



United
Way



United Ways
of Tennessee

SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating 25 Years of United Ways
Collaborating so Every Child, Individual
and Family in Tennessee Thrives!

2024 marks the 25th anniversary of United Ways of Tennessee (UWTN)! For a quarter of a century, UWTN has united and mobilized United Ways to respond to our state's greatest challenges. While each of our United Way members is independent, separately incorporated, and governed by local volunteers, our state association is where we come together to learn and collaborate. It is the forum to accomplish together what no one local United Way could accomplish on its own. By creating opportunities for local United Ways to learn from and work with one another, we improve performance, reduce costs, and create greater impact at the local and state levels.

This report reflects what we have built together—our most recent collective work to build strong, healthy communities. Yet, while we are proud of our accomplishments, there is still so much work to be done! As we celebrate how far we have come as a United Way network, we look toward the future and envision a Tennessee where:

- All people have a roof over their head and food on the table
- Nobody lives in poverty, and all have opportunities for sustaining or moving to financial stability
- Those in need have access to health and human services and benefits
- Every family has access to high quality, affordable childcare and afterschool programming
- Our workforce is equitable, educated, and ready to take on new challenges
- Those facing natural disasters, domestic abuse, or other crises have safe havens and basic needs met
- Tennesseans with a heart to volunteer or donate have opportunities to make meaningful contributions to help others

To create thriving communities across Tennessee, it will take all of us standing up and rallying to build a better tomorrow. We invite you to celebrate our current work and successes and to join us for our next 25 years in service to our state!



Mary Graham
President and CEO, United Ways of Tennessee



To support United Way's work in its next 25 years, please donate to us through PayPal or send a contribution to us at UWTN, 350 Medical Center Parkway, Murfreesboro, TN, 37129.

ALICE

United Ways of Tennessee’s ongoing statewide data project, ALICE, provides a comprehensive measure of financial hardship and needs across our state. ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. We see those who are ALICE every day. They are cashiers, waiters, childcare providers, and other members of our essential workforce. You may know some of them. You may be ALICE. These ALICE households live in every county in our state, and they must constantly make difficult financial decisions because of their inability to afford basic necessities, such as food, clothing and rent.

Our ALICE research informs the conversation about the real and present needs of the 44% of Tennesseans who struggle to make ends meet, utilizing a standardized methodology that assesses the cost of living in every county. Equipped with this data, United Ways of Tennessee convenes, advocates, and innovates in our local communities. We highlight the issues faced by ALICE households and generate solutions that help them on their path to financial stability, by shaping public policy, educating employers, and filling service gaps.



We also periodically produce ALICE reports on special topics, such as children, people with disabilities, veterans, and the pandemic, and we recently generated data on 50 indicators of well-being, such as food insecurity, educational attainment, internet access, violent crime rates, food insecurity, drug overdose rates, commute times, and drug overdose rates.

To access our ALICE reports, interactive data and indicators of well-being research, please link here: www.uwtn.org/ALICE



BENEFIT KITCHEN

Every year, 103 million Americans leave \$80 billion in public benefits unclaimed. United Ways of Tennessee is committed to ensuring that struggling families in our state are aware of the benefits for which they qualify and know how to apply for them. In response, we launched Tennessee Benefit Kitchen in November of 2022. Benefit Kitchen provides a free screener to determine eligibility for several tax credits and many federal, state and local public benefits, followed with direct link access to the application sites for those benefits for which they qualify.



Tennessee residents simply text “benefits” to 211-211, and they receive a screener that takes about 5 minutes to complete. Once completed, they immediately receive notice of tax credits and benefits for which they are eligible, along with the links to apply to each benefit. The tax credits and benefits covered in the screener currently include:

- Food Stamps SNAP
- Cash Assistance TANF
- Affordable Connectivity Program ACP
- Women Infants and Children WIC
- Head Start
- School Meals
- Childcare Assistance
- TennCare MEDICAID, FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN
- ACA AFFORDABLE CARE ACT FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN
- CHIP CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM
- County Medical Services
- Home Energy Assistance HEAP
- Lifeline
- Child Tax Credit
- Childcare Tax Credit
- Earned Income Tax Credit



In 2023, the first calendar year of operation for Benefit Kitchen, more than **1,600 Tennesseans** received screenings that **identified almost \$7.4 million in eligible benefits.**

UWTN MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

United Way of the Ocoee Region

United Way of the Ocoee Region continues to work to solve the housing crisis in Bradley County. Their Housing United, a rapid re-housing program launched in 2020, assists those experiencing homelessness to move into housing quickly and remain stably housed by offering case management and housing navigation. In 2023, they served 131 households, with 92% remaining stably housed after completion of the program.

UWTN MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

United Way of West Tennessee and United Way of Greater Nashville

Through the new Jackson Financial Empowerment Center, United Way of West Tennessee has already helped clients collectively build over \$171,000 in savings and reduced more than \$145,000 in collective debt. Since its inception in 2013, Greater Nashville’s Financial Empowerment Center has helped 9,457 clients reduce their debt by \$23 million and increase their savings by more than \$3 million.



FAST FACTS

While United Ways now do so much more than just raise money to distribute it out, we do still raise money and distribute it out! In 2022, United Ways across Tennessee raised \$58 million and in 2023, they collectively raised just under \$60 million to support our communities!

DISASTER RELIEF

It is in times of need that we discover the full impact of a connected, collaborative United Way network in our state. During disasters, we quickly mobilize resources to support individuals and families when it's most essential. Our vision is that all communities in Tennessee can anticipate, withstand, and recover from these events because they are better prepared and have the resources they need.

