BREAKING THE MOLD

VOLUNTEER

JOIN HUNDREDS OF INDIVIDUALS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AS WE UNITE TO REBUILD & REVITALIZE SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA WITH GROUNDBREAKING IDEAS AND ADVANCED VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS!

United Way of Southwest Louisiana led the area through the pandemic, two hurricanes, holidays, an ice storm and flooding. Volunteers loaded groceries, prepared hot meals, handed out toys and hauled debris.

7,664 HOURS

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE
Provide free income tax prep and guidance or be a greeter, intake specialist and other duties at a site (involves training)

FUNDRAISERS
Smoke & Barrel in November is always in need of help handing out food or taking tickets - Several other new events will be announced soon

SUMMER OF SERVICE
Several summer projects geared toward 13-18 year olds will assist community members in need with home projects

TEEN UNITED
A youthful take on our own Board of Directors will teach teens how to make decisions about human service projects in their own schools

DAY OF CARING
Help make Weekend Food Packs for local children who are food insecure

DISASTER RESPONSE SPECIALIST
Assist community members following natural disasters (involves training)

LITERACY KITS
Help put Literacy Kits together that are given out to local pre-k children

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT VOLUNTEERS
Make lasting changes by reviewing applications and evaluating grantees applying for United Way funds (involves training)

SOCIAL MEDIA AMBASSADORS
Always need a few individuals to assist us in monitoring the web and sharing our message!

VISIT UNITEDWAYSWLA.ORG/VOLUNTEER

TEXT VOLUNTEERSWLA to 41444

GIVE

WHEN YOU GIVE TO UNITED WAY OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA, YOU ARE PUTTING RESOURCES DIRECTLY WHERE THEY WILL CREATE LONG-TERM CHANGE IN THE LIVES OF YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.

YOU CAN ALSO BE SURE WHEN IT REALLY COUNTS, UNITED WAY’S EXPERIENCED TEAM WILL BE ON THE GROUND AND AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE RELIEF EFFORT.

ONLINE
UNITEDWAYSWLA.ORG/DONATE

TEXT
UWSWLA to 41444
DISASTERFUND to 41444

MAIL
815 RYAN STREET  LAKE CHARLES, LA 70601

GOODS OR SERVICES FOR DISASTER RECOVERY
UNITEDWAYSWLA.ORG/DONATIONS

CORPORATE SUPPORT

UNITED WAY OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA IS THE OLDEST NONPROFIT MEMBER OF THE SWLA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE. WE ARE FIRMLY ROOTED IN SUPPORTING OUR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS. CONTACT US TODAY AND FIND OUT WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU!

211 IS OUR INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE OPERATED 24/7/365 BY LIVE OPERATORS THAT SPECIALIZE IN FINDING EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED.

WHETHER IT’S YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, WE WANT HELP TO BE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS WHEN YOU NEED IT.

DIAL 211
TEXT 898-211
ONLINE UNITEDWAYSWLA.ORG/211

NEED HELP?

211 is our information and referral service operated 24/7/365 by live operators that specialize in finding exactly what you need.

211 is our information and referral service operated 24/7/365 by live operators that specialize in finding exactly what you need.

UNITED WAY OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA IS THE OLDEST NONPROFIT MEMBER OF THE SWLA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE. WE ARE FIRMLY ROOTED IN SUPPORTING OUR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS. CONTACT US TODAY AND FIND OUT WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU!
Southwest Louisiana

This is the total population struggling to survive in United Way of Southwest Louisiana’s 5-Parish service area following a pandemic, Hurricane Laura, Hurricane Delta, Winter Storm Uri and a federally declared flood all in ten months. This is a combination of ALICE households and those living in poverty.

Global resources, partners and contacts gave this team the capacity to immediately fill gaps in human services with efficient and innovative new approaches following Hurricane Laura, the worst natural disaster to hit Louisiana since 1856 and the 10th strongest storm to hit the U.S. in history, and four other federally declared natural disasters in a ten month period. United Way of Southwest Louisiana recognizes the unique challenges faced by the community during rebuilding and has proven to have the tools for the job.

