



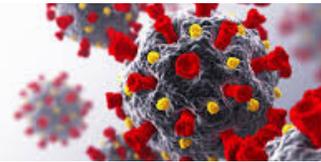
COMMUNITY MATTERS

Every Day

What does it mean to LIVE UNITED? This question is foundational to United Way's work. At United Way of Pitt County, we know when we LIVE UNITED we are caring for the members of our community. This concept sounds elemental, but it can become more challenging when we consider how to turn caring into action in a unified way.

In this newsletter, we will highlight United Way-led collaborative efforts to care for families and individuals in our Pitt County communities. This pandemic has been unrelenting, exacerbating, and amplifying community issues that for some, will be difficult to overcome. Read on to learn the role your United Way has taken during the pandemic to serve communities in the best possible way.

Covid Response



The last few months have presented new and formidable challenges, the likes of which our nation and our community have never faced before. United Way has responded to these challenges to help our citizens who are experiencing unparalleled hardship due to the pandemic. With our safety net of community partners and financial support from donors and corporate partners, we continue to aid families and individuals impacted by the Covid-19 crisis.

Identifying Needs in the Community

- As early as February 2020, United Way of Pitt County (UWPC) began working with community leaders, city and county government, and non-profit executives to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Several task forces were created which focused on Food, Shelter/Housing, Education/ Public Schools.
- Community members participated in an NC Covid-19 impact survey which provided a snapshot of how Pitt County households have been impacted. This data will drive United Way strategies and management of resources during the pandemic.
- United Way task forces were able to mobilize resources to where they were most needed locally and ensure that those in need knew where to go for assistance.

Supporting Local Partners

Throughout the crisis, UWPC has responded with our partners to tackle the most pressing challenges.

- Partner agencies participated in a COVID-19 Community Survey to identify needs and gaps in services.
- UWPC shifted to a quarterly grant cycle to pivot when necessary to address emerging community needs.
- The UWPC Community Action Fund made up of monies collected for covid-19 relief, created immediate funding for multiple local agencies that provide the essentials to our most vulnerable citizens.
- As the local convener, UWPC continues to bring organizations, churches, and municipalities together to partner on current and emerging challenges due to the pandemic.



Our path forward: BUILDING COMMUNITY

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SUCCESS

Education, Earnings, and access to the Essentials form the foundation on which opportunity is built. When we strengthen these building blocks, we give everyone in our community the chance to be happy, healthy, and reach for their dreams.



EDUCATION

Helping youth and adults achieve their potential by obtaining a high school diploma or GED.

EARNINGS

Helping hardworking families and individuals become self-sufficient by gaining and maintaining stable employment and increasing and retaining income.

ESSENTIALS

Helping individuals and families meet basic needs with access to sufficient food, a stable place to live, health care and wellness, and crisis management.

United Way, our community partnerships, and initiatives are guided by these goals and strategies.

LEADING COMMUNITY EFFORTS



Community Unity Network Resource Center

The Community Unity Network Resource Center of Pitt County assists government and non-profit agencies with emergency relief and disaster services. Any 501 C 3 organization, municipality, or public agency may request items.

The Resource Center is over 8,000 sq feet and serves as the central base of operations for collecting and accepting supplies used for cleaning, basic hygiene items, nonperishable foods, and household goods. Without adequate storage space, the organization has had to turn away supplies that could have helped people in Pitt County. Having one central location where community agencies can access basic essentials is vital so that individuals and families receive the help they need in their time of need.

Churches Outreach Network partners with nonprofit groups, churches, and ministries to supply humanitarian relief wherever it is needed. With support from donors, United Way is proud to contribute to local relief efforts for our Pitt County communities.

There is an on-going need for pandemic relief items, please call 314-3077 or 717-9600 to coordinate a drop-off time.

Churches Outreach Network Feeding & Helping the Hopeless



A collaboration supported by:





So, what's next? What do you think is needed where you live? Are there challenges your neighbors are struggling with? The time has come for us to reimagine what our communities can be, then we will rebuild together in a unified manner, bringing all available resources to bear.

It will be time to **LIVE UNITED**.



Walter, age 70, lives alone and has difficulty completing daily activities due to neuropathy in his feet. He no longer drives and relies on family members and friends to assist with instrumental activities with daily living. Walter was hospitalized for complications with diabetes and fluid retention. He often experiences food insecurity and did not have enough food to eat when taking his diabetic medications. During home visits with Pitt County Council on Aging staff, Walter stated that he might have people willing to assist him with his needs if he were to ask. However, he was not comfortable asking anyone for help. He had been a deacon in his church for many years and said people looked to him for strength. Instead, Walter had been going hungry with not enough food to take his diabetes medications which made him sick because he would either go without the medications or take them on an empty stomach. Through our partnership with Pitt County Council on Aging, Walter now receives a hot meal daily and is checked on by a volunteer who delivers his Meals on Wheels lunch.

United Way Grant Opportunities

2020-2021 Annual Grant

Adopted a Quarterly grant cycle from the previous 3-year cycle which provided greater flexibility to respond to the changing needs in our community. Awards were based on Community Impact Cabinet review and recommendations with a strong emphasis on supporting basic needs first.

Community Action Fund Grant

Funds to help with urgent needs due to Covid. Government entities or non-profit organizations with 501 (c)(3) status are eligible once requests were vetted by the Community Impact Cabinet volunteers. Amounts awarded were more than \$300 but less than \$2500.

