United Way of the Ocoee Region







United Way of the Ocoee Region

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, STEPHANIE LINKOUS



For 85 years, United Way of the Ocoee Region's commitment to the community has not wavered. 2022 was no different, with thousands of local people coming together for the common good. Over 35,000 lives were touched by United Way and our community partners.

It is with great hope and gratitude that we present the **2022 Annual Repor**t to the community. Last year, I witnessed the grace and resiliency of a community united around a common purpose: **to give everyone the opportunity for a better tomorrow**. It is a privilege to work alongside volunteers, donors, corporate partners, nonprofit organizations, and local government to solve our community's most complex problems.

We welcome change seekers to the table. Change requires new solutions, so together, we are tackling systemic, interrelated issues to create more opportunities throughout the Ocoee Region. We are targeting areas where there are gaps in services and challenging others to innovate new solutions to old problems. Our team and volunteer leadership have set bold goals for our organization: break the cycle of poverty, meet immediate basic needs, give kids an equal chance, and build pathways to a healthy community. Imagine for a moment what both Bradley and Polk County would be like if we accomplished them!

Thank you for joining us – and being part of our movement – by giving back to your community, advocating for the causes you believe in, and volunteering your time and talent to improve the quality of life in Bradley and Polk Counties.

As always, I thank each of you, our friends, neighbors, volunteers, advocates, and partners, for your continued support and for **living united** with us.



Styphane Lukous

It's when we all come together to unite around our community's most complex problems that we can truly make change and give everyone an opportunity for a better tomorrow.

ABOUT UNITED WAY

Our Mission

The mission of the United Way of the Ocoee Region is to be a community-based organization that leads the efforts in identifying community needs, facilitating collaboration, and maximizing resources to positively impact our community and the surrounding area. Our service area includes Bradley and Polk Counties.

Our Vision

We strive for a community where everyone has the opportunity for a better tomorrow.

Our Bold Goals

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

United Way of the Ocoee Region is committed to strategically improving lives by:

Meeting Immediate Basic Needs Giving Kids an Equal Chance

Building Pathways to a Healthy Community



Our How

We do this by moving the needle on issues related to our community's most pressing needs.

HISTORY OF UWOR



- 1938 United Way chapter founded in Cleveland, TN, originally named the Cleveland Community Chest.
- 1942 The community campaign goal was met for the first time at \$6,500.
- 1963 The first year to break \$100,000 in the community campaign,
- 1978 The Cleveland Community Chest is renamed to the United Way of Bradley County and raises over \$450,000 to distribute to 18 different agency partners.
- 1985 The United Way office relocates to the historic Princess Theatre.
- The United Way of Bradley County received \$19.7 million from the sale of Bradley Memorial Hospital, which became the Bradley Memorial Heath Endowment Fund.
- The United Way of Bradley County conducts the first large-scale needs assessment, identifying adult dental care as a top un-met community need.
- **2016** The United Way of Bradley County is renamed to the United Way of the Ocoee Region.
- **2020** Ocoee Connect and Housing United are established.
- 2023 United Way of the Ocoee Region has raised and allocated more than \$98 million throughout 85 years of service.

COMMUNITY IMPACT CYCLE

United Way of the Ocoee Region moves the needle on our community's most pressing issues in a holistic approach. We are not just a funnel-through, but are able to impact our community through a strategic cycle that renews every year.





By supporting United Way through donations, volunteering, and advocacy, YOU are improving the lives of thousands of your friends and neighbors in the Ocoee Region, making OUR community a better place to live.

FUNDED PARTNERS

In the 2022-2023 funding cycle, United Way of the Ocoee Region, through generous donations of community donors, was able to fund **42 programs** from **30 agencies** across Bradley and Polk Counties, impacting over **35,000 lives**!

