

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What does United Way do?**

United Way of the Coastal Empire fights for the Education, Income, and Health of every person in our community. We do this by assessing community conditions, raising money, investing in community goals, and measuring results to create long-term change.

## **Where does the money go?**

The dollars raised here, stay here and are put to work locally where they are needed most. When you give to the United Way Community Fund, your contribution supports 92 programs across 58 local nonprofits.

## **Why should I give to United Way and not directly to an agency?**

When you give to the United Way Community Fund, your gift becomes part of a collective effort to strengthen our entire community. This kind of investment allows you to accomplish more than you can alone or through a single charity.

## **Why isn't my favorite nonprofit funded by United Way?**

In some cases, an agency may be doing great work, but it may not have programs that align with United Way's community impact goals. In other cases, the agency may not meet United Way's rigorous criteria for performance and accountability.

## **Is my gift tax-deductible?**

Yes, United Way is a federally registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Donations to United Way are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by an individual's or corporation's circumstances.

## **How can I be sure my contribution is well managed and well spent?**

Every year, local volunteers and experts carefully review the programs to be funded by your contribution. Every application is judged on utilizing program resources wisely and delivering results. Your investment is held accountable.

## **What financial safeguards are in place at United Way?**

United Way is committed to the highest standards of accountability and transparency when handling donor dollars. Processing any transaction must be completed by multiple employees and all checks must be signed by two authorized signers. The Finance Committee and Board of Directors review financial statements monthly to assess adherence to the budget. An independent accounting firm annually audits United Way, and the Audit Committee and Board of Directors must review and approve this audit each year.

## **How does United Way pay for its events?**

Annual events, such as Kick-Off and Turkey Trot, boost morale and create synergy among the community. Nearly all the costs for these events are paid through ticket prices and generous corporate sponsorships. Additionally, the Herschel V. Jenkins Trust Fund and other revenue help offset operational costs such as campaign materials, events and administrative fees.

## **Are there other ways I can contribute to United Way?**

There are three ways to contribute: give, advocate, and volunteer. Looking to get involved? Visit [uwce.org](http://uwce.org) to get started.