

Helpful Information & FAQ's About United Way

- United Way of the Ozarks traces its beginning to 1930, when a group of committed people built upon the familiar spirit of giving by many for one goal. The mission then and now remains the same: ***To increase the understanding of human needs and mobilize resources to meet those needs.*** Today United Way's 28-member board and **2000+** volunteers are working to address the critical issues identified in the Community Focus report that face our community. Our Campaign raises funds to support 40 funded programs for our 23 partner agencies and eight initiatives.

Contributions to United Way of the Ozarks work in the following issue areas:

- **Access to Healthcare** – Concentrating on providing appropriate behavioral counseling and necessary medications for the underinsured
 - **Healthy Families** – Helping to provide resources for healthy lifestyles for families
 - **Basic Needs/Self Sufficiency** – Focusing on providing housing and economic education
 - **Safe Neighborhoods** – Concentrating on community safety and disaster relief
 - **Successful Youth** – Building strong character education with positive role models
 - **Children At-Risk** – Programs focused on those who cannot speak for themselves
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- **United Way is the source of the largest sum of private, unrestricted funds to Ozarks area nonprofit organizations**
 - United Way helps more people in our community than any single health and human service organization
 - **United Way is a catalyst for change** by bringing Southwest Missourians from business, nonprofits, labor, government and faith groups together to find long-lasting solutions for community wide issues
 - United Way not only addresses immediate needs, but also focuses on finding the underlying causes and working to create change for the community's most critical "red flags"
 - **United Way administrative cost is only 10-12%.**

- **Over 100 United Way volunteers** review community impact areas and agency programs to ensure that your donations are directed where they will have the greatest impact and help to prevent problems from happening in the first place.
- **United Way 211** is a non-emergency hotline that enables people to talk with a real person about services they may need in the community including those not related to United Way.
- **United Way Day of Caring** is a mobilization of volunteers who work build, clean, repair, paint, plant, cut, mend, organize and perform many other tasks that would not get done at United Way Agency Partner locations. The 2009 Day of Caring mobilized 1,400 volunteers who completed over 150 projects, and is one of the largest Days of Caring in the USA.
- **Female Leaders In Philanthropy (FLiP)** is a network of women helping women. They are dedicated to changing our community for the better and creating more positive outcomes. FLiP is focused on three critical issue areas – Children At-Risk, Basic Needs & Self Sufficiency and Healthy Families. In 2010, FLiP will focus on helping to sustain the Ozarks Food Harvest Backpack Program and growing the Suit Yourself program, which helps provide suitable workplace clothing for women who are re-entering the workforce.
- **Hands on for Seniors** is a United Way project made possible by a grant from the Greene County Senior Citizens Tax Fund that helps seniors with minor home repairs and yard clean up if the senior is unable to physically or financially get the project done. These projects are all done by community volunteers.

What is United Way of the Ozarks? United Way of the Ozarks is a local non-profit organization that has supported health and human service programs in our community since 1930, when a group of committed people built upon the familiar spirit of giving by many for one goal. Today United Way's 28-member board and 2000+ volunteers help people by raising money and resources to invest in programs that provide solutions for critical community issues as identified by the Community Focus Report

- **Why give through United Way? United Way is the source of the largest sum of private, unrestricted and constant funds to Ozarks area nonprofit organizations**
 - **We're local** - funds raised in the area stay here to address local problems.
 - **We're efficient** - volunteers help conduct the campaign to keep costs low.
 - **We're effective** - by bringing the community together, we accomplish more than we can alone.
 - **It's easy** - payroll deductions make giving simple.

- **We're accountable** - volunteers determine the funding investments

How much of my gift goes to program support? United Way administrative costs are low – only 10-12%. That means that 88-90 cents of every dollar donated to United Way goes for program, initiative and collaborative support in our community.

Why do agencies fundraise if they receive money from United Way?

United Way money is designated to support programs, initiatives and collaboratives. Agencies raise money to supplement programs and to help cover administrative and operating costs such as building and maintenance.

Who runs United Way of the Ozarks? Community volunteers from all walks of life run United Way of the Ozarks. Their roles vary. The members of the Board of Directors establish and monitor policy. However, hundreds of volunteers help orchestrate volunteer projects and special events; they visit agencies, and through the Community Investment process review their budgets; and review and evaluate funded programs positive outcomes before making funding recommendations.

Do United Way agencies charge fees for services? Some do and some don't. Those that do charge a fee base it on the individual's ability to pay. If an individual is unable to pay, no charge is made. Your generous pledge means that services are available to all who need them.

What percent of an agency's budget is covered by United Way? Each agency requests a specific amount of money. The request is based on need and evaluated through the Community Investment process. Each agency receives a different amount, and therefore the percentages vary.

If I donate, will my name and address be sold to others? Absolutely not! United Way of the Ozarks honors the confidentiality of information and the privacy of our donors and beneficiaries.

If I need services, where can I get help? Call United Way Missouri 211 for a referral for help. You can also visit the United Way website: www.uwozarks.com for a list of member agencies.

What makes United Way so effective? Few organizations are as effective with your contributions as United Way. By working closely with business, labor, government and human service organizations, your United Way is uniquely positioned to have the greatest possible impact on our community's most pressing needs. Your dollars, your volunteer hours and your best ideas are combined and focused to make our community stronger and safer and create lasting changes.

What does United Way of the Ozarks do besides raise money? The United Way of the Ozarks works closely with service providers, city, county and state government to identify health and human service problems in our community and develop plans to address those problems. United Way also assists nonprofit agencies in recruiting and training volunteers and provides volunteer resources in the area of management and technical assistance, training and board leadership. In addition, United Way helps create collaborative partnerships to improve the community's capacity to solve problems.

What is United Way Worldwide? United Way is a worldwide network in 45 countries and territories, including nearly 1,300 local organizations in the U.S. It advances the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all, by focusing on the three key building blocks of education, income and health. The United Way movement creates long lasting community change by addressing the underlying causes of problems that prevent progress in these areas. **LIVE UNITED** is a call to action for everyone to become a part of the change.

How is the United Way of the Ozarks related to the United Way Worldwide and other United Ways across the country? Our United Way is independent of United Way Worldwide and other 1300+ local United Ways. Our organization is governed by our local volunteers--decisions made by other United Ways have no impact on decisions made in the Ozarks. Each year, United Way of the Ozarks spends less than one percent of its campaign total on various services from the United Way Worldwide.