

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!

2-1-1 **NEED HELP?**

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

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

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

50%
OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA FAMILIES CANNOT AFFORD BASIC NEEDS



UNITED IN TACKLING THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORKING POOR.



815 RYAN STREET
LAKE CHARLES, LA 70601
337.433.1088

UNITEDWAYSWLA.ORG



Operating in the **TOP 9%** of all U.S. United Ways. -*TOP 125 out of 1300 United Ways!*
Maintains a **4-STAR** charity rating with Charity Navigator and a **PLATINUM SEAL OF TRANSPARENCY** with GuideStar.



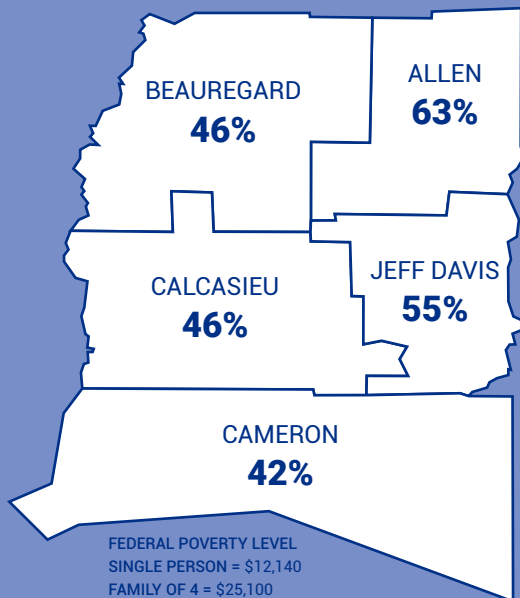
A.L.I.C.E.

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.

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.



The Federal Poverty Level and Social Security are adjusted by using the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI measures inflation using the cost of all goods and services, but families in different income levels buy different things. By using the CPI, which only shows a 1.8% rate of inflation for the past decade, benefits have not kept pace with the actual rate of inflation for lower income community members.

The ALICE Essentials Index uses only those goods and services purchased by low-income households.



34% of our community is ALICE + **16%** of our community live in POVERTY **THIS MEANS 50%** OF OUR COMMUNITY IS WORRIED EACH DAY ABOUT PAYING FOR BASIC ITEMS LIKE FOOD

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



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.

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

66% 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.



CASHIERS

The most common hourly job in Louisiana is a cashier with an average rate of \$9.10 per hour. A cashier working full-time for one year will only earn \$18,200, barely above the Federal Poverty Level.

SHADED BOXES - These boxes indicate work done directly by United Way of Southwest Louisiana. All other work is through funded partner agencies.

BASIC NEEDS

DIAPERS AT RELIEF CENTER
360,000

VICTIM & CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES
725

211 CALLERS ANSWERED
224,807

NEW FURNITURE DISTRIBUTED
18 TRUCKS x 20,000/LBS EACH

MEALS SERVED
56,225

WEEKEND FOOD PACKS FOR KIDS
6,000

FAMILIES VISITING RELIEF CENTER
120,000 (3,000 cars/day)

FROZEN THANKSGIVING TURKEYS
3,000

ECONOMIC MOBILITY

KIDS LEARNING FINANCIAL LITERACY
2,990

TAX RETURNS FILED WITH VITA
2,333

ADULTS LEARNING BANKING & HOMEBUYING SKILLS
208

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF VITA
\$4.4 MILLION

7,250
CHRISTMAS TOYS

20,000
CHRISTMAS MEALS

Y'all are truly a blessing that this community needed so badly and where the organization I feel did the most help after the storms. Y'all truly hit the ground running while others didn't.

Hannah A.

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

BLEACH DISTRIBUTED
8,000 GALLONS

SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNSELING
479

CRISIS 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 TUTORING
702

KIDS GIVEN SCHOOL SUPPLIES
10,041