



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

UNITED WAY OF ACADIANA

Dear Acadiana,

In addition to our body of work, it has been a year of listening, planning, and transformation for United Way of Acadiana. As we celebrated our 70th year strong, United Way of Acadiana experienced changes in leadership and developed a new, streamlined organizational structure. We honored the profound leadership of long time President/CEO, Margaret Trahan, were grateful for board member Troy Cloutier's service as interim President, and are excited and ready for Carlee Alm-LaBar's leadership toward a bright, strong future for United Way of Acadiana.

Writer Octavia Butler said, "Change is the one unavoidable, irresistible, ongoing reality of the universe. All that you touch you change, and all that you change, changes you." This year we not only weathered change, but effected change in the community - through our work in education, earnings and essentials. We continue to make a positive difference in the lives of many throughout the region: children in Early Head Start are making great strides, Leader in Me is now in 54 schools, and nearly 3,000 people were served this year through free tax assistance.



The photo on the cover of this year's annual report was taken at a 10-10-10 project, the St. Martin de Porres' Community Garden Build. Over the course of two weekends, community projects identified through an RFP process were tackled, and addressed everything from food deserts to accessibility solutions. We are proud of our ability to turn outward, and ask the community what they need, as oftentimes, they know best.

Acadiana has a history of not only weathering change - but working hard and thriving through innovation and transformation. Working together, and by sharing responsibility, we can accomplish great things for the people of Acadiana. And United Way of Acadiana is committed to leading that change, and to continue uniting the people and organizations that can make those great things happen.

Behind every strong community is a strong United Way, working alongside caring people like you. Thank you for working with us to make Acadiana a better place. Live better. LIVE UNITED.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Domingue". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Scott Domingue
United Way of Acadiana Board Chair, 2019-2020

OUR VISION

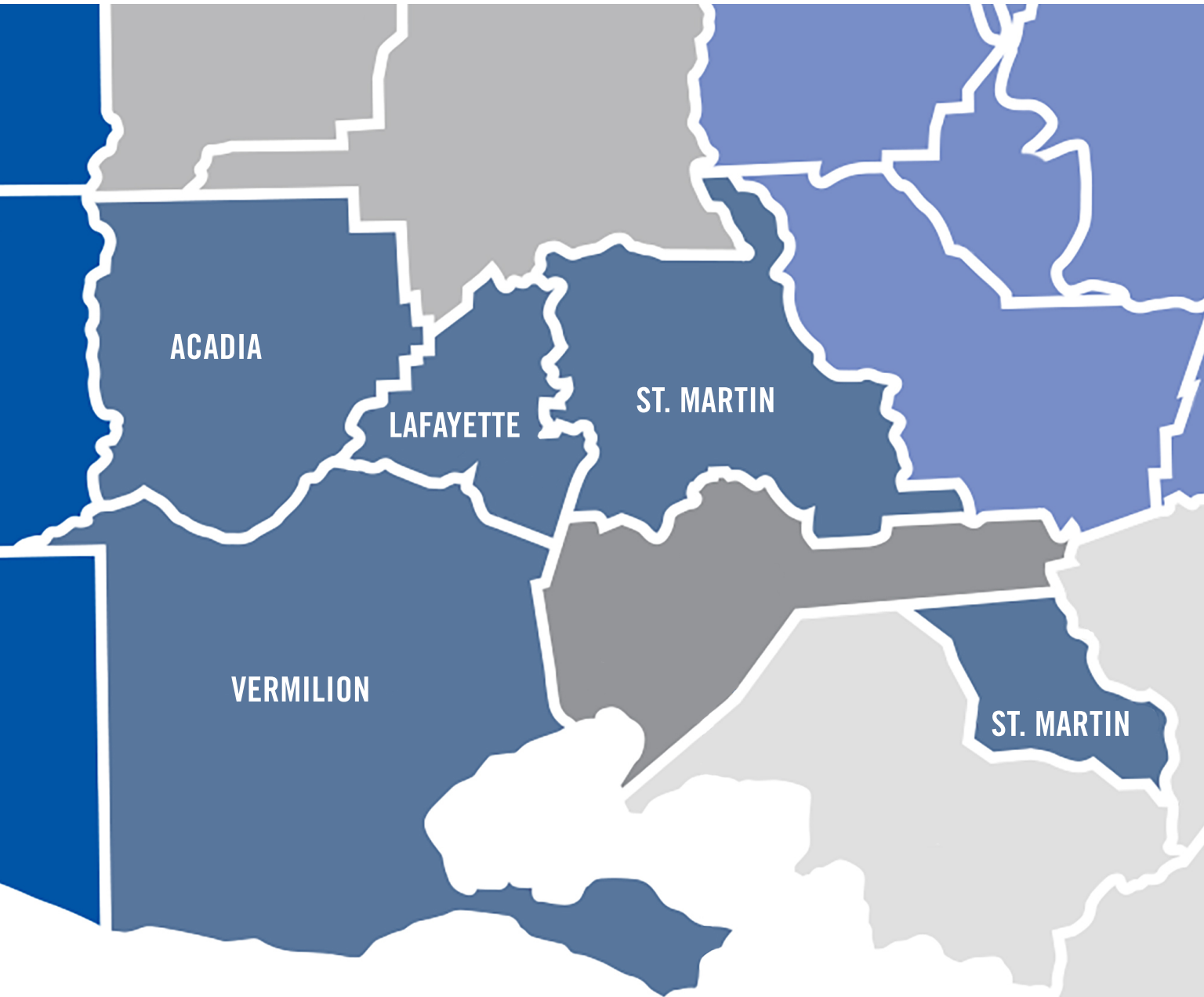
To unite people and organizations with passion, expertise and resources to create more opportunities for a better life.

