had no idea on how to request assistance to pay their rent, their utility bills, or find the groceries they needed for their families. For 649 people who were unable to receive support elsewhere, we were able to provide direct financial assistance.

But probably the most important work we continue to do looks to the future. Through our Early Grade Reading initiatives—Read Indeed, Read to Me and Play Partners—we continued working with the Beaufort and Jasper County school districts to make an impact on the literacy rates in Pre-K through third grade.

While we weren't able to provide tutoring in the classroom this past school year due to the pandemic, we were very active in our collaboration with our school districts, producing read-along videos and distributing more than 20,000 books for children to take home.

None of this would have been possible without your support. From all of us at the United Way, and from everyone impacted by your generosity, **Thank You!**



Dale Douthat

President & CEO



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Helpline 843.524.4357

HELPLINE offers health and human services information, referral, advocacy and support to help callers find the assistance they need to address the everyday challenges of living as well as those that develop during times of disaster and other community emergencies.

This past fiscal year, 5,454 community members requested assistance through our HELPLINE, resulting in 5,633 referrals to Human Services agencies and 1,197 cases of in-depth advocacy. A total of 649 families in Beaufort and Jasper counties were provided safety-net assistance totaling more than \$280,500.



Meet Patty

After surviving a brutal attack by a stranger many years ago, Patty has overcome some tough times. However, recently she faced another set of challenges after the roof on her camper, where she lives, was damaged and began leaking, creating a health and safety risk. Through the support of generous donors, our HELPLINE stepped in to help Patty stabilize her housing and meet her immediate needs during a critical time.

"United Way went out of their way to help me when I was down. I had no one else to turn to." _ \mathcal{P}_{atty}



Like so many of our neighbors, Wanda and her family moved to the Lowcountry looking for a fresh start. However, soon after relocating to Beaufort, Wanda was diagnosed with a serious health issue that made it impossible for her to continue to help support her family. Faced with mounting medical bills and the possible loss of their home during a pandemic, HELPLINE was able to provide the funds and referrals needed to help her family find stable housing.

"I don't know where I would be without United Way. I wouldn't have rent or a deposit. I wouldn't be able to pay my light bill or my water bill."

- Islanda





Meet the Williams Family

You may have noticed a familiar smiling face on the cover of this year's Palmetto Society Book. We first met "Baby Joey" and his family five years ago when he was undergoing multiple emergency heart surgeries at MUSC in Charleston. At the time, the Williams family – who went from a two income household to just one – were facing unexpected out-of-pocket medical expenses. Our HELPLINE was able to provide them with a variety of support services so they could focus their attention on the health needs of their newborn son.

"We reached out to United Way five years back, and they've been there ever since. We are stronger because of you."

- Joe Williams



- Donations to the United Way of the Lowcountry (UWLC) stay LOCAL, helping to meet the immediate needs of our neighbors throughout Beaufort and Jasper counties in order to build a strong community.
- Through Community Impact, UWLC partners with local nonprofit organizations to address community
 priorities and create positive, lasting change by focusing on Basic Needs, Education, Health and Economic Mobility.
- UWLC meets strict requirements for accountability and results by using local volunteers to serve as board members and on various committees.
- UWLC's internal HELPLINE serves as a safety net, providing information and referrals to link people with local resources and services to meet their needs.
- United Way and Beaufort County partner to provide 211, which is a free, confidential referral and information service complementing our **HELPLINE**. 211 connects people with local resources after business hours, on weekends and during natural disasters. It can be accessed by dialing 211, or online at sc211.org.
- UWLC's Early Grade Reading Initiative, Read Indeed, provides one-on-one in-school tutoring at schools and sites throughout Beaufort and Jasper counties as well as provides free books and supplies for students.
- Funding decisions are made LOCALLY by volunteers and community members in Beaufort and Jasper counties who donate to United Way of the Lowcountry.
- Women United's Operation Backpack works with school social workers to provide backpacks full of school supplies to local children in need each school year.
- UWLC partners with the IRS and Beaufort County to offer free tax preparation through the Lowcountry VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program.
- UWLC offers Charity Tracker, which is a web-based, shared case management tool, free to local nonprofits to
 help detect patterns of need in our community, address the root causes of individual and family challenges,
 and provide accountability to ensure resources in our community are making the most impact.

