United Way of South Texas
2016 Board of Directors

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United Way fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community.
A Message
From The President

Thelma M. Garza, President

Doing more with less seems to be the norm. While fundraising in 2016 was challenging for most non profits, the United Way of South Texas does NOT lose sight of greater demands for meeting critical services in our two county area, Hidalgo and Starr. Our mission is: To improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community to advance the common good.

The United Way of South Texas Board of Directors ensures that all of the donors’ dollars are invested in “real” relevant programs that demonstrate impact. We continue to move residents forward by aligning to the 4 focus areas: Education, Health, Financial Stability and Safety Net. Services from these focus areas (1) provide character building and after school programs that help youth become productive citizens (2) help lift people out of difficult situations, such as domestic violence and homelessness, and (3) help people be self-sufficient. For example, our transportation voucher program helps residents remain healthy and provides access to needed social services and job employment opportunities.

The Education Council is made up of representatives from 10 school districts. We discuss issues of concern and find solutions to obstacles that the student population faces. We have opened up food pantries at four school districts that lack access to food in their communities. We also provide each of these districts with a $2,000 grant that social workers use to help students meet extenuating circumstances. This assistance helps keep the students in school.

This is one student’s story of what the program did for him: David, a student at Edcouch-Elsa High School, was homeless and living on the streets, bouncing between homes of relatives and friends. “The help the school provides [because of United Way funding for food and grants for basic needs, such as clothing or gas money] has helped me stay in school,” he said. David now looks forward to graduation and hopes to one day open his own mechanic shop. By helping students stay in school, we are impacting graduation rates and encouraging them to attend a technical program or participate in a certification program that will help them earn a living wage with an opportunity to advance.

The programs related to improving health focus on nutrition, regular exercises and physical activities. Many of these programs are provided by youth organizations in their after school programs. Improving eating habits and being more active can prevent serious health issues, such as obesity—which can lead to diabetes, heart disease and renal failure.

This year marks the 6th Anniversary of United Way of South Texas leading the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. Growth has been steady every year. In 2016, more than 400 volunteers (students and business professionals) were certified to prepare taxes. They helped 3,102 families get their income tax forms prepared at no cost (saving them $465,300 in fees) and impacting the local economy by $6.1 million in Hidalgo and Starr counties. Credit must be given to our partners, including non profits, schools, municipalities and our business community for the collaboration to make this happen. Furthermore, Financial Literacy is a new component to the program—encouraging savings accounts, basic budgeting and the importance of credit ratings.

Special thanks to our Board of Directors for their vision in leading this organization. Their keen sense of being responsive and relevant to community needs is an inspiration to our impact work.

We thank all our contributors, partner agencies, and volunteers who believe in our work and help us strive for a better tomorrow. Together we continue to LIVE UNITED.
**EDUCATION**

**11 High Schools**
Alternate annually to receive school supplies for their Freshmen.

**3,300**
Freshmen receive basic school supplies through your support and with the help of 250 volunteers who package them.

**“In Style” Shopping Spree**

**120**
Middle school students return to school with new clothing because of your help.

**942**
Families benefit from Prenatal Education, Infant Stimulation, Toddlers Education, and Parenting Classes.

**185 Volunteers**
Assist students make the best selection of school attire (clothing valued at $150 per child). Target also donates school supplies and free haircuts are available for students.

**Infant & After-School Programs**
Students participate in after-school programs that focus on education and career development; leadership and character building; and health and fitness.

**Day of Caring**
Services and food baskets offered at up to eight school districts.

**Drop-out Recovery & Food Pantries**

**Grants**
Help counselors respond to student emergency needs at eight districts.

**Education Council**

**HEALTH**

**Child Advocacy & Counseling**

**1,295**
Victims of child abuse participate in forensic interviews and mental health services they need with your support.

**450**
Children who have been abused/neglected have a court-appointed advocate to speak on their behalf until placement in a safe environment or home.

**Transportation Vouchers**

**$57,455**
Savings for clients in transportation costs.

**45,792**
Free bus rides for individuals needing to keep medical appointments, pick-up prescriptions, attend job interviews/training, and secure emergency transportation to work. We partner with 46 agencies to distribute these bus vouchers to those without transportation.

**FamilyWize**

**$1,012,637**
Savings on prescription medications.

**9,870**
Children and adults participate in prevention program / treatment in Starr County.

**Substance Abuse Prevention/Counseling**

**1,387**
Receive counseling and participate in support groups for alcohol or drug abuse.
**FINANCIAL STABILITY**

**VITA**
(Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program)

$6,100,000
Dollar amount returned to clients during the 2016 tax season.

3,102
Households earning $54,000 or less received free income tax preparation services from I.R.S. certified volunteers.

$465,300
Amount saved by families in preparation fees and reinvested into the community.

**Entrepreneurship**
This program educates Latina women on the process and resources needed to start their own business.

526
Families receive free budget, debt, or housing counseling, as well as consumer education.

777
Individuals with disabilities or other barriers to employment receive employment services.

**Income**
LatinaHope encourages women to use their talent and skill to create profitable products.

**SAFETY NET**

**Emergency Shelter**

16,209
Families experiencing homelessness receive emergency shelter and hygiene kits.