OUR MISSION

An educated, prosperous and safe Acadiana where all individuals and families achieve their potential.

OUR CREDO

We fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community.



CELEBRATING 70 YEARS STRONG

When the people of Acadiana founded the first local United Way effort in 1949, our communities were small and close-knit. But we know from experience that in smaller communities it is easier for groups to communicate, identify concerns and directly address the issues of the day.

Today, the population of our service area of Acadia, Lafayette, St. Martin and Vermilion parishes has grown tremendously from the 168,075 people who called it home in 1949. Each day, United Way of Acadiana works to rise to the growing changes and diverse needs of our growing population by targeting three basic areas: essentials, education and earnings.

2019 marked 70 years strong for our United Way, and in April, we took the opportunity to thank the communities that support us; for allowing us the privilege of playing the role of covener and thought leader for so many years.

On April 10th, staff, board, and generous volunteers gathered in Live United shirts and spent the day phoning donors, addressing and sending thousands of thank you postcards, creating fun videos and posing for thank you pictures that were emailed to our extensive database. We wanted everyone to know how much we appreciate them, and that we understand that it's only by their generosity of giving, advocating, and volunteering, that we are able to do what we do.

In 2019, with nearly 2.6 million volunteers and 9.6 million donors, United Way is engaged in close to 1,800 communities across more than 40 countries and territories worldwide to advance community-based and community-led solutions. We are proud to be your United Way.



Thank you for the past 70 years, and here's to the next 70!

LEADER IN ME BY THE NUMBERS

- **54** public schools in the UWA service footprint have implemented Leader in Me, and **30,425** students have been impacted.
- **7** schools have achieved “Lighthouse Status,” an elite designation for schools with truly outstanding results.
- **70%** of Lafayette Parish Schools are enrolled in Leader in Me.
- **BILLEAUD ELEMENTARY**, a new elementary school in Lafayette Parish, opened this year as a Leader in Me school.
- **UWA**, in partnership with the Schumacher Family Foundation, has expanded Leader in Me this year, **ADDING 13 SCHOOLS** and impacting an additional **6,545** students.

