United Way of the Big Bend (UWBB) has been serving our community since 1943. We are the area's only nonprofit supporting 31 partner agencies and providing funding to help support programs that provide critical services to individuals and families in our region.



To make an impact in our community, we focus on five community outcomes, providing grants in these areas:

- HOUSING Increase access to dependable housing, sustainable utilities, and safe neighborhoods.
- **EARLY LEARNING** Increase families' access to steady, affordable, and high-quality care and education.
- (1) SAFETY NET Provide consistent safety net services during times of financial stress.
- () HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH Provide affordable health and mental health resources.
- SKILLS DEVELOPMENT Promote educational attainment and development of necessary skills to meet future employment needs and secure self-sustaining jobs.

If you choose to partner with us, we work on partnerships in any of these four ways:

- Corporate Donation or Sponsorship Opportunity A donation made on behalf of the company, or the company matches what employees give. Sponsorship opportunities vary based on areas of interest.
- Workplace Giving Campaign Nominate an Employee Campaign Champion (ECC). Present employees with information about United Way. We are happy to come give a brief presentation and will invite a partner agency to also participate if desired. Employees may choose to give through payroll deduction, cash, check, or invoice.
- **Special Events** We work with your HR department and provide a resource guide to help plan activities that focus on fun team building opportunities. Funds raised benefit the United Way.
 - **Volunteering** We have many ways you or your staff members can get involved:
 - **MathPals** and **ReadingPals** support struggling learners through a mentorship program, where children learn skills through fun games and activities.
 - Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides free income tax preparation by IRScertified volunteers during tax season.
 - **Reality Store** an interactive program that teaches financial literacy skills to middle and high school students, focusing on the importance of financial and career planning.
 - Women United an active group of women leadership givers focused on early education.
 - Loaned Executives serve as ambassadors for United Way during the campaign season.
 - Emerging Leaders United a community engagement and networking group for professionals under the age of 40.
 - Community Investment Team community volunteers who help to allocate funds raised.
 - County Campaign Team Member community volunteers tasked with fundraising in their county.
 - Day of Doing a special customized team building opportunity for you and your staff.





GET INVOLVED, CHANGE A LIFE FOREVER











EDUCATION



ReadingPals is a statewide early literacy initiative that provides volunteer mentors for students from Pre-k to 3rd grade who may need extra help. Mentors are matched one-to-one with students in Pre-K through third grade.



MATHPals, a mentoring program for kindergarten through third grade students, creates a creative and encouraging environment for learning math by matching caring mentors one-to-one with students who are in need of extra help developing essential mathematical skills.



Read United is an initiative that provides volunteers an opportunity to share the love of reading with children in our community over a week-long event in early spring and fall each year; each participating 1st Grade classroom at Title I schools & early childcare programs receives a set of books.

FINANCE



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income individuals and families. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

HEALTH



SMILE UNITED, a pediatric dental care initiative, provides beneficial dental services to second & sixth grade students in Title I schools across Leon & Gadsden Counties.



3 FAVORITE WAYS PEOPLE GIVE

COLLABORATION is one of United Way of the Big Bend's core values! Through partnership, our resources reach farther and do more for the community. More than ever, **our area needs your help**. Here are ways businesses like yours make financial contributions for UWBB to allocate to causes that matter most.















For over 81 years, United Way of Big Bend has remained true to its founding goals. We are dedicated to supporting human service agencies in the big bend region, helping those living in the ALICE population and below, and creating collaborative strategies that result in long-lasting, positive change.



WORKPLACE GIVING - Employee campaign coordinators (ECC) lead a short presentation with a UWBB rep or virtually share details about the office's fundraising goals, giving options like payroll deduction, text-to-give and online pledges. This call-to-action kicks off a spirited giving campaign. **PRO TIP:** The most successful campaigns last 2 weeks or less.



SPECIAL EVENTS - In-office or as a field trip, nostalgic activities, spirited challenges, and games build better workplace relationships. Entry fees and ticket sales generate fundraising dollars while prizes/incentives motivate greater participation.



