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UNITED WAY

OF BLOUNT

C O U N T Y

A N N U A L

R E P O R T



DEAR FRIENDS,

As we reflect on this past year, we are in awe of the grace and resiliency of our community. As many people continue to face challenges related to the pandemic - coupled with the highest rate of inflation we've seen in decades - the demand for services from our nonprofit community partners has grown. And through it all, United Way of Blount County has kept hope at the forefront of our minds and impact.

Create hope.

Again and again, we see Blount County coming together. As individuals, and as leaders in business, government, nonprofit, and the community, we step up. We are on the same team - the team that is working hard to create the hope that more than 24,000 people in our community need. You participated in trainings, you donated to our campaign, you attended special events, you led fundraising committees, and you shared our stories of impact to your friends and neighbors. We are so grateful for the foundation of hope you created.

Provide hope.

In a true testament to the giving and caring spirit that runs deep in Blount County, we made history and raised a record \$2,191,577 by Victory. We are so grateful for Adriel and Nichole McCord for leading such a monumental campaign for the health, education and self-sufficiency of our most vulnerable population. Because of you, so much is possible -- youth empowerment, mental healthcare, domestic violence support, utility assistance, life-saving transportation, and so much more. We focus on our mission to unite people and resources to build a stronger, healthier and more accessible community for the benefit of all. And we can't go without mentioning our 26 community partner agencies who are the true miracle workers, providing hope through necessary services each day.

Sustain hope.

You've helped us create hope and provide hope, so how do we sustain it? In our continued effort to prioritize transparency and accountability to our community, we formed a strategic planning committee, led by Chris Soro, to re-evaluate goals for United Way of Blount County and develop a plan to achieve them. This will allow us to sustain our foundation of hope for many years to come. We look forward to implementing and following our new strategic plan early this year.

Be sure to check out this annual report to see how you've helped sprinkle so much hope into everything we've accomplished. In 2023, we will continue to create, provide and sustain the hope that every person in Blount County needs and deserves!

Sincerely,

Regina Jennings

2022 Board Chair

senhefer wackerhagen

Jennifer Wackerhagen President & CEO





ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

Our success is determined

by how well we achieve our mission - to make measurable improvements in people's lives



and in the community we serve. Setting high standards for ourselves and for our funded partners is critical to that success. We take our role as a community leader and philanthropic organization very seriously. Our promise is to serve as an effective and efficient steward of our donors' trust and their contributions.

From 2012-2022, United Way of Blount County has received the highest 4-star rating for exceptional transparency and accountability from Charity Navigator.

Executive Committee

Regina Jennings, Pinnacle Financial Partners *Chair*

Bob Booker, DENSO

Past Chair

Chris Soro, C2RL, Inc.

Chair Elect

Kurt Wilkerson, Clayton

Secretary/Treasurer

Allison Williamson, City of Alcoa

Community Impact Chair

Adriel McCord, First Horizon

Campaign Chair

Caitlin Darras, Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority

Director at Large

Alex Willard, LeConte Wealth Management, LLC *Director at Large*

Members of the Board

Jennifer Coffin, SMARTBANK

Amy Cowden, BLOUNT COUNTY MAYOR'S OFFICE

Ann Drake, REALTY EXECUTIVES ASSOCIATES

Keith Edmonds, PINNACLE FINANCIAL PARTNERS

Rosemary Garland, ARCONIC

Ryan Goddard, KIZER & BLACK ATTORNEYS, PLLC

Kim Golly, SHANNONDALE

Jane Groff, CITY OF MARYVILLE

Jeff Ingle, MARYVILLE COLLEGE

Andrea Pope, SERVPRO OF BLOUNT COUNTY

Katie Powers, BLACKBERRY FARM

Christi Sayles, PINKSTAFF, SIMPSON, & HEADRICK, PC

Deb Skyler, MARYVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

Abhijit "AV" Verekar, AVERO ADVISORS

Susan Zerambo, CBBC BANK

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"I want you to know that we have made history. YOU have made history. This is the highest amount ever raised by Victory."

-Regina Jennings, Board Chair





NEW MEMBERS OF THE PILLARS SOCIETY \$73,646 (\$1,000+)

\$8,440 IN NEW CORPORATE GIVING After leading a 12-week fundraising campaign for United Way of Blount County, Adriel and Nichole McCord and their cabinet raised \$2,191,577 for the most vulnerable population in our community, breaking a record! These funds support 26 partner agencies and 40 local programs, preparing children for

success, helping families keep utilities on in their home, and so much more. Your gift truly makes an impact.