Rayne, an Acadia Parish city of nearly 8,000 people, is proud of its history and unique culture. And it has something new to celebrate this year - it is one of the first communities where all students in the public school system are benefitting from the Leader in Me model - from pre-K all the way through high school graduation! The Acadia Parish School System is making this possible through partnerships with community leaders like Mayor Charles “Chuck” Robicheaux, United Way of Acadiana, and the Schumacher Family Foundation. Superintendent Scott Richard is another valued partner, stating, “The Acadia Parish School System is *proud to support Leader in Me in all schools in the community of Rayne.*”

All five public schools in Rayne now have the Leader in Me implementation, with the recent addition of South Rayne Elementary this year (pictured below). These include:

- Central Rayne Kindergarten (pre-K & K)
- Martin Petijean Elementary (1st - 3rd)
- South Rayne Elementary (4th & 5th)
- Armstrong Middle (6th - 8th)
- Rayne High School (9th-12th)



EARLY HEAD START

United Way of Acadiana Early Head Start (EHS) program provides, at no cost to families, early childhood education and home-based child development services for qualifying families with young children 0-3 years of age, as well as prenatal services for expecting women.

In partnership with the community and participating families, EHS is dedicated to creating a comprehensive, culturally sensitive, nurturing, safe and healthy learning environment in which children and families are inspired to reach their full potential.

As a result of a grant received from the Office of Head Start through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, EHS services were provided to 154 children in Lafayette Parish's 70501, 70503, 70506 and 70507 zip codes, and children in Vermilion Parish. Enrollment priorities included children with disabilities, children in foster care, and families experiencing homelessness. Of the 154 children served, 100% received free hearing and vision screenings. 83% obtained physical exams and 71% received dental screenings.



EARLY HEAD START FOCUSES ON 6 DEVELOPMENTAL AREAS:

- SOCIAL EMOTIONAL** Children develop confidence, identity and healthy relationships with adults and other children.
- PHYSICAL** Children demonstrate gross motor skills, fine motor skills and safe and healthy habits.
- LANGUAGE** Children use expressive and receptive language, develop communication skills and distinguish sounds.
- COGNITIVE** Children become problem-solvers and show the ability to connect past, present and future experiences.
- LITERACY** Children express an interest in books, identify letters and notice rhyme, alliteration and smaller units of sound.
- MATHEMATICS** Children develop and use mathematical skills and concepts.

... IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

Our overall school readiness goal is that all children attending a complete program year will show 85% improvement in one or more essential domains in becoming school ready. All children enrolled in United Way Early Head Start are 91% more likely to be ready for the next educational school setting, and both centers maintain proficiency rating by the Louisiana Department of Education.

EHS utilizes Teaching Strategies GOLD, CLASS and Creative Curriculum to provide ongoing assessments and evaluations of each child's developmental progress. These assessments incorporate 38 learning objectives based on school readiness standards and includes evidence based predictors of school success. Partners for a Healthy Baby is a researched based curriculum used in the home-based program. Through these assessments, staff work to ensure that children are developmentally ready to enter kindergarten ready to learn. Results from the 2018-19 Teaching Strategies Gold assessments indicated a 91% improvement in one-or more of the essential domains of social emotional, physical, language, literacy, cognitive and mathematics development. This percentage exceeded our school readiness goal of children indicating an 85% improvement.



Developmental gains were achieved in all focus areas. *(Results reflect assessments conducted in October 2018 – May 2019)*

- Children attending EHS exceeded the school readiness goals by 6%.
- Children's Spring 2019 assessment scores in all 6 areas increased by no less than 67% over Fall 2018 assessments and exceeded the national averages in all 6 areas.
- Children scored 51% higher than the national average in the cognitive domain.
- Assessments in the literacy area exceeded national average by 48%.
- Assessments indicated a 10.93% increase in the language domain between October 2018 and May 2019.
- There was a 6.80% increase in the mathematics domain between Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 assessments.

