

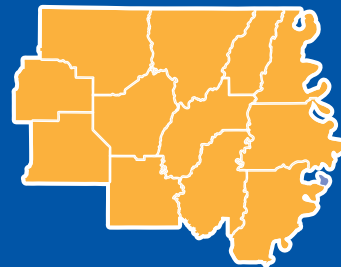


COMMUNITY REPORT

WHO WE ARE

What does it mean to **LIVE UNITED**?

For over 66 years, United Way of Northeast Louisiana has been a unifying force for passionate individuals, businesses, government entities, and nonprofits to effectively create positive and lasting change, improve lives, and build a stronger community. We accomplish this by mobilizing partners and resources throughout the **12-parish region** in a united effort to identify and respond to our community's most critical needs.



Together, we fight for the education, financial stability, and health of every person in our community.

With more than **1,000 volunteers** and over **6,900 donors**, we're powered by thousands of locals who want to help people and improve our community – now and for generations to come.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion have always been and will continue to be at the heart of what it means to LIVE UNITED. In 2002, United Way of Northeast Louisiana's Board of Directors developed a set of values that remains current today: inclusiveness, integrity, compassion, respect, dignity, and positive impact. United Way of Northeast Louisiana's Board of Directors has formed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council and named a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council Chair as a part of its Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

The current statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion can be found at unitedwaynela.org/dei. This statement is evaluated and updated on a regular basis by volunteer leadership.

UnitedWayNELA.org | unitedway@unitedwaynela.org
VOLUNTEER! [UnitedWayNELA.org/volunteer](https://unitedwaynela.org/volunteer)



2021 - 2022

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

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North Delta Title Company
BOARD CHAIR

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Argent Financial Group
2022 BOARD CHAIR
2021 COMMUNITY IMPACT CHAIR

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Willie Hunter Jr. & Associates
SECRETARY

NATHAN "NAT" SMITH

BancorpSouth Bank
TREASURER

CHAIRS

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Company UNITED
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RICK GUILLOT

Origin Bank
2022 CAMPAIGN CHAIR

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Durrett Law & Title
2021 LUJP CAMPAIGN CHAIR

CATHI COX-BONJOL

Louisiana Tech University
2022 LUJP CAMPAIGN CHAIR

ALBERTA B. GREEN

ABG Professional Development Solutions
2021-22 DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION
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2021-22 UNITED WAY 211 ADVOCATE

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JANET FORTENBERRY
Janet Fortenberry State Farm
Insurance Agency

JANICE J. GARRISON
JP Morgan Chase

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LA Association for Marriage & Family
Therapy (LAMFT)

WES GIBSON
Lumen

TODD GUICE
Ouachita Parish School System

COURTNEY HORNSBY
City of West Monroe

MARCUS MASHAW
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University of Louisiana Monroe

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Regions Bank

STEPHANIE SMITH
Ouachita Parish Tax Assessor's Office

PASTOR WILLIAM SMITH
OIC

CORRE STEGALL
Louisiana Tech University, Retired

RANDY STONE
KARD Fox 14 / KTVE NBC 10

VICTOR VIDAURRE
St. Francis Medical Center

ROD WASHINGTON
XP Synergy

HARRINGTON WATSON III, Ph.D.
Monroe City Schools
Wossman High School

ASHLEY WEST
Progressive Bank

JUANITA WOODS
NOVA



UnitedWayNELA.org | unitedway@unitedwaynela.org
VOLUNTEER! [UnitedWayNELA.org/volunteer](https://unitedwaynela.org/volunteer)

ASPIRATIONS & GOALS

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & YOUNG ADULTS SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL & LIFE

- GOAL** Children enter school ready.
- GOAL** Students are successful in elementary school and prepared for middle/secondary school.
- GOAL** Youth gain the knowledge, skills, and credentials so that they are prepared for the workforce and able to obtain family sustaining employment.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

- GOAL** Individuals and families have adequate and sustainable resources to support their needs.
- GOAL** Individuals and families have the skills, knowledge, relationships, and economic pathways they need to effectively increase and manage their income.
- GOAL** Vulnerable populations maximize their ability to live with independence and dignity.
- GOAL** People/organizations continue to work together to support a thriving, prosperous, robust economy.