Champions

United Way Champions are a select group of volunteers, chosen based on their motivation and desire to be involved and give back to our community. This dedicated group is a key component to the campaign. Over the course of the year they engage and learn about our partner agencies, communicate with the business community, work closely with campaign coordinators, serve as advocates for United Way, and they even came

in fourth place for tip

event!

collection at our Gas Day

Meagan Byrd, CBBC BANK

Katie Connatser, AVERO ADVISORS

Dale Cunningham, DENSO

Kristen Diamond,

PINNACLE FINANCÍAL PARTNERS

Caty Fox. FIRST HORIZON

Stacy Martin, ARCONIC

Wes McNeillie.

LECONTE WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC

Teresa Nichols, FIRST HORIZON

Lindsey Plyler, STATE FARM

Justin Small,

TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Amy Tankersley, TULA BLU EVENTS

Janie Wallace, COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

Jennifer Wilson, BLOUNT PARTNERSHIP

Co-chairs

Donnelle Curran, SIMMONS BANK **Chuck Morrow,** LAFORCE INSURANCE AGENCY



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Top 50 Most Generous Workplaces

United Way of Blount County's 2023 Most Generous Workplaces is determined by a company's philanthropic contributions to United Way the previous fiscal year. Combined, the top 50 organizations and their employees generously invested to help our local community through United Way of Blount County-supported programs in the areas of health, education and self-sufficiency. Look weekly for our recognition of these outstanding companies.



- 1. Clayton
- 2. Denso Manufacturing Tennessee, Inc.
- 3. Arconic
- 4. CBBC Bank
- 5. First Horizon
- 6. Blount Memorial Hospital
- 7. City of Alcoa

- 8. Twin City Dealerships
- 9. Realty Executives Associates
- 10. Aubrey's Restaurant
- 11. City of Maryville
- 12. Blount County Government
- 13. Gallaher & Associates, Inc.
- 14. Pinnacle Financial Partners
- 15. Renasant Bank
- 16. West Chevrolet
- 17. Blount County Schools
- 18. LeConte Wealth Management, LLC

- 19. Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC
- 20. Impact Associates, Inc.
- 21. Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority
- 22. Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- 23. SmartBank
- 24. Joseph Construction
- 25. Blount Partnership
- 26. LDA Engineering
- 27. The Daily Times
- 28. Visual Voice
- 29. C2RL, Inc.

- 30. Regions Bank
- 31. Maryville City Schools
- **32. PCS, Inc.**
- 33. United Way of Blount County
- 34. Atmos Energy
- 35. Maryville College
- 36. LeConte Realty, LLC
- 37. Alcoa City Schools
- 38. Cate-Russell Insurance, Inc.
- 39. Newell Brands
- 40. Simmons Bank
- 41. StandardAero

- 42. Toyota Tsusho Nexty Electronics
- 43. Kizer & Black, Attorneys, PLLC
- 44. University of Tennessee
- 45. Parks & Recreation Commission
- 46. Smith Funeral & Cremation Service
- 47. McNabb Center
- 48. WATE-TV
- **49. ProNova Solutions**
- 50. ICC International

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Affordable Housing Work

In November 2022, United Way of Blount County hosted a multi-sector discussion at Blount Partnership to address Blount County's growing housing crisis. Ten nonprofits, the City of Alcoa, Blount County Schools, Leadership Blount, Blount Chamber of Commerce, Maryville College and three unaffiliated individuals participated. Prior to the meeting, invitees completed a brief survey eliciting their thoughts on local homelessness and affordable housing. The meeting was structured around the survey results. Discussion touched on continuing aid for the homeless and mechanisms to provide transitional shelter. However, the primary focus was a need for systemic change leading to long-term affordable housing in Blount County. Meetings and working groups will continue into 2023.



Poverty Awareness

The need for poverty awareness and education continues to grow rapidly. Thanks to a grant from Arconic Foundation, we are now able to fulfill the regular requests for Bridges out of Poverty workshops, Poverty Simulations and ALICE Awareness discussions. In 2022, we provided 5 Bridges workshops, 3 Poverty Simulations, and 12 ALICE Presentations.