Meeting Immediate Basic Needs

People Helping People
Family Resource Agency - Harbor Safe House
Foundation House Ministries
Legal Aid of East Tennessee
Ocoee Outreach
UWOR - Ocoee Connect

Building Pathways To A Healthy Community

UWOR - COPE trainings
Bradley Cleveland Public Education Foundation
Centerstone of Tennessee
Cleveland Lions Club
Karis Community Health
Foundation House Ministries
Lee University - MFT Collaborative Care & Outreach
New Hope Pregnancy Care Center
On Point
OrphanWise
Speech and Hearing Center
Walter E. Boehm Birth Defects Center

Giving Kids An Equal Chance

The Caring Place - Sac Pac
Feeding God's Lambs
Benton United Methodist Church - Sac Pac
The HOPE Center - Children's Advocacy Program
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Chattanooga
Copper Basin High School Crisis Closet
Boys and Girls Club of the Ocoee Region
LUDIC Spectrum Center
Woodsong Forest Education Foundation
YMCA - Childcare & YCAP Programs
CASA of Bradley County
UWOR - Imagination Library
Polk County Friends of the Library

Breaking The Cycle Of Poverty

City Fields
Family Promise of Bradley County
Habitat for Humanity
UWOR - Housing United
The Caring Place - Case Management

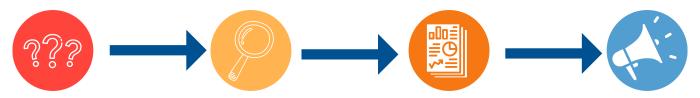
"This is what happens when agencies are united in their care for our community and work together so that everyone can thrive!"

- Funded Community Partner

CNIC

COMMUNITY NEEDS IDENTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The Community Needs Identification Committee (CNIC) develops and implements a process for analyzing data and identifying needs for the United Way of the Ocoee Region. The Committee meets regularly to review local data on an ongoing basis to understand where the community has the greatest needs and to aid in providing information that can better inform data-driven decisionmaking. Reports are released every summer.



The needs that CNIC identifies are reported to the community and inform our Request For Proposal process to ensure that the programs we fund target our community's most urgent needs to create lasting impact.

COMMUNITY NEEDS IDENTIFIED

Stable Housing

Quality and Affordable Childcare

Access to Affordable Healthcare

Transportation

Homelessness increased in Bradle

EMERGING COMMUNITY NEEDS

Drug related overdose deaths increased by from 2020 to

Substance Abuse

Domestic Violence

CNIC MEMBERS

Brittany CannonDirector, PIE Innovation Center

Lisa Fain

Vice President of Operations, Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce

Chris Newton

Corporate HR & Benefits Manager, ETI

Doug Moore

Director of Student Services, CCS

Jim Nowack

Community Advocate

Dr. Matthew W. Tolbert

Associate Professor of Psychology, Southern Adventist University

Stephanie Linkous

President & CEO, UWOR

Shawna Staup

Director of Community Impact, UWOR

Hailey Wood

Community Impact Coordinator, UWOR

ALICE

ASSET-LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED

The ALICE population are households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level but less than the basic cost of living for the county. These are households living paycheck to paycheck, which may be at risk of spiraling into poverty if a crisis were to occur. Households in ALICE and below are United Way of the Ocoee Region's target population for internal programming.





49%



of households in Bradley County are at or below the ALICE threshold.

of households in Polk County are at or below the ALICE threshold.

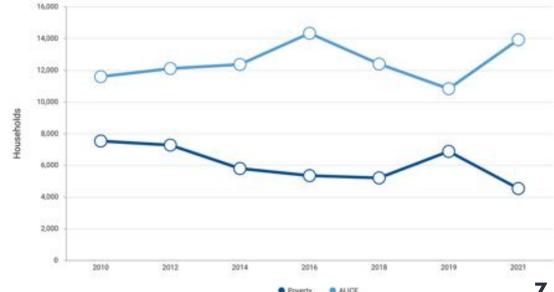


Hourly wage for family of 4 to meet survival budget

Hourly wage for family of 4 to meet stability budget

As circumstances change, households may find themselves below or above the ALICE threshold at different times. The COVID-19 pandemic brought employment shifts, health struggles, and school/business closures in 2021. Data shows that in 2019 17,677 households in Bradley County were below the ALICE threshold; by 2021, that number had increased to 18,428.

These families collectively represent 46% of the Ocoee Region's population. It takes a UNITED community, working together, in order to assist these families as they work to lift themselves into stability.



