

CONTINUE THE FIGHT BREAK THE CYCLE



WHO WE ARE

We are a local, volunteer-driven nonprofit organization that brings together the mainland communities of Galveston County to address critical issues since 1955. Our partner agencies provide programs that make positive, long-lasting impacts to the people who live and work in Galveston County.

WHAT WE DO:

We raise funds each year with the help of local industries, businesses, families and individuals. We combine your dollars with the donations and resources of others and strategically invest in programs that address our community's most critical needs. Our fundraising is extremely efficient, with only 7.2% used for administrative costs, meaning 92.8% of every dollar raised goes directly into our community.

OUR FOCUS

United Way advances the common good by creating opportunities for all. Our focus is to fight for health, education, and financial stability—the building blocks for a good quality of life and a strong community.

Your gift to United Way Galveston County Mainland stays right here in Galveston County to address local needs and issues.

OUR PROGRAMS

Allocation Committee: Each year in April and May, more than 60 volunteers come together to review the next year's funding applications and interview the directors of the programs and agencies that are applying. The applications are divided across 6 panels, and each panel meets multiple times to evaluate the applications and conduct interviews. After this process, the committee volunteers will make funding recommendations to UWGCM's Board of Directors, ensuring that donor dollars are going where they are needed the most in our local communities.

Training Program: United Way Galveston County Mainland (UWGCM) is committed to creating useful trainings and materials that will help our agencies and clients, as well as our community, translate knowledge to employees and donors as efficiently as possible. UWGCM develops training programs based on curriculum instruction combined with modern technology such as computers and visual aids. This is especially important for orienting new hires as well as teaching established employees new concepts. It creates an even greater impact for community participants to bridge the gap from dreams to reality. UWGCM enhances its training program by utilizing or partnering with other training coordinators and outside trainers to teach specialized skills as indicated in the initial assessment to meet our community's needs.

The goal of our trainings is to transform individual lives and bring long-lasting, systemic change to tough issues.

All our trainings are free of charge and open to the community. Trainings can be found on-line at www.uwgcm.org.

Student United Way: The Student United Way Club is a high school and college campus organization that is student-led and represents the next generation of community leaders. It is where passionate student leaders are committed to improving lives and strengthening communities. By organizing volunteer projects, Student United Way focuses on projects that align with United Way's mission; Fighting for Health, Education and Financial Stability. The goal of SUW Club is to be the "campus hub" of community service and volunteer projects. This is where members and other students in the school can come to the SUW Club and grow as leaders and become connected to their community.

Fluor Craft Training Program: UWGCM has partnered with Fluor Corporation to provide free, comprehensive entry-level craft training in high demand industrial crafts. Training is available for crafts needed for future employment in the oil and gas, refining, and industrial construction industries. Classes are held as 12-week programs, with a combination of classroom and hands-on skill training. Upon successful completion, trainees receive industry recognized entry-level credentials in the NCCER Core Curriculum and in one of the following trades:

- electrical
- instrumentation
- millwright
- pipefitting

All individuals must be 18 years old or older to apply.

For more information on how to enroll in the next class, contact United Way Galveston County Mainland at (409) 948-4211.

United Way Galveston County Mainland Information Packet 2019

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program

As part of its commitment to addressing key community issues, UWGCM is developing strategies to positively impact the financial stability of our citizens. Our goal is to help working individuals and families' achieve financial independence by providing opportunities and education to build, save, and protect their financial assets.

The VITA program offers free tax help to low-to moderate-income (less than \$58,000) families who cannot prepare their own returns and individuals who are elderly, disabled, veterans, or speak limited English. Certified volunteers receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in Galveston County.

In 2019, UWGCM volunteers prepared 207 tax returns, bringing back \$92,331 to families in EIC funds and \$298,734 in overall federal refunds, plus they saved families over \$144,990 in costly tax preparation fees. By increasing income to working families, the VITA program directly effects the family's or individual's ability to become or remain financially stable.

Why United Way?

The United Way 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. You can see the results in your own company, even as you're part of a larger mission to affect change. The workplace campaign is about more than raising money for worthy causes; it also strengthens connections between employees and their community.

Workplaces that run an annual United Way campaign are vital to our ongoing success. With volunteers overseeing fundraising efforts, we remain one of the most effective charities in our region. This, in turn, allows us to make an even bigger impact.

Together, we can achieve UWGCM's vision of self-sufficiency and make a positive impact in Galveston County Mainland communities.

GIVE

- Engage in workplace programs and campaigns
- Participate in UWGCM events
- Donate on-line at uwgcm.org

ADVOCATE

- Talk to others about supporting UWGCM
- Attend trainings at UWGCM to make an impact in areas of Health, Education, and Financial Stability
- Host a United Way event
- Feature United Way in an article

VOLUNTEER

- Sign up to volunteer at UWGCM and become an active volunteer
- Serve on UWGCM's Allocation Committee

Other Contributions

Hurricane Harvey Relief: United Way Galveston County Mainland is Texas Strong. Since Hurricane Harvey left Galveston County with destruction and devastation, UWGCM has been working hand-in-hand with its partner agencies, government officials, and other local non-profits to help those in need. On August 31st, 2017 UWGCM dispersed \$500,000 into the community for disaster relief. As of July 31st, 2019 United Way Galveston County Mainland and its donors have disbursed a total of \$1,716,995.57 into the Galveston County community.

Santa Fe School Shooting:

The Texas City Fire Department had their 3rd annual Firefighter Games scheduled for May 18, the same day as the Santa Fe High School shooting. The decision was made by Fire Chief David Zacherl, United Way Galveston County Mainland's Executive Director Chris Delesandri, and Texas City's Mayor Matt Doyle to go on with the games, but all proceeds would go to the victims of the Santa Fe High School shooting. We are happy to announce that they raised \$20,000.00 for this cause.

Immediately after the Santa Fe High School shooting, the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, Family Service Center, the Gulf Coast Center, Santa Fe Family Services, and Catholic Charities responded to give support to the victim's families while they were in the hospital. Throughout the summer, Santa Fe Family Services hosted Together Tuesday events to promote support and healing for anyone who wanted to attend. Additionally, the Gulf Coast Center, Family Service Center, and Catholic Charities will be remaining at the Santa Fe Strong Resiliency Center for long-term support. United Way Galveston County Mainland and our member agencies are dedicated to providing the vital services that the Santa Fe community may need for years to come.