Community Action Fund Micro Grant*

Funds applied to urgent needs due to COVID in amounts not to exceed \$300. Grant requests are investigated and tracked by the Director of Community Impact who reports monthly to Community Impact Cabinet.

Community Impact Cabinet

Wayman Williams, Chair

Greenville Housing Authority

Chris Bethune

Publix Supermarkets

Terry Atkinson

College of Education, ECU

Lou Norris

Greenville Utilities

James Rhodes

Pitt County Government

Shantell Cheek

Access East, Inc

Mary Worsley

Community Member

Covid-19 Funding Priorities 2020

Community Crossroads *shelter*

REAL Crisis *referral and crisis management*

Center for Family Violence *shelter*

Pitt County Council on Aging *Meals on Wheels*

Joy Soup Kitchen *evening meals*

NC 2-1-1 *information and referral center*

Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC

Center for Science, Technology and Leadership
Bethel Afterschool Program

Third Street Education Center *GED program*

Daughters of Worth *crisis support*

Cancer Services of ENC *client transportation*

LEADING

THE WAY



On March 22, Angie Egerton, the Academy Director for UWPC Early Grades Student Success Academy was a presenter during the 21st Century Community Learning Center regional statewide meeting. Angie was asked to share best practices in grant program management.

The presentation highlighted effective strategies for collaboration, program staffing, recruitment strategies, and student attendance. The presentation also included the operational process for data collection and budget management.

The EG-SSA is a program sponsored by United Way of Pitt County.

Our school children and their families have struggled because of the pandemic. United Way invited school officials and other educational organizations to form a taskforce that would look at what was happening in the schools, how families were coping, and identify immediate needs and potential needs in the future.



CommUnity Day Resource Drive-thru Fair

It was from these taskforce meetings that Pitt County Schools CommUnity Day was created. The drive-thru event was launched in February at the Pactolus School and provided families with free supplies including food, books, PPE, NC 2-1-1 information resource management services, and other resources to help families navigate the pandemic.

Jim Lawless, Interim Executive Director for Pitt County United Way said, "Our role in the community is one of bringing people and resources together to help those who are vulnerable and struggling. This pandemic has impacted everyone in one way or another. We are mobilizing resources and caring community leaders to help ease some of the pain and burden our school children and their families feel during this time."

The event was such a success that Pitt County School officials and United Way plan to host another drive-thru event at Ayden-Grifton High April 20, and Stokes April 22.



A huge THANK YOU to Pitt County School employees for a hugely successful United Way Spring campaign. Your generosity and commitment to the people of Pitt County is extraordinary, raising a record \$85,000! Thank you for all you do for the young minds of our students and your willingness to step up and help build a stronger community for everyone.

United Way of Pitt County Team

Operational Team

Dwain Cooper

Director of Community Impact & Communications

Jim Lawless

Interim Executive Director

Lana Miller

Director of Finance and Operations

Sue Tidd

Director of Resource Development

Program Delivery Team

Jim Cox

Homeless Program Coordinator
Balance of State Board Member

Robin Daily

Program and Family Engagement Coordinator
Early Grades Student Success Academy

Kris Davis

Administrative Assistant
Early Grade Student Success Academy

Angie Egerton

Director of Early Grades Student Success Academy

Marie Miller

Community Outreach Coordinator
Early Literacy & Imagination Library

Peter Peedin

Homeless Program Coordinator

Stay in touch with United Way

226 West 8th Street Greenville, NC
252.758.1604

uwpcnc.org



UNITED WE CAN Food Drive Sculpture Contest

Join the FUN! June, 18 2021 at

Greenville Grooves



United Way of Pitt County is hosting **UNITED WE CAN** food sculpture contest. Teams *construct* sculptures from nonperishable foods and/or basic needs items. Sculptures displayed Saturday during Greenville Grooves Music Festival.

Awards (and bragging rights) presented to winning teams.

For more *construction* rules & team registration visit: www.uwpcnc.org/unitedwecan



Items used to make sculptures will benefit Pitt County communities through a partnership with



United Way of Pitt County seeks to mobilize resources and leadership to build stronger a community.

Get the refund you deserve with United Way's free online platform.

[myfree taxes.com](http://myfreetaxes.com)



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GROUP ID FAM700
PCN FW



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NC 2-1-1: Help just a phone call away.

Jessica is a single mom to her 5-year-old son and infant daughter. Both Jessica and her daughter have tested positive for COVID-19. Jessica will be unable to work for at least two weeks which will result in lost wages. Without her full income, she will not be able to pay all of the family's monthly bills. Jessica then discovered someone had stolen her identity which meant she would not be able to file for unemployment. The 211 Call Specialist helped Jessica prioritize the issues she was juggling. First was a referral to her county's COVID helpline for questions about quarantining. Next, the specialist provided Jessica with information on two local programs that could possibly help with paying her bills this month while she is out of work. The call specialist connected then Jessica to a Cybercrime Navigator who is a trained expert on cybercrimes and will walk through the steps she can take to recover from identity. Jessica was so grateful to have someone help her walk through things and she felt much less overwhelmed when she hung up from her call to NC 211.



DIAL 2-1-1
or visit nc211.org

Free • Multilingual
Confidential • 24/7/365

GET CONNECTED TO...

Food • Housing • Utilities • Health Care
Legal Services • Transportation • And more



Thank you for supporting vital
services like NC 2-1-1!

Top Caller Needs in Pitt County 2020-2021



1,692

HOUSING



497

FOOD



807

UTILITIES



336

HEALTHCARE



116

EMPLOYMENT
& INCOME



4,252

Calls and Emails
answered from Pitt County