YOUR INVESTMENT DOES MORE THAN YOU REALIZE

\$2,702,000 INVESTED

United Way of the Ocoee Region served more than **35,700** residents in 2022 and is engaged in two counties with over **100 corporate partners**, thousands of individual donors, and **720 volunteers**, supporting over **40 local non-profit programs**. Our supporters rallied together to raise **\$1,460,000** for the community campaign.

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY



\$683,419

10,792

ASSISTED WITH
HOUSING, CASE
MANAGEMENT, AND
HOME OWNERSHIP
COURSES

46%
OF RESIDENTS ACROSS
THE OCOEE REGION ARE
LIVING PAYCHECK-TOPAYCHECK OR IN POVERTY

MEETING IMMEDIATE
BASIC NEEDS



\$698,375

7,047

ASSISTED WITH FOOD, CLOTHING, LEGAL SERVICES, AND TRANSPORTATION

\$5.50
THE COST OF A SINGLE
SAC PAC MEAL

GIVING KIDS AN EQUAL CHANCE



\$764,757

10,452
ASSISTED WITH
CHILDCARE, SPECIAL
ADVOCACY, BOOKS, AND
THERAPY

872
CHILDREN WITH
ADVERSE EXPERIENCES
RECEIVED ADVOCACY

BUILDING PATHWAYS
TO A HEALTHY
COMMUNITY



\$555,796

7,419
ASSISTED WITH SCREENINGS,
MEDICAL & DENTAL CARE,
AND SPECIAL
PROVIDER TRAININGS

PARTNERS
ADDRESSING
HEALTHCARE NEEDS
IN OUR COMMUNITY

FILLING GAPS LOCALLY

Long gone are the days of simply passing dollars through the United Way to trusted and impactful community partner agencies. United Way of the Ocoee Region innovates to fill those gaps in service that our community so desperately needs by housing many strategic internal programs.

35,717 INDIVIDUALS SERVED IN 2022

Partner Programs 57%



United Way Internal Programs 43%

UWOR INTERNAL PROGRAMS:







ി Ocoee Connect



William Hall Rodgers



Housing United



Imagination Library



OCOEE CONNECT

Ocoee Connect is our local resource and referral hotline, administering utilities and housing assistance as well as referrals for food, child care, mental care, dental care, family services, and legal aid. If we don't directly provide the service requested, we will connect callers to a local agency with the most up-to-date information to help in a time of need.



4,065 INDIVIDUALS IN BRADLEY COUNTY THAT RELIED ON OCOEE CONNECT

Navigating through our community's available resources can be exhausting and frustrating when you are under stress. Ocoee Connect ensures that you are connected to reliable resources in a timely manner.



LOCALLY \$419,054



REFERRAL AGENCIES



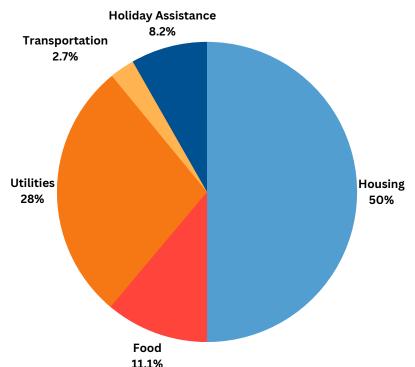


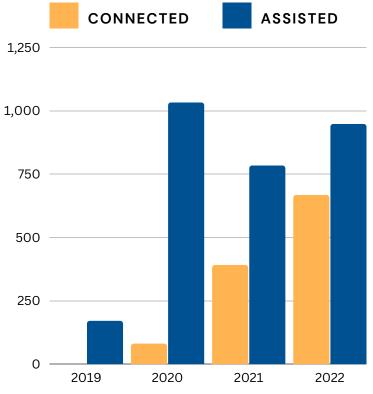
ANSWERING THE CALL

2022 ASSISTS AND CONNECTIONS

As our community grows, so do the needs of our local residents. Data from Ocoee Connect provides a real-time snapshot of consistent and emerging needs in our community. We use this information to inform our stakeholders and understand the changing landscape of local needs.