UNITED WAYS STEP UP

On December 9, 2023, an EF2 tornado struck Sumner County, causing extensive damage, with 600 homes and businesses affected, particularly impacting the Hendersonville Business District. The United Way of Sumner County swiftly responded, establishing a Disaster Relief Hub and coordinating relief efforts, mobilizing hundreds of volunteers and raising over \$112,000. The funds were utilized for immediate cleanup, financial assistance, and long-term recovery initiatives, with ongoing collaboration with various partners to support victims in rebuilding their lives.

On this same date, an EF2 tornado also swept through Montgomery and Stewart Counties. Approximately 2,500 homes and businesses bore the brunt of the disaster, notably affecting establishments along the 41A highway and the Exit 1 area. In the face of this crisis, the United Ways of the Greater Clarksville Region and of Greater Nashville swiftly established a Disaster Relief Fund to provide immediate aid to those impacted. They also set-up a Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG) to maximize use of funds through a coordinated effort across partners in the community.

United Way of Greater Nashville has an MOU with the City to receive and distribute donations in times of disaster. This United Way recently merged with Hands On Nashville to become a front-line organization that supports recovery not only through short and long-term funding, but also with literal boots on the ground. The most recent tornadoes demonstrated the need to develop key infrastructure, and this is a key priority for the 9-county greater Nashville region during 2024.



A HELPING HAND

Since the end of 2022, United Way of West Tennessee has partnered with the Weakley County Long Term Recovery Group to provide services to those affected by the tornado on December 10. That United Way has helped more than 150 households and has processed over \$150,000 in funding, with more than an additional \$850,000 going to support survivors.



ANSWERING THE CALL

In April 2020, Chattanooga experienced devastating tornadoes. The United Way of Greater Chattanooga Volunteer Center was called on by the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County Emergency Management to recruit volunteers for recovery efforts. In total 1,688 volunteers were mobilized.

Bradley County also experienced this same devastating tornado storm in one of its most poor and under-insured neighborhoods, and right at the beginning of the pandemic. United Way of the Ocoee Region offered centralized assistance through Ocoee Connect, and the staff walked door-to-door offering guidance on where to access help and services. That United Way also coordinated volunteer efforts for clean-up, provided case management to support families who had lost their homes, and distributed donations.

FAST FACTS

Tennessee is indeed the volunteer state, and United Way is proud to have done its part to recruit and place volunteers where needed! This most recent year, 2023, we recruited 14,647 volunteers statewide to help with disaster relief, free taxes, food distribution, mentoring and tutoring youth, and more!

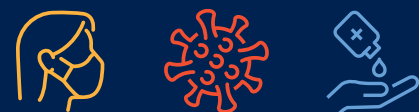


COVID-19

Our United Ways across Tennessee responded to the pandemic as we would any other natural disaster, quickly taking a pulse on each community's needs and then mobilizing to meet them. This gave us experience in assessing and addressing technology gaps, and we launched several innovative and extraordinarily successful initiatives to remove barriers and inequities. This included obtaining and distributing Internet-enabled devices, as well as utilizing school buses to provide mobile hotspots that enabled access to virtual education and telehealth during lockdowns.

We also channeled additional resources into our already-extensive 211 service, to ensure that Tennessee residents were aware of virtual, as well as in-person, services and supports available to them, including expanded physical and mental health supports, as well as housing, food, utilities, and other supports.

UWTN also commissioned a special ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) study specifically to assess and address the ongoing impacts of the pandemic and re-purposed more than \$200,000 in grant funds originally intended for travel and conferences to be utilized instead in every county for improving digital access for school, work, and obtaining telemed and other services.



Below is a sampling of United Way interventions at the local level:

Utilizing Community CARES Act funds, **United Way of Greater Chattanooga** distributed **nearly \$25 million** among more than 85 agencies in an 11-county region in just five months. United Way of Greater Chattanooga's Restore Hope Fund also helped 1,132 households with basic needs like rent and utilities.

United Way of the Clinch Powell Valley filled every food pantry in Anderson and Campbell Counties at least monthly with exactly what they needed. We also started **four drive-through hot meal distributions** and found drivers to deliver to older and high-risk Tennesseans without transportation.

The Nashville Mayor's Office asked **United Way of Greater Nashville** to manage the COVID-19 Response Fund, and the committee was chaired by Senator Bill Frist. United Way **distributed \$5.1 million** to assist those in need. This United Way also distributed \$43.3 million through the Community CARES Act funding and led the Financial Assistance Network, a coalition of financial assistance providers, and distributed more than \$15 million to 22,375 people across 148 zip codes in this region.

Within four days of the shut-down, **United Way of Blount County** established a COVID-19 Response Fund in Blount County. We raised **more than \$275,000** and served 5,791 people.

In April 2020, **United Way of the Mid-South** co-created the United Way Relief Call Center as an adaptive response to the pandemic. Since inception, it has **received 13,779 requests** for assistance. Mid-South also **managed \$25 million** for its region through the Community CARES Act.

United Way of Greater Kingsport provided **approximately a 5% increase** to local agencies out of reserves to help reduce the impact of COVID.

United Way of Greater Knoxville managed **nearly \$30 million** in COVID relief and response for its region through the Community CARES Act.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

United Ways of Tennessee fights for the Education, Financial Stability, and Health of every Tennessean. Our state network works to engage community members, including those whose voices have traditionally been marginalized, to co-create solutions that ensure everyone has the resources, support, opportunities, and networks they need to thrive.

Yet, for too many individuals and families, access to a better life remains elusive. To achieve our vision, we must understand and address the underlying factors that impede progress. United Ways of Tennessee recognizes that structural racism and other forms of discrimination contribute to persistent disparities. By challenging practices based on racism, sexism, and other historical and current forms of discrimination, the United Way network can create more inclusive communities and equitable outcomes. Therefore:

- We denounce discrimination and exclusion based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, age, or other identities.
- We commit to ongoing learning, communication, and dialogue to deepen our progress toward being a more diverse, equitable, and intentionally inclusive organization for all Tennesseans.
- We commit to challenging the biases and stereotypes that prevent Tennesseans from their right to live in an equitable and inclusive society.

