

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Your contributions continue to support 45 Critical Need Programs and more!

HURRICANE HELENE RESPONSE

United Way of Aiken County was one of the leaders of Hurricane Helene Relief efforts in our community.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Check out the recaps from Be a Bunny, School Tools, Success By 6, and Project VISION.

2024 Annual Report

Message from President and Board Chair

2024 had some unique challenges, but overall reminded us why the mission of United Way is so important and reaffirmed that Aiken is a community full of people who are willing to help others even in the midst of their own need.



We started the year off with a great annual meeting. Keyatta Priester of Aiken Electric Cooperative took over as Board Chair for the year. She did an excellent job seeking to support the UWAC staff and our partner agencies. Under her leadership, the Care Council vetting process was revamped to help us be even better stewards of the dollars entrusted to us by donors such as yourselves.

We kicked off the 2024 Campaign by starting down “the Yellow Brick Road” to find the brains, heart and courage to stand up for our community and support those in need at our “Wizard of Oz” themed celebration. Under the leadership of Board Chair, Keyatta Priester, and Campaign Chair, Danielle Elliott, that is exactly what happened! Campaign efforts and events got off to a great start including Family Fun Day, Shop Today for United Way, our community business phone-a-thon, the majority of the workplace campaign, food truck fundraisers, agency fairs, golf tournaments and more!

Then our community was faced with an unexpected challenge! On September 27, 2024, the majority of Aiken County residents found themselves lacking many resources we take for granted every day due to the damage caused by Hurricane Helene in our area. In one way or another, the storm impacted almost everyone. A lot of people experienced what it felt like to go without electricity, an internet connection, running water, air-conditioning, gasoline and some experienced unexpected food insecurity due to lack of refrigeration. While none of us would have chosen to go through that, it really served to bring our community together and to demonstrate what United Way of Aiken County is here to do, serve those in need in our community!



The effects of the storm definitely slowed campaign efforts for a bit, but it didn't quench the spirit behind those efforts! In fact, it served as a timely reminder of just how vital the services provided by United Way are. After many days of emergency food and water giveaways and what seemed like hundreds of storm debris clean-up projects by Project VISION, events resumed mostly as normal. The Professional Division held its first Spooktacular Soiree at Woodside, SRNS hosted a Karaoke Fundraiser, and the SRS Softball Tournament was a big success!

Thanks to the generosity and compassion of this community, and the hard work put in by our Campaign Cabinet members and volunteers, over \$2.4 million was raised to fund 45 Critical Need Programs and provide continued funding for ongoing hurricane relief efforts!

These resources are only available because of volunteers, donors, and advocates like you. Through your efforts you are helping feed the hungry, provide education for those wanting to learn, employ those looking for financial stability, provide medical assistance to those who need it, and much more! We are so grateful that you recognize the needs in our community and seek to implement change by Living United.

Thank you!

Ellen Luton, *President*
United Way of Aiken County

& Keyatta Priester, *2024 Board Chair*
United Way of Aiken County





Campaign Chair Message

It is easy for us to get lost in the daily grind. We get caught up in our own little bubble of concern over the tasks for the day, the needs of our family and friends, the rising costs of EVERYTHING, the division in our country, and the violence that seems so prevalent in our world. In the midst of all of that, we often fail to realize how truly blessed we are. But we have so much! The majority of us have a home to go to, food in the pantry and fridge, reliable transportation, access to medical care, and friends and family who care about us.

United Way of Aiken County's thirty partner agencies touch the lives of thousands of people in our community who don't necessarily have all of that. They provide resources, education and opportunity to residents of Aiken County who find themselves at a disadvantage for one reason or another. These programs help them become financially self-sufficient, receive adequate health care, further their education, and rebuild after crisis situations. Our partner agencies bring a genuine passion for helping those in need, but they need our help to continue doing that. I enjoyed the chance to lead this year's fundraising campaign efforts and be a part of making these programs sustainable.

