

Our