

UNITED
IS THE
WAY.



2025 Impact Report

United Way of the Golden Triangle Region

Clay · Choctaw · Lowndes · Noxubee · Oktibbeha · Webster · Winston

A Year of Resilience. · A Community of Support. · A Future of Opportunity.



Leadership Message

A Message From Our Executive Director

"What stood out was not the uncertainty — what stood out was the response."

Dear Friends,

The story of 2025 is not simply about accomplishments, numbers, or milestones. It is a story about people.

Throughout the year, nonprofits across the country faced uncertainty. Funding sources shifted, federal programs were disrupted, and many organizations were forced to make difficult decisions.

Our partner agencies continued serving families. Volunteers remained engaged. Businesses continued investing in their communities. Individual donors gave generously. Board members provided leadership and support.

Because of your support, United Way GTR generated more than \$1 million in total revenue and invested more than \$303,000 into programs and services that support families throughout our seven-county region.

Most importantly, we kept our commitments. Every allocation payment was made. Every partnership was honored.

Thank you for believing in United Way. Together, we are United.

Renee Sanders

Executive Director | United Way GTR

Impact by the Numbers

2025 At A Glance

\$489,833

Raised Through Workplace Campaigns,
Corporate Giving & Community Support

\$1M+

Total Organizational Revenue

\$303,098

Invested in Community Programs
& Partner Agencies

25

Partner Agencies Supported

621

Volunteers Engaged

8,846

Volunteer Hours Contributed

28

Community Mini Food
Pantries Supported

7

Counties Served Across
the Golden Triangle

A Year of *Resilience*

In 2025, nonprofit organizations across the country faced significant challenges. Federal furloughs disrupted programs that many communities rely on. Our region temporarily lost access to AmeriCorps VISTA resources that helped strengthen nonprofit capacity. The Emergency Food and Shelter Program was not funded locally, leaving gaps in support for vulnerable families.

Despite these challenges, our community responded. Partner agencies remained committed. Volunteers kept showing up. Businesses invested in local solutions. Donors continued giving.

Federal Disruptions

AmeriCorps VISTA resources were temporarily lost, impacting nonprofit capacity-building across the region.

Food & Shelter Gap

The Emergency Food & Shelter Program was not funded locally, leaving critical gaps for vulnerable families.

Community Response

Volunteers, donors, agencies, and businesses came together stronger than ever to fill the gaps.

"Because of community support, United Way GTR honored every allocation commitment and continued investing in programs that improve lives."

— Renee Sanders, Executive Director

Community Impact



Healthy Community

Supporting programs that improve health, safety, and quality of life for individuals and families.



Youth Opportunity

Investing in programs that help children and youth succeed in school and build lifelong foundations.



Financial Stability

Supporting families working toward economic independence and long-term financial stability.



Community Resiliency

Strengthening communities through partnerships, volunteerism, and access to critical resources.

2025 Partner Agencies

American Red Cross of North Mississippi

Boys & Girls Clubs

Contact Helpline & Reassurance Calls

Frank P. Phillips Memorial YMCA

FORGE

Girl Scouts Heart of the South

Helping Hands

HOPE Family Enrichment Center

Lowndes County Imagination Library

SafeHaven

Sally Kate Winters Family Services

The Salvation Army

The Father's Child Ministry

Starkville Strong

Yocona Area Council Scouts

4-H Clubs

Growing Our Reach

New Partnerships

United Way welcomed new partner agencies serving Noxubee, Winston, and Choctaw Counties, expanding access to services in rural communities.

Record-Breaking Corporate Support

\$100,000

NEW RECORD — IP Golf Tournament

For the seventh year, International Paper hosted its annual golf tournament, raising an all-time record for United Way GTR.

ABB Returns

After more than a decade away, ABB returned to the United Way family through a renewed workplace campaign, reconnecting employees with community investment.

UNITED WAY OF THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE REGION



The annual community fundraiser continued to grow, turning profitable while reinvesting prize dollars directly into the local economy.

Sneaker Impact

382 Pairs

500+ lbs diverted from landfills

A new partnership collected 382 pairs of shoes, diverting more than 500 pounds of waste from landfills while supporting families in need.

70+

Years Serving Our Community

A constant presence — connecting resources, mobilizing volunteers, and strengthening families.

Community Champions

2025 Annual Meeting · Celebrating Impact & Partnership

Outstanding Industry

PACCAR / PACCAR Foundation

IP Columbus Cellulose Fibers · Steel Dynamics · Aluminum Dynamics
· Yokohama Tire

Outstanding Public Entity

Baptist Memorial Hospital

Columbus Municipal School District · City of Columbus · 4-County
Electric · West Point Consolidated · City of West Point · Atmos Energy

Outstanding Financial Institution

BankFirst Financial Services

Huntington/Cadence Bank · BankFirst Financial Services (Macon) ·
Mutual Credit Union