CORPORATE DONATION - A donation made on behalf of the company. Sometimes this is a pre-determined gift. Other times, the amount matches employee giving. **TRENDING:** Business leaders are rewarding employees for their volunteerism with a financial contribution to the organizations they give their time to!

Ready to partner with UWBB? We look forward to building a **partnership** with you and discussing the ways you would like to get involved with United Way. For further information, please visit our website at uwbb.org, email **Philanthropy@uwbb.org** or call **850-414-0858**.





Increase access to dependable housing, sustainable utilities, and safe and local neighborhoods.

LEARNING

Increase families access to steady, affordable, and quality child care and education.

(to include elementary school age and below)



Provide consistent safety net services during times of financial stress to both families and seniors.

MENTAL HEALTH

Provide affordable health and mental health resources.



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Promote educational attainment and develop necessary skills to meet future employment needs and secure self-sustaining jobs.

5 U M E

WHAT WE DO

UNITE

We bring together donors, volunteers, businesses, nonprofits, faith-based, community leaders, government, experts, and those in need to address challenges in our community.

STRATEGIZE

We break each problem down to its root cause, and with our stakeholders, develop research-based, comprehensive strategies to make significant and sustainable progress.

TACKLE

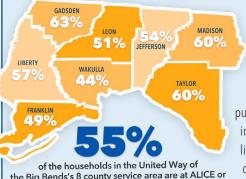
Once the strategies are set, it's time for action. We invest in or create initiatives designed to shrink the ALICE population and those living in poverty.

EVALUATE

We create metrics and continuously evaluate the results of our investments, holding every program partner and initiative accountable to make a significant impact.

UNITED WAY OF THE BIG BEND STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Me have long been the trusted leader in addressing our community's needs but also recognize the importance of staying relevant by keeping up with the ever growing and changing philanthropic landscape.



the Big Bends's 8 county service area are at ALICE or below the Federal Poverty Level.

The most recent United Way of the Big Bend ALICE Report provides a clear yet startling picture of our neighbors struggling to make ends meet and of those living in poverty. ALICE is the acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed - simply put the working poor. On average, **55%** of households in the Big Bend region cannot afford the basic costs of living. This number equates to over **94,310** families or **235,818** individuals are struggling day-to-day in the Big Bend.

Way

United Way of the Big Bend

Our strategic direction positions UWBB to be more effective than ever for identifying and addressing the needs of those living in poverty and the working poor. Our goal is to shrink these populations in the future by focusing our collective resources on Economic Development through Workforce Enablement. This is achieved through the focus of three goals which help this population gain access to basic necessities, achieve economic stability and develop skills to either help gain employment or move up the economic ladder. Under the three goals, we have identified, funding priority outcomes that anchor these goals. They are: Housing, Early Learning (to include elementary age and younger), Safety Net, Skills Development and the addition of **Health and Mental Health** takes into account the impact that the pandemic has on social isolation, depression, access to healthcare and healthcare disparities. United

307 E. Seventh Avenue | Tallahassee, FL 32303 | Ph 850.414.0844 | www. uwbb.org















Get Your Taxes Done for FREE! Get Your FULL Tax Refund with VITA!





The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to low-to moderate-income individuals and families. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

Get one-on-one tax preparation by a Certified Tax Preparer and receive **100%** of your refund. Through VITA, you can quickly and easily get your taxes prepared and electronically filed for **FREE!**

KEEP YOUR CASH! CLAIM YOUR CREDIT!

Through **VITA** you can see if you qualify for special tax credits that may increase your return to help you **keep** more of **what you earned!**



Do you enjoy helping others? Become a VITA volunteer!

VITA is currently looking for volunteers to serve as certified tax preparers for the 2025 tax season. You will receive training from an expert IRS agent and be equipped with the know-how you need to confidently prepare taxes for yourself and fellow community residents. Scheduling is flexible so you can volunteer during a time that is convenient for you!