- Poverty Simulations held in 2022
 - Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee
 - Leadership Blount
 - Heritage High School

Bridges Workshops held in 2022

- DENSO
- Monte Vista Baptist Church
- Maryville College
- Community



Contact our office at 865-982-2251 ext. 15 if you'd like to schedule a poverty education opportunity.

ATEADVOCATEAD

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access

United Way of Blount County, with support from area nonprofit partners, recognizes that people in our community are not always equitably receiving needed services in the areas of health, education, and self-sufficiency.

In 2022, Prosper & Partners facilitated four work sessions with the United Way of Blount County staff around inclusion, diversity, equity, and access (IDEA) as guiding principles for our organization, which was made possible by an equity advancement grant from United Way Worldwide. The work included self-exploration and assessment using the P&P Social Justice Personnel Index (SJPI) as well as leadership development and strategic planning in order to craft a vision and identify goals and performance indicators for progress.

UWBC staff developed the following IDEA statement:

To support the most vulnerable in Blount County,
we are committed to advancing inclusion, diversity,
equity, and access in everything we do. We
advocate for the intrinsic worth of everyone through
educating, leading, partnering, and accountability.



Continued goals for this work focus on supporting our nonprofit partners as they assess their services and the barriers that may prevent all people from accessing care they need.

RVOUNIER

Volunteer Blount

Volunteer Blount, our comprehensive volunteer database for Blount County, is now in its second year! Local agencies post their volunteer opportunities, special events and corporate engagement **VOLUNTEER** activities online in hopes of increasing



BLOUNT

the variety of ways for locals to get involved. Our goal is to engage volunteers, give users an enjoyable experience, build lasting relationships and make good things happen for Blount County.

This platform includes opportunities from our current community partners, as well as several other local nonprofit organizations, bringing our entire community together to



make Blount County a better place to live, work and play. Volunteers are truly the heart of our community.

SERVE Days

After a 2 year hiatus, SERVE days were brought back in 2022. SERVE (Students Engaged in Rewarding Volunteer Experiences) is a continued partnership with Coulter Grove Intermediate School and Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School that began in 2016.

More than 400 6th and 7th grade students participated in various service projects at local nonprofit organizations. Students sorted donated clothing, packed meals for food distribution. visited with seniors in



assisted living facilities, and much more!

CLS Clubs (Connect. Lead. Serve.)

Three CLS Clubs (Community, DENSO and Clayton) allocated \$5,000 grants to the following organizations:

Community: Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee for its Food for Kids Program

DENSO: New Hope Children's Advocacy Center for its Therapy Program

Clayton: A Place to Stay for its Neighbor Mentorship Program

CLS members also participated in service projects at Blount County Community Action Agency Meals on Wheels, Isaiah 117 House and Family Promise of Blount County. They assisted with Christmas projects, including gifts for seniors, children

and people experiencing homelessness.



VOLUNTEER.UNITEDWAYBLOUNT.ORG

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Beyond all the outreach work listed in this report, United Way of Blount County has awarded the following grants to make impact in the areas of health, education and self-sufficiency in our community:

Community Partner Grants

- **\$1,201,090** in grants
- 40 funded programs
- 24,139 lives impacted

Discretionary Grants

- **\$78,500** in grants
- 5 funded programs
- 914 lives impacted

Tippitt Literacy Fund

- **\$43,214** in grants
- 6 funded programs
- 9,928 lives impacted

Mini Grants

- **\$15,000** in grants
- 3 funded programs
- 1,361 lives impacted

Connect United Grant Support

- \$1,000 in grants
- 2 funded needs

Community Partners

A Place to Stay
Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Tennessee
Blount County Community Action Agency
Blount County Habitat for Humanity
Boys & Girls Clubs of Blount County
CASA of the Tennessee Heartland
Compassion Counseling

East Tennessee Children's Hospital Rehabilitation Center East Tennessee Kidney Foundation Epilepsy Foundation of East Tennessee Family Promise of Blount County The Florence Crittenton Agency Gate - Gateway to Independence Girls Inc. of TN Valley Good Neighbors of Blount County Great Smoky Mountain Council, BSA Haven House, Inc. The Hearing & Speech Foundation Legal Aid of East Tennessee

Maryville Kiwanis Foundation – Imagination Library

LTVEC Birth to Three Program

McNabb Center
New Hope Children's Advocacy Center
Second Harvest Food Bank
of East Tennessee
Senior Citizens Home
Assistance Service, Inc.