In late September last year, we all found ourselves at a disadvantage because of the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene in our community. Many people unexpectedly experienced what it felt like to be in need. United Way of Aiken County's partner agencies rose to the challenge and met those circumstances with their best efforts! Some of those programs looked different than normal because those providing assistance were also without many basic things like electricity, running water, internet connections... but they made do and did their best to serve those who didn't have the resources to provide for themselves. It really became an opportunity for growth and camaraderie in our community.

Those services were possible because of the funds raised here in Aiken County through the United Way annual campaign, donated by people like you. YOU are our community's biggest resource and blessing. Individuals who are willing to contribute their time, talent and dollars uniting around a common goal are what make United Way's network of partners and services possible. Thank you for seeing the need and helping meet it!

Your willingness to LIVE UNITED does not go unnoticed!

Danielle Elliott

2024 Campaign Chair



2024 Board Roster

2024 Executive Committee Members

Board Chair

Keyatta Priester, *Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc.*

First Vice Chair and Community Impact Chair

Heather Raynack, *Aiken Regional Medical Centers*

Second Vice Chair

Danielle Elliott, *Savannah River Nuclear Solutions*

Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair

Stephen Rawson, *Gillam and Associates, Inc.*

Corporate Secretary

Gina Booth, *Security Federal Bank*

Campaign Chair

Danielle Elliott, *Savannah River Nuclear Solutions*

First Vice Campaign Chair

Chris Bryant, *Bridgestone*

Second Vice Campaign Chair

Dr. Corey Murphy, *Aiken County Public School District*

Personnel and Communications Committee Chair

P.K. Hightower, *Savannah River Nuclear Solutions*

Success By 6 Chair

Mandy Collins, *Aiken Chamber of Commerce*

Women United Chair

Susie Ferrara, *Savannah River Nuclear Solutions*

Project VISION Chair and Past Board Chair

Josh Booth, *Security Federal Bank*



2024 Board Members

Tammy Aguilar, *Kimberly Clark Corporation*

Patricia Allen

Stuart Bedenbaugh, *City of Aiken*

Tim Behling, *Successteam*

Randy Blankenship, *Publix Supermarkets Store #506*

Patrick Chambers

Shannon Chandler, *Law Office of Shannon D. Matthews*

Chad Crumbaker, *Aiken Technical College*

Paul Cundey, *Savannah River Mission Completion*

Rob Davis, *Centerra-SRS*

Mary Driscoll, *University of South Carolina-Aiken*

Norm Dunagan, *Dumpster Depot*

Pamela Frazier, *SRP Federal Credit Union*

Dara Glass, *Savannah River Mission Completion*

Dr. Charles Goodman, *The Historic Tabernacle Church*

Steve Hales, *Coastal Carolina National Bank*

Kimmie Harris, *Kimberly Clark Corporation*

Charlie Hartz, *Scenthound, Village Cafe, and Representative District 81*

Gigi Lewis, *Rural Health Services*

Randy Mitchell, *The Aiken Standard*

Liz Morris

Dori Pennington, *First Citizens Bank*

Charles Rudnick, *Rudnick and Rudnick, LLC.*

Martha Ruthven, *Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC.*

Mandy Sims, *Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC.*

Grant Summerford, *TD Bank*

Cathy Sumner, *Aiken Regional Medical Centers*

Dr. Catherine Toomer, *Total Weight Care Institute*

Heather Thomas, *Publix Supermarkets Store #486*

Christy Tyner, *Maxwell Law Firm*

Whitney Vovou, *Aiken Regional Medical Centers - Aurora Pavilion*

Ken Wells, *Savannah River Mission Completion*

Connie Yung, *Savannah River Mission Completion*



Community Impact

Community Impact Leadership

Heather Raynack, *Community Impact Chair*

United Way of Aiken County's ability to vet and evaluate the critical need program funding requests is only possible because of the diligence and thoughtful consideration of the members of the Care Councils. We sincerely appreciate the hard work of our Care Councils and their leaders.

