

**REACH OUT
A HAND
TO ONE
AND INFLUENCE
THE CONDITION
OF ALL.**

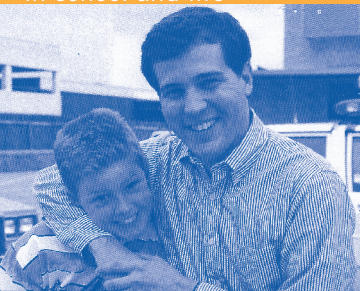
**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED™**



OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

EDUCATION

Investing in the future by helping children and youth succeed in school and life



At 26, Mike decided to do something for the community where he, his wife and newborn son had recently moved. He loved helping children and heard about Big Brothers Big Sisters from a coworker and decided to sign up. He was soon matched with then 9 year old Jared. "At the time I was living with my mom", Jared says. "My dad wasn't in my life until I was older".

Together the two built a wonderful friendship. They fished and played football. Jared would tell you that Mike taught him quite a bit about college football, but it was Jared who taught Mike about fishing. The two were only matched for two and a half years before Mike was transferred out of state. Already cemented, the two didn't let distance separate them or their friendship. They called each other a least once a month and visited when possible. Much has changed for the two over the years. Mike currently lives in Mississippi, and Jared is married with a family of his own. However, one thing has not changed - the pair still keeps in contact.

Jared remembers how much Mike and Big Brothers Big Sisters did for him. In fact, he decided to host a fishing tournament with all the proceeds going to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Mike, of course, was so excited to hear how his former little was giving back, that he made the trip to Lake Charles with his son to participate in the tournament. To Jared, this tournament was a way to give other children the chance he had - to have a positive mentor that will help them in what may be a difficult time in their lives. "Mike is a great guy and I'm blessed to have met him", Jared says, summing up the biggest reason of all that he wanted to help others.

2009 RESULTS

- o **32,901 Children participated in quality after school/summer programs continuing social development and educational programs they need outside of school.**
- o 602 Adults received instruction and improved their skill levels through literacy programs building self-sufficiency and independence.
- o **11,512 Books were distributed to children enrolled in daycare centers helping them begin lifelong learning and connecting them and their parents with resources for a better education.**
- o 22,137 Children/young people were involved in leadership, mentoring and character building programs.

**FOR CHILDREN TO GROW
INTO SUCCESSFUL ADULTS
THEY NEED A SUPPORTIVE
EARLY FOUNDATION**

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVES

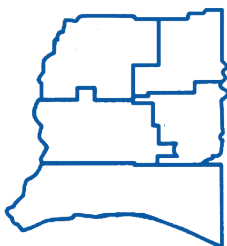
UNITED WAY OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

AGENCY PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- o Descriptions contain information on both United Way funded programs provided by our partners as well as other programs offered by the agency that may not be funded by United Way
- o United Way of Southwest Louisiana's regional service community is comprised of : Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron and Jeff Davis parishes.
- o Parishes served by an agency within this region are noted along with the program descriptions
- o All area codes are 337 unless otherwise noted

UNITED WAY OF SWLA SERVES A FIVE PARISH AREA

Allen
Beauregard
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jeff Davis



AGENCY PARTNERS

ABRAHAM'S TENT ASSOCIATION

PH: 439.9330
2300 Fruge Street /Lake Charles LA
(CL)

Prepares and serves hot meals at noon seven days a week to persons in immediate need. Collects and stores donated foods. No fees, no criteria, no limit on how often one may be served. A last resort for the hungry.

ALLEN COUNCIL ON AGING

PH: 318.335.3195 or 800.256.2851
602 East Fifth Avenue / Oakdale LA
(A)

Provides quality of life for the aging and at-risk in Allen Parish through congregate meals sites, home delivered meals, and homemaker services. Information, referrals, legal services, nutrition education, recreation, and care giver respites are available. Transportation is provided for the elderly and non-emergency medical transportation is provided for the general public through Medicaid and Rural Public Transportation.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

PH: 478.5122
3512 Kirkman Street / Lake Charles LA
www.swla-redcross.org
(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Assistance with food, clothing, and shelter for victims of disasters. Teaches people how to avoid, prevent, and cope with life-threatening emergencies through instruction in first aid, water safety, disaster preparedness, health courses, and CPR. Maintains 24-hour emergency communications system; distributes food and toys to the needy at Christmas. Provides support assistance to families, usually military, who are separated from each other by great distances.