DAYS OF THANKSGIVING

In October and November, United Way of Acadiana's Early Head Start hosted the first annual Days of Thanksgiving Food Drive. In partnership with KADN News 15 and Junior League of Lafayette, EHS wanted to ensure that the children and families that they serve had their basic food needs met. Through the collection of non-perishable food items, UWA Early Head Start provided each family with the essentials needed for a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

In total, 1,389 pounds of nonperishable food items were collected, through a Junior League Grant award of \$1500. Local businesses and organizations that coordinated internal food drives included Junior League of Lafayette, Acadiana Inns of Court, Acadiana Legal Service Corporation, Gacchasin Law Firm, Law Offices of Larry Curtis, Liskow and Lewis, and KADN.

On November 20, at the Abbeville Center, turkeys were provided to 28 families, along with totes filled with non-perishable food items. Home Bank donated the tote bags that were filled with the non-perishable food items, and the turkeys for the families were purchased from Robies's in Abbeville with funds donated by Acadiana Inns of Court.

On November 21, at the Lafayette Center, turkeys were provided to 67 families, along with totes filled with non-perishable food items. Additional food items were purchased with grant funds and included seasoning, bread, and dessert items for each family.

The project required dozens of volunteer hours to make it a success. UWA's EHS program is looking forward to the future and many more Days of Thanksgiving.



KEEPING AN EYE ON THE BOTTOM LINE

United Way of Acadiana's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Entergy, Capital One and JP Morgan Chase, provides free income tax preparation assistance to individuals and families at or below the 250% Federal Poverty Guidelines.

VITA also works to ensure clients receive all eligible tax credits and reductions, especially the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC is a refundable tax credit for lower-income working individuals and families that can generate an even higher refund amount than the amount of tax paid through withholding.

Cody Broussard is a hardworking mechanic residing in Acadia Parish. As a grandfather of three who he and his wife are now raising, it is important that he make wise financial decisions to support his family. Cody's long term goal is to purchase his family a larger home which is now closer than ever thanks to the initiative collaboratively lead though United Way of Acadiana.

The money he saved through VITA in the past several years has begun to accumulate into savings for the Broussard family. Cody invested last and this year's savings and is now able to accumulate over \$5,000 that will go toward the down payment on his home. VITA served as an onboarding tool as he learned about additional opportunities available at the VITA tax site. Thanks to the free tax service and support he received, Cody has the finances and assistance needed to attain the goals for his family.

2,677 returns prepared

\$4,074,165 refunds

923 EITC prepared

\$1,699,385 EITC dollars

OUR PARTNERS:

- Acadiana High School
- ASSIST Agency
- Northside High School
- Vermilion Parish- Mobile
- Lafayette Parish Library
- SMILE Community Action Agency
- St. Mary Community Action Agency
- Sustainable Ag & Rural Dev. Institute



OUTFITTING THE SCHOOL YEAR



22,676 SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR LOCAL TEACHERS & STUDENTS

The United Way of Acadiana Stuff the Bus school supply drive ensures that students enter school with the tools needed to be successful throughout the school year.

In August 2019, individuals across Acadiana donated more than 22,000 school supplies, enough to ready 2,520 students for the coming year. Partners for this project were KATC Tools for Schools, Cox Communications and Cargill. Supplies were distributed across four parishes. In addition, 105 backpacks were provided directly to Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana, New Hope Community Development of Acadiana, and individuals in the need in Acadiana. A partnership with The Daily Advertiser online saw United Way of Acadiana teaming up so that more than 300 teachers were adopted through the annual Adopt-A-Teacher program.

David D'Aquin, manager of public affairs, for Cox Communications, said, "Cox was thrilled to be part of United Way of Acadiana's Stuff the Bus project. In addition to our cash donation, we were able to mobilize our employees as volunteers to participate in the whole project. At Cox, we believe life is better with moments of real human connections which is one reason we're so proud to partner with UWA for its important work to connect our future leaders with the tools they need to be successful."

