

Piedmont United Way Frequently Asked Questions

United Way provides essential health and human services to our community. The following information will give you a better understanding of the purpose and goals of the Piedmont United Way.

What is the Piedmont United Way?

Piedmont United Way is a local, nonprofit, volunteer-based organization that focuses resources to solve the most important health and human care needs in our community. United Way has been a proven partner in our community for over 40 years. We serve Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock counties in Virginia.

Who runs the Piedmont United Way?

Local volunteers oversee every aspect of the organization. They plan annual fundraising efforts, organize the campaign, collect contributions and recommend how dollars should be distributed. Top financial leaders in our community monitor United Way's operation and require that it run in accordance with fiscally sound and accepted practices. United Way's accountability ensures that funds are prudently managed. An annual financial audit is conducted by an outside CPA firm on all receipts and expenditures.

Who makes the decision on how United Way funding is distributed?

The Community Impact Committee, made up of many local volunteers, reviews community needs and agency program requests and recommends allocations that best meet our community's most pressing needs. United Way's volunteer Board of Directors approves all grants.

What requirements must United Way agencies meet?

To be eligible for United Way funding, agencies must:

- ✓ Be registered with the IRS as a 501 (c)(3) health and human service agency (or equivalent government program).
- ✓ Document effective delivery of high-priority programs and services in a reliable, cost-effective manner.
- ✓ Demonstrate sound financial and administrative management practices through auditors' reports and other valid documentation.
- ✓ Be in compliance with all applicable laws.
- ✓ Be governed by a local, volunteer board of directors.
- ✓ Make a formal annual application to United Way for partnership and be approved by the United Way's Board of Directors
- ✓ Demonstrate impact through measurable outcomes - in other words, show that they get results.

Why should I give if I haven't been helped?

Many people give because a growing number of our most vulnerable residents - abused women and children, elderly, homeless families, those with disabilities and mentally ill - need help to overcome crisis, build self-sufficiency and succeed. There is a great need in our community for the services offered by the United Way and our partners. We estimate that one in five people in our community are helped by the United Way and our partners each year. You never know when a family member, neighbor, friend or even yourself may need, or have used the services provided by a United Way partner agency.

If someone can't afford to give much, will a small donation do any good?

Every gift gives hope and improves lives. Even a modest gift per pay period can help provide solutions to the most pressing health and human services needs in our community. And by giving through payroll deductions, you can spread your gift over the coming year, making it more manageable for your budget than a one-time gift. It's not the size of one gift - it is all of us giving together that makes United Way a unique and valuable concept. Every dollar matters!

What is the minimum for a donation to United Way?

There is no minimum donation to the United Way. We maximize your gift by combining it with other gifts to fund a range of programs throughout our community, helping address critical needs in our community.

Can I designate my donation to a particular agency?

The United Way honors all designations, whether to a United Way partner agency or to an agency that is not a part of the United Way. Designations to partner agencies are passed along at 100%. United Way deducts a cost-sharing fee from designations to non-partner agencies.

If I live outside of the Piedmont United Way area, can I designate my donation to the United Way where I live?

United Way honors designations to any other United Way.

How does someone get help from United Way?

In times of need, knowing where to turn to is often the first step. The Piedmont United Way operates the First Call For Help program to help people find the help they need. Please call 825-7569 for help!

How can I volunteer my time to help United Way?

Our community counts on the contributions of time by many volunteers to help deliver services and improve lives. Piedmont United Way operates the Piedmont Volunteer Center to connect people who want to volunteer with the agencies in our community who need volunteers, whether or not they are United Way partner agencies. Contact the Piedmont Volunteer Center at 825-0317 to learn how to make an impact by volunteering in our community.