149,641

Local people benefited through our community impact funded programs and direct services

Community

Lowcountry Service Area (Beaufort & Jasper Counties)

Bluffton/Hilton Head Service Area **Beaufort Service Area**

Jasper County Area Beaufort County Service Area



Basic Needs

Agape Family Life Center, Inc. – Carolina Feed the Hungry

Beaufort-Jasper YMCA of the Lowcountry- YMCA Transportation Program

Bluffton Self Help - Emergency Financial Assistance

Boys & Girls Clubs - Healthy Lifestyles for Disadvantaged Youth

Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA) - Open Arms Children's Home

Community Service Organization (CSO) – Charity Tracker

Family Promise of Beaufort County - Family Shelter Program

HELP of Beaufort - Wellness Pantry

Hilton Head Island Deep Well Project - Safe Shelter: Today and Beyond

Hopeful Horizons – Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter

Jasper County Council on Aging - Congregate Home & Delivered Meal Program

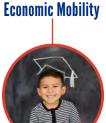
Lowcountry Food Bank – Fighting Child Hunger in Beaufort County

LowCountry Habitat for Humanity – Affordable Housing Program

Second Helpings – Food Rescue

Second Helpings - Healthy Food





Education

Beaufort-Jasper YMCA of the Lowcountry - Discovery Kids Preschool Program Boys & Girls Clubs - Life Skills for Disadvantaged Youth **Consumer Credit Counseling Services (CCCS) – Economic Empowerment** Consumer Credit Counseling Services (CCCS) – Student Financial Success Jasper County Disabilities and Special Needs - JH Hill Center - Day Program **Lowcountry Legal Volunteers – Financial Freedom for Families**

The Children's Center – Tuition Assistance Program

Agape Family Life Center, Inc - Agape Family Life Center Education Program

Beaufort-Jasper YMCA of the Lowcountry - After School Program

Beaufort-Jasper YMCA of the Lowcountry - Summer Learning Loss Prevention Camp

Born To Read - Born To Read Programs

Boys & Girls Clubs - Early Childhood Reading Development

Boys & Girls Clubs - Project Learn / Power Hour

Boys & Girls Clubs - STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math)

Boy Scouts of America Coastal Carolina Council - SBS's "Full Family" Program Development

Hopeful Horizons – Strengthening Families Program

The Children's Center – Building Foundations

The Children's Center - Eliminating Summer Slide



Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA) - Exchange Club Parent Aide Program Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA) - School-Based Outreach Program Good Neighbor Medical Clinic of Beaufort - Free Healthcare for Uninsured Adults **HELP of Beaufort - Mobile Meals Program**

Hopeful Horizons - Prevention Programs

Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Coastal Empire - Dental Care Mobile Program

Community Testimonials



The Deep Well Project: Sandy Gillis

"Many of our volunteers – because of their health situation or a loved one's – had to step aside when the pandemic first hit. So, at the same time as we had the most crushing call volume and calls for help that we've ever had, we had the fewest volunteers we've ever had. We were fortunate to have the United Way of the Lowcountry serve as a collaborative force to help us navigate that storm."



The Children's Center: Jody Levitt

"In the last year, the United Way of the Lowcountry has been one of our key partners. For funding – absolutely – but just the support and the ability to reach out and say, 'Hey, have you heard about this?' or for the United Way to reach back to us and say, 'this is coming up and here's a great opportunity.' The United Way has certainly been one of our strongest tools of support during the pandemic."



Agape Family Life Center: 12r. Ponchitta Young

"When we got the call from the United Way of the Lowcountry tha Personalized Protective Equipment was available, we were thrilled. Some of our clients who utilize our pantry did not have access to PPE. It was certainly a great help to receive those items, and to distribute them to those in need."



YMCA: Mike Bostwick

"It was enormously helpful to have Dale and the staff of the United Way help us through pandemic grant processes. Having access to what funds were available was critical for our YMCA to stay open as well as help our members and our own staff."

Education Impact



Together, we are making an impact on education through United Way of the Lowcountry's Early Grade Reading Initiative, Read Indeed!