DARE TO READ...DARE TO LEAD



What would happen if hundreds of women in Acadiana read the ultimate playbook for developing brave leaders and courageous cultures? Well, Women United made it happen.

In the spring, Women United members selected Brene Brown's new book, *Dare to Lead*, as its inaugural Dare to Read summer

project. From June to July, Women United worked to have over 250 people in Acadia, Lafayette, St. Martin and Vermilion parishes read and discuss Brown's book. Some signed up in groups, others signed up individually and were placed in new book clubs around the region. There were both kick off and culminating events to which all participants were invited.

"While this book can be applied to corporations, it's also about the kind of everyday leadership used by people everywhere that changes the world," said Miriam Bourgeois, chair of Women United and United Way of Acadiana board member. "Our goal is to inspire women to foster a sense of community and discussion throughout Acadiana. We invite everyone to join us in the future and discuss our summer books in homes, businesses, civic organizations, existing book clubs, libraries, schools, non-profits and other organizations. We are already looking forward to next summer!"



CREATING SPACE FOR NON PROFITS

United Way of Acadiana's Community Impact team had the opportunity in September to go on the road, meeting with each PACT United organization and take a deep dive into each program's successes and challenges. What was originally designed to be traditional grant funder site visits became authentic conversations around the needs of non profits in Acadiana, and how United Way of Acadiana might help to fill those needs.

One request that came up often was the need for a space where non profit leaders could come, have honest discussions, exchange ideas and needs, and continue their own learning. UWA heeded the call, and in the fall began hosting non profit meet ups, every other month.

The first gathering was standing room only in the UWA conference room, and centered around the topic of funder best practices. Ideas bounced around the room, and the energy was electric. The meeting closed with each attendee being given time to make an announcement, ask for something, and/or let others know of something they had that they were willing to share. That simple exercise resulted in connections made and needs immediately being met.

Subsequent meet ups have focused on the concepts of collaboration and collective impact, as well as how to access community and family foundation resources. United Way of Acadiana looks forward to continuing these powerful gatherings and strengthening our role as a community convener.



EARLY LEARNING DAY IN LOUISIANA

Business leaders and legislators from across the area joined United Way of Acadiana's Women United, United Way of Iberia, and One Acadiana at a February gathering in honor of Louisiana Early Ed Week.

The event was one of several other events across Louisiana hosted in partnership with the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children and the Louisiana Association of United Ways to highlight the need for better access to high-quality early care and education for Louisiana's children and families.

The local leaders gathered at Gethsemane LaPetite Early Childhood Development Center in Lafayette to see firsthand what high quality early education looks like and to better understand the challenges of working parents in ensuring the best possible start for young children as they prepare to enter kindergarten. With two-thirds of all young children having both parents or their single parent in the workforce and kindergarten readiness at only 40%, the issue of quality early care is especially urgent.

The event began with a tour of Gethsemane LaPetite Early Childhood Development Center by founder, Mae Winbush. Following this, legislators and business leaders had the opportunity to

visit classrooms and read to the children. "It was truly an honor to have such esteemed guests visit our center as part of Louisiana Early Ed Week," said Winbush.

"Louisiana families are increasingly struggling to make ends meet, and child-care represents a family's greatest expense." said Sarah Berthelot, President/CEO of Louisiana Association of United Ways. "Increasing access to affordable, high quality child care and education would relieve an incredible amount of pressure many Louisiana families feel."



WOMEN WHO MEAN BUSINESS

United Way of Acadiana's Women United presented the 20th Annual Women Who Mean Business Awards on Thursday, October 10, 2019 at the River Oaks Ballroom. This annual event is highly anticipated by the community and United Way is honored to have been asked to continue the tradition.

"I am extremely humbled to be honored with such generous and thoughtful recognition," says 2019 honoree Christa Billeaud.