VOLUNTEER WITH US TODAY!

Help your low-income neighbors and Seniors keep their hard-earned money!





United Way Of the Big Bend 2024-2025 UNITED WAY PROGRAM PARTNERS

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	FUNDED COUNTIES	OUTCOME Areas	
2-1-1 HELPLINE	A 2-1-1 Big Bend program that crosses all five strategic priority impact areas of the UWBB to connect low income and ALICE individuals with service providers. It helps fill service gaps for clients ineligible for help from other agencies.	Gadsden, Leon Madison, Wakulla		
ACCESS TO INDEPENDENCE	A program of The Center for Independent Living dBA Ability 1st , the Access to Independence program helps people under the ALICE threshold with mobility/self-care needs obtain the necessary services, medical equipment, and supplies that allow them to remain safely in their homes.	Gadsden, Leon Madison, Taylor Wakulla	(
BGC (STEM) SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY Engineering Mathematics Pre K -5th Grade	A program of the Boys and Girls Club of North Central Florida Inc. offering a full range of academic learning with a particular emphasis on STEM activities, delivered by a qualified teacher ensuring success through a research-based approach to learning offering lasting learning gains.	Taylor	(3)	
BIG BEND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	A Big Bend Habitat for Humanity, Inc., housing program which funds land acquisition and existing infrastructure improvements to build or renovate affordable houses for low -and moderate-income families. Families are active participants, investing sweat equity and time in home ownership workshops. Also provides training in high demand construction industry skills for youth.	Leon		
BREHON HOUSE	Brehon Institute for Family Services, Inc., a program providing housing, shelter, educational, and support programs for adult homeless, pregnant women and their infants, supporting the birth and care of healthy babies. The residential facility is the only maternity home serving this specific population between Jacksonville and Pensacola. All services are provided free to the women.	Leon	(A)	
CAREER READINESS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING	A program of AMI Kids Tallahassee and AMI Kids Gadsden that operates a nonprofit after school program providing comprehensive programming to help local students ages 11-17 determine and develop career pathways through vocational education and training, job placement, and support services.	Gadsden, Leon	×	
CARRABELLE FOOD PANTRY	Carrabelle's Food Pantry program is an all-volunteer, locally operated program distributing daily and weekly food and food packages to community residents to meet the needs of food insecure neighbors and families.	Franklin	(1)	
CHILDCARE TUITION ASSISTANCE	An Early Learning Coalition program providing tuition assistance for families of young children enrolled in high quality early learning environments. The program specifically targets ALICE families whose income, although below the median income level, disqualifies them from other subsidy programs. This allows parents to work knowing their children are in a positive educational environment.	Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla	(3)	
COMMUNITY CARE For the Elderly	A program of Jefferson Senior Citizens Center Inc. that helps meet the needs of seniors/elders by providing support to the most vulnerable citizens of Jefferson County and providing a safe place for seniors to go for help. Senior Citizens Council of Madison County Inc. is a state program providing community-based services, resources and preventive services to enhance quality of life for the elderly population and help functionally impaired elders live in a least restrictive setting.	Jefferson, Madison	(
DISASTER SERVICES	A program of the American National Red Cross providing persons affected by a disaster free and immediate help with basic needs including emergency services in the area of health and mental health.	Franklin, Gadsden Madison, Taylor, Wakulla	(
EARLY HEAD START	A program of Kids Incorporated of the Big Bend providing quality educational, health, nutritional and family engagement services to at-risk families with children ages 0-3. The program operates three early learning centers and home-based services in Leon County. A minimum of 10% of children enrolled have special needs.	Jefferson, Leon Madison	(3)	
EMERGENCY & DIVERSION PROGRAM SERVICES	A program of Connecting Everyone with Second Chances (CESC Inc.), Kearney Center , which provides shelter for 400 people as well as working to implement diversion services to prevent our neighbors from entering homelessness. Housing, Food, Transportation and Healthcare are all primary services offered through the Kearney Center.	Leon, Wakulla	(
EMPLOYMENT READINESS Training and support	A Lighthouse of the Big Bend, Inc. program helping teens, adults, and seniors who are blind or visually impaired to overcome barriers to employment with job readiness assessment, skill development, supported job search, paid work experience and on-the-job training and support.	Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla	(X)	
FAMILY PLACE	Capital City Youth Services , Inc. , a non-residential counseling program providing free solution-focused mental health services to youth ages 6-17 and their families for up to 12 weeks, depending on the severity of presenting issues.	Leon		
FOOD BANK OPERATIONS	An America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend program to meet the short-term nutritional needs of the hungry and food-in- secure residents in Leon County and neighboring counties. Food assistance can also free up funds for families to pay for other expenses such as medicines, school expenses, rent, and utilities.	Franklin, Gadsden, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla	(†)	
GADSDEN HOUSING	A Big Bend Habitat for Humanity, Inc., volunteer-based construction program providing simple, decent housing for individuals and families currently living in substandard housing, enabling them to create generational wealth opportunities for their families.	Gadsden		
GETTING AHEAD/STAYING AHEAD	A program of Capital Area Community Action Agency, Inc. which creates opportunities that foster long-term personal and economic development through initiatives and programs promoting educational attainment, skills development, and mentorship.	Jefferson	(A)	