5,798
Victims of domestic violence seek shelter, transitional housing and/or counseling.

100 Adults
Participate in a Personal Social Adjustment Training program that teaches “soft skills,” or life skills, needed to maintain employment.

10,543
Children learn health and life skills during their after school programs.

59,664
Referrals to residents seeking social services and help meeting basic needs.

**Basic Needs**

12,288
Individuals benefit from Preparedness Health and Safety Training, Emergency Assistance (for members of Armed Forces), and Disaster Services.

**Elderly/Disabled**
Individuals are assisted with food, walkers, and/or rent assistance to help meet their basic needs.

**Health & Life Skills**

**Hot Meals**
Provided to those experiencing hunger and/or homelessness in Hidalgo County. Meals to clients and visiting family members are also provided at end-of-life care center.
Volunteer Leadership
Alma Ortega-Johnson, Campaign Co-Chair
Wells Fargo
Bob Tellez, Campaign Co-Chair
H-E-B

The work ethic and passion of our Campaign Volunteer Leadership is inspiring. We commend all Campaign volunteers for their dedication and countless hours of work. United Way funds 21 partner agencies and over 100 programs. The community’s support is essential to our ability to assist these important agencies. In 2016, over 265,424 residents in Hidalgo & Starr Counties were impacted by a United Way funded agency or program. This represents almost 30% of the population.
Volunteers from Plains Capital Bank (above) and H-E-B (below) with students at the “In Style” Back to School Shopping Spree.
TOP 10 COMPANIES

1. H-E-B Stores & Distribution Facility
2. Walmart & Sam’s Stores
3. United Parcel Service (UPS)
4. International Bank (INB)
5. GE Aviation
6. Target Stores
7. City of McAllen
8. South Texas Health System
10. Hidalgo County
TOP SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Golden Apple Awards
Top 5 District Contributors

1) Edinburg C.I.S.D.  4) Mission C.I.S.D.
2) McAllen I.S.D.    5) La Joya I.S.D.
3) PSJA I.S.D.

Highest Per Capita
Campus & Department

La Union Elementary
Rio Grande City C.I.S.D.
Special Education Department
Edcouch-Elsa I.S.D.

Highest Per Capita Districts

South Texas I.S.D.
(under 999 Employees)

Mission C.I.S.D.
(2000-2999 Employees)

Mercedes I.S.D.
(1000-1999 Employees)

McAllen I.S.D.
(over 3000 Employees)
The Pillar Club represents donors who contribute a minimum of $500 annually. Their gift represents their trust in United Way, to create better paths and opportunities for individuals in our community. There were approximately 870 Pillar Club Members in 2016. Thanks to you and to all who invest in United Way of South Texas.

Accenture
AEP Texas
AT&T
Bank of America
BBVA Compass
Boy Scouts of America, Rio Grande Council
Boys and Girls Club of Edinburg
Boys and Girls Club of Pharr
Brightwood College
Burton McCumber & Cortez, LLP
Children’s Advocacy Center
Citizens State Bank
City of Alton
City of Donna
City of Edinburg
City of Hidalgo
City of McAllen
City of Mercedes
City of Mission
City of Pharr
City of Rio Grande City
City of Roma
City of San Juan
City of Weslaco
Coca Cola
Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)
Costco
COSTEP
Delphi
Design & Development Institute
Dillard’s
Duke Energy
Edcouch - Elsa I.S.D.
Edinburg C.I.S.D.
Edwards Abstract & Title Co.
Elsa State Bank
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
FedEx
GE Aviation
H-E-B - Alamo
H-E-B - Donna
H-E-B - Edinburg - Freddy Gonzalez
H-E-B - McAllen - N. 10th St.
H-E-B - McAllen - Pecan Blvd.
H-E-B - McAllen - Trenton
H-E-B - Mercedes
H-E-B - Mission - Conway
H-E-B - Mission - Griffin Parkway
H-E-B - Mission - Shary Rd.
H-E-B - Palmhurst
H-E-B - Palmview
H-E-B - Pharr
H-E-B - Regional Office
H-E-B - Rio Grande City
H-E-B - San Juan
H-E-B - Transportation
H-E-B - Weslaco - Texas Blvd.
H-E-B - Weslaco - Westgate Dr.
Hidalgo County
Hidalgo County Head Start
Hidalgo County Pct. 2 Pharr
Hidalgo I.S.D.
Hobart
Holt
IBM
International Bank of Commerce (IBC)
Inter National Bank (INB)
International Paper Company
Pictured above are “Super Youth” members from the Starr County Youth Coalition at Rio Grande City CISD. This coalition is affiliated with Serving Children and Adults in Need (SCAN).
FUND DISTRIBUTION VOLUNTEERS:

Dr. Marla Guerra, South Texas I.S.D., Chair
Fito Mercado, University of Texas - RGV, Co-Chair

Approximately 34 volunteers were part of the Audit, Program, Facilities and Outcome review process.