"I believe it is our duty as women, if we work outside of the home, to bring our feminine genius into the workplace and into our communities to make them better. I believe it is our unique feminine genius and our ability to make room for others, lift others up, be kind to others, care for others, and love others that makes our role within organizations necessary in all industries."

This year's honorees also included Clara Baudoin, Elizabeth Brooks, Anya Burgess, Kim Cummins, Shannon Seiler Dartez, Bobbie DuCuir, Anne Falgout, Emily Hamner, and Jan Risher. Jan Risher closed the inspiring evening with these words: "If you, or anyone else needs that liberty to be a bossy little girl or whatever else it is you were meant to be, take a deep breath and know that wherever you are, you have that permission right now."

This event was successful due to strong partnerships with Home Bank, The Glenn Armentor Law Corporation, Moss Motors, LUS Fiber, Our Lady of Lourdes Women's and Children's Hospital, SCP Health, and our media partner, The Daily Advertiser.



SPOTLIGHT ON A PACT PARTNER

For the past 39 years, Koreda Phillips has been dedicated to serving the elderly in Lafayette Parish through Lafayette Council on Aging's Meals on Wheels program. Koreda began her journey as a driver delivering home delivered meals. Through hard work and dedication, she grew into the invaluable parish coordinator that she is today.

The Home Delivered Meals Program currently delivers 468 meals to at-risk senior citizens each day, five days a week. Meals on Wheels has been guided by a single goal since its inception in the United States – support senior neighbors to extend their independence and health as they age. What started as a compassionate idea has grown into one of the largest and most effective social movements in America.

A nutritious meal is only the start of the value Meals on Wheels delivers to Acadiana's most vulnerable population. Meals on Wheels has touched the lives of thousands of seniors in Lafayette, providing them with the nutrition they need and human contact they desire. Staff and volunteers of our Meals on Wheels program are the "eyes and ears" in the homes of our most at-risk neighbors.

Koreda has gone above and beyond the call of duty, bringing innovative new partnerships to the Lafayette Council on Aging. Through a partnership with the Lafayette Public Library System, she is now delivering books to the clients on her meal routes. She makes sure that the clients have blankets and heaters in the winter and fans in the summer. She reports to families when she sees a loved one in crisis. She is an advocate and champion for our seniors. The Lafayette Council on Aging, and United Way of Acadiana, is so thankful for her years of dedication.

UWA is proud to have Lafayette Council on Aging as a 2018-2020 PACT United Award Recipient. It's by making sure that our community partners have what they need to do their best work that we truly LIVE UNITED.



2018-2020 PACT UNITED AWARD RECIPIENTS

232-HELP/LA 211
Acadia Council on Aging
Acadiana Outreach Center
American Red Cross
ASSIST Agency
Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Acadiana
Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana
Catholic Charities of Acadiana
Empowering the Community for Excellence
Evangeline Area Council, Boy Scouts of America
Faith House
Family Service Division, 16th Judicial District
Family to Family Support Network

FoodNet-The Greater Acadiana Food Bank
Girl Scouts of Louisiana - Pines to the Gulf
Hearts of Hope (*pictured below*)
Lafayette Council on Aging
LPSS - Summer School
New Hope Community Development of Acadiana
On Track by 5
Second Harvest Food Bank
St. Martin Parish School-Based Health Center
The Family Tree
Volunteer Instructors Teaching Adults



CORPORATE CORNERSTONE PARTNERS

These generous donors direct their resources toward underwriting our cost of doing business.

PLATINUM (\$50,000+)

CGI Inc.
KADN TV
KATC TV
KLFY TV
SCP Health

WHITE GOLD (\$49,000-30,000)

Capital One
Daily Advertiser
IBERIABANK
LHC Group
MidSouth Bank

TITANIUM (\$29,999-15,000)

Acadian Companies

COPPER (\$14,999-5,000)

Foster Marketing
Liskow & Lewis
Samson

PEWTER (\$4,999-2,500)

Domengeaux Wright Roy & Edwards, LLC
Pinnacle Group
Lafayette Coca-Cola Bottling Co.
Lafayette General Health System (LGH)
Super 1 Foods

CORPORATE CONTRIBUTORS

These generous organizations support the impact work of United Way of Acadiana, through corporate giving, sponsorships and grants.

