



INITIATIVES

United Way of Southwest Louisiana has the ability to initiate projects independently in each of our four focus areas. These Initiatives address important community needs and fall into the four focus areas. Donations and volunteers are behind the success of each one. Where there is great need, our goal is to work quickly and help those most vulnerable.

BASIC NEEDS

SWLA VOAD

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER

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

211 | 898-211

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

SUMMER OF SERVICE

Specifically designed for ages 12 to 18, the program has five human services projects in the summer. Each project focuses on a group of community members who are most in need and illustrates the value of serving others.

THE PATH HOME

Grant program which facilitates the matching of resources with the individuals and families needing assistance with issues surrounding homelessness. The goal is to help those affected move toward stable housing and a successful future.

HEALTH

FAMILYWIZE

PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT PROGRAM

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

UNITED AGAINST CHILD HUNGER

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

CRISIS CHAT

An online chatbox for anyone who is going through a difficult time, having thoughts about suicide or just needs to talk. It is confidential and operated by professionally-licensed crisis intervention specialists.

833.TXT.TEEN

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

ECONOMIC MOBILITY

VITA - VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

VITA sites offer free income tax preparation for individuals who make less than \$54,000 annually, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speaking taxpayers who are in need of assistance.

CALCASIEU PRISONER RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

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

EDUCATION: EARLY CHILDHOOD & YOUTH SUCCESS

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Provides preschoolers with 1 book a month from birth until age 5 at no cost to his or her family. Stars a home library to encourage family literacy.

LITERACY KITS

In partnership with local school systems, Literacy Kits are distributed to children across our region. Each kit includes books and volunteer-designed props and games, to make the reading interactive.

WRITESTART PROJECT

This program provides basic school supplies to children and teachers in need across Southwest Louisiana. Providing supplies year-round ensures teachers and students can focus on learning.

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