CONNECTIONS NEEDED





QUALIFICATIONS

Ocoee Connect's qualifications include:

- Being a resident of Bradley or Polk County
- Providing proof of income
- Providing a copy of a utility bill or lease agreement
- Providing documentation of hardship
- All applicants are vetted in Charity Check to avoid duplication

FAST FACTS

\$750

37311

\$200

AVERAGE RENTAL ASSISTANCE

ZIP CODE WITH MOST CALLS

AVERAGE UTILITY ASSISTANCE

HOUSING UNITED

A collaborative, rapid rehousing-based program whose goal is to prevent and end homelessness quickly.

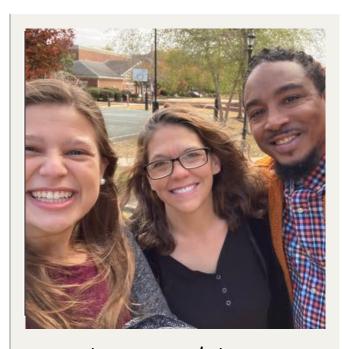
WHAT IS HOUSING UNITED?

- Housing United launched in July 2020.
- This internal program was United Way's response to the growing housing instability identified by CNIC and our Housing Coalition.
- Rapid Rehousing is a research-based solution that prioritizes stable housing and ongoing support to produce positive outcomes.
- Housing United is a partnership with The Caring Place, which houses the HU Case Manager.

LOCALLY INVESTED

\$69,483





home sweet home



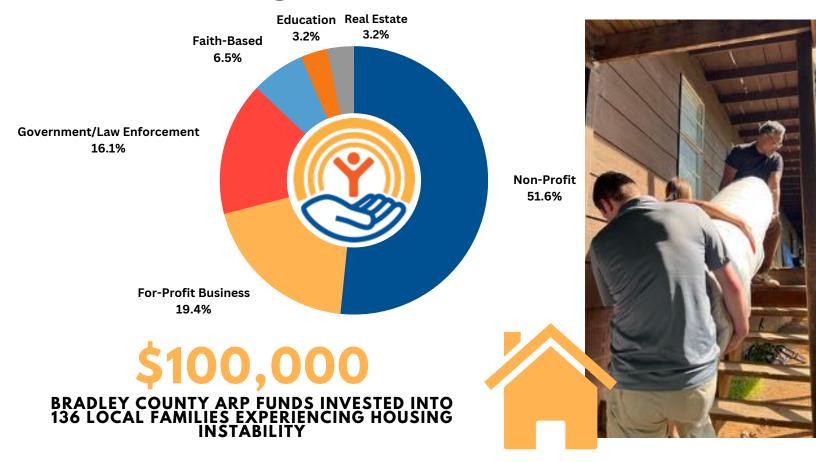
OF CLIENTS REMAINED HOUSED IN 2022



20 NEW LANDLORDS ENGAGED



PARTNERS AT THE TABLE



HOUSING COALITION MEMBERS

Award Realty

Bradley Cleveland Community Services Agency Foundation House Ministries

Bradley County Government

Bradley County Health Department

CASA of Bradley County

CEMPA

Chattanooga Regional Homeless Coalition

City Fields

City of Cleveland Government

Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce

Cleveland Housing Authority

Cleveland Police Department

Historically Black College Hill Neighborhood

Association

Family Promise of Bradley County

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Habitat for Humanity

Helen Ross McNabb Center

Lee University

Legal Aid of East Tennessee

Ocoee Region Builders Association

Salvation Army of Cleveland

Second Harvest

The Caring Place

United Way of the Ocoee Region

UT Extension

Veterans Affairs

Volunteer Behavioral Health

Wesley Memorial Church

UWOR INTERNAL PROGRAMS





VISTA stands for **Volunteer in Service to America**. AmeriCorps members serve as a VISTA for one year alongside community organizations, working to end poverty and expand the organization's capacity. VISTA sites include local non-profit agencies addressing poverty through strategic community programming.

VISTA BENEFITS

- Annual living stipend
- Monthly grocery stipend
- Education award presented at the end of service
- Forbearance or deferment of current student loans
- Relocation stipend and settling-in allowance
- VISTA healthcare benefits or allowance





UNITED FOR FAMILIES



854

Families Served

WILLIAM HALL RODGERS

During the days of the Great Depression, William Hall Rodgers launched a food basket fund to "fill the need he saw in Cleveland and Bradley County" for an annual Christmas meal. UWOR now proudly administers this program annually with the support of our local community.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Provided boxes to **200 more** families compared to 2021

Over 100 volunteers

More than 20 sponsors





I Dolly Partons I MAGINATION LIBRARY

An early-literacy program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income.