- We commit to fostering equity, which can only be achieved when the systemic, institutional, and historical barriers no longer predict socioeconomic, education and health outcomes.
- We commit to creating and sustaining an equitable UWTN and equitable communities in collaboration with our network across the state through convening, capacity-building, advocacy, and representation.

Join us in embracing diversity, equity and inclusion for every person in every community.



UWTN MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

United Way of Blount County

Through a grant from the Arconic Foundation, this United Way formally partnered with Omega Daughters LLC and the Honorable Stephanie Jones to offer workshops and consulting sessions to nonprofits throughout their community. The goal for this work is supporting all nonprofits as they advance their work to be more equitable and inclusive in their outreach to the community they serve.

MY FREE TAXES AND VITA TAX PREP

MyFreeTaxes helps people file their taxes for free while getting the assistance they need. Common tax situations covered in MyFreeTaxes include:

- W-2 income
- Self-employment income (Schedule C and 1099)
- Mortgage interest deduction
- Health savings accounts (HSAs)
- Limited interest and dividend income reported on a 1099-INT or 1099-DIV
- Unemployment income
- Student education expenses and credits
- Student loan interest
- Claiming the standard deduction
- Itemized returns
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EIC)
- Child tax credits
- Child and dependent care expenses
- Non-resident returns
- Amended tax returns

We also connect MyFreeTaxes users and others across Tennessee who need more support filing their returns to deeper support. In cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service, United Ways across the state operate and support VITA (Voluntary Income Tax Assistance) programs, which provide free and accurate tax preparation for low to moderate income taxpayers. We recruit, train and utilize certified volunteers to provide these services at public locations such as libraries, schools, and neighborhood centers, especially in high-need areas of our state. Our tax work ensures Tennesseans receive the tax credits for which they qualify, while providing a safe and free alternative to paid predatory tax preparation services and predatory tax refund advance loans.

For our most recent tax season, filings for 2022, United Ways across the state served **more than 23,000 clients** and generated just under **\$28 million dollars** for Tennesseans.



PUBLIC POLICY

United Ways of Tennessee represents the largest network of nongovernmental service providers and funders in Tennessee, so we use our influence and voice to call for effective public policy to better the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community. UWTN brings together the statewide United Way network and partners from every sector—public, private, nonprofit—to create solutions that

drive systemic change and ensure that there are services in place to transform lives. This includes robust public policy work at the federal, state, and local levels. UWTN educates and galvanizes people to speak out for change, including advocacy training, social media engagement, Days on the Hill, and voter registration campaigns. We amplify the voices of vulnerable populations on important community issues.

UWTN has a successful track record launching and supporting our state's pre-K program, as well as advocating for funding and policies that strengthen childcare, afterschool, and summer programming; promote access to food, health and social services; ensure family financial stability; help build the workforce; and support at-risk populations.

Learn more about our current public policy priorities on the next page.

pictured: United Ways of Tennessee organizes hill day events so its member United Ways and partners can build relationships with legislators and advocate for needed public policy changes.



UWTN MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

United Way of the Mid-South

United Way of the Mid-South is the recipient of the Tennessee Department of Human Services Families First Community Grant Project for \$18.2 million designated for the expansion of Driving The Dream™ (DTD™). This two-year investment allows United Way to expand services to low-income families in Shelby County, helping to drive financial and social mobility for thousands of individuals. Driving The Dream™ creates a network of support by connecting human service agencies through a shared platform, enabling equitable access to needed services for the most vulnerable individuals and families.



2024 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

TIER 1
Top Priorities

STATE LEVEL

Increase access to 211 and Tennessee Benefit Kitchen

Increase access to internet and broadband in underserved communities

Tax protections for charitable giving

EDUCATION	FINANCIAL STABILITY	HEALTH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afterschool/OST and childcare access and quality, including use of available funding sources and credit recovery • Increase preschool funding, access and quality • Increase health, psychosocial, and mental health services in schools and out-of-school-time programming • Expand use of the free care rule reversal beyond behavioral health services to cover all health services • Provide trauma-informed and sensitive environments in school and afterschool/OST programs • TN-CAPS and Learning Blade • Enhance opportunities and take advantage of all possible sources of federal funding for education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UWTN ALICE report components and findings • Access to financial assistance for housing, utilities, healthy food and other basic needs • TANF/Families First • TN opportunity pilot initiative • Tax relief policies that benefit low income and other vulnerable populations • Justice, bail practices, court fees, incarceration, and returning citizens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation and expansion of access to healthcare coverage • Preservation and expansion of ACES resources • Preservation and expansion of home visitation • Prevention and treatment of substance abuse, suicide prevention, domestic violence, and access to behavioral health services • Implement multi-year continuous eligibility for all children on TennCare or Cover Kids until age 5 • Universal school meals

FEDERAL LEVEL

Increase access to 211

Increase access to internet and broadband

Tax protections for charitable giving

EDUCATION	FINANCIAL STABILITY	HEALTH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afterschool and childcare (access and quality) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair housing and tenant protections • EITC/VITA • SNAP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation and expansion of access to healthcare coverage • Prevention and treatment of substance abuse, suicide prevention, domestic violence, and access to behavioral health services

2024 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

TIER 2
Monitoring, building groundwork for action, and/or signing-on as issues arise, but not taking a leadership role

STATE LEVEL

EDUCATION	FINANCIAL STABILITY	HEALTH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for communities in schools • Funding for community schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical debt assistance and education • Consumer education on strategies addressing financial hardships • SNAP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and social service infrastructure, including telehealth* • Coordinated School Health • Vaping/tobacco products (reducing access for youth)

FEDERAL LEVEL

EDUCATION	FINANCIAL STABILITY	HEALTH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early learning • Funding for communities in schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce development / WIOA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and social service infrastructure*

* Mental health services, substance abuse prevention and treatment, senior services, intellectual disabilities, transportation for health and human services, long-term care, and social workers in schools and other settings.



