

About United Way

In the public's mind, United Way is the leading fundraising nonprofit organization throughout the country. With 1,400 United Ways nationwide, the movement raises over \$4.1 billion annually. In Texas, United Ways of Texas members raise almost \$250 million each year. This money alone, however, cannot solve Texas' greatest community challenges.

Today, United Ways are building upon their greatest resource to improve community conditions: the power of community collaboration. Local United Ways build productive relationships between philanthropists, the public sector, and leaders in both the for- and non-profit business communities to identify and implement solutions based on the needs in their communities.

Across Texas, local United Ways lead community-driven initiatives, including:

- Early childhood education coalitions to address barriers to school readiness for children under age 6, including immunizations.
- Grassroots community engagement to improve high school graduation and college-readiness.
- Local information and referral collaborations through the 2-1-1 dialing code.
- Economic development efforts including Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) awareness and Family Financial Stability initiatives.

Who We Are

Public Policy, Statewide Initiatives...

United Ways of Texas is the voluntary state association of Texas United Ways. With 75 United Way members, the association works to represent the public policy interests of our members, provide members educational opportunities and lead statewide initiatives designed to improve Texas communities.

...Member Services, Supporting Statewide Nonprofits

Where We Are

United Ways of Texas is located in the heart of Texas' capital city, just west of the state's Capitol building. This choice of office location was certainly no coincidence; UWT's strong commitment to enriching statewide public policy work requires this level of access and convenience.



"United Ways of Texas is the entity that mobilizes United Ways around issues that impact children and families locally and statewide. They are a critical link in affecting public policy efforts to meet the needs of individuals and families in communities across the state. In addition, United Ways of Texas provides educational, networking, best practice and resource opportunities."

Diana Phillips

President/CEO
North Texas Area United Way

"The United Way of the Concho Valley sincerely appreciates its partnership with United Ways of Texas. The support we have received over the years from United Ways of Texas has been extremely valuable to us. It's a support system that really works."

Patti Breitreiter

President & CEO
United Way of the Concho Valley

"In September, 2005, when the eye of Hurricane Rita came through Orange County, being able to communicate with our state organization was invaluable. UWT provided our United Way and our agencies a central contact to be able to keep in touch and get the health and human services in Orange County back in operation."

Linn P. Cardner

Executive Director
United Way of Orange County

What We Do

PUBLIC POLICY

United Ways of Texas maintains a strong presence at the Texas Capitol to strengthen the return on investment of donors to local United Ways. Our state level partnerships and non-partisan public policy advocacy promote the United Way brand and local United Ways as collaborative partners who seek stronger Texas communities.

UWT has been called “remarkably bi-partisan” and was recently recognized as Texas’ most powerful nonprofit lobbying organization. We are a neutral convener of the state’s numerous and diverse constituencies. United Ways of Texas keeps thousands of Texans abreast of policy developments via electronic newsletters and its Live Capitol Blog accessed through the organization’s website during legislative sessions

IMPROVING MEMBER EFFECTIVENESS

Strong and effective local United Ways improve the social and economic vitality of local communities. United Ways of Texas provides training opportunities alongside direct support to local United Ways, their boards, staff and community partners. Training opportunities include board/staff development, communications, and grant writing.

United Ways of Texas proudly supports our member United Way organizations with funds to aid initiative work impacting important issues in their local communities.

STATEWIDE INITIATIVES

United Ways of Texas partners with charitable foundations, community organizations and state agencies to educate and engage Texans from all walks of life, on issues critical to our state, ranging from the linkages between early childhood education and economic development, to the realities confronted by the elderly in rural communities. UWT often provides additional funding to aid the work of our partners, many of which are our members. We are proud partners of:

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Pre-K Now, a housed project of The Pew Charitable Trusts
- Bank of America
- College For All Texans Foundation

United Ways of Texas is also responsible for managing the Texas State Employee Charitable Campaign, a combined campaign offering state employees opportunities to designate donations to the charity of their choice through payroll deduction.

SUPPORTING STATEWIDE NONPROFITS

United Ways of Texas orchestrated a Nonprofit Congress at the Texas Capitol in the summer of 2006, bringing together representatives from all types of nonprofit organizations to discuss issues that affect all Texas nonprofits. United Ways of Texas plays an active role in disaster recovery efforts throughout the state, participating in a statewide relief effort in the wake of 2008 hurricane season. The Texas United Ways Hurricane Ike Recovery Fund was instrumental in furthering the success of relief work statewide. Today, United Ways of Texas continues to serve the state as a disaster preparedness leader by participating various in statewide strategic planning sessions.