12 Books Mailed Per Year

4,490 Children Enrolled

42,095 Books Mailed



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT UNITED WE WIN

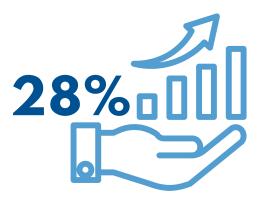
The annual community campaign is a long-standing cornerstone of United Way's local impact. Thousands of individuals & hundreds of corporations band together to contribute financially toward strategic community impact goals. Without this collective effort, local programs would not have the necessary funding in order to serve our regions most vulnerable populations.





\$1,461,396

IT TAKES A UNITED COMMUNITY



GROWTH IN MEMBERS TO THE PILLAR SOCIETY



FIRST TIME AS REGIONAL WINNER FOR FOOD CITY'S ANNUAL CELEBRITY BAGGING EVENT



GRANT DOLLARS LEVERAGED FOR THE OCOEE REGION



2022 CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS, KEN DEW, SIMMONS BANK BILL MARTIN, FIRST HORIZON



2022 PILLAR CO-CHAIRS, TERRY & SANDY HENRY, LIFE CARE CENTERS OF AMERICA

THANK YOU!

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your support and service to our annual community campaign. Together, we have made great things possible.

EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS



DONOR POWER

YOUR DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

\$5

One 5-Ib bag of supplemental meals for local students through
The Caring Place

\$50

One hour of case management services through Housing United

\$10

One meal voucher through the Walter E. Boehm Birth Defects
Center

\$100

Dental care services for the underinsured or uninsured through Karis Dental

\$25

12 books mailed per year to a child through Imagination Library \$140

One night in a domestic violence emergency shelter through Family Resource Agency

The power of the United Way is our ability to multiply.

Every dollar combined is transformed into strategic community impact within the Ocoee Region. When generous individuals give either through their workplace campaign or another avenue, they are joining in with thousands of other donors. This collaborative fundraising structure allows every gift, from \$1 to \$10,000, to become a lifeline for families in need.

UNITED,
OUR
COMMUNITY
IS COVERED









WORKPLACE CAMPAIGNS

Workplace campaigns are the leading source of funds that contribute to the annual United Way community campaign. An impressive 49% of the \$1.4 million raised came from generous, local employees participaing in payroll deductions.



TOP 10 PARTNERS







Your Hometown Connection















2022 IMPACT REPORT & AWARDS CELEBRATION

In March of 2022, we gathered more than 200 United Way advocates to celebrate the incredible community impact made in 2021. United Way partner agencies, volunteers, donors, board members, and corporate partners all gathered to celebrate thousands of lives impacted for the better across the Ocoee Region.



FOR THE MISSION OF UNITED WAY









AFFINITY GROUPS

Giving Circles & Networking Groups

Members of these leadership-giving networks invest hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to help United Way solve some of our regions most critical challenges.



Toqueville Society

The Toqueville Society is United Way's premier giving network, comprised of donors who give an annual gift of \$10,000 or more. Toqueville Society members set an extraordinary example of leadership and generosity for our community.



Pillar Society

All donors contributing \$1,000 or more yearly are recognized as Pillar Society Members. This group of donors is significant to UWOR as they are a tried-and-true stabilizer of the annual campaign. They also enjoy the benefits of membership with an annual social.



Women United

Women United comprises our community's most inspiring, proactive female leaders dedicated to making a positive local impact through donating and supporting United Way initiatives.



Young Professionals Circle

The Young Professionals Circle (YPC) is a group of local professionals who connect with other local leaders at monthly networking events and make a commitment to serve our community with investments of \$365 or more each year.



2022 YPC Cabinet

Adam Osborne, YPC President Zach Brooks, YPC VP Ashley Flowers, YPC Events Ashlan Morelock, UWOR Kayla Shugart, UWOR



SIGNATURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Annual fundraisers to engage supporters outside the traditional workplace campaigns



Celebrity Bagging

- Food City hosts volunteer teams of local celebrities to collect tips as donations for the community campaign.
- UWOR and the local Food City earned first place in the region for the most tips raised.