United Way Drifted Way PROGRAM PARTNERS United Way of the Big Bend 2024-2025 UNITED WAY PROGRAM PARTNERS

Officed way of the big bend				
PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	FUNDED COUNTIES	OUTCOME AREAS	
GREAT FUTURES START HERE	A Boys and Girls Club program providing positive after school and summer sessions focused on character and leadership development, education and career development, Health and life skills, arts and sports, and fitness and recreation. The goal is to ensure all the kids graduate from high school with a plan for his or her future.	Gadsden, Leon	(A)	
HEALTHY FAMILIES GADSDEN	A Brehon Institute for Family Services program which supports community home visits providing prenatal services for up to five years, with trained staff helping families identify needs and create plans focusing on early learning goals for the child.	Gadsden	(3)	
FAMILY PROMISE Transitional shelter	A Big Bend Homeless Coalition program, Family Promise is a transitional shelter assisting families in exiting homelessness and obtaining permanent housing. The program provides emergency shelter, housing placement assistance, case management, and life skills training in a trauma-informed setting that encourages recovery and responsibility, autonomy, and independence.	Leon	(*)	
IN-HOME AND COMMUNITY Based Services	A program of Elder Care Services providing care for seniors who need help to remain safely at home; specifically for seniors who are frail, functionally impaired, and homebound or suffering from chronic diseases or dementia.	Gadsden, Leon	(
MARYLAND OAKS CROSSING At-risk family Housing	A Good News Outreach program providing 47 families safe transitional housing for two years, during which families have access to supports including services for their children. It offers food programs, counseling and trauma-informed care, and health and wellness programs provided by FSU School of Medicine. Adults/families are helped to complete education goals, build work skills, develop financial literacy, and supported in job searches to help them transition into permanent housing.	Leon	(A)	
NUTRITION SERVICES	A program of Elder Care Services which provides meals to seniors suffering from food insecurity. Meals on Wheels provides nutrition to frail and home-bound seniors in Leon County by delivering five meals each week directly to the senior at home.	Leon		
OMEGA LAMPLIGHTERS Program	The Omega LampLighters, Inc. , program works to help boys and young men gain skills in leadership, college and career readiness, civic responsibilities and community service, and positive interactions and focuses on engaging youth in activities and supportive services aimed at reducing crime and violence in the community.	Leon	X	
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE Housing for Individuals With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	An Independence Landing facility providing supportive housing to individuals who have documented intellectual or developmental disabilities, and who meet certain financial eligibility criteria. These individuals will be provided opportunities to help them build life skills and engage and thrive within their community.	Leon		
REACH THERAPY	A program of Pace Center for Girls, Inc. , which is a prevention and intervention program tailored to meet the unique therapeutic needs of girls not enrolled at the Pace Center. The center provides social-emotional, behavioral, therapeutic, and mental health counseling to at-risk girls and their families at their schools and/or their homes.	Leon		
REFIRE CULINARY	A program providing on-the-job culinary training and community re-entry support for people experiencing poverty who also face barriers to housing, employment, and self-sufficiency because of a prior felony conviction.	Leon	X	
RESIDENTIAL SERVICES Program	A Refuge House program offering life-saving support targeted and tailored for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault including safety services for adults and children after attacks. Support services include emergency shelter, basic needs including food, clothing, personal care supplies, school supplies for children, emotional support, and transportation assistance.	Gadsden, Leon Madison, Taylor Wakulla		
STABLE INCOME, SECURE Housing	A program of Legal Services of North Florida providing assistance to help individuals and families increase available income and stabilize housing.	Gadsden		
TAYLOR COUNTY Weekend Backpack Food Program	A Taylor County 4-H Foundation Inc. program providing meals and snacks to children in need for weekends and holidays when school is not in session and food is not available or limited. Backpacks are stocked with kid-friendly, nutritious & shelf-stable food with special emphasis on sending home with kindergarten students in bags discreetly placed inside students' individual backpacks every Friday afternoon.	Taylor	(3)	
WAKULLA SENIOR CITIZENS Council, Inc.	Wakulla Senior Citizens Council, Inc. – Federally legislated by The Older American Act (OAA) which provides funding for social services for person 60 or older by providing meals, Nutrition Education, recreational activities, and transportation to the Center.	Wakulla	(
WE CARE NETWORK	A program of Capital Medical Society Foundation, Inc. to decrease healthcare disparity and improve health outcomes by facilitating access to specialty healthcare for Leon County and neighboring counties' vulnerable, low-income, uninsured adult patients by coordinating donated specialty medical and dental care.	Gadsden, Jefferson Leon, Wakulla		
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT Program	A program of The Oasis Center for Women & Girls , The center program provides therapeutic counseling and workshops for building positive parenting and reaching personal goals, using well established curriculum that helps give single mothers the support they need to raise their children successfully.	Leon		











