

2021-2022 United Way Program Summary



United Way of South Texas
Serving Hidalgo & Starr Counties

Our mission is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community to advance the common good.

EDUCATION COUNCIL

- **\$96,000** in COVID-19 Grants for 17 School Districts to address “emerging” needs that are faced by students.
- Some districts added food pantry services and extensive assistance for basic needs.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING SPREE

Established by United Way in 1996, with direction from representatives from McAllen I.S.D., PSJA I.S.D., Mission C.I.S.D. and La Joya I.S.D.

- **\$280,500** investment
- 2,011 Students
- \$125 per student
- School Attire, Hygiene Items and School Supplies
- Over 200 volunteers participate annually

TRANSPORTATION VOUCHERS

Free vouchers are distributed thru 21 entities, such as Nuestra Clinica del Valle, The Veteran’s Administration, The Salvation Army and many more. The vouchers may be used for:

- Medical Appointments
- Pharmacy visits
- Visits to social service Agencies
- School
- Seeking employment

United Way’s partnership with the City of McAllen will offer 50,000 free rides to eligible clients between 2022-2024.

VITA PROGRAM

Free income tax preparation for families with a household income of \$60K or less: Approximately \$771,000 in Savings; Based on \$300 average cost/return.

Service Area	No. Families	\$ Refunds
PSJA Area	435	\$1,076,105
McAllen Area	1,029	\$2,214,534
Mission Area	293	\$560,012
Edinburg Area (includes My Free Taxes)	482	\$903,582
Starr County	331	\$879,836
Totals	2,570	\$5,634,069

COVID-19 COMMUNITY FUND

Established in March 2020 to support local non-profit agencies providing direct services to Hidalgo and Starr County residents affected by COVID-19.

- **\$296,786** distributed in grants thru the summer of 2021.
- **37,942** individuals served
- \$37,000 for Mental Health and Wellness Support

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

A mentorship initiative established by United Way in 2017 for high school Juniors and Freshmen. Students selected by counselors receive training on communication, leadership skills, financial literacy, and career/volunteer opportunities. A total of **375 students** from Weslaco I.S.D., Mercedes I.S.D., and McAllen I.S.D. have benefitted from the program.

SINGLECARE

SingleCare, formerly known as FamilyWise, offers pharmacy discount cards. UW distributes them to over 46 non profits, federal and state entities. In 2021 3,126 claims were made by local families in Hidalgo & Starr Counties, for a total **savings of \$244,375.**

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

A collaboration between United Way and The Monitor to help families in extenuating circumstances during the holidays. **\$468,349** raised for 161 families since 2002.

LATINA HOPE

A collaboration with the McAllen Chamber of Commerce to support women entrepreneurs and their microbusinesses. Participants network on a monthly basis, which allows them to share and learn best practices. They gain financial literacy tools and learn to market successful training.

DAY OF CARING

School Supplies for 31,900 Freshmen **\$290,865** investment since 2011:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Donna I.S.D. | Mission C.I.S.D. |
| Edinburg C.I.S.D. | Monte Alto I.S.D. |
| Edcouch Elsa I.S.D. | PSJA I.S.D. |
| Hidalgo I.S.D. | Rio Grande City C.I.S.D. |
| La Joya I.S.D. | Roma I.S.D. |
| La Villa I.S.D. | South Texas I.S.D. |
| McAllen I.S.D. | Sharyland I.S.D. |
| Mercedes I.S.D. | Weslaco I.S.D. |