

Frequently Asked Questions

What does United Way do?

The United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties (UWLS) creates solutions in the areas of income, education, or health, for residents of both Lake and Sumter Counties. The greatest value comes when these solutions have long term, far reaching impact.

For example, when our Family Stability Services helps a young family get caught up on rent or utilities, they can then keep their kids in early learning, continue their job or employment, and become sustainable contributing members of our communities.

Simultaneously, our Master Teacher program improves the reading and expression of those children in early learning centers. Certainly, the children and parents benefit, but so does the community as those children enter our school systems better prepared and better equipped to handle conflict or stress. It is these same children who graduate and become contributors to our community. They, in fact, tend to become leaders. Some may even serve in the military and later engage in Mission United. Our Mission United program serves those who have served by helping our Veterans to navigate and receive the benefits they have earned and deserve. Those Veterans feel supported and are then able to support current and future generations of family members, all of which benefits our communities.

What United Way of Lake and Sumter does is give the kind of assistance that transforms lives and generations of those in our communities.

Where does the money go?

One of the best parts about being a donor with United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties is that what you share here, stays here. Because we serve our local two county area, your funds fortify services for locals in this area. Additionally, UWLS has a low administrative cost percentage, so the vast majority of your funding goes either directly to clients in need or fellow non-profits we support through our funded partner program.

Why isn't my favorite non-profit funded by United Way?

Many agencies are out there and many are doing very good work. Not each of the programs or services they provide always align with United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties' mission or community impact goals.

How does United Way pay for its events?

Annual and Community Events, such as the ThanksGiveAway, boost morale and create a unified community with volunteers. Nearly all events are paid for through ticket sales, generous sponsorships, and United Way's corporate partners who help to offset many of the costs including campaign materials, supplies and the minimal and efficient administration of the event.

How Can I be sure my contribution is well managed and well spent?

UWLS is committed to validating our partner agencies through a rigid vetting process. Programs are screened and selected to carefully evaluate and ensure your contributions are being placed appropriately and in good hands. All funding requests by agencies and individuals, are thoroughly reviewed.

Is my gift-tax deductible?

Yes, UWLS is a federally registered 501(c) (3) not-for-profit corporation. Donations to UWLS are tax-deductible based on federal guidelines per individuals and corporation's circumstances.

Are there more ways to contribute to United Way of Lake and Sumter?

There are three ways to contribute: give, advocate or volunteer. Of course, you could also do all three! Volunteer for community events. Deliver food to homebound seniors. Assist in working with families in need, support early childhood endeavors, or serve a veteran who has generously served our nation. Each dollar and moment of your time and your gift are incredibly valued.