Read Indeed! offers one-on-one, in-person and virtual tutoring for Pre-K through third grade students in Beaufort and Jasper counties. Despite challenges created by the pandemic, Read Indeed continued to serve 10 locations in Beaufort and Jasper counties, including:

Hardeeville Elementary
Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts
James J. Davis Early Childhood Center
Joseph Shanklin Elementary
Lady's Island Elementary
Red Cedar Elementary
Ridgeland Elementary
Robert Smalls International Academy
St. Helena Elementary
St. Helena Early Childhood Center

Our new Vello online tutoring program is making it easier for volunteers to engage with students through a safe and secure digital setting. Together, students and volunteer tutors read e-books using screen sharing and audio. The program allows volunteers to conduct their tutor sessions from anywhere with a computer and internet access, making it easy to do without leaving their home or workspace.

23,876
books
distributed to
students

10 454 Kindergarten students



Summer Book Blitz Extravaganza

United Way of the Lowcountry partnered with Pi Phi, the Public Library Foundation of Beaufort County/ Beaufort County Library System, and the Beaufort County School District to help minimize the loss of learning that occurs when young minds sit idle during the summer. Together, the partnership provided 10,000 free books – including picture books and chapter books – to children of all ages throughout our community! As an added treat, volunteers

 including Ron and Natalie Daise from "Gullah Gullah Island!" – recorded videos of themselves reading aloud from one of the books. You can scan the QR code with your cell phone to hear one of the virtual reading videos:





Through our continued partnership, AmeriCorps members are helping achieve results by serving as reading tutors.

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Women United

Women United's mission is to mobilize the caring power of women together to advance the common good by focusing on education in the forgotten pockets of Beaufort and Jasper counties.

United Way of the Lowcountry's Women United (previously named Women's Leadership Council) was formed locally in 2012. Women United members work together to engage, educate and empower others to become leaders and actively participate in the betterment of our community.



Operation Backpack

In 2021, Women United distributed more than 1,000 pre-made backpacks to students in need. Operation Backpack is an initiative of Women United, providing local students with backpacks filled with school supplies to start school. Women United works with school social workers to identify students in need who are not being served by another agency. Due to the pandemic, monetary donations are being collected to purchase pre-made backpacks filled with school supplies that can be used for in-school or virtual learning.

Woman of the Year

Congratulations to Nan Brown Sutton, Women United's 2020 Woman of the Year. The Woman of the Year Award was created to celebrate women in Beaufort and Jasper counties who have made a powerful impact on the local community through their volunteer efforts and serve as role models for inspiration and achievement of other women.





Power of the Purse

Women United held its first virtual Power of the Purse Auction this year. Proceeds from the fundraiser support education initiatives including Women United's Breaking Barriers to Education Fund, Operation Backpack and the Women United Scholarship Fund.

The Breaking Barriers to Education Fund seeks to help fulfill needs that would otherwise prevent a student from attending school or from reaching their full potential. The fund is administered by the United Way of the Lowcountry HELPLINE, which works with school officials to directly remove financial barriers that stand in the way of a child's education.

The Women United Scholarship Fund was established in 2020 to support local, non-traditional female students pursuing a higher education degree at University of South Carolina Beaufort or Technical College of the Lowcountry. Through the support of women in the community, Women United presented three local women with \$1,000 scholarships each, totaling \$3,000.

Community Giving Back



Marc & Claudette Stuckart

"We donate to the United Way of the Lowcountry for a number of reasons. We know that the funds raised are directed to the agencies and partners that are in need. Additionally, the United Way acts as a resource to help these organizations in many other ways to include administrative support, and as a means to connect with other, like-minded entities. We are also very supportive of the Early Grade Reading Program. You learn to read from first grade to fourth grade, you read to learn from then on. This foundation is critical."

Karen & Peter Wyman

"We support the United Way of the Lowcountry as we are committed to giving back to and supporting the community in which we live. Education is a cornerstone of our family value system, and the UWLC supports students and families in need by supporting students in and out of the classroom. Operation Backpack is just one of the many ways the UWLC supports students by ensuring they have necessary supplies and uniforms at the beginning of each school year. Additionally, as parents of two Beaufort County School District students, we strive to lead by example and raise young adults who see and respond to need in an altruistic manner."





Jay Taylor CIC Partner | Kinghorn Insurance Agency of Beaufort, LLC

"The United Way of the Lowcountry caught our attention with their mission and vision of building stronger communities, but captured our hearts with their purpose of making a lasting change. Kinghorn Insurance Agency of Beaufort has made the easy choice of supporting the United Way of the Lowcountry because of the continued evidence of its positive impact. The United Way of the Lowcountry is blazing the trail for local organizations and agencies that believe in a better Beaufort and Jasper counties."