UWTN
MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT

United Way of Greater Knoxville

This United Way, leading a team of public and private partners, has been selected by the state's Families First Community Advisory Board to be one of the seven grantees awarded \$25 million in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding as part of the Tennessee Opportunity Pilot Initiative. The goal of this work is to transform the way we serve our most vulnerable families and to help them reach true self-sufficiency.

UWTN
MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT

United Way of Greater Nashville

In 2014, this United Way launched The Family Collective (TFC) to address homelessness, connect families to sustainable opportunities and disrupt cycles of poverty. TFC brings together more than 30 organizations in the region, and more than 1,000 families have been housed since the program's inception.

United Ways of Tennessee pulls together the United Way network and their call center partners across the state to support and grow the quality of Tennessee 211, the go-to resource that helps people find the local resources they need. Tennessee 211 is the most comprehensive source of information about local resources and services in our state, responding to requests for utility assistance, housing assistance, food insecurity, and disaster relief needs. It's powered by people: caring, local experts are available to help, and all calls to 211 are confidential and can be anonymous.

Tennessee 211 does more than "patch people through" to agencies. Our 211 specialists are trained to identify and address root causes of a caller's problem and connect them with a wide range of available resources that meet all their underlying needs. There is no other network that has a similar pulse on our state's needs. The data from 211 also enables United Ways to strategically invest in their communities, filling essential service gaps. In addition to calling 211, Tennesseans can search our resource directory independently at <https://tn211.myresourcedirectory.com>.

Most calls, web chats, emails and texts are from people looking for help meeting basic needs and our community resource specialists can put you in touch with local organizations that provide critical services. You'll find information about:

- supplemental food and nutrition programs
- shelter and housing options and utilities assistance
- pandemic information
- emergency information and disaster relief
- employment and education opportunities
- services for veterans
- health care, vaccination and health epidemic information
- addiction prevention and rehabilitation programs
- reentry help for ex-offenders
- support groups for individuals with mental illnesses or special needs
- a safe, confidential path out of physical and/or emotional domestic abuse

2023 STATS

400,000
TOTAL CONTACTS

53.8K
REQUEST FOR FOOD

45.2K
REQUESTS FOR HOUSING/SHELTER

24.2K
REQUESTS FOR UTILITIES ASSISTANCE



FAST FACTS

In addition to traditional fundraising campaigns, United Ways across Tennessee are diversifying and growing funds to address our state's most challenging problems by obtaining grants from government agencies and foundations. In 2023, our members received and managed almost **\$35 million** in grant funding to improve:

- Financial stability for struggling families
- Reading scores and other academic outcomes for our students
- Availability of affordable, quality childcare and afterschool programming
- Access to basic needs, health and human services for vulnerable populations

TENNESSEE AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK (TAN)

While United Ways of Tennessee (UWTN) celebrates its silver anniversary in 2024, this year marks the tenth and tin anniversary for the Tennessee Afterschool Network! UWTN is proud to serve as the fiscal and staffing agent for this statewide collaborative of more than 1,800 members who come together to increase access and improve the quality of out-of-school time programs (afterschool, before school, and summer, from pre-k through 12th grade). We collaborate as a multi-sector and unified voice for sustainable investments in safe, healthy and nurturing experiences for children and youth that set them up for academic and eventual career success.

TAN provides its membership with a forum for advocacy and public policy, as well as comprehensive training and tools across a wide array of subjects. To advance the quality of programming and enrichments for students, we also periodically revise the Voluntary Afterschool Standards for Tennessee and the Tennessee School-Age Developmental Standards, utilized by several of our child and youth serving state agencies and the childcare and afterschool program field at-large.

During the pandemic, TAN provided programs across the state with tips and tools for safe re-opening, as well as curricula for engaging students virtually and through distanced activities. We supported digital access and food delivery through programs over the summer and TAN worked with anti-drug youth advisory coalitions, connecting youth to support substance misuse and mental health and tele-counseling/tele-health and recovery groups like AA, NA, and more with tech issues. **TAN's efforts positively impacted thousands of people in Tennessee during the pandemic.**

In addition to centralized, statewide efforts, UWTN members have operated TAN "hubs" at the local and regional level for increased networking, focused training, and collaborative work to address challenges unique to each community. Over the years, we have operated TAN hubs through our United Ways of Bristol, Clinch Powell Valley, East Tennessee Highlands, Greater Chattanooga, Greater Kingsport, Greater Knoxville, Greater Nashville, Mid-South, Ocoee Region, Rutherford and Cannon Counties, and West TN. These hubs have focused on deep work in a variety of areas, including reading, substance use prevention, STEM, career exploration, social/emotional learning, program evaluation, and more.

TAN also directly runs some additional statewide initiatives for the out-of-school-time field in collaboration with TAN hubs and leadership from key partners, such as Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, NAZA, Volunteer TN, Shades of Development, Parks and Recreation, Save the Children, TN state agencies, and beyond. Two examples are Fit Foundations, a healthy lifestyle initiative for children and youth, and our Voter Registration Campaign for high school seniors.



SOME OF TAN'S OTHER AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE INITIATIVES AND THEIR OUTCOMES INCLUDE:

AFTERSCHOOL HEALS TENNESSEE

Tennessee's opioid crisis (and other substance abuse in our state) is having a devastating impact on our children and youth. From babies being born with neonatal abstinence syndrome, surges in foster care youth because of caregivers fallen to opioids, or increases in teens abusing prescription pain killers, the crisis is being felt across the state.