Care Councils



Education – Shirley von Beck, *Chair*

Programs under the Education Care Council supports the education of children, youth, and seniors as they become responsible and contribute to the well-being of the community.



Income – Cherell Butler, *Chair*

Programs under the Income Care Council provide support systems for individuals striving to live as self-sufficient, productive members of the community.



Health – Heather Raynack, *Chair*

Programs under the Health Care Council promote wellness for people of all ages and abilities, including mental health, substance abuse prevention, medical care, and health promotion.



Assistance in Crisis – John Mickalonis, *Chair*

Programs under the Assistance in Crisis Care Council help meet the basic needs of food, water, safe shelter, clothing, and emergency services.

Care Council members take the time to review agency applications for funding and their year end reports after the funding cycle to ensure that your donations are being used appropriately and in the manner for which they were intended.

Community Impact Funding

United Way of Aiken County strives to maximize the impact of the generous donations of our community. In order to do this, we partner with 30 non-profits that operate in Aiken County to fund 45 Critical Need Programs. These programs help all manner of people in need in our community. Whether it's a one time problem or an ongoing issue, there is a program to help. And though United Way of Aiken County may not specifically have a program that can help, one of our partners, the Aiken County 2-1-1 Help Line can get you in touch with just the right program to assist you with your specific need.

In addition to funding 45 Critical Need Programs, United Way of Aiken County administers multiple grants that bring thousands of dollars into our community and provide great resources to Aiken County.

Grants Administered by United Way of Aiken County:

- Emergency Food & Shelter Plan - \$49,533.00
- DSS Grant - \$59,332.50
- Hurricane Helene Relief Fund - \$312,000.00

2024 UWAC PARTNER AGENCIES



American Red Cross



Community Ministry of North Augusta



AIKEN SENIOR LIFE SERVICES



Community Impact Funding

2024 UNITED WAY OF AIKEN COUNTY ALLOCATIONS

Partner Agency	Funded Program(s)	Care Councils	Allocation
ACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VITA• Utility Assistance• Prescription Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring Self-Sufficiency• Assistance in Crisis	\$42,360.00
Aiken Senior Life Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Congregate Meal Program• Home Delivered Meals• Casework• Transportation Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring Self-Sufficiency	\$109,350.00
Aiken Youth Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth Development through Boxing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nurturing Our Citizens	\$15,309.00
Aiken Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevention Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health	\$26,602.02
Aiken County Help Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Help Line 2-1-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistance in Crisis	\$72,171.00
American Red Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disaster Relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistance in Crisis	\$58,320.00
Brothers & Sisters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social, Health, & Life Tutorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nurturing Our Citizens	\$21,870.00
Child Advocacy Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistance in Crisis	\$29,160.00
Can Hope	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patient Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health	\$16,200.00
Children's Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Therapeutic Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nurturing Our Citizens	\$153,819.00
Community Medical Clinic of Aiken County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health	\$91,125.00

Community Impact Funding

Partner Agency	Funded Program(s)	Care Councils	Allocation
Community Ministry of North Augusta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utility, Prescription, & Transportation Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance in Crisis 	\$25,515.00
Cumbee Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counseling Domestic Violence/Shelter Sexual Assau 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance in Crisis 	\$87,480.00
Family Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer Camp (Aiken & North Augusta) Prime Time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurturing Our Citizens 	\$16,767.00
Georgia-Carolina Council Scouting America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Development through Scouting (Boys) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurturing Our Citizens 	\$26,244.00
Girl Scouts of SC Mountains to Midlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Development through Scouting (Girls) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurturing Our Citizens 	\$25,515.00
Golden Harvest Food Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance in Crisis 	\$43,740.00
Helping Hands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real Talk Positive Outcomes Independent Living & Shelter Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Assistance in Crisis 	\$171,825.30
Lower Savannah Council of Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medication Assistance Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health 	\$31,347.00
Mental Health America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education, Advocacy, & Referral Nurture Home Welcome Baby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Health 	\$86,022.00
Project VISION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project VISION 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring Self-Sufficiency 	\$65,610.00