A STORY OF HOPE

Heather Fraze struggled with cluster migraines. In a search for relief from the headaches, she became addicted to opiates, eventually leading to 19 years of

drug abuse. The addiction damaged her teeth so badly that she was embarrassed to go out in public. Funding from UWBC allowed her to receive life-changing dental care at Trinity Dental Clinic, equipping her with a brand new smile and the confidence to go along with it.

"I am meant to be the person that I am now," she said. "I'm not defined by who I was or the mistakes that I made. If it wasn't for you, I don't know if I could have come out of that slump."



COVID-19 Response Fund

Trinity Health Ministries, Inc.

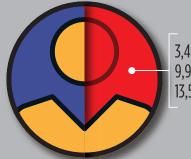
"Calls related to Covid needs come in waves. Landlords are no longer allowing their tenants to get behind even a full month and working with them seems more urgent. Even though we are better protected from the virus, if one member of the household gets sick (even children) it does require the entire household to be on alert and sometimes quarantine. In these cases no one is able to work. For our neighbors living on the edge, this is devastating." - Good Neighbors of Blount County

United Way of Blount County granted out \$45,000 in 2022 for Covid relief in the areas of rent, utility assistance and food.

ALICEALICE

ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED

50% of Blount County children below ALICE Threshold as of 2019



3,469 POVERTY
9,916 ALICE
13,513 ABOVE ALICE



46% of children in renter households below the ALICE Threshold in Tennessee were rent burdened (compared to 2% of children in renter households above the Threshold)



48% of people with disabilities in Blount County below ALICE Threshold as of 2019
4,537 Poverty | 5,988 ALICE | 11,505 Above ALICE



33% of Veterans in Blount County below ALICE Threshold as of 2019
969 Poverty | 1,771 ALICE | 5,455 Above ALICE

45%

of Blount County households live as ALICE or in poverty.



The median household income in Blount County is

\$60,301





of households led by someone under 25 years old live below ALICE Threshold.





One household Three households is living in are living as ALICE. poverty.

Four households are living above the ALICE Threshold.

67%

of black and hispanic households live below ALICE Threshold

50%

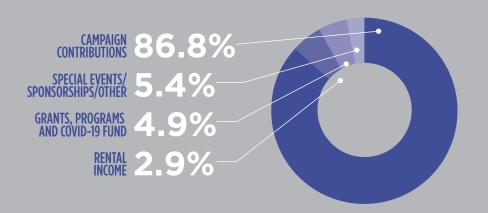
of senior households live below ALICE Threshold

2022 FINANCIALS

Revenue

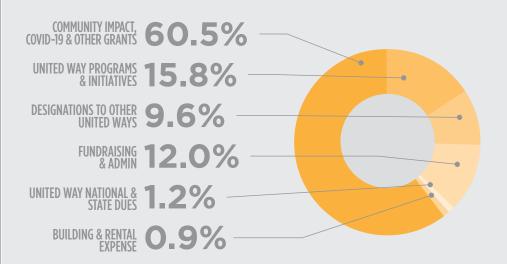
Campaign Contributions	2,032,539
Special Events	94,717
Grants & Program Income	69,637
Rental Income	68,250
Meeting & Media Sponsors	27,775
COVID-19 Response Fund Gifts	20,000
Carryover from COVID-19 Response Fund	25,000
Interest	3,309
Miscellaneous	619
Total Revenue	\$2,341,846

*The financials represented here are before audit. United Way of Blount County is dedicated to transparency. Find the most current annual audited financials at www.unitedwayblount.org/about-us/#accountability



Expenses

Community Impact Grants	1,292,496
Program Expenses	353,389
Designations to Other United Ways	215,817
COVID-19 Response Fund Grants	45,000
CLS Club Grants	15,000
Fundraising Expenses	156,888
Management & General Expenses	111,203
United Way National & State Dues	27,090
Building Maintenance Expense	12,000
Rental Expenses	9,011
Total Expenses	\$2,237,894
Change in Net Assets	\$103,952
Board Restricted for Program Work in 2023	(91,226)
Net Income	\$12,726





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Wendy Wand, VICE PRESIDENT

www.unitedwayblount.org







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