The resources provided by TAN through its Afterschool Heals Tennessee initiative are evidence-based practices, curriculum and other tools that help out-of-school-time programs be intentional and effective about:

- preventing drug misuse
- building resiliency
- understanding and responding to ACES (adverse childhood experiences)
- employing trauma informed care practices where needed
- employing social/emotional learning strategies

TAN has provided training and tool kits for free to 1,800 program providers, and we continue to make this work a priority.



United Ways of Tennessee is grateful to the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation for its generous support of the Tennessee Afterschool Network.

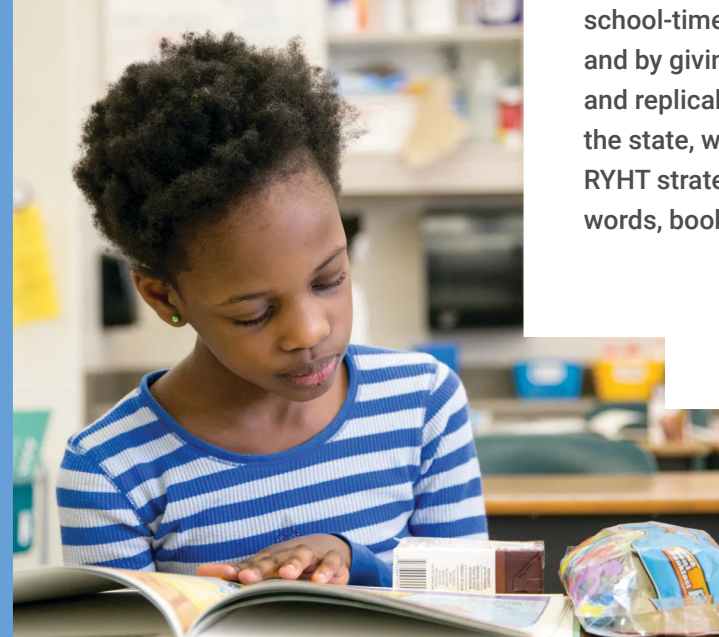
AFTERSCHOOL SERVES TENNESSEE

From its inception, TAN has integrated service and service-learning as key strategies to engage students in afterschool programming. Our service/service-learning work, under the umbrella of our Afterschool Serves Tennessee initiative, is aligned with STEM learning and career exploration. Student outcomes include character development, 21st century skills, substance mis-use prevention, academic achievement, social emotional health, and youth leadership. With youth-designed projects, we are building civically minded citizens for the future of our state, while improving academics and career pathways.

TAN trains program providers who facilitate both service learning and Learning Blade's career exploration modules, which are tied to our state's academic standards (completion of modules counts as mastery of standards). Modules present hypothetical challenges students must solve, while

learning about the contributions of different professions. These hypothetical challenges serve as catalysts for students to create related projects they can do to target similar problems at the local level, all while re-enforcing their learning and interest in STEM careers. Youth have built community gardens, tutored seniors in digital literacy, and produced public educational campaigns on a wide range of topics.

During 2024, we are implementing 10 service-learning projects focused on agriculture science and careers, and students will design projects to address food insecurity in their communities. We are also implementing a youth advisory council this year with representation from diverse populations as well as urban, suburban, and rural communities, so that youth voice and leadership drive our work in service and in STEM.



Afterschool Serves Tennessee has provided sub-grants and/or training in Learning Blade and service-learning to more than 300 programs across the state. This past summer alone, more than 35,000 students in out-of-school-time programs in TN mastered more than 200,000 instructional hours and had a 71% increase in social emotional learning scores.

RAISE YOUR HAND TENNESSEE

Raise Your Hand Tennessee (RYHT) is a statewide literacy initiative run by UWTN and TAN to support students struggling to read on grade-level. Since inception in 2017, RYHT has provided more than 35,000 students with more than 200,000 hours of instruction. By training out-of-school-time programs in best practices and by giving them curricula, books, tools, and replicable models from pilots across the state, we are having significant wins! RYHT strategies include coaching on sight words, book clubs and challenges, book

give-away programs, reading and writing camps, and most importantly, recruiting and placing volunteers to read, tutor and mentor students in afterschool programming (and even virtually in many locations, especially during the pandemic).

We are grateful for the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, which has provided significant funding for this work over time!



While communities across the state use different assessments of reading proficiency, RYHT has produced measurable, significant improvements in grades, AIMS web, MAP Reading Assessment, sight word recognition, Write Brain, and DIBELS, year after year. Across our counties in Tennessee, those outcomes for students have repeatedly ranged from 33% to 94% in improvement across each of these scores and evaluations.

United Way and TAN are grateful for partnership and support from Volunteer Tennessee, National Youth Leadership Council, and Learning Blade.



MILLION GIRLS MOONSHOT



With support from the STEMNext Opportunity Fund, TAN is proud to be the statewide leader promoting the Million Girls Moonshot across Tennessee. This national initiative seeks to re-imagine who can engineer, who can build, who can make. It inspires and prepares the next generation of innovators, with emphasis on girls, rural students, and other populations that often do not have equal access and encouragement to pursue STEM learning opportunities. We are closing gaps by delivering innovative and inclusive content for students at the state and TAN hub level, and by equipping programs to inspire ALL in STEM learning.



United Way of Greater Nashville

This United Way and TAN hub recruited volunteer tutors and served 995 students in 27 schools, increasing reading skills by 88%.

UNITED FOR DIGITAL ACCESS

While every United Way in Tennessee has a long history of supporting and delivering services to support older Tennesseans, during the pandemic, with Tennesseans isolated at home, online access for this population specifically became more important than ever. UWTN responded by expanding internet access, providing hot spots, and distributing devices and online platform licenses for telemedicine and case management services. We also increased our digital literacy training for many vulnerable populations, including older Tennesseans.