Community Impact Funding

Partner Agency	Funded Program(s)	Care Councils	Allocation
Salvation Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Red Shield Youth CenterClient AssistanceHomeless Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nurturing Our CitizensAssistance in Crisis	\$86,751.00
The RECing Crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alley CatsCrusiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Health	\$21,870.00
Tri-Development Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Avoidance of Preventable Disabilities and Creation and Implementation of Healthy Recreational Opportunities for Individuals.Vocational, Development, & Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HealthIncome	\$187,048.44

2024 TOTAL ALLOCATIONS:

\$1,512,020.76

Hurricane Relief

The Fall of 2024 brought about quite the surprise in the form of Hurricane Helene. Many people were without power for days, but our partner agencies and numerous volunteers stepped up to make sure our community had access to the necessities despite the havoc wreaked by Helene. The Family Y opened its doors to the public to use their showers and as a charging station; the Salvation Army served thousands of meals to people over the course of about 10 days following the storm; and Project VISION organized teams to start clearing storm debris almost immediately! Those are just a few examples of the efforts of our partners. United Way staff members served food, cleaned up storm debris and helped organize and transport the deliveries of supplies from out of area donors. Recovery from the storm has truly been a community wide effort!



Statement of Financial Position DECEMBER 31, 2024

ASSETS	2024	2023
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,291,437	1,465,693
Cash Restricted for Purpose	1,291	2,406
Employee Advance	-	357
Pledges Receivable	1,893,776	1,813,652
Allowance for Uncollectible Pledges	(292,815)	(294,860)
Grants Receivable	3,240	3,536
Investments	13,281	7,725
Total Current Assets	2,943,210	2,998,509
NONCURRENT ASSETS		
Certificates of Deposit Restricted in Perpetuity	150,000	149,022
Cash Restricted in Perpetuity	-	978
Right of Use Asset	7,305	8,985
Property and Equipment, net	554,652	567,156
Total Noncurrent Assets	711,957	726,141
	<u>3,655,167</u>	<u>3,724,650</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Allocations Payable	1,996,635	1,945,029
Designations Payable	206,512	175,220
United Way Dues Payable	34,616	38,699
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	13,048	56,041
Current Portion Operating Lease Liability	1,718	1,680
Current Portion of Note Payable	9,895	9,528
Other Liabilities	3,892	24,348
Total Current Liabilities	<u>2,266,316</u>	<u>2,250,545</u>
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		
Operating Lease Liability, Net of Current Portion	5,587	7,305
Note Payable, Net of Current Portion	<u>270,636</u>	<u>279,525</u>
Total Long-Term Liabilities	<u>276,223</u>	<u>286,830</u>
NET ASSETS		
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	961,337	1,034,869
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	<u>151,291</u>	<u>152,406</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>1,112,628</u>	<u>1,187,275</u>
	<u>3,655,167</u>	<u>3,724,650</u>