"There's a lot of people in this world who need our help. I have always believed in giving back. 'Give and it shall be given unto.' I have always been blessed to work for a company that believes in giving back. United Way is a great way to donate your time, talent, and treasure. By donating locally, we are directly making a positive impact in the communities we serve."

Carol & Austin Branch

"We are honored to be involved with and support the United Way of the Lowcountry mission for our great community, and to make a lasting impact by helping our neighbors when they need it the most. The UWLC doesn't just give to those in need, they work hand-in-hand with many partner agencies in order to target the specific needs of individuals and families, which is essential to helping those here in the Lowcountry strive to maintain a better quality of life for themselves and our broader community."



Mark & Ann O'Neil

"We give to the United Way primarily because there are so many worthy causes that it is impossible to give to them all. We have seen how the UW's process for determining need, prioritizing those needs and allocating dollars accordingly works and it gives us great comfort that our donations will be used wisely."

Anne Walker

"The United Way of the Lowcountry contributes to community programs for disadvantaged youth to include Early Childhood Reading, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math. There is nothing more important than investing in our children.

This is why I support this life changing organization."



Ways to Make an Impact



VOLUNTEERING: GIFTS OF TIME

By volunteering at fundraising events as well as with various committees and programs such as Read Indeed, you are providing a valuable resource for the United Way of the Lowcountry.



SPONSORING AN EVENT

There are numerous opportunities for your company or organization to become involved with events that benefit the United Way of the Lowcountry. From golf tournaments to the Power of the Purse, we have sponsorship packages designed to meet your budget and marketing needs. We work closely with businesses to build customized programs to meet everyone's goals.



MAJOR GIFTS

By giving a gift of \$10,000 or more, you become a member of the elite Alexis de Tocqueville Society.



STOCK GIFTS OR OTHER APPRECIATED **SECURITIES**

A gift of stock, bonds or mutual shares that can increase in value usually has greater tax benefit than giving cash. Because of that, appreciated securities are often an advantageous way to make a gift to the United Way of the Lowcountry.



UWLC was happy to support Rooms of Grace with backpacks for the homeless. The UWLC **Homeless Backpack** program provides items that are often difficult for anyone homeless to obtain on their own. Each backpack includes an assortment of basic necessities including nonperishable food, water and hygiene products. They are distributed through UWLC partner agencies as well as through direct contact with individuals in need.



MATCHING GIFTS

If your employer matches charitable gifts to nonprofit organizations, you can double or even triple your charitable gift to the United Way of the Lowcountry.



RECURRING GIFTS

A recurring gift is a monthly or quarterly ongoing, specific gift amount determined by a donor that is charged to a donor's credit card if you choose not to be invoiced. Your recurring gifts will be a dependable source of support for the United Way of the Lowcountry.



PLANNED & STRATEGIC GIVING

Estate gifts provide an excellent opportunity for people to give. Donors can take advantage of various estate-planning opportunities ranging from bequests to life-income gifts.



CASH

Your tax-deductible donation can be directed to the General Fund, the General Endowment Fund, the Clarece Walker Endowment Fund, or you may choose to designate your gift to any of our community pillars: Basic Needs, Education, Health, or Economic Mobility.

Catholic HEART Work Camp

Each summer, United Way of the Lowcountry helps coordinate the Catholic HEART (Helping Everyone Attain Repairs Today) Work Camp to lend a hand to our Lowcountry neighbors.

Students come to our community from across the United States for one week to help revitalize and beautify homes of the elderly, disabled and those unable to afford needed repairs.

Throughout the week, volunteers work on a variety of projects – yard work, minor home repairs and installing handicap ramps – in Beaufort and Jasper counties. In addition to working on residential homes, some of the groups help with projects with agencies throughout the community.

A special thank you to our friends at Hilton Head Glidden for generously donating between 500 and 600 gallons of paint each summer for the past 20 years.

Although camp has been cancelled for the past two summers due to the pandemic, we look forward to continuing our partnership next summer.