United for Digital Access was developed to leverage our existing programs, partnerships, and expertise to increase access to social and health supports specifically for older people through digital literacy and access to devices. Working with our many partners, this initiative helps older Tennesseans use technology to reduce their social isolation and improve their health and well-being. It includes providing digital learning and technical support resources, as well as internet-ready devices, and a special engagement of youth and other topic experts as volunteer technology mentors.

In 2024, this work will include three summits: one for older Tennesseans by bankers on protections to avoid financial abuse; a second for youth-serving programs on engaging students in service to support digital literacy; and a third for organizations serving older Tennesseans to share best practices and local challenges in order to replicate effective strategies and continue to fill service gaps.

We are proud of our work to-date, since the launch of United for Digital Access in August of 2022. Since inception, this initiative has served 1866 people over 60. A total of 33 youth has already been engaged to serve as mentors providing more than 260 hours of support, and 8 bankers have provided more than 20 hours of training on financial cyber-safety. More than 500 accessed Tennessee Benefit Kitchen to screen and apply for eligible benefits and tax credits during our first year of operation, as well, and all served were educated about 211 as a resource via phone or internet for any social, health, or human service needs. In satisfaction surveys, more than 92% of older Tennesseans served reported increased digital literacy skills and confidence, expanded knowledge of internet safety and cyber security, and greater ability to utilize devices and internet platforms to connect with family and friends.

United for Digital Access is successful because it enables local United Ways to customize efforts based on the population's needs and service gaps in those communities. During our first year of operation, 7 local United Ways served older Tennesseans in 16 counties. Below are profiles spotlighting some of this work:



UNITED WAY OF WEST TENNESSEE provided 180 iPad kiosks in 19 senior centers, 19 libraries with senior programming, and a handful of retirement homes across their region. These had pre-loaded information from 211 and Tennessee Benefit Kitchen, so participants could easily find information on food, housing, health and mental health services, utility assistance, affordable internet, and beyond. They trained staff at each facility so they could teach older Tennesseans how to utilize the kiosks. They note that their efforts were a success because so many older people live in rural areas with limited services and do not have the funds to purchase devices or access the internet. These kiosks will continue to serve hundreds of people each year going forward.

UNITED WAY OF THE MID-SOUTH first convened local Aging Commission leaders to identify needs and gaps, and their staff as well as Meritan provided training classes. They were pleased to reach older citizens in all their counties, and especially in Lauderdale County where there were no services that existed prior. They believe their participants are confident and will use technology more to connect with family and friends and to access health and human services.

UNITED WAY OF HAWKINS COUNTY partnered with local food pantries and senior residences to target older Tennesseans who are home bound, delivering devices and instructions to ensure easy access, cyber security, and reduced isolation.

UNITED WAY OF BRISTOL provided training sessions to older Tennesseans and also partnered with their local school system to support and train grandparents raising grandchildren.

UNITED WAY OF GREATER KINGSPORT collaborated with community partners to offer monthly learning opportunities for older Tennesseans. In addition to program providers, they partnered with two low-income housing providers and one library to improve offerings for residents and patrons by equipping each of them with a smart TV and computer. They also utilized youth from the local Boys and Girls Clubs to mentor and train some participants, and they partnered with Kingsport City Schools to support and train grandparents raising grandchildren.

UNITED WAY OF THE CLINCH POWELL VALLEY provided devices for low-income people 60 and older, as well as training on device use, financial safety, social media, avoiding scammers and viruses, troubleshooting, and continued use. They also engaged Oak Ridge Youth Leadership teen volunteers to support and mentor participants. The latter was especially wonderful, as older participants loved the interaction, and youth developed confidence and a sense of civic responsibility.

UNITED WAY OF RHEA COUNTY supported partners delivering training in their community, providing a new projector, projector screen, advertising for classes in local publications, graduation ceremonies (diplomas and food), and supplies (notepads, folders, copies). Training topics included use of Google apps, cybersecurity, health and financial tools, and continuing education, with all participants receiving a Chromebook once the 15-hour course was complete.

We are grateful to West End Home Foundation, Spectrum and Verizon for their support of United for Digital Access, and we look forward to expanding the population and geographic service coverage statewide!



West End Home
FOUNDATION

UNITED WE HEAL

The impact of Tennessee’s opioid crisis is having a devastating impact on families, government, law enforcement, and employers. From babies being born with neonatal abstinence syndrome, caregivers and veterans fallen to opioids, increases in suicides and opioid related deaths, or the entrenchment of pill mills in our communities, the opioid crisis is being felt by everyone across the state.

United We Heal Tennessee, launched in 2018, is our statewide response to the opioid crisis, compassionately helping those currently in need while proactively addressing the roots of the problem. With United We Heal Tennessee, we employ resources to encourage access to treatment, to build protective factors for children and youth, and to expand the role schools and community-based organizations can play in prevention and helping families recover.

We believe it’s critical to take a comprehensive approach that includes compassionately aiding those currently in need while proactively identifying and addressing causal factors. This includes: (1) interventions and support for those suffering or recovering from opioid use, and (2) education and preventive interventions for children, youth, and their families.

Through our local United Ways and strong partnerships with afterschool programs through the TN Afterschool Network (Afterschool Heals Tennessee), as well as schools, nonprofits, government, and businesses, we are taking many proven practices statewide: drug take-back events; corporate assistance, summits, toolkits and support; public education; anti-stigma campaigns; tools for seniors on storing and disposing of medications; training in ACES (adverse childhood experiences) and trauma-informed care; as well as preventive interventions and social and emotional support for children and youth.

UWTN is thankful for The Cencora Impact Foundation (formerly the AmerisourceBergen Foundation), which provided the initial start-up funding for United We Heal.