READINGPALS NEEDED!

Sign up to be a ReadingPal and help make a difference for them and your community!

Mentor to Make a Difference in a child's life!

 Mentors are matched one-to-one with students in Pre-K through third grade (Virtual Options available)









Like Math and Working with Kids?



An hour a week can add up to a much brighter future for a student struggling with Math.

BECOME A MATHPAL TODAY!





UNITED WAY OF THE BIG BEND

For more than 81 years, United Way of the Big Bend has evolved to meet the needs of the times. Today, our community needs UNITED WAY more than ever.

UWBB FOCUS AREAS-ALICE & BELOW

Economic Empowerment Through Workforce Enablement for Those at or Below The ALICE Threshold



most vital concerns. We also recognize the importance of staying relevant by keeping up with those ever growing needs and changing philanthropic landscape.

UWBB has long been the region's trusted

leader for addressing our community's

Today our focus is guided by the ALICE Report and other community data. ALICE is the acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, **Employed** - those living in poverty and at the edge of poverty. The most recent Report provides clear yet startling pictures of our neighbors struggling to make ends meet and of those living in poverty. On average, 55% of households in the Big Bend region cannot afford the basic costs of living; a number which equates to over 94,310 struggling families. Our strategic direction positions UWBB to be more effective than ever in serving as the trusted strategic leader and

convener for identifying and addressing the needs of families in the



ReadingPals is an Early Learning initiative administered through a partnership between UWBB and Leon County Public Schools with the help of local community partners providing volunteer mentors for students from Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) to 3rd Grade who may need extra help; utilizing one-on-one or small group settings, it builds meaningful relationships with young children helping them to improve social-emotionaldevelopment and early learning literacy skills.