HEALTHY & SAFE INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, & COMMUNITY

- GOAL** Families/individuals live in a healthy and safe environment.
- GOAL** People/organizations work together to strengthen and build a more inclusive community.



SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN & YOUTH



ALICE

618,636 children in Louisiana — 57% of all children — lived in a household with income below the ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival in 2019, the highest rate in the nation. These households included families in poverty as well as those who were ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. ALICE households don't earn enough to afford the essentials of housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, a smartphone plan, and taxes — the basics needed to live and work in the modern economy.

- 53%** of children in renter households below the ALICE Threshold in Louisiana were rent burdened.
- Having working parents or guardians does not guarantee financial stability: **29%** of Louisiana children in households with two adults in the labor force were still below the ALICE Threshold in 2019.
- 81%** of children with an adult working as a cashier — one of the most common occupations in Louisiana — were below the ALICE Threshold.
- Nearly 245,000 children below the ALICE Threshold in Louisiana did not have access to high-speed internet at home.
- More than 341,000 children below the ALICE Threshold in Louisiana were struggling but did not participate in SNAP.

Ready4K

Accessible to partner school families, Ready4K leverages text messaging as a powerful tool to deliver learning activities at home and on the go.

- 35,325 text messages** were sent to empower families to recognize and act on everyday, teachable moments.
- 100% of parents** report that Ready4K helped their children learn and grow.

Read.Learn.Succeed.

- Research shows that raising a child in a home filled with books positively impacts his or her future academic growth and job attainment. United Way NELA put **5,500 books** into the hands of local school children.
- Research shows that writing and receiving handwritten pen pal letters hones both reading and writing skills. **1,180 letters/correspondences** were exchanged between local school children and their volunteer Pen Friends (826 letters from volunteers and 354 correspondences from students).

From *ALICE in Focus: Children*, a body of research published in 2021. Visit unitedwaynela.org/alice for the full report.





United Way
of Northeast Louisiana

211 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects callers to information about critical health and human services available in their community...and it's FREE!

It's a single access point for everyday needs and needs in times of crisis.

WHAT WERE THE TOP CALLS PLACED TO 211?

- 7,267 people called 211 for assistance with **housing, homelessness, and/or utility bills** in 2021.
- 1,755 connections were made to **reduce hunger** in 2021.



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE FACING FOOD INSECURITY?

A 211 Specialist can connect older adults, low-income families, and those who can't leave home to information about food distribution sites.

IS SOMEONE IN YOUR WORKPLACE OR COMMUNITY FACING HOUSING INSTABILITY?

A 211 Specialist can help find options for paying rent, mortgage, and/or utilities to help individuals stay in their homes.

 **DIAL 211**

available 24/7,
365 days a year or

 **TEXT**

Your Zip Code to 898-211,
available M-F 8am-5pm



DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAVE TROUBLE PAYING FOR PRESCRIPTIONS?

SingleCare works directly with pharmacies to negotiate up to 80% off prescription prices. SingleCare partners with United Way to ensure that savings are passed on to members, free of charge.

Total (NELA) Rx savings in 2021: **\$129,135**
Total (NELA) people helped in 2021: **2,291**



United Way
of Northeast Louisiana

What does the Louisiana 211 Referral & Care Coordinator do?

The Louisiana 211 Referral and Care Coordinator at United Way of Northeast Louisiana will provide direct client services by delivering on aligned, high quality 211 referral and care coordination services, leveraging technology and "people powered" processes. This staff leader will focus on serving clients within a specified region as part of a statewide network team. The Coordinator will be trained and equipped to provide "closed-loop" referral and care coordination services.



 **DIAL 211**

available 24/7,
365 days a year or

 **TEXT**

Your Zip Code to 898-211,
available M-F 8am-5pm

What did 211 do in 2021?

- In 2021, United Way NELA 211 made **16,159 connections** to help and resources.
- Of those connections, **95% of callers** reported satisfaction with 211's service.



FINANCIAL HEALTH SERVICES



Miller Roy Building, built in 1929

Financial Health Services will be Provided Across 12 Parishes

All 12 parishes of NELA will have access to financial capability services. Examples include:

- Access to Safe and Affordable Financial Products
- Asset Ownership Programs
- Credit Improvement Services
- Financial Coaching & Education
- Free Tax Preparation Assistance
- Housing Stability Counseling
- Incentivized Savings Program
- Workforce Development Soft Skills

Introducing United Way of Northeast Louisiana's Financial Health Center!