Whirlpool Appliance Sale

- This fundraiser resulted in \$56,660 in sales and was located on-site at the local Whirlpool plant.
- With the Whirlpool Foundation match, United Way was able to reinvest \$113,320 into the community.



Women United Gala

- This annual event had nearly 300 attendees representing many existing and new supporters.
- The 'Auction of Promises' resulted in \$100,000 in paddle raises in just 10 minutes.



Make A Change Day

- Make A Change Day resulted in \$12,700 in collected spare change, which benefits Bradley County students.
- UWOR engaged four partners to volunteer by preparing project supplies.



VOLUNTEERISM

United Way of the Ocoee Region facilitates **four annual signature volunteer experiences** and offers customized projects based on a corporation's interest.



2,814
VOLUNTEER HOURS









Signature Volunteer Events

- 1. Day of Action
- 2. Celebrity Bagging
- 3. William Hall Rodgers Christmas Basket
- 4. Make a Change Day



Customizable Experiences

- Based on corporate partners' preference
- Supports one or more UWOR Bold Goals
- Projects can be hands-on improvements, kit building, or other activities



Staff Training

- Cost of Poverty Experience
- Simulation of a month in the life of a real family navigating poverty
- Replicates navigating resources in the community available for families in need
- Ideal in-service or staff training opportunity

2022 COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN PARTNERS

- Adam Hammonds Group
- Advanced Photographic Solutions
- Amazon CHA 2
- AT&T
- · Bank of Cleveland
- BMO Financial Group
- · BonLife Coffee Roasters
- Bowater Credit Union
- Bradley County Employees
- Bradley County Schools
- · Brown Stove Works
- Capstar Bank
- Carroll Printing Company
- CHASE Plastic Surgery
- Chattanooga Gas Company
- · Church of God International
- · Cigna Healthcare
- City of Cleveland Employees
- · Cleveland City Police Department
- Cleveland City Schools
- Cleveland Coffee & Market
- Cleveland Daily Banner
- Cleveland Plywood Co.
- Cleveland State Community College
- Cleveland Utilities
- Cleveland/ Bradley Chamber of Commerce
- Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- Coke Consolidated
- Computer Services, Inc.
- Cooper & Cooper of Raymond James
- Cormetech, Inc.
- CPQ Professional Imaging
- Crye-Leike Realtors
- Duracell
- Easy Auto
- Eaton Corporation
- Edward Jones
- Elder's Ace Hardware
- Energy Systems Group
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- Erlanger
- Exact Sciences
- Farmhouse
- First Citizens National Bank
- First Horizon Bank
- Flowers Baking Co.
- Food City
- Global Charities Foundation
- · Harting, Bishop, & Arrendale

- HCA Caring for The Community
- HHM CPAs
- · Impressions of Cleveland
- Insurance Incorporated
- International Paper
- Jackson Furniture
- KACE Builders
- Kiwanis Club of Cleveland
- · Lee University
- Life Care Centers of America
- Manpower Group
- McDonald's (Smith Management)
- Medical Center Pharmacy
- Misfit Tacos
- Mohawk Flooring
- · Network for Good
- · O'Reilly Auto Parts
- · Pentecostal Theological Seminary
- Pinnacle Bank
- · Polk County Dept. of Education
- Publix
- Regions Bank
- Resolute Forest Products
- River Counties Association of Realtors
- Shaw Industries
- Simmons Bank
- SmartBank
- Solenis
- Southeastern Container
- State of Tennessee Employees
- Synalloy
- T-Mobile
- Target
- Tennessee Board of Regents
- Tennessee Hospital Association
- Terra Running Company
- The Flooring Center
- Trinity Foundation International
- Tristar
- Truist Bank Foundation
- United Community Bank
- United Health Group
- United Parcel Service
- UT Batelle
- Volunteer Electric Cooperative
- Vulcan Materials
- Wal-Mart
- Whirlpool Corporation
- William J. Brown & Associates
- Wright Brothers Construction Company, Inc.