Statement of Activities

DECEMBER 31, 2024

REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Annual Campaign	2,049,924	-	2,049,924
Less: Donor Designations	(155,825)	-	(155,825)
Less: Provision for Uncollectible Pledges	(91,227)	-	(91,227)
Net Campaign Revenue	1,802,872	-	1,802,872
Other Public Support and Revenue	514,069	-	514,069
Contributions of Nonfinancial Assets	3,985	-	3,985
Fundraising Income	4,492	-	4,492
Interest and Dividend Income	15,328	5,385	20,713
Realized and Unrealized Investment Income	5,556	-	5,556
Miscellaneous Income	9,768	-	9,768
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	6,500	(6,500)	-
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	2,362,570	(1,115)	2,361,455
FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES			
Program Services			
Allocations to Agencies	2,019,832	-	2,019,832
Less: Donor Designations	(155,825)	-	(155,825)
Net Funds Awarded/Distributed	1,864,007	-	1,864,007
Volunteer Services	113,220	-	113,220
Community Services	201,495	-	201,495
Total Program Services	2,178,722	-	2,178,722
Supporting Services			
Organizational Administration	78,144	-	78,144
Fundraising	144,620	-	144,620
United Way Dues	34,616	-	34,616
Total Supporting Services	257,380	-	257,380
Total Allocations and Functional Expenses	2,436,102	-	2,436,102
Change in Net Assets	(73,532)	(1,115)	(74,647)
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,034,869	152,406	1,187,275
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	961,337	151,291	1,112,628

Corporate Honor Roll

Highest Corporate Achievement

*** Kimberly-Clark**

Gold: \$50,000 – \$99,999

Kimberly Clark Corporation
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

Silver: \$25,000 – \$49,999

Aiken Electric Cooperative
Battelle Savannah River Alliance
Publix
Bridgestone

2nd Highest Corporate Achievement



3rd Highest Corporate Achievement



Bronze: \$10,000 – \$24,999

Centerra-SRS
Savannah River Mission Completion
SRP Federal Credit Union
Amentum
Aiken County First Steps

4th Highest Corporate Achievement



\$5,000 – \$9,999

Security Federal Bank
Aiken Regional Medical Centers

\$1,000 – \$4,999

Durban-Laird Insurance
Maxwell Law Firm, P.C.
Gillam & Associates
Wesworks, LLC
USC Aiken
Women of Woodside
DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen

5th Highest Corporate Achievement

Publix.



Employee Honor Roll

Highest Employee Giving



2nd Highest Employee Giving



3rd Highest Employee Giving



4th Highest Employee Giving



5th Highest Employee Giving

*** Kimberly-Clark**

Gold: \$100 or more per capita

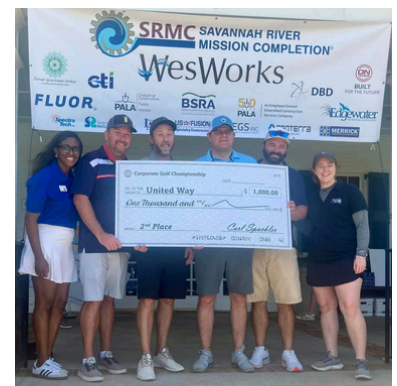
Aiken Electric Cooperative
Battelle Savannah River Alliance
Bridgestone
Centerra-SRS
Children's Place, Inc.
Coastal Carolina National Bank
Combined Federal Campaign
Durban-Laird Insurance
Hutson Etherredge Companies
Security Federal Bank
United Way of Aiken County, Inc.

Silver: \$75 - \$99

Aiken Center for Alcohol & Drug Abuse
Aiken Chamber of Commerce
Amentum
Area Churches Together Serving
Concept HR
Johnson, Johnson, Whittle & Lancer
Savannah River Mission Completion
SRP Federal Credit Union

Bronze: \$40 - \$74

Aiken County Help Line
Enloe Aluminum
Kimberly Clark Corporation
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
Shaw Industries - Plant 78
Silver Bluff High School
Tri-Development Center



2024 Events

The 2024 Campaign was full of events. Once again we were blown away by the support of the Aiken County community and their participation in our efforts to raise funds for our Critical Need Programs!



2024 Events



United Way of
Aiken County, Inc.



Project VISION

Project V.I.S.I.O.N. is a volunteer led program that provides free home repairs for low-income and disabled elderly in Aiken County. Through the dedication and hard work of volunteers ranging from church groups, corporate and business partners, community advocates, and many caring individuals, PV completed 364 repair projects, repairing homes and restoring hope for 504 individuals and homeowners in Aiken County! While each month included at least one project completed, some months involved multiple repairs.

