

UWSWA INITIATIVES



United Way
of Southwest Alabama

CLARKE COUNTY OUTREACH CENTER (CCOC)

The Clarke County Outreach Center (CCOC) is a central hub for UWSWA partner agencies serving Clarke County to meet and provide their full spectrum of services to residents of the county and is not limited to programs funded by UWSWA. Having a physical presence in Clarke County helps mitigate transportation challenges as well as increase awareness of the programs and services available to residents in Choctaw, Clarke, and Washington Counties. The CCOC opened on May 29, 2019, and was made possible through an Alabama Power Foundation Elevate Grant.

In its first year of operation, the Clarke County Outreach Center provided services to 200 individuals through our partner agencies. The CCOC has hosted 7 community meetings and trainings.

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program was designed to encourage reading to preschool children. Each month after a child is registered—up until his/her/their fifth birthday—a carefully selected, age-appropriate book is sent to the child's home. There is no cost to the family; UWSWA provides the books free of charge. Currently, children living in Choctaw County and Mobile County zip codes 36509, 36582, 36587, 36605, 36610, 36615, or 36617 are eligible.

In 2019, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library provided a total of 6,570 books to 6,377 children in Mobile and Choctaw counties. Participating families saved an estimated \$48,860.

ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION (ENG)

Engaging the Next Generation is a collaborative program that was established in 2008 by Mobile United and Mobile County District 1 Commissioner Merceria Ludgood to showcase nonprofit organizations in the Mobile area and to connect them with the innovators of the next generation. In 2019, UWSWA accepted program management and planning in combination with our Emerging Leaders Affinity Group.

Due to COVID-19, Engaging the Next Generation was cancelled for the year.

EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM (EFSP)

This program was created by Congress to help meet the needs of hungry and homeless people throughout the United States and its territories by allocating federal funds for the provision of food, shelter, and emergency assistance. In our service area, UWSWA serves as its fiscal manager, and the program is governed by a local board.

The most recent funding cycle brought a total of \$365,230 into Mobile and Washington counties to help people in need. This total includes a special CARES Act distribution in the amount of \$214,664.

SINGLECARE PRESCRIPTION SAVINGS PROGRAM (formerly FAMILYWIZE)

FamilyWize is dedicated to helping improve the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities. These cards provide savings for those individuals in our community who have and do not have prescription drug coverage and for medication not covered by insurance.

In 2020, 16,389 individuals in Southwest Alabama saved \$1,209,818 using the FamilyWize Prescription Savings Card.

PROJECT BLUEPRINT (PBP)

Project Blueprint is a two-month training and learning opportunity for people interested in learning about nonprofit board structure, board service, nonprofit organization operations and more. In order to keep our citizens engaged in all processes, it is important to make sure everyone has an understanding of nonprofit board service. Topics covered in the program include personal responsibility of serving on a nonprofit board, the unique business of nonprofits, and the services available to assist our neighbors who need the help to prosper. PBP is designed to empower the participants in the knowledge of nonprofit operations and board service and is reflective of our diverse community. Upon completion of the two-month series of informative classes, PBP graduates are ready for placement on local boards of directors and committees.

Project Blueprint was re-launched in the spring of 2020. Due to COVID-19, the program was cancelled for the year.

UNITED WAY 2-1-1

Since its creation in 2007, United Way 2-1-1 has been the nation's premier referral resource for people who seek health and human services information. Locally, through a UWSWA partnership with Lifelines Counseling Services, trained and caring call specialists provide direct access to free and confidential referrals to community services for individuals seeking assistance.

In 2020, the United Way 2-1-1 Help Line answered 17,807 incoming calls and provided follow-up calls to 1,143 callers in crisis. They also provided 13,536 referrals to health and human services.

UNITED WAY VOLUNTEER CONNECT

Launched in 2015, United Way Volunteer Connect is a volunteer recruitment and management website developed to increase volunteerism and mobilize resources to meet community needs in South Alabama. Volunteer Connect includes opportunities for individual or group volunteer projects, an online event calendar, and the ability to track volunteers and their hours.

In 2019-20, community members spent more than 13,891 hours volunteering, resulting in an economic impact of over \$311,497 in volunteer hours served.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) PROGRAM

The VITA program provides communities with free federal and state e-filing assistance. VITA partners with community organizations, such as UWSWA, to recruit and train volunteers to assist individuals with tax preparation and to educate taxpayers about tax credits for which they may qualify. UWSWA also serves as lead for the South Alabama Free E-Filing (SAFE) Coalition, a group of agencies delivering VITA filing assistance.

During the 2019-20 tax season, the SAFE Coalition filed 2,385 tax returns, which resulted in \$3,407,673 returned to the community through tax refunds and tax credits.

WASHINGTON COUNTY DENTAL & VISION PROGRAM

The Washington County Dental and Vision Program provides limited dental and vision care for the residents of Washington County who meet specific requirements. Eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis, but applicants must have established permanent residence in Washington County for at least six months prior to applying.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS



**United Way
of Southwest Alabama**

- AFL-CIO
- Alabama Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters(ALVOAD)
- BankOn South Alabama
- Choctaw County Collaboration
- Clarke County Resources Collaboration
- Domestic Violence Taskforce - Mobile County
- Domestic Violence Taskforce - Washington County
- Governor's Office of Volunteer Services
- Mobile County Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (MCVOAD)
- Mobile United
- One Stop Partners
- Project Thrive
- South Alabama Coalition of Nonprofits
- Southwest Alabama Labor Council, AFL-CIO
- United Way Community Resource Network
- United Way Worldwide
- United Way of Alabama
- Washington County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)