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Indicates member of the Executive Committee

Janice Baker

Community Advocate

Keith Barrett

Area Manager

Pinnacle Financial Partners

Milan Blake

County Commissioner, 3rd District

Bradley County Government

Danny Bradley

Call Center Team Leader

Whirlpool

Bruce Bradford*

Community Advocate

Dr. Linda Cash*

Director of Schools

Bradley County Schools

Nancy Casson*

Owner

The Red Ribbon

Brenda Choate*

Human Resources Manager

Cormetech, Inc.

Kenneth Dew

Community Bank President

Simmons Bank

Dr. Russell Dyer

Director of Schools

Cleveland City Schools

Tim Dyszkiewicz

Plant Controller

Nokian Tyres

Ron England

Program Manager

Erlanger Health System

Joe Fivas

City Manager

City of Cleveland

Mike Griffin*

President & CEO

Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of

Commerce

Tim Henderson

President & CEO

Cleveland Utilities

Carolyn Jackson

Community Advocate

Jackson Furniture

Matt Jenne*

Sr. Vice President & Market Leader

SmartBank

Adam Lewis

Executive Assistant to the Mayor

Bradley County Government

Bill Martin*

Community Bank President

First Horizon Bank

Bill Moats

CEO

Ocoee Regional Health

Erika Moore

Owner

BonLife Coffee

John Moses

Sr. Vice President

Pinnacle Financial Partners

Chris Newton*

Corporate HR & Benefits Manager

Engineered Transportation International

Jim Nowack

Community Advocate

Adam Osborne

Partner, CPA, CGMA

HHM CPAs

Dr. Rubi Porter*

Community Advocate

Jared Powers

Director of Digital Strategy

CHR Consulting Services

Tim Poteet

Community Bank President

Southern Heritage Bank

Art Rhodes

President & CEO

Church of God Benefits Board

Cindy Slater

County Commissioner, 5th District

Bradley County Government

Barbara Stone

Community Advocate

Dr. Matthew Tolbert*

Associate Professor of Psychology

Southern Adventist University

Andy Williams*

Senior Benefits Consultant

CBIZ Insurance Services

Matt Wiseman

Partner

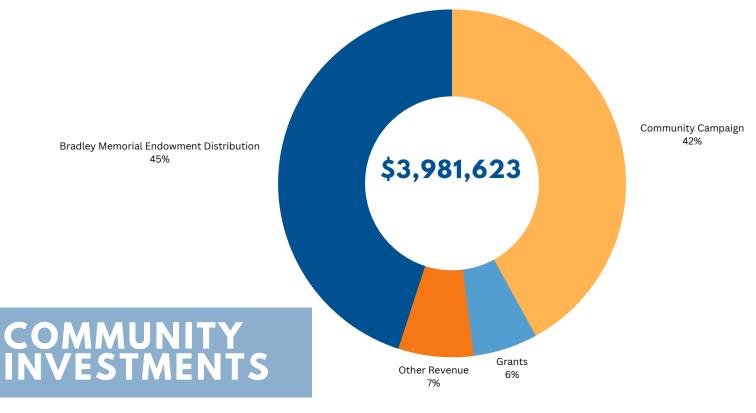
Waypoint Financial Partners

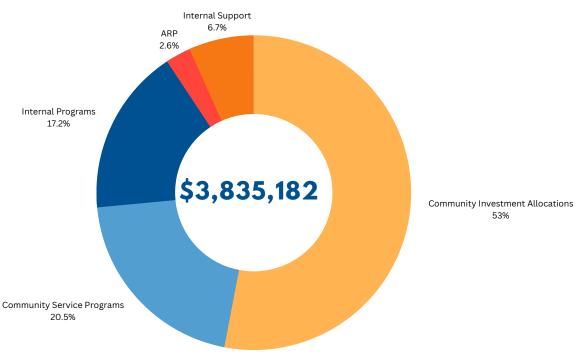
United Way of the Ocoee Region

1938 - 2023

FINANCIALS

SOURCES OF FUNDS











* UWOR undergoes an annual financial statement audit by an independent CPA firm. Financials are from the unaudited Statement of Activities for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. For a copy of our full Financial Statement and Form 990, please visit unitedwayocoee.org

UNITED WAY STAFF







































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