AGENCY PARTNERS *continued*

BEAUCARE

PH: 462.2273

628 High School Drive / DeRidder LA

www.beucares.org

(B)

BeauCARE has recreational and educational opportunities in personal growth and development through recreational, educational, and advocacy programs for residents of all ages in Beauregard Parish. BeauCARE believes that a foundation of positive mentoring, education, and recreation will empower today's youth to develop into the contributing and responsible adults of tomorrow.

BEAUREGARD Arc

PH: 462.2513

1209 West Shirley / DeRidder LA

www.lutheranonline.com/disabled

(B)

Adult Habilitation Program provides the best possible care and service/work-training options to persons with mental retardation and/or developmental disabilities as pre-vocational skills training, vocational skills training, and to obtain and maintain employment in the community.

BEAUREGARD COMMUNITY CONCERNS

PH: 462.1452

DeRidder LA

(B)

June N. Jenkins Women's Shelter: Safe house for abused women and their children. Shelter for 30 days, including food, clothing, and personal needs; emergency medical and dental assistance; counseling and support for clients.

BEAUREGARD COUNCIL ON AGING

PH: 463.6578

104 Port Street / DeRidder LA

(B)

Social services for people over 60. Community resource for information, referral, and training in the field of aging. Services include transportation, escort, shopping, congregate and home-delivered meals, income tax and insurance assistance, emergency response systems, legal assistance, ombudsman, recreation, and homemaker/sitter programs.

BEAUREGARD SPECIAL OLYMPICS

PH: 463.3766

165 Richey-Reigle Road / Longville LA

www.beaupso.org

(B)

Year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with mental retardation, giving them opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, share gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympic athletes, and the community.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

PH: 478.5437

4135 Common Street / Lake Charles LA

www.bbbs-swla.net

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Matches children from single-parent homes with responsible, caring adult volunteers. Volunteers spend time with the child depending upon the child's needs and volunteer's availability.

BOY SCOUTS - CALCASIEU AREA COUNCIL

PH: 436.3376

304 Dr. Michael DeBakey Drive / Lake Charles LA

www.calcasieubsa.org

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Program for boys and young adults to build character, learn responsibility, participate in citizenship, and develop personal fitness. Career awareness, adventure experiences, drug awareness training, and food collections for the needy. Services open to boys 1st grade to age 20 and girls from 9th grade to age 20.

BOY SCOUTS - LOUISIANA PURCHASE COUNCIL

PH: 318.325.4634

2405 Oliver Road / Monroe LA

www.louisianapurchasecouncil.org

(A)

Helps instill values in young people and prepares them to make ethical decisions while achieving their full potential. Various scouting activities for boys ages 6-20; group meetings and motivational programs based on scouting guidelines.

BOYS & GIRLS VILLAGE FOUNDATION

PH: 436.7553

7378 Hwy 90 East / Lake Charles LA

www.boysvillages.org

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Group home, 24-hour care, education, and emotional repair for neglected or abused children. Counseling services available for their families. On-site school provided for children who cannot attend school in the mainstream. Outreach counseling to assist victims of child abuse.

CARC (CALCASIEU ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS)

PH: 433.3620

4100 J Bennett Johnston Avenue / Lake Charles LA

www.thecarc.com

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Child Development Services include training and therapy for handicapped or at-risk children 3 and younger. Vocational Services include work-training options for mentally retarded adults. Qualifying clients offered competitive job placement. Residential Services: community homes, supervised apartments, or independent living with training in daily living skills. Other services include in-home respite, speech and occupational therapy, behavior management, transportation training, and parental education.

CALCASIEU COMMUNITY CLINIC

PH: 478.8650

550 East Sale Road, Suite 217 / Lake Charles LA

www.mcneese.edu/calclinic/home.htm

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Provides free health care, and limited dental care to low-income, working uninsured populations. Call the Clinic for more information.