Outstanding Business

Golden Triangle Mill Services

Shell Oil Company

Outstanding Real Estate, Ins. & Law

Galloway Chandler McKinney Insurance

Watkins, Ward & Stafford, PLLC · Shelter Insurance

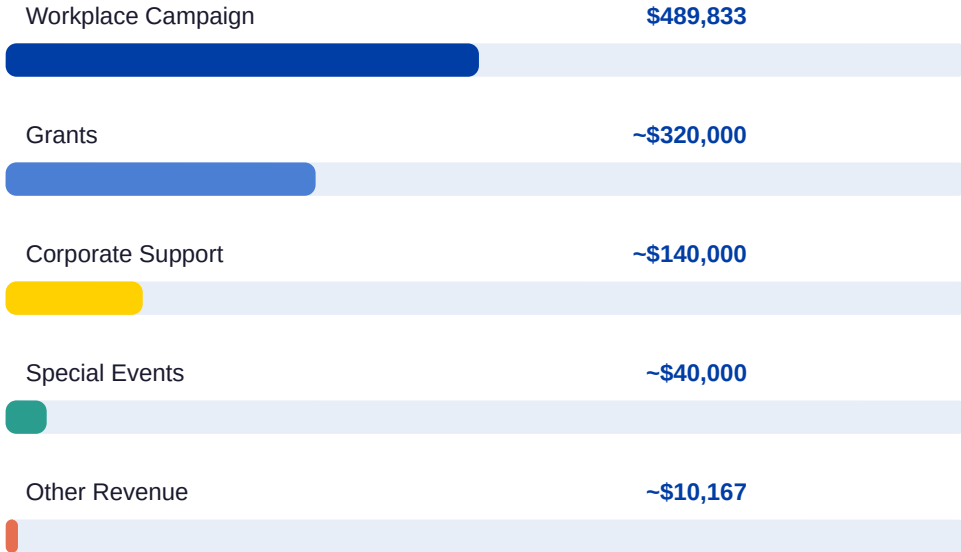
Outstanding Small Business

Townsend & Sons (Sunflower Grocery)

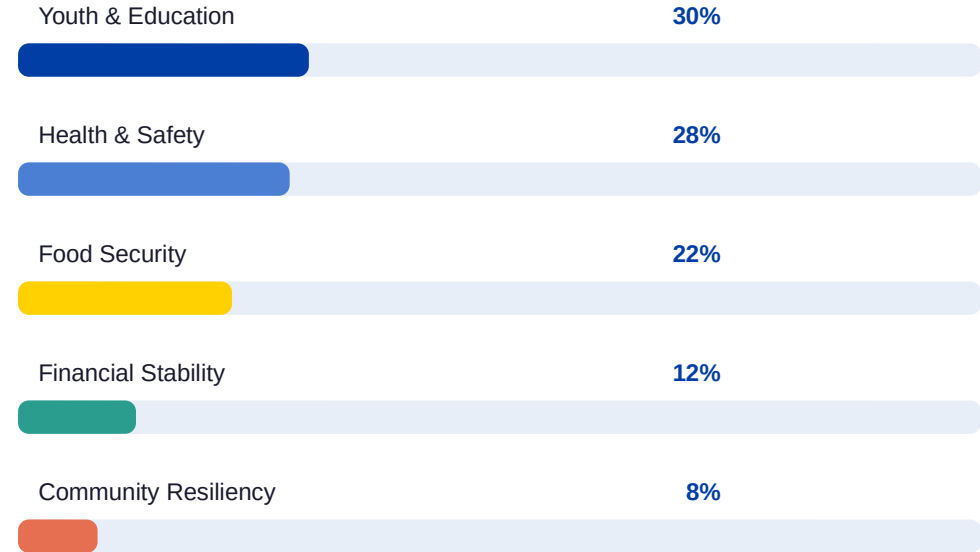
M&M Tax Service · Krieger & Company LLC

Financial Stewardship

Revenue Sources



Community Investment Breakdown



\$303,098

Total invested into partner agencies and programs serving local families across all seven counties of the Golden Triangle Region in 2025.

Every dollar entrusted to United Way is invested with care, transparency, and accountability.

Looking Ahead to 2026

United Way GTR is focused on four core initiatives that will strengthen our communities and expand our impact in 2026.

01



211 Mississippi

Connecting individuals and families to critical health and human services through a single, easy-to-remember helpline.

02

Education & Literacy

Supporting educational success and lifelong learning for children and adults, from early childhood through workforce readiness.

03

Food Security

Expanding access to nutritious food and growing our network of 28 community mini food pantries with new partnerships.

04

Legacy & Endowment Giving

Building a sustainable future through planned giving, legacy commitments, and endowment growth for generations to come.

\$1M
Annual Goal

United Way GTR is working toward raising \$1 million annually while encouraging supporters to make multi-year commitments that create lasting community impact. Your ongoing investment helps us plan, grow, and serve more families year after year.

Because of You

2025 STAFF

- RS** **Renee Sanders**
Executive Director
- LH** **Lisa Henderson**
Office Manager
- CB** **Christian Bradley**
VISTA Grant Manager
- AD** **Angela D. Williams**
Office Assistant

BOARD LEADERSHIP

- YR** **Yvett Roby**
President
- PK** **Priscilla King**
Vice-President / Campaign Chair
- NJ** **Nikki Jenkins**
Finance Chairman & Treasurer
- JJ** **Janie Johnson**
Secretary
- CB** **Crystal Breckenridge**
Allocations Chair
- HB** **Hays Burchfield**
Nominations Chair

- SM** **Shavonne M. Terry**
Communications Chair
- JK** **Jason King**
Personnel Chair
- JA** **Jackson Akwaowo**
Personnel Chair
- DS** **Dr. Stan McCrary**
Past President
- LN** **Leroy Nickels IV**
At-Large

Thank You

To our donors, volunteers, workplace campaign partners, corporate sponsors, partner agencies, board members, and staff — thank you for believing in United Way. Thank you for believing in this community.

TOGETHER, WE ARE UNITED.