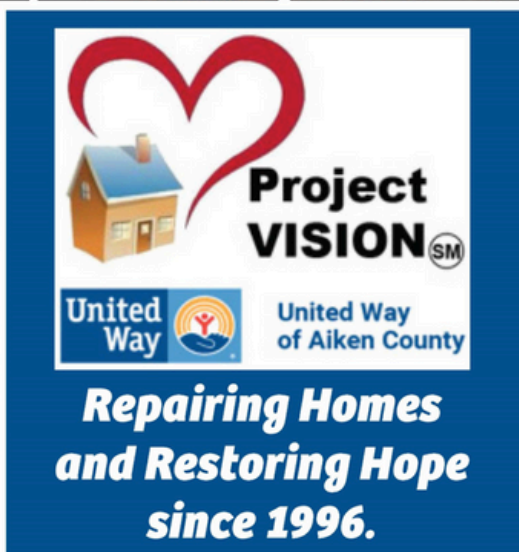
In the face of Hurricane Helene, Project VISION Director, Lizzie Abshire, and volunteers began responding just hours after the storm hit to help with the immediate need of clearing roads and driveways. Those disaster relief efforts continued in the form of cutting up fallen trees, removing branches, providing water, giving away generators to qualifying senior citizens, and helping families and individuals start with rebuilding. These services, especially debris clean-up, have continued on an as needed basis in the months following the storm.

Some standout Project VISION volunteer groups in 2024 include: SRS's PV Day of Caring and Project Unite, Aiken First Baptist's Mission HERE, North Augusta Grace United Methodist Church's WARM-ahatchie and summer Salkehatchie, "The Woodside Guys", Kiewit, DPR Construction Employees, UPS Supply Chain Solutions, Huntington Ingalls Industries, St. John's Methodist Church's Salkehatchie, SRMC Summer Interns, YPS, the Aiken Chamber of Commerce, and Impact the Valley. Project V.I.S.I.O.N. is extremely grateful for all of the support from each volunteer and community member that takes the time to help! Together, we can repair homes and restore hope!

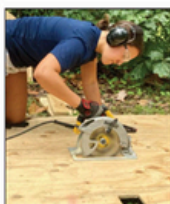


364
Completed
Repairs

504
Individuals &
Homeowners
Served



6,542
Volunteer
Hours



Project V.I.S.I.O.N. 2024 Community Impact.

United Way of Aiken County's Affinity Groups

Young Philanthropists Society (YPS)

United Way of Aiken County's Young Philanthropists Society (YPS) is an affinity group that strives to create a fun atmosphere that allows younger donors to have the opportunity to give back to their community through volunteering and monetary contributions. YPS members assisted Children's Place in the early stages of their move, gave two Born Learning Trails a fresh coat of paint, sponsored birthday parties for Helping Hands' residents, awarded a grant to God Centered Missions, and helped with Hurricane Helene relief efforts including helping with food distributions and storm debris clean up efforts. Members not only participated in YPS specific events, but many also participated in service projects through their companies including Project VISIONS's Day of Caring and Project Unite. In 2024, YPS assisted with a number of United Way events and programs including Be a Bunny, Run United, School Tools, Kickoff, Family Fun Day, the Spooktacular Soiree, and the SRS Softball Tournament.



United Way of Aiken County's Affinity Groups

Women United

Women United is an affinity group of United Way of Aiken County and is based on a belief in the collective power of women to improve the lives of Aiken County's women and children. Women United is dedicated to transforming Aiken through active and specific philanthropic investments to tackle our community's challenges. Designated funds collected from fundraising activities are used to award grants that advance the health, safety, education, and economic status of Aiken County's women and children. Women United hosts an annual gala and Inspiration Tea, and in 2024 WU held its first leadership workshop. Since 2016, Women United has awarded over \$166,000 in grants and provided thousands of items to our four shelters. At the Tea, WU Chair, Susie Ferrara, passed the gavel of leadership over to incoming Women United Steering Committee Chair, Keyatta Priester.