Located in the historic Miller-Roy Building at 1001 Desiard Street in Monroe, United Way of Northeast Louisiana's Financial Health Center will serve as the community's hub for economic resources.

What is the Financial Health Center?

Low-to-moderate income individuals and families face multiple economic and societal barriers that prevent them from achieving financial stability and economic independence. Many organizations offer a variety of services designed to help these individuals and families become more financially stable. These services are often delivered by multiple agencies with little coordination amongst each other, making accessibility difficult.

The Financial Health Center will develop a holistic, integrated approach to improving financial security, functioning as a one-stop hub to allow community members access to a wide range of services.

VITA

The VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program offers free tax preparation and e-filing services to individuals and families. VITA tax preparers are certified by the IRS. In addition, clients save money by not having to pay fees associated with tax preparation. Through the VITA program, we help hard-working individuals and families in our community take advantage of their tax dollars and reinvest their returns back into their households and our community.



BANK ON

One key challenge facing unbanked and underbanked individuals has been a lack of safe and appropriate accounts offered by mainstream financial institutions, particularly those without overdraft. Bank On will work to ensure that community residents have access to safe and affordable financial products and services. The Bank On National Account Standards identify critical product features for appropriate bank or credit union accounts, making it easier for our local coalition to connect residents to accounts that meet their needs. A local coalition of banks and credit unions will connect residents to accounts that meet their needs and include features like: low costs, no overdraft fees, robust transaction capabilities such as a debit or prepaid card and online bill pay.

FINANCIAL COUNSELING

Financial counselors will help residents deal with financial topics like budgeting, debt and saving. Financial counselors will help participants understand their current financial situation, set goals, manage money and plan for the future.



THE HEIRSHIP PROJECT

After experiencing multiple disasters, United Way of NELA launched The Heirship Project to provide education, outreach, and support to those citizens with heir property and title issues so residents will have proof of ownership to apply for recovery funds as well as personally secure their property for the future.



DOLLARS & SENSE

The United Way of Northeast Louisiana **Dollars & Sense** is a financial education simulation in person or via an app through which young people will actively learn how to make better financial decisions and gain knowledge of budgeting, saving, and spending.



UNITED WAY NELA CAMPAIGN



WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN — CORPORATE GIVING



Each year, many Northeast Louisiana companies choose to make a difference through corporate giving, showing their commitment to being part of the change needed to create a healthier, safer, and more opportunity-filled community for all.



The United Way of Northeast Louisiana Workplace Campaign unites and inspires your employees, giving them a unique opportunity to donate to and volunteer for causes that matter most to them. Last year, in total, we raised more than \$3,037,000. Part of that effort was through partnering with 165 companies during the annual Workplace Campaign. A partnership with United Way of Northeast Louisiana provides your company and employees with these and many other opportunities.



LEADERSHIP GIVING



ANNUAL GIFT OF \$10,000+

Membres de la Société	\$10,000 - \$14,999
Les Bienfaiteurs	\$15,000 - \$24,999
Ordre de Liberté	\$25,000 - \$99,999
La Société Nationale	\$100,000 - \$249,999



ANNUAL GIFT OF \$1,000-\$9,999

Commander:	\$1,000 - \$1,499
Captain:	\$1,500 - \$2,499
Commodore:	\$2,500 - \$4,999
Admiral:	\$5,000 - \$9,999

ANNUAL GIFT OF \$500-\$999

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

CIRCLE OF HONOR

Gifts specific to United Way of Northeast Louisiana to be invested by the United Way NELA Volunteers must total at least \$25,000 or 80% of total employee giving. **Average employee gift is at least \$200 with 51% employee participation in the campaign.**

CAMPAIGN LEADERS AWARD

This award is based purely on dollars raised in Northeast Louisiana. This award recognizes the outstanding corporate/employee giving of the Top 10 companies raising the most dollars in the current campaign.

OUTSTANDING CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR OR TEAM AWARD

At the heart of each workplace campaign is the United Way Campaign Coordinator or Team. This award is given to a Campaign Coordinator or Team that works diligently to reach their employee giving and participation goals. They go over and above what is expected of them to ensure that their campaign and coworkers make a difference in improving the community.