CALCASIEU COUNCIL ON AGING

PH: 474.2583

3950 Hwy 14 / Lake Charles LA

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Home-delivered meals to elderly residents of Calcasieu Parish; some Homemaker Services. Nutritional and ombudsman services, employment for those 55 and older. Prescription and energy assistance programs for senior citizens.

AGENCY PARTNERS *continued*

CALCASIEU WOMEN'S SHELTER

PH: 436.4552

Rape Crisis Hotline: Ph: 337.494.RAPE (337.494.7273)

Toll Free Ph: 800.223.8066

Lake Charles LA

www.cwshelter.org

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Free and confidential services for victims of domestic violence and their children in Allen, Calcasieu, and Cameron parishes. Community education on the issue of domestic violence. Provides 24 - hour comprehensive crisis intervention services to rape and sexual assault victims. Rape Crisis Outreach serves individuals from these three parishes plus Beauregard and Jeff Davis.

CAMERON COUNCIL ON AGING

PH: 905.6000 or 598.5158

951 Hwy 384 / Grand Lake LA

www.cameronparishresources.com

(CM)

Provides meals (home delivered and congregate), transportation services, homemaker service, chore service, medical equipment loans, utility bill assistance, medical bill assistance, housing, information and referrals, telephone assurance services, visitation services, health screening services, assistance with eye glasses, disaster assistance programs, caregiver programs, recreation services, adult education and much, much more for the elderly residents of Cameron Parish.

CAMP FIRE USA

PH: 478.6550

715 Ryan Street, Ste. 105 B / 2185 Camp Fire Road / Lake Charles LA

www.campfireswla.org

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Leadership and character development through group activities for boys and girls ages 5-18. Self-reliance programs help develop self-esteem, confidence, and decision-making skills needed to cope and function successfully.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF LAKE CHARLES

PH: 433.9420

327 Broad Street / Lake Charles LA

www.swlakids.org

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

A place for children and families to encourage curiosity, creativity, and learning through participatory exhibits and programs. Designed for youth ages 3-14. Provides area learning resource, enhancing and extending school curriculum. Exhibits based in social sciences, science and technology, visual and performing arts; interactive and hands on designed.

FAMILY AND YOUTH COUNSELING AGENCY

PH: 436.9533

220 Louie Street / Lake Charles LA

www.fyca.org

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

FYCA provides counseling, education, and advocacy services to individuals, families, and communities of Southwest Louisiana. A professional team of counselors offers a wide range of constructive and life-changing services in the form of counseling, consultation, and education. Services include: Individual and Family Counseling, Children's Advocacy, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), Employee Assistance Program, Parenting Skills Enhancement, Business and Industry Support, Youth Leadership Development, Anger Management, Veterans Support Services, Autism Support Services, and more. Fees based on an income based sliding scale.

INCOME

Increasing the capacity for families to achieve financial stability

Sylvester, a 63-year-old man from Lake Charles, decided to visit the Jefferson Davis Council on Aging after he'd fallen on hard times. Recently separated, he didn't have a job and was living in the Elton Housing apartments. He was having financial difficulties and wanted to know what type of services the Council offered.



Through Project Care, the Jefferson Council COA was able to help him with his electricity bill. The staff also helped put together a package for Sylvester that included food items, toiletries, and non-perishables. In addition, he was signed up for the commodity program and COA assisted him in getting food stamps. In his initial assessment, Sylvester was diagnosed with high blood pressure and diabetes. He could not afford his medications and, as a result, his condition was left untreated.

The staff at COA informed him about a wellness program they had that is available free of charge to all seniors of its parish who are 60 and older. Sylvester thought he needed the exercise and fellowship with others but he had no way to get to the agency. Through COA's transportation program, he soon had a ride from his home in Elton to the program on a daily basis and he was able to enjoy meals, exercise, and visiting with other seniors.

Not only did Sylvester make some new friends through his involvement in various programs at COA, he helped out so much around the agency that his volunteer efforts soon paid off in the form of a job for him. Through the Experienced Works Program, a service for low income people over 55, he was contracted as a Wellness Assistant.

Sylvester is just one of the many success stories that COA sees on a daily basis. The agency prides itself on the personal care it gives seniors and will go above and beyond to provide that care – physically, mentally and emotionally.