AT&T
AT&T Southeast
Atmos Energy
Best Buy #5627
Blue Cross Blue Shield of LA
Cargill Salt
Centerpoint Energy - Crowley
Chevron
Cleco Power LLC
Costco
Dillard's Department Store
FedEx Corp. (Federal Express)
Fugro, Inc.
Halliburton
Hancock Whitney Bank
Hershey Foods Corp.

IBERIABANK
Kiwanis Club of Abbeville
Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC
Louisiana Companies, Inc.
Lowe's of Lafayette #484
Nationwide
Onebane Law Firm
PHI, Inc.
Professional Arts Pharmacy
Samson
Spectra Energy AP
Stuller, Inc.
The Williams Companies, Inc.
UPS - United Parcel Service
Van Eaton & Romero, A Latter & Blum Company
Wood PLC

CAMPAIGN CABINET

UWA Campaign Cabinet members give their time and talent to help raise funds for the annual campaign.

Troy Cloutier
Biz Financial Services

Buffy Domingue
Lafayette Surgical Specialty Hospital

Christine Duay
LPSS-Central Office

Dawn Fuqua
Gachassin Law Firm

Karen Hardy
IBERIABANK

Tommy Hebert
Atmos Energy

Lawrence Simon
BCBS of LA

Tom Trahan
Bank of Commerce & Trust Co.