The FOOD FOR OUR FRIENDS initiative, launched when the pandemic forced corporate partners to face layoffs, supplied groceries and other resources to workers. Hundreds of families were assisted with RENT, UTILITIES, INSURANCE AND FOOD to ensure they did not fall behind on bills or worry about their next meal.

FUELING THE FIGHT allowed United Way of Southwest Louisiana to feed over 5,000 FRONTLINE WORKERS from cashiers and housekeepers to healthcare and law enforcement while supporting local restaurants trying to stay open. Hot meals were purchased from 16 LOCAL RESTAURANTS and delivered to workers during the storms. Y’all truly had the most help after the storms. Y’all truly hit the ground running while others didn’t.

United Way of Southwest Louisiana’s FURNITURE FOR FAMILIES initiative assisted hundreds of ALICE families when double hurricanes and winter flooding left them with nothing. Over 180 TONS OF NEW FURNITURE donated by a major retailer was placed into the homes of working families struggling to rebuild.

68% of the jobs in Louisiana pay less than $20/hour.

Unfortunately for ALICE, job growth is in low-wage jobs with minimal increase in wages, fluctuations in job hours, schedules and lack of access to benefits. This makes it more difficult for them to plan and budget for their family.

A.L.I.C.E.

ASSET LIMITED • INCOME CONstrained • EMPLOYED

• ALICE households earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the Basic Cost of Living.
• ALICE FAMILIES ARE WORKERS yet not earning enough to pay for basic needs like food, childcare and transportation.
• ALICE has little or no savings and one emergency can make them homeless and send them into poverty.

34% of our community + ALICE = 16% of our community live in POVERTY

WEST L OUISIANA

This means 50% of our community is worried each day about paying for basic items like food.

BLUprints FOR THE FUTURE

United Way of Southwest Louisiana’s 211 resource line tells us exactly what community members need every day. We are uniquely positioned to pivot our resources during times of emergency while still keeping our goal of long-term change at the forefront of our work each day.

TOP 3 REQUESTS

1. HOUSING
2. UTILITIES
3. FOOD

OF OUR COMMUNITY IS WORRIED EACH DAY ABOUT PAYING FOR BASIC ITEMS LIKE FOOD

86% of the jobs in Louisiana pay less than $20/hour.

Unfortunately for ALICE, job growth is in low-wage jobs with minimal increase in wages, fluctuations in job hours, schedules and lack of access to benefits. This makes it more difficult for them to plan and budget for their family.

REnt INCREASED BY 61%

FAMILY OF 4 = $25,100

SINGLE PERSON = $12,140

FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL

CAMERON 42%

ALLEN 63%

JACASIEU 46%

JEFF DAVIS 55%

BEAUREGARD 46%

RENT INCREASED BY 5%

ALICE INCOME

SINCE 1961

BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

United Way of Southwest Louisiana’s 211 resource line tells us exactly what community members need every day. We are uniquely positioned to pivot our resources during times of emergency while still keeping our goal of long-term change at the forefront of our work each day.

Top 3 Requests

1. Housing
2. Utilities
3. Food

This means 50% of our community is worried each day about paying for basic items like food.

68% of the jobs in Louisiana pay less than $20/hour.

Unfortunately for ALICE, job growth is in low-wage jobs with minimal increase in wages, fluctuations in job hours, schedules and lack of access to benefits. This makes it more difficult for them to plan and budget for their family.

Economic Mobility

Kids Learning Financial Literacy

2,990 Tax ReturnsFiled with VITA

2,333 Adults Learning Banking & Homebuying Skills

208 Economic Impact of VITA $4.4 MILLION

Health

Crisis Counseling Provided

2,024 Hospital Rooms for COVID

$25,000 Medical/Dental Services

1,095 Discounted Prescriptions

3,131 ($169,773 saved)

Domestic Violence Counseling

1,900 Sexual Assault Counseling

479 Critical Chat & Text Teen 1,098 Users

Education

Education Services

2,881 Children’s Books Distributed

168,348 Girls in Leadership Program

592 Literacy Kits to Pre-K Kids

1,250 Autism Resources

86 Kids Books at Relief Center

6,441 Mobile Hot Spots for Kids

$10,000 Kids Tutored

702 Kids Given School Supplies

10,041