SOME OUTCOMES FOR UNITED WE HEAL SINCE ITS INCEPTION INCLUDE:

10,000+ INDIVIDUALS DIRECTLY IMPACTED

40,000+

INDIVIDUALS INDIRECTLY IMPACTED

CORPORATIONS REACHED WITH COMMUNICATIONS **1,022**

PRINTED MATERIALS CIRCULATED **3,000+**

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS EDUCATING THE PUBLIC **35,000+**

CORPORATE & NONPROFIT LEADER PARTICIPATING IN REGIONAL SUMMITS **400+**

20,000+ POUNDS OF MEDICATIONS AND VAPING EQUIPMENT DESTROYED



UWTN MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

United Ways of Sumner County and Greater Kingsport

During 2023, **United Way of Sumner County** ensured that 9,257 students participated in prevention programs to reduce bullying, drug and alcohol addiction, and suicide.

AveNew, **United Way of Greater Kingsport’s** drug education and prevention initiative, reached more than 9,200 people with community events that carried the message that “Prevention is Possible,” “You are Not Alone,” and “Recovery is Real.”

UWTN MEMBERSHIP: FIND YOUR UNITED WAY

United Ways of Tennessee works to maximize the capacity and effectiveness of local United Ways across our state, providing training, grant funding, networking and other supports. We are grateful for their collaborative spirit and proud of their work at the local level. Our members cover every zip code in the state. If you need assistance identifying your local United Way, you can call 211 or link here: [Your Local UW | United Ways of Tennessee](#) (uwtn.org) and you can learn more about them below.

UNITED WAY OF BENTON COUNTY

[unitedwaybenton.org](#)

United Way of Benton County brings together people and resources to build a safety net to help meet the needs of our friends, neighbors, co-workers, and families.

UNITED WAY OF BLOUNT COUNTY

[unitedwayblount.org](#)

At United Way of Blount County, we support organizations that help Blount County's most vulnerable through programs that create a healthy, well-educated, and self-sufficient community. We surround Blount County's most critical problems, and we fight - together. Now more than ever, change does not happen alone. It takes energy, expertise and community support to change lives, and we feel honored to combine these efforts to harness good for those most vulnerable in Blount County.

UNITED WAY OF BRISTOL, TN-VA

[unitedwaybristol.org](#)

The United Way of Bristol is committed to ensuring that our financial and human resources are invested to have the greatest impact on the lives of people in the Bristol area. We invest in direct services through programs along with more targeted collaborative grants to help build bridges between people in need in our community and the programs and initiatives that can help them.

UNITED WAY OF THE CLINCH POWELL VALLEY

[uwayac.org](#)

United Way of Clinch Powell Valley is working to create positive change in our four-county service area. We fund more than 50 local agencies and programs in three major focus areas: Youth Development, Self-Sufficiency, and Health & Human Services. These areas encompass the unique and critical needs in our counties and communities.

UNITED WAY OF THE EAST TENNESSEE HIGHLANDS

[unitedwayetnh.org](#)

United Way of East TN Highlands is on a mission to break the cycle of poverty by UNITING people and resources to strengthen the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our community. We support over 40 local nonprofit programs that impact thousands of families across Washington, Carter, Johnson, and Southern Sullivan Counties of Northeast TN. Our vision is to be a community UNITED to empower every person and organization to reach their full potential and achieve more.

UNITED WAY OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

[uwfctn.org](#)

United Way of Franklin County unites people and resources to build a strong community network focused on improving the quality of life by effectively addressing the health, social services and educational needs of the people of Franklin County.

UNITED WAY OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA

[unitedwaycha.org](#)

United Way builds stronger communities in Greater Chattanooga by increasing access to better education, health, and stability.

UNITED WAY OF THE GREATER CLARKSVILLE REGION

[liveunitedclarksville.org](#)

United Way of the Greater Clarksville Region is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports 23 local health and human services agencies that encompass over 30 programs in the Montgomery, Houston, and Stewart County, Tennessee areas. Our mission is to fight for the health, education, and financial stability of the community in which we live, work, and play.

UNITED WAY OF GREATER KINGSPORT

[uwaykpt.org](#)

United Way of Greater Kingsport fights to improve 1,400 lives every day by tackling early grade literacy, breaking the cycle of poverty, confronting access to effective health care, supporting the needs of our senior citizens, and battling the opioid addiction in our region. UWGK supports 40 programs housed at 29 different member agencies working in the areas of Education, Income, Health, and Seniors, because these are the building blocks for a good quality of life.

UNITED WAY OF GREATER KNOXVILLE

[uwgk.org](#)

United Way of Greater Knoxville mobilizes the caring power of our community to break the cycle of poverty and enrich the lives of every person we touch. We address the root causes of inequity and fight to create a brighter Knoxville for our neighbors and for generations to come.

UNITED WAY OF GREATER NASHVILLE

[unitedwaygreaternashville.org](#)

United Way of Greater Nashville envisions a community in which every person—no matter their background, their circumstances, or their zip code—has an equal chance at a bright future. We do this by bringing individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and government decision makers together to have tough conversations, mobilize the resources and make smart investments, so that every family in our community thrives. Together, we work to break the cycle of poverty; to give kids an equal chance to learn and succeed; to meet our neighbors' basic needs, and to build strong, healthy communities.

UNITED WAY OF GREENE COUNTY

[unitedwayofgreenecounty.com](#)

United Way of Greene County brings people together to build a community that values our COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

UNITED WAY OF HAMBLEN COUNTY

[unitedwayhamblen.org](#)

The United Way of Hamblen County unites people and resources in order to build a stronger and healthier community through its 20 partner agencies.