Over the course of the 2023-2024 school year, 114 children in 17 elementary schools including a Pre-K program received 2,428 hours of mentoring and early literacy and reading skills practice to support reading comprehension by 105 mentors trained to use literacy lessons and activities developed by educators. Our ReadingPal children participants are preand post-tested on reading skills, and 87% of them made literacy gains, as measured by school administered standardized assessments.

MATHPals is an education initiative with one-to-one matching of caring mentors with elementary school students in extra need of



help developing essential math skills; mentors choose the school and day that best fits their schedule reporting during after-school programs for one hour/week throughout the school year utilizing math curriculum created by UWBB and the LCS District tailored to meet students' mathematical needs.

The **REALITY STORE** is a financial simulation where teenage students are assigned careers and make real world decisions about budgets & lifestyles providing a fun and effective way for teens to learn basic skills in financial planning & responsibility, goal setting, decision making and career planning as well as clarifying the need for young women and men to examine their attitudes about their future and career expectations.











The Read United initiative provides volunteers an op-

ALICE population.

portunity to share the love of reading with children in our community over a week-long event in early spring and fall each year; each participating 1st Grade classroom at Title I schools & early childcare program receives a set of books thanks to our Read United presenting sponsor resulting in countless smiles and widespread inspiration for reading.



Since 2005, VITA volunteers have filed over saving taxpayers more than saving taxpayers more taxpayers more

VITA, VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE program offers free tax return preparation and electronic filing to qualified low- and moderate-income individuals and families through IRS-certified volunteers.



Smile United, is a pediatric dental care initiative, in partnership with Florida Blue and Leon County Schools, provides beneficial dental services to second & sixth grade students in Title I schools across Leon & Gadsden Counties including dental assessments, dental cleanings, oral health education, fluoride varnish and sealants.





WOMEN UNITED is an affinity group within UWBB comprised of women leadership givers who are passionate and committed to the work of the United Way and are an influential force of women philanthropists who give, advocate, and volunteer to impact the lives of women, children, and families throughout the Big Bend through two critical fundraising events each year: The Women's Leadership Breakfast in late fall and Power of the Purse in early spring.







Emerging Leaders United (ELU) is an Emerging Leaders affinity group comprised of young professionals passionately working to build community partnerships and outreach



through volunteering, networking and fundraising opportunities in the community. Engagement in this group allows young professionals to create impact through volunteer projects such as Day of Doing as well as planning, promoting, and executing a community-wide fundraising event contributing to the financial impact of our overall community campaign.

STUDENT UNITED

Student United Way is a collection of students in public and private elementary, middle, high school, and college students focusing on local outreach and becoming active members of the local community both on and off campus through education, FUNdraising, and service. SUW members participate in the annual DAY OF DOING contributing to local UW partner agencies serving our community."



WORKPLACE CAMPAIGNS

A Workplace campaign unites employees in all offices and branches of a company and gives them an opportunity to donate, volunteer and speak out for causes that matter to them, strengthening connections between employees and their community. Results are seen in your own backyard even as you are part of a larger mission to affect change worldwide.



The Loaned Executive serves as an ambassador supporting our United Way community workplace campaigns giving companies high visibility while providing career-enriching leadership, team building, & communication skills



and strengthening company relationships with other organizations through shared contacts & working relationships while making a difference in our community.

MAJOR GIFTS

Major Gifts are donations exceeding \$5,000 and up to \$9,999. \$10,000 and above are considered Tocqueville Society donations so named for the renowned French political philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville who admired three elements in North American society: liberty, equality, and

the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor. Tocqueville Society recognizes local philanthropic leaders and volunteers who have devoted time, talent, and funds to create long-lasting changes by tackling our communities' most serious issues.

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LEADERSHIP GIVING

Leadership Giving is a program that identifies, solicits and recognizes individual donors who make annual gifts that range from \$1,000 to \$4,999.

TOGETHER WE DO MORE