They represented the following companies:

- AEP Texas
- BBVA Compass Bank
- Burton McCumber & Cortez LLP
- Chase Bank
- City of McAllen
- City Of Weslaco
- Elsa State Bank
- Frost Bank
- H-E-B
- Infinity Auto Insurance
- Inter National Bank
- JP Morgan Chase Bank
- Lone Star National Bank
- Mission CISD
- Navy Army Community Credit Union
- Sam's Club
- Security First Credit Union
- Target
- Texas Regional Bank
- The Monitor
- Universal Pawn
- UT-RGV
- Veteran's Administration
- Walmart

Volunteer South Texas

Over 115 agencies have registered on the free online portal: volunteersotx.org.

275 volunteers participated in Volunteer South Texas Week in 2016 and contributed 864 hours towards projects benefiting 24 different agencies.

Their time amounted to almost $20,000 in economic value.

Register to volunteer or sign up your agency on Volunteer South Texas. Call United Way of South Texas at 956.686.6331 if you have any questions.
United Way of South Texas is responsible for administering, providing all support staff and training hundreds of volunteers for unique projects. Our work adds value and ensures accountability.

- Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) - completed 21 years of administering the RGV-CFC in 2016; managed employee giving campaign for RGV Federal employees; raised $986,000 during the 2016 Campaign.

- Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP formerly FEMA) – administered distribution of over $600,000 in federal funds for food and shelter programs in Hidalgo, Starr and Zapata Counties. EFSP designations vary annually depending on federal funding availability.

- State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) – managed employee giving campaign for RGV State employees. Raised $208,000 during the 2016 Campaign.

Education Council
Dr. Guerra, Superintendent of South TX I.S.D., also leads an energetic group of 21 educators who represent United Way’s Education Council. Their goal is to identify crucial needs that are faced by students who live in severe poverty, in particular, those working to earn their High School Diploma. The team has approved UW grants to:

- Offer emergency grants to students who face emergency needs
- Fund food pantries at some school districts

Council Members represent:
1. Edcouch-Elsa I.S.D.
2. Edinburg C.I.S.D
3. La Joya I.S.D.*
4. McAllen I.S.D.
5. Monte Alto I.S.D.*
6. PSJA I.S.D
7. Rio Grande City C.I.S.D.*
8. Roma I.S.D.*

*Food Pantries funded by United Way through your generous support.

As donors become more involved with United Way, they recognize that United Way is the only local non-profit organization with the capacity to affect individuals from birth to end-of-life. Our footprint in the local community is the largest and the most impactful. Recipients of United Way funding are carefully reviewed for accountability by dedicated volunteers.
Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursement
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

Receipts

Collected Campaign Pledges $2,651,325
Admin CFC/SECC $118,944
Investment Income $5,733
Designated Gifts $1,342
Grants $41,236
In Kind Donations $152,133

$2,970,713

Disbursements (Direct Investments to Community)

Distribution to Partner Agencies $1,303,848
Community Impact Grants $292,000
SECC/CFC/EFSP Costs $118,944
*Program/Community Projects Costs $255,339
*Campaign Investments Costs $516,050
Emergency Grants $40,000

$2,526,181

Other Disbursements (Indirect Investment to Community)

Administrative Costs $399,679

Net Contribution to Cash $45,351

*Program/community project costs include: Designated Gifts, In-Style Shopping, Drop-out Prevention/Education Council, Transportation Vouchers and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA).

*Campaign Investments Includes: 152,000 In-Kind services
All figures based on 2015 Audit.

United Way of South Texas does not charge agencies any fee in return for their allocation and other services rendered.
Our Partner Agencies

American Red Cross
Iris Martinez-Juergens

Aurora House
Kathy Scheuerman

Boy Scouts Rio Grande Council
Rudy Gonzalez

Boys & Girls Club of Alamo/San Juan
Lyle Skaggs

Boys & Girls Club of Edinburg
Sabrina Walker-Hernandez

Boys & Girls Club of McAllen
Dalinda Gonzalez-Alcantar

Boys & Girls Club of Mission
Luduvico Martinez

Boys & Girls Club of Pharr
Freddy Mata, Jr.

CASA of Hidalgo County
Diana Almaguer

Children’s Advocacy Center
Victoria Medina

Community Council of the RGV
Abby Torre

Girls Scouts of Greater So. TX
Lea Peacock

Green Path, Inc.
Sara Gilbert

Goodwill Industries of So. TX.
John W. Owen

Hidalgo Youth Center
Jaime Gaona

Mercedes Recreation Center
Richard Morin

Palmer Drug Abuse Program
Nadia Ochoa

Serving Children & Adults in Need
Sandra Garza

Silver Ribbon Community Partners
Janie Maldonado

Starr Co. Victims of Domestic Violence
Delia Perez

Su Casa De Esperanza
Lucy Fernandez

The Salvation Army
Captain Luis Melendez

Women Together
Estella De Anda

*United Way invests in and administers these programs. However, United Way Staff are not involved in the selection of any of the recipients.*

2016 Community Impact Grants

Day of Caring

The Education Council

“In Style” Shopping Spree

LatinaHope

Starr County Programs

Transportation Vouchers

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
We Thank You For Your Support!

Staff

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