Sean Trcalek
KADN TV 15

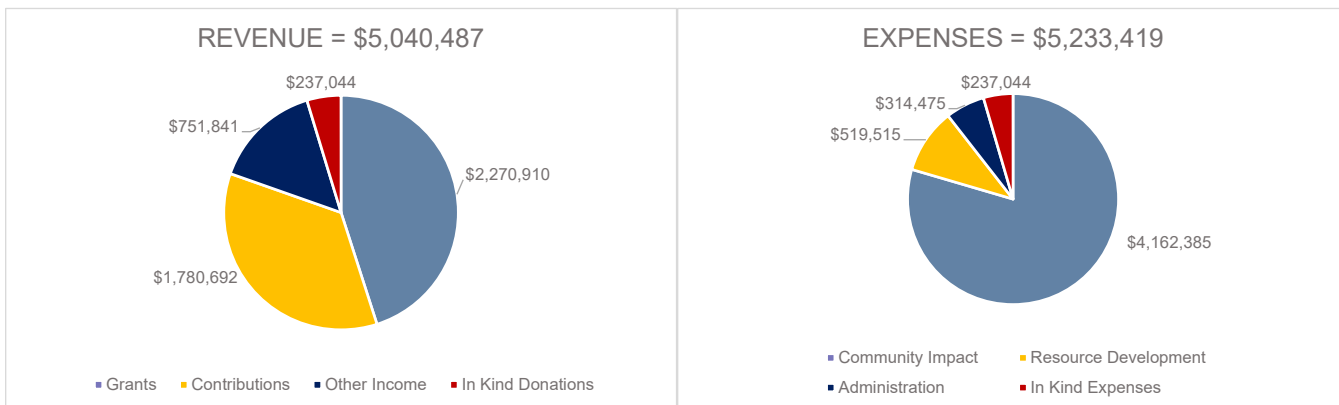
Nico Yantko
UL - Lafayette

UNITED WAY OF ACADIANA BOARD

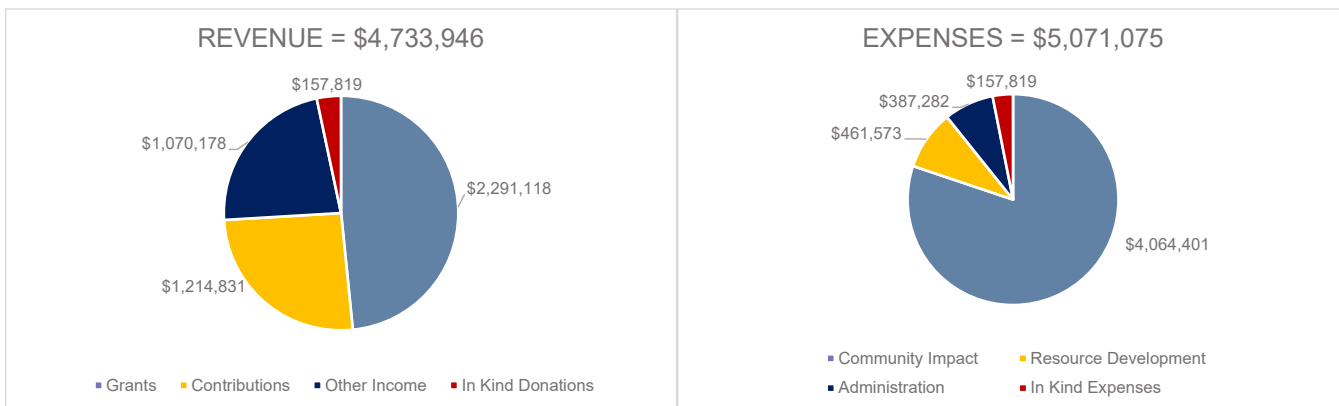
Carlee Alm-LaBar
Robert Benoit
Miriam Bourgeois
Angela Cole
Andre Comeaux
Buffy Domingue
Scott Domingue
Robert "Rob" Eddy, Jr.
Dawn Fuqua
Michael Galasso
Ann Hardy
Edward "Ed" Hebert
Tommy Hebert

Mark Herpin
Ramesh Kolluru, PhD
Kenny Maggard
Taniecea Mallery, PhD
Elizabeth Picard
Chris Rader
Jan Risher
Keith Seilhan
Amy Thibodeaux
Tom Trahan
Sean Trcalek
Lee White
Karen Wyble

2018 AUDITED TOTALS



2019 UNAUDITED TOTALS



THE EARLY HEAD START BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES AND BUDGET FOR 2019 IS AS FOLLOWS:

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Personnel	\$ 1,013,803	\$ 1,027,252
Benefits	\$ 185,660	\$ 194,106
Contractual	\$ 125,437	\$ 120,000
Supplies	\$ 52,675	\$ 51,535
Other	\$ 253,325	\$ 250,335
Training	\$ 35,661	\$ 35,661
Non Fed Share	\$ 424,179	\$ 396,745
TOTAL	\$ 2,090,740	\$ 2,075,634

OUR MANIFESTO

Problems.

The ones most people don't have the stomach for.

The ones nobody talks about at backyard barbeques.

The ones that can't be solved.

We go looking for them.

In our schools, in our neighborhoods, and behind closed doors.

We find every dollar we can to address them.

But we are more than the fundraisers.

We are the hand raisers.

The game changers.

The stop-talking-start-doing-band-together-and-take-on-the-impossible task masters.

United, we help young families struggling to make ends meet.

United, we stand up for children facing hunger and neglect.

United, we confront the hard choices from an uncertain economy.

United, we face down the devastation brought on by Mother Nature.

United, we support teachers and mentors to change young lives.

United, we connect volunteers to their passions.

No matter the obstacles.

No matter the odds.

We surround this region's most critical problems.

And we fight. We fight for Acadia. We fight for St. Martin.

We fight for Vermilion and we fight for those in Lafayette Parish.

We fight for those who need a voice

and those whose names we do not know.

United Way of Acadiana fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community.

Because change doesn't happen alone.

Hope isn't a one-man band.

We have one life.

To live better, we must **LIVE UNITED.**



United Way of Acadiana