2009 RESULTS

- o **69,634 Units of service were provided to 941 homeless men.**
- o 8,431 Individuals/families received emergency assistance totaling 94,977 units of service to include food, clothing and financial assistance that met their basic needs of life.
- o **1,073 People in need of civil representation received legal services at either no cost or at a reduced rate.**
- o \$9,380 in total savings for 933 claims (\$10 each) was realized by participants in the familyWize prescription drug discount card program.
- o **\$1,165,520 in refunds was generated for citizens of Southwest Louisiana as a result of the VITA program; includes EITC, Child Tax Credits, Education Credits, and regular refunds as well as an economic impact of getting a service for free that would have cost taxpayers on average \$200.**
- o 673 Qualified taxpayers were provided FREE tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, a partnership with United Way and SWLA Asset Building Coalition.

FINANCIAL STABILITY
IS A KEY FACTOR TO
BUILDING STRONG
AND STABLE FAMILIES

AGENCY PARTNERS *continued*

FOREMAN-REYNAUD COMMUNITY CENTER

PH: 436.2509

215 Albert Street / Lake Charles LA

www.baijul.org

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Provides recreational and educational opportunities to the community in a safe, wholesome environment. Some of the programs include: After School Tutorial/Homework Help; 8 week Summer Camp; Teenage Pregnancy Prevention; Youth Achievers; Basic Job Skills Workshop; Pre-teen Social Development; Youth Basketball/Football teams; Free Computer Classes; Water Aerobics; Swimming Lessons; The Lighthouse Club; a social club for older adults; and free showers for the homeless.

GENESIS THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER

PH: 527.4357

886 Landry Lane / Sulphur LA

(CL, CM)

Therapeutic Riding includes specially trained horses used as an interactive treatment tool for physical, cognitive, and psychosocial disorders. State-of-the-art therapy center in a less frightening and more relaxed atmosphere.

GIRL SCOUTS OF LOUISIANA - PINES TO THE GULF

PH: 800.960.2093 or 497.0791

715 Ryan Street, Suite 204 / Lake Charles LA

1720 Kaliste Saloom, Suite C-1 / Lafayette LA

www.girlscoutspinestogulf.org

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Provides contemporary programs for girls ages 5-17 or in grades K-12, including career exploration, development of leadership skills, troop activities, council-wide events and national Girl Scout opportunities.

JEFF DAVIS ADDICTIVE DISORDERS CLINIC

PH: 824.4705

915 N. Shankland Avenue / Jennings LA

(A, CL, JD)

Provides assessments, treatment and referrals for the chemically dependent and supports families helping a loved one. Videos, pamphlets, books and extensive vertical file available to those needing objective, factual information. Community awareness and educational programs for professional groups, businesses, organizations and schools.

JEFF DAVIS COUNCIL ON AGING

PH: 824.5504

210 State Street / Jennings LA

(JD)

Provides transportation for the elderly in Jeff Davis Parish. Administers Entergy's Project Care, homemaker service, home delivered meals, information and referral, material aid, telephone assurance, ombudsman services and recreational program.

LITERACY COUNCIL OF SOUTHWEST LA

PH: 494.7000

809 Kirby Street, Suite 126 / Lake Charles LA

www.literacyswla.org

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Program to reduce functional illiteracy rates through one-on-one and/or small group instruction as well as community outreach program models designed to increase literacy levels in targeted groups such as the workplace, family, criminal justice system, etc.

NAMI - SOUTHWEST LA ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

PH: 433.0219

715 Ryan Street, Suite 203 / Lake Charles LA

www.nami.org/sites/namiswla (Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Program to develop support for persons, and for families of persons, diagnosed with severe neurobiological brain diseases commonly known as mental illness; education, advocacy, support and research.

SALVATION ARMY

PH: 721.8068

3020 Legion Street / Lake Charles LA

www.uss.salvationarmy.org/uss/www_uss_lakecharles.nsf

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Emergency assistance provides: food, clothing, rent and utilities for families in crisis. Emergency shelter provides: shelter and two meals for individuals in need of temporary shelter. Assistance for victims of natural disasters includes food, clothing and furniture.

SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER

PH: 433.4357 / (433.HELP)

833 Hodges Street / Lake Charles LA

www.samaritanswla.org

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Professional pastoral counseling service provides counseling based on a holistic approach in an interfaith setting - preschool through geriatrics. Counseling reflects the intricate relationship between body, mind, spirit and community, and has ministerial and religious insights. Fees on a sliding scale based on income.

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA LAW CENTER

PH: 436.3308 or 800.256.1955

1101 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 402 / Lake Charles LA

www.swlawcenter.com

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Provides legal advice or counselor brief service or full legal representation of individuals in all civil law matters, except plaintiffs in personal injury cases, at either no cost or reduced cost (based on sliding income scale chart) to the individual client.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

COMMUNITY CHEST

PH: 855.4602

2220 E Gabriel Square / Moss Bluff LA

www.mossbluffcommunitychest.org

(A, B, CL)

Provides immediate, one-time assistance, service referrals, and Christmas assistance to those who primarily reside in Moss Bluff, Gillis, Ragley and the surrounding areas in their time of emergency need. Also participates in disaster relief efforts in Southwest Louisiana parishes of Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron and Jeff Davis.

IMPERIAL CALCASIEU MUSEUM

PH: 439.3797

204 West Sallier Street / Lake Charles LA

www.imperialcalcasieumuseum.org

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

The Museum's mission is to encourage and support visual artists, to enhance art awareness and appreciation, to provide educational opportunities for children and adults, and to serve as a repository for objects and artifacts unique to the culture of the old Imperial Calcasieu region and to preserve its history for future generations. United Way funding has provided additional curricula for school art teachers and expands structured learning experiences in the museum's summer program for children and special needs adults.

HEALTH

Improving people's health and enhancing their independence



Justin was born with multiple disabilities and didn't walk until after he was three years old. As a result of the issues he faced in his daily life, he went through many struggles. But shortly after he entered pre-school, he encountered a teacher who, according to his family, became instrumental in guiding him toward his desire to compete in an athletic environment. Through that connection, he played in a local t-ball league, went to basketball camps, and even rode in the "Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo," earning ribbons and trophies. He never let his disabilities get in his way.

In 2004, while undergoing what was supposed to be a routine operation for Scoliosis, he was left paralyzed from the waist down and eventually confined to a wheelchair. But it didn't stop him from following his dreams and being involved in athletic endeavors. Now 19, Justin competes in the Special Olympics program and Buddy Ball Sports. He bowls, enters track and field events, wheelchair races, softball events, and more.

Justin's family enjoys attending his competitions and seeing the looks of pride and accomplishment they see on the faces of all of the athletes who compete. Justin's father, Tom, summed up how he feels about his son's involvement in the things he enjoys so much. "These athletes truly believe in the Special Olympics oath, 'Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.' No matter how they place in an event, they are all winners!"

2009 RESULTS

- o **206,245 Home-delivered/congregate meals were provided to 1,247 seniors citizens in SWLA which improved their overall health and helped them stay independent in their homes.**
- o 2,293 Units of service to working, uninsured persons in need of preventive and/or health maintenance care were given enabling them to provide basic necessities for their families without neglecting their own health care needs
- o **853 Infants/Adults with disabilities were provided intervention/career and habilitation services.**
- o 6,789 Families/individuals received quality counseling services leading to a more stable and productive life.
- o **78 Cribs and 29 car seats were distributed to families along with information about safe sleeping habits for babies and seatbelt safety.**
- o 120,584 Units of service (transportation/homemaker/emergency) were provided to 2,598 seniors from rural communities connecting them with vital services.

**THE HEALTH OF OUR CITIZENS
IS A STRONG INDICATOR
OF THE HEALTH OF
OUR COMMUNITIES**

JEFF DAVIS CADA (Communities Against Domestic Abuse)

PH: 616.8418

Jennings LA

www.jeffdavis.cada.com

(JD)

Billie Sue Thomas Well Women's Shelter: CADA's mission is to provide, free of charge, emergency shelter and basic needs and services to battered women and their dependent children with the ultimate goal being a lifestyle free of domestic violence. Primary focus for outreach is Jeff Davis Parish. However, CADA accepts anyone from anywhere.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

PH: 433.7035

715 Ryan Street, Suite 105-D / Lake Charles LA

www.jahouston.org

(CL, CM)

Business and economic education in free enterprise for students kindergarten through 12th grade. Simulates communities where students assume the role of workers and consumers. Helps students build a foundation for making lifelong financial decisions. Analyzes and explores personal opportunities within student led enterprise.