VOLUNTEER UNITED AWARD

This award is given to an individual or organization that embodies an overall spirit of giving through contributions of time, leadership and resources in supporting the work of United Way of Northeast Louisiana.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Gifts specific to United Way of Northeast Louisiana to be invested by the United Way NELA Volunteers must total at least \$25,000 or 70% of total employee giving. **Average employee gift is at least \$120 with 51% employee participation in the campaign.**

LIVE UNITED® AWARD

This award is given to a workplace campaign that exemplifies and embodies a corporate culture of philanthropy and community involvement. They truly know what it means to GIVE.ADVOCATE.VOLUNTEER. Their actions inspire others to be involved in their community.

GOING THE EXTRA 10% AWARD

This award is given to those workplace campaigns that increase their annual United Way of Northeast Louisiana campaign by 10% or more and 60% of total employee giving is allocated by the United Way NELA Volunteers.

YOUNG LEADERS UNITED AWARD

This award is given to a member of Young Leaders UNITED who personifies a commitment to the future of our community and supports the work of United Way of Northeast Louisiana. By exhibiting leadership, encouraging engagement, and empowering young individuals in Northeast Louisiana to make an impact, they cultivate lasting change for generations to come.

*Corporate Giving and Best Practices apply to all awards. Corporate Giving: The Company has made a corporate contribution to United Way of Northeast Louisiana. Corporate giving does not apply to public sector or nonprofit organizations. Campaign Best Practices: At least 6 of 10 best practices must be met.



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

LIVE UNITED AWARD

REGIONAL:
University of Louisiana Monroe

LINCOLN, UNION, AND JACKSON PARISHES:
Union Parish Schools

VOLUNTEER UNITED AWARD

REGIONAL:
University of Louisiana Monroe

LINCOLN, UNION, AND JACKSON PARISHES:
Jackson Parish Sheriff's Office

CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR OR TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

REGIONAL:
Keiona Wesby
Monroe Coca-Cola Bottling Company UNITED

Chelsey Walley & Team
Business Alliance Financial Services, LLC

LINCOLN, UNION, AND JACKSON PARISHES:
Corre Stegall & Cathi Cox-Boniol
Louisiana Tech University



WORKPLACE GIVING

4th Judicial District Attorney's Office
 4th Judicial District Court - Judges
 4th Judicial District Court-OPPJ
 Acadian Ambulance Service
 AIMS, Inc.
 Allen, Green & Williamson, LLP
 Amcor
 ANGUS Chemical Company
 ARC OF OUACHITA
 Argent Financial Group, Inc.
 Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc.
 Associated Business Printing, Inc.
 AT&T
 ATMOS Energy Corporation
 b1BANK
 b1BANK Loan Production Office
 BancorpSouth Bank
 Bancroft Bag, Inc.
 Bank of Oak Ridge
 Berry Global, Inc.
 Blake Wheelis State Farm
 Boys & Girls Clubs of North Louisiana
 Brookshire Grocery Company
 Business Alliance Financial Services
 Cameron, Hines & Company, APAC
 Car Town
 CenterPoint Energy
 Centric Federal Credit Union
 Century Next Bank
 Choice Brands
 Christopher Youth Center
 Citizens Progressive Bank
 City of Monroe
 City of Ruston
 City of West Monroe
 Community Financial Insurance Center, LLC
 Courtesy Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac of Ruston, LLC
 Courtesy Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
 CREED & CREED
 Cross Keys Bank
 Crossmark Management Group
 D.A.R.T.
 Dean Morris, LLC
 Delta Biscuit Company
 Dewitt & Giger, LLP
 Don M. Barron Contractor, Inc.
 Drax Biomass, Inc.
 Durrett Law & Title
 Emprint Moran Printing, Inc.
 Ensure, The Insurance Agency
 Entergy Louisiana
 Etheridge Pipeline & Conduit
 Ewing Timber, LLC
 Federal Express
 Financial Institution Service Corporation
 First Horizon Bank

Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana
 Foster Farms
 Girl Scouts of Louisiana - Pines to the Gulf
 Glenwood Regional Medical Center
 Grambling State University
 Graphic Packaging International
 Green Clinic Health System
 Green Oaks Juvenile Detention Center Ouachita Parish - State of Louisiana
 Guaranty Bank & Trust
 Heard, McElroy & Vestal, LLP
 HiTech Computers of Ruston Inc
 Holyfield Construction
 Homeland Bank
 Hulsey, Harwood & Sheridan, CPA
 Hunt Forest Products
 Hunt, Guillot & Associates, LLC
 Impact Healthcare Solutions
 InterMountain Management
 Jackson Parish Correctional Center
 Jackson Parish Sheriff's Office
 James Machine Works
 Jim Taylor Buick GMC
 Jim Taylor Chevrolet
 Jim Taylor Ford Lincoln
 JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
 KTVE 10 NBC KARD FOX 14
 LaSalle Management, M&T Properties, & Correct Solutions Group
 Lazenby & Associates, Inc.

CAMPAIGN LEADER

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

NEW CAMPAIGN

VOLUNTEER UNITED

GOING THE EXTRA 10%

CIRCLE OF HONOR

LIVE UNITED

CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR

Lincoln Agency, LLC
 Lincoln Builders, Inc.
 Lincoln Parish Police Jury
 Lincoln Parish School District
 Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office
 Lincoln Preparatory School
 Little & Associates
 Louisiana Delta Community College
 Louisiana National Bank
 Louisiana Tech University
 Lumen
 Marion State Bank
 McKinney Saw and Cycle, Inc.
 Med - Camps of Louisiana
 Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
 Mid South Extrusion
 Monroe Chamber of Commerce
 Monroe City Schools
 Monroe Coca-Cola Bottling Company UNITED
 Monroe Housing Authority
 NAI Faulk & Foster
 Newcomer, Morris & Young
 North Delta Title Company Price & Sawyer, LLC
 Northeast Louisiana Cancer Institute
 Northern Louisiana Medical Center
 Origin Bank

Ouachita Council On Aging
 Ouachita Parish Assessor's Office
 Ouachita Parish Clerk of Court
 Ouachita Parish Police Jury
 Ouachita Parish Public Library
 Ouachita Parish Public Works
 Ouachita Parish School Board
 Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office
 Ouachita Parish Workforce Development Board
 Ouachita Valley Federal Credit Union
 Peoples Bank
 Peregrine Corporation
 Polaris of Ruston
 Progressive Bank
 Radiology Associates
 Raymond James and Associates
 Reeves, Coon & Funderburg
 Regions Financial Corporation
 Richwood Correctional Center
 Robertson Produce, Inc.
 Roseburg Forest Products
 Ruston Glass & Mirror
 Ryan Auto Group
 S. E. Huey Co.
 Sawyer Industrial Plastics, Inc.
 Scott Equipment Companies
 Scott Powerline & Utility Equipment, LLC

Snellings, Breard, Sartor, Inabnett, & Trascher, LLP
 Southern Apparatus Services, Inc.
 Specialty Management Services of Ouachita (SMSO)
 St. Francis Medical Center
 Standard Enterprises, Inc.
 State Combined Charitable Campaign SCCC
 Steel Fabricators of Monroe, LLC
 Strauss Interests, Inc.
 Target Store T1469
 The Health Hut
 The Wellspring Alliance For Families
 The Woman's Clinic, Inc.
 Thomas & Farr Agency, Inc.
 Town of Farmerville
 Union Council on Aging
 Union General Hospital
 Union Parish Schools
 Union Parish Sheriff's Department
 United Way of Northeast Louisiana
 University of Louisiana Monroe
 UPS Monroe Site
 Van-Trow, LLC Van-Trow Toyota
 Wagner Logistics
 Walpole Tire & Service
 Wells Fargo Advisors
 WestRock - Hodge Mill

YOUNG *leaders* UNITED

Are you 40 years old or younger? Looking for a way to get involved in the community?
Young Leaders UNITED may be the place for you!

UnitedWayNELA.org/young-leaders-united

or text **YLU** to **91999** to join.



Is your workplace or group interested in **volunteer opportunities**?
To build a volunteer project best suited to your group or company's needs,
call 211 or email volunteer@unitedwaynela.org.

MONROE:

1201 Hudson Lane, Monroe, LA 71201
318-325-3869

RUSTON:

939 North Trenton Street, Ruston, LA 71270
318-232-0055