United Way of Aiken County's Initiatives

Be a Bunny

Thanks to many thoughtful and generous individuals and organizations around town, over 600 baskets filled with a range of items from household necessities to seasonal treats were delivered to seniors living in Aiken County. Most of the recipients were Meals on Wheels clients, but baskets were also provided to individuals who participate in Aiken Senior Life Services' Group Dining Program and Tri-Development Center's Senior program. We hope that these baskets serve as an encouragement to those that receive them and are a reminder that they are a valued and loved part of our community. Thank you to everyone who made this little bit of Spring cheer possible!!

Be a Bunny is United Way of Aiken County's Spring Outreach Program. The program provides baskets filled with comfort items to seniors in our community that need a little spring cheer. Baskets are filled with items such as: toiletries, household goods, books, crossword puzzles, snacks, candy, and other fun things.



School Tools

School Tools is United Way of Aiken County's annual education outreach program. With the support of the community, we are able to purchase thousands of supplies each year to distribute to the schools in Aiken County. School Tools allows our community to extend a helping hand to children who might not have the resources to purchase the necessary supplies to begin the school year. We believe that children who come to school prepared have a better chance for classroom success and have a more positive attitude towards school. The children we help through this project are the future parents, teachers, and leaders of our community – they are our most precious resource! School Tools demonstrates that our students truly matter to all of Aiken County.



United Way of Aiken County's Initiatives

Success By 6[®]

Success by 6[®] is a collaborative initiative that acts as a catalyst in the community to ensure that Aiken County children get the best start in life by creating awareness of the importance of literacy, early childcare and quality education. Components of the initiative include three programs:

- The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a research based program that promotes literacy and encourages families and children to read together.
- Bookworms is a volunteer based reading program created by United Way of Aiken County to encourage a lifelong love of reading in young children. The program partners with schools and childcare facilities to read to and with children. Bookworms was back in full swing in 2023 with volunteers reading weekly with a Millbrook Elementary kindergarten class.
- Born Learning Trail provide interactive, engaging outdoor activities that stimulate cognitive development, promote early literacy and encourage physical activity among children. Trails are a great resource for parents and care givers as they spend time outdoors with their pre-k children. (visit www.uwaiken.org to find a complete list of trail locations)



As part of Success By 6[®], United Way of Aiken County also sponsors several installments of Story Time in the Gardens in partnership with the City of Aiken's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.

2024 Leadership Givers

ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Jeffrey S. Allender
Battelle Savannah River Alliance
The Hambrick Foundation

BENEFACTOR(\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Mrs. Anne Campbell
Mr. Frederick D. Kelsven
Morgan Stanley
Mr. Glen Kessinger
Battelle Savannah River Alliance
Mr. and Mrs. David G. Owen
Ms. Sharon L. Rodgers

ROUNDTABLE (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Angela Brown
Savannah River Mission Completion
Chris Bryant
Bridgestone
Greg Decamp
Paul Durban
Durban-Laird Insurance
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Fagan
Peggy Ford
Children's Place, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Grimm
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
Willar and P.K. Hightower
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions & SRS Retirees Association
Deno and Linda Karapatakis
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
Stephen Kuhl
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
John and Annemarie MacMurray
John and Louise Plodinec
SRS Retiree Association
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Richardson
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Rickman
Pete and Lynn Sampson
Janney Financial Advisors
Tammy Taylor
Battelle Savannah River Alliance
Kenneth Wells
Savannah River Mission Completion

We would like to thank all of our donors for their financial support of United Way of Aiken County. It is through your generosity that thousands of people in our community receive assistance every year.

HERITAGE CIRCLE (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

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