PARKINSON ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTH (dba ELJAY FOUNDATION)

P.O. Box 16558, Lake Charles, LA 70616

PH: 310.0083

www.eljayfd.org

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

The mission of the Eljay Foundation is to inform whole communities about Parkinson's disease and build community partnerships, to provide resources and non-clinical support services, and to improve the quality of life and access of care of every person who is affected by Parkinson's disease by linking them to points of services.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

PH: 237.7711

215 E Pinhook Road / Lafayette LA

www.no-hunger.org

(B, CL, CM, JD)

Leading the fight against hunger in south Louisiana through food distribution, advocacy, education and disaster response, Second Harvest offers programs/services targeting food-insecure populations feeding individuals through a network of 28 local organizations and direct service programs that focus on the community's most vulnerable citizens. Member agencies provide front-line food assistance and/or on-site meals through food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and congregate feeding programs for seniors and children.

SPEECH & HEARING

PH: 430.5398

400 Helen Street / Lake Charles LA

(A, B, CL, CM, JD)

Outpatient rehabilitation center for treatment of communication disorders: speech, language, cognitive, and voice disorders; delayed speech, cleft palate; aphasia; cerebral palsy; stuttering; and hearing loss.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: I'd like to give. Can my dollars go to a specific agency?

A: With United Way, people can give once for a variety of services. Your contribution supports our goal areas of helping children grow into successful adults and families to achieve financial stability. Some individuals may choose to designate their gift to a particular United Way initiative or agency because of help they have received or a personal experience. To designate your gift, fill out the separate designation card. Some contributors designate only a portion of their gift.

Q: Does United Way fund abortion?

A: United Way does NOT fund programs in agencies that provide abortions.

Q: Why should I support services I may never use?

A: United Way programs reach an estimated 100,000 people each year - the life you change could be that of a friend, co-worker or family member. Any of us may need services such as care for older adults, or emergency disaster aid.

Q: I don't give to United Way because I don't want any of my money going to (X) agency.

A: Because United Way annually funds about half a dozen focused initiatives, and anywhere from 50 to 55 programs in 35 to 40 agencies, there might be one that you don't want to support. Please consider, however, that a decision to withhold a contribution because of one agency penalizes others that are providing important services.

Q: Why should I give to United Way? I live outside the area it serves.

A: United Way has arrangements with nearby United Ways – other Louisiana and Southeast Texas United Ways. If you live in one of these areas and want your money sent there, you can designate. Some United Way agency partners provide services to people outside of our service area and people in surrounding parishes/counties often come into Southwest Louisiana for service.



ACCOUNTABILITY AND STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

ALLOCATION AND REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Allocation and Review Committee is comprised of more than 100 volunteers representing a cross section of the community and the parishes of Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron and Jeff Davis. The Committee assists in deciding the most effective way to distribute United Way campaign funds to the family of partner agencies. It is the committee's responsibility to ensure that each donor's campaign contributions are invested in closely-monitored local programs.

Volunteers from the committee are divided into groups, which are referred to as Panels. Each Panel has a Chair, Co-Chair and United Way staff member. The Panels visit their assigned agencies, usually 3 to 5, to see the program in action and to evaluate each program's effectiveness. During the on-site visit, agencies make a presentation explaining their program, services, and investment of United Way funds.

The Panel members caucus after each agency visit to discuss the agency and the services provided. This information is used to make funding recommendations to the United Way board of directors based on community need, community impact and available funds.