La Societe Nationale (\$100,000-\$249,999)

Charlie and Becky Francis Mr. Bobby Glover

Ordre de Liberte (\$25,000-\$49,999)

Robert and Terri Dalton Mr. George B. Farnsworth Mr. and Mrs. Rockne Flowers Joanne and Alan Moses Fund Mr. William Wardle

Members de la Societe (\$10,000-\$24,999)

Anonymous

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Palmetto Society Giving

Individual Palmetto Society Giving Levels

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Corporate Palmetto Society Giving

Beaufort Jasper Water Sewer Authority

Platinum Award (\$100,000 and above)

Publix Stores

Gold Award (\$20,000-\$99,999)

Beaufort County
Buckton Foundation
Dominion Energy
Isabell Foundation
Palmetto Electric Cooperative
Publix Charities
ServPro of Beaufort County

Silver Award (\$15,000-\$19,999)

Shore Beach Services

Bronze Award (\$10,000-\$14,999)

Beaufort County School District Beaufort Memorial Hospital eviCore Healthcare Granger Family Fund Hargray Communications Group Nimmer Turf Farm, Inc. S.L. Hickman Family Foundation Town of Hilton Head Island

Chairman's Circle Award (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Cleland Site Prep, Inc.
Hand & Tanner Financial Group
Harvey & Battey, P.A.
HHI/Bluffton Chamber of Commerce
Kroger #671- Hilton Head Island
Kroger #703- Bluffton/Buckwalter
Public Library Foundation of Beaufort
Savannah River Site
Sheffield Oil Company
Synovous Bank- Hilton Head Island
Twenge & Twombley, LLC
United Way of the Lowcountry, Inc.
UPS- Beaufort
UPS- Hilton Head Island

Executive's Circle Award (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Bank of America- Beaufort

Burr & Foreman, LLP **CAPA** Caterpillar Foundation Disney's Hilton Head Resort **Gulf Stream Aerospace Corporation** Harris Teeter #423- HHI Jasper County School District Kroger #499- Bluffton Lowcountry Real Estate Palmetto State Bank- Beaufort Suntrust-Truist-Office Park-HHI Suntrust- Truist- South HHI The Hobbs Foundation Tupper, Grimsley, Dean & Canaday P.A. United Way of Central Indiana United Way of Greater Nashville United Way of Williamson County

Champion's Circle Award (1,500-\$2,499)

Atlantic Personnel, Inc.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Lowcountry Deep Well Project **Dollar General Literacy Foundation** Grayco Corporate-Beaufort Harris Teeter #152- HHI **Jasper County** Kim Malphrus Realty, Inc. Kinghorn Insurance-Beaufort McGriff Insurance-Truist- Bluffton Okatie Construction, LLC SC Johnson Fund Signature Flight Support Town of Bluffton United Way of the Midlands United Way of the Suncoast **Walmart Foundation**

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With the support of this community and many of you, United Way of the Lowcountry continued to make an impact through the pandemic.

- At the beginning of the pandemic, we began hosting video conference calls, inviting more than 50 nonprofit agency and community leaders. These meetings have helped us build stronger personal relationships between agency leaders and share needs, resources, legislative information such as the CARES Act, funding opportunities and best practices.
- United Way began providing free training on researching and writing grants to local agencies and we are looking to expand these opportunities.
- We extended our two-year funding cycle to three years in order to make it easier for our partner agencies to continue receiving the funds they desperately needed.
- Through a program from Bank of America, we were able to coordinate the delivery of more than 61,500 masks, 72,000 gloves and 400 cases of hand sanitizer to 19 community agencies.
- When our Early Grade Reading volunteer tutors couldn't get into the schools to
 work with students in our Read Indeed program, many of them joined us in our
 effort to provide nightly book readings to the community through social media.
 We're continuing to evolve our Read Indeed program to provide virtual and
 face-to-face tutoring opportunities.
- During the summer of 2020, we partnered with County Phi, The Public Library Foundation of Beaufort County and the Beaufort School District to provide 10,000 free books to children to encourage them to read as part of the Summer Book Blitz Extravaganza.
- We partnered with the Lowcountry Food Bank to provide free food distributions at various locations throughout Beaufort and Jasper counties to help those struggling with food insecurity. The food distributions fed 1,000 Lowcountry families.





making a difference

in our community by supporting the 2021-2022 United Way of the Lowcountry Annual Campaign.

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online at www.uwlowcountry.org

Mail check to:

United Way of the Lowcountry P.O. Box 202 • Beaufort, SC 29901

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Beaufort/Jasper County

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United Way of the Lowcountry



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