UNITED WAY OF HAWKINS COUNTY

[unitedwayofhawkinscounty.com](#)

The United Way of Hawkins County is an organization that helps provide assistance to agencies in our community which provide health, character building, family resources and other essential programs in the Hawkins County, Tennessee area.

UNITED WAY OF HIGHWAY 55

[highway55unitedway.org](#)

United Way of Highway 55 is here to serve the citizens of Coffee, Moore, and Warren Counties. At United Way, we believe that all our neighbors deserve the chance to build a successful life for themselves right here at home. We work to increase access to education, income, health, and basic essentials for all our neighbors.

UWTN MEMBERSHIP: FIND YOUR UNITED WAY

UNITED WAY OF HUMPHREYS COUNTY

unitedwayhumphreys.org

United Way of Humphreys County has been working for over 20 years to improve the quality of life for our residents here in Humphreys County. Along with workplace campaigns and our annual radio auction, we also support the TN Scholars program and work our local "Stuff the Bus" initiative each year. We are expanding our community impact through new programs and partnerships daily.

UNITED WAY OF LOUDON COUNTY

unitedwayloudoncounty.org

Through the caring power of our entire community working together, we invest in innovative solutions, convene the right partnerships, and mobilize the best resources to fight our most serious social issues. We help individuals have access to healthcare, provide children and adults with education and life skills, and ensure basic needs and emergency services are available when needed. We realize that we are all connected and interdependent and that we all win when a child succeeds in school, when families are financially stable, and when our neighbors are healthy. We unite to drive measurable, lasting impact for the well-being of every person in Loudon County.

UNITED WAY OF MAURY COUNTY

unitedwayofmaurycounty.com

The United Way of Maury County's mission is to improve people's lives by mobilizing the caring power of the community. We work to advance the common good in these key areas: Financial Stability, Caring for People in Crisis, Empowering Families, Helping Our Kids Grow, and Promoting Health and Well-Being.

UNITED WAY OF MCMINN & MEIGS COUNTIES

uwmcminn-meigs.com

United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties mission is to unite our community's resources to give everyone the opportunity for a good quality of life, through EDUCATION, STABILITY IN THE HOME, & GOOD HEALTH. We identify the most pressing needs in our community and support programs that provide services to help people succeed. We provide funding for 16 partner agencies in our communities that are evaluated by community volunteers of all backgrounds to make sure their programs are making a positive, long-term impact on those they serve.

UNITED WAY OF THE MID-SOUTH

uwmidsouth.org

Since 1923, the United Way of the Mid-South has brought the time, talents, and treasures of citizens together so individuals and families in need can enjoy a better quality of life. We do this by being the leading catalyst in stimulating support and services for individuals and families as they progress from poverty to prosperity. Our mission is clear, to improve the quality of life for Mid-Southerners by mobilizing and aligning community resources to address poverty. We strive to advance people from where they are, to where they dream to be by providing access to a better quality of life.

UNITED WAY OF MONROE COUNTY

myunitedwaymonroecounty.org

United Way of Monroe County distributes monetary assistance to sixteen local agencies and programs, which in turn assist with rent, utilities, money for medicine, transportation to cancer treatments, home repairs, and more. Our goal is to improve lives by advancing opportunities for education, health, and financial stability for all. We bring people and organizations together to do more together than any of us can do on our own. Your gift makes a difference in so many people's lives.

UNITED WAY OF THE OCOEE REGION

unitedwayocee.org

United Way of the Ocoee Region fights to break the cycles of poverty. By identifying needs and bringing stakeholders together to address the crisis and chronic issues our community faces, we find solutions to poverty related issues in education, health, and stability to positively impact our community and surrounding area.

UNITED WAY OF RHEA COUNTY

rheaunitedway.org

The United Way of Rhea County actively focuses on ensuring that every person within Rhea County is supported as they seek to better themselves and their lives. We currently support 16 agencies that provide life-enhancing projects in Rhea County in the areas of childhood and adult education, domestic violence, and helping individuals achieve financial stability.

UNITED WAY OF ROANE COUNTY

unitedwayroane.org

At Roane County United Way, we envision a world in which all individuals have the opportunity to become healthy, educated, and self-sufficient to their fullest potential. Partnering with service organizations, leaders, and volunteers, we help to find solutions to the most critical issues in our communities. Strong communities are the lifeline to better living for us all!

UNITED WAY OF RUTHERFORD AND CANNON COUNTIES

yourlocaluw.org

United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties is fighting for a community where every person - no matter their background, their abilities, or their zip code - has an equal chance at a bright future. We fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our community. Why? Because we know that change begins when we LIVE UNITED, and that building a better tomorrow starts today.

UNITED WAY OF SEVIER COUNTY

uwosc.org

United Way of Sevier County unites people and resources in building a stronger, healthier, safer community that will have a lasting impact on improving people's lives.

UNITED WAY OF SUMNER COUNTY

unitedwaysumner.org

Since 1977, United Way of Sumner County has been mobilizing the caring spirit of our community to create a positive impact on the lives of others. Working with individuals, businesses, and partner organizations, we work every day to improve the education, health, and financial stability of every person in Sumner County.

UNITED WAY OF WEST TENNESSEE

uwwt.org

United Way of West Tennessee advocates for equity through Uniting agencies in ways that improve each person's access to health, education, and financial stability. Our extensive footprint allows us to collaborate with over 50 area nonprofits spanning 15 counties across the West Tennessee region. By helping them acquire resources, we empower them to assist those in need within their local area.

UNITED WAY OF WILSON COUNTY AND THE UPPER CUMBERLAND

unitedwaywilson-uppercumberland.org

United Way of Wilson County and the Upper Cumberland helps people over our entire 13 county service area with issues such as hunger, senior care and involvement, homelessness, and early education.



    uwtn.org

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United Ways
of Tennessee