UNITED WAY OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

2-1-1

Ad & Press Club

American Advertising Federation

American Red Cross

Association of Fundraising Professionals

Better Business Bureau

B.R.I.D.G.E.S. for Children

Calcasieu-Cameron Foster/Adoptive Parents Association

Calcasieu Long Term Recovery Group

Calcasieu Parish Child Death Review Panel

Calcasieu Parish Fetal Infant Mortality Review Committee

Calcasieu Parish Head Start Health Advisory Committee

Calcasieu Parish Police Jury

Diocesan Disaster Advisory Group

Greater Lake Charles Rotary Club

Internal Revenue Services

Kids Can

Lake Charles Junior League

LANO (Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations)

LAUW (Louisiana Association of United Ways)

Louisiana Family Recovery Corps

Louisiana Housing Alliance

Louisiana Nurse Family Partnership

Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families

Louisiana Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention Coalition for Youth

Mayor's Commission for Women

McNeese State University

National Association of Professional Business Women

National Community Tax Coalition

Rebuilding Lives Coalition

Rotary Club of Lake Charles

Safe Kids SWLA

Safety Town SWLA

SPICY (Suicide Prevention and Intervention Coalition for Youth)

State of Louisiana, Office of Public Health

SWLA Asset Building Coalition

SWLA Economic Development Alliance

SWLA Child C.A.R.E.

SWLA Rita Task Force

SWLAVOAD

SAFETY NET

Helping people in crisis

Victoria was a happy, normal adolescent, with a high grade point average in school. She was very outgoing with her friends and participated in lots of school activities. But shortly after turning 14, she began to isolate herself, developed manic episodes, had difficulty sleeping, and began having hallucinations. Because of those symptoms, her parents had her assessed by a mental health professional who recommended that she be admitted to an adolescent psychiatric unit for evaluation. Shortly after that, she received her first diagnosis – schizophrenia.



But Victoria and her family were not educated as to what they could expect to deal with in the upcoming years in regards to her illness. So, friends in the mental health field urged her family to contact NAMI SWLA for help. It was during that time that NAMI afforded her the opportunity to learn about her mental illness while working in their office. She continued her counseling and psychiatric services. Previously homebound, she graduated from high school. After she turned 18, with NAMI's assistance, she applied for and received Social Security disability income.

She was encouraged by her psychiatrist, mental health therapist, and the NAMI staff to enroll at McNeese State University using disability services. There, she took a limited number of classes each semester, and with the help of her therapist, was urged to seek employment in her community as part of her recovery. NAMI staff was once again able to guide Victoria in finding a job and she went to work at Volunteers of America after being hired as a consumer aide.

Today, Victoria is a senior at McNeese and is employed at VOA as a direct support professional. She bravely faces each day and she knows that NAMI is always there to help her and her family.

2009 RESULTS

- o **2,211 Children and women received refuge and counseling from domestic violence and rape.**
- o 82 At-risk young men received intervention services which pointed them back in the right direction and away from incarceration.
- o **378 People received crisis intervention and assistance after 89 single family fires.**
- o 621 Individuals/families in the armed forces received emergency assistance and/or services.
- o **100 Households recovering from the 2008 hurricanes were assisted through the UWSWLA's Disaster Fund with furniture and appliance replacement, elevation, purchase of building materials, relocation and rental expenses as well as repair and construction of homes.**

WORKING TO ACHIEVE
POSITIVE RESULTS
AND IMPROVE
LIVES EVERYDAY

UNITED WAY SERVICES

TO GET CONNECTED AND GET ANSWERS

CALL 2-1-1

www.310info.org

Help is only three-digits away, **2-1-1**, easy to remember phone number - similar in concept to **9-1-1**. Dialing **2-1-1** provides a single point for connecting to our community's essential health and human services. Caring, certified call specialists use a comprehensive resource database to connect people to the services they need.

For those who have time and talent to give, **2-1-1** also assists in finding the right volunteer opportunity to fit individual needs and skills.

2-1-1, a nationally accredited call center, is free and accessible **24 hours a day/7 days a week**. All calls are confidential.

CHANGE LIVES FOREVER BY LEAVING A LEGACY

By leaving a legacy with United Way, you will partner with future leaders to ensure that every future generation receives the best care available. With United Way, your legacy will have the greatest possible community impact - forever.

For personal assistance in creating your legacy, please contact Denise Durel, at 337.433.1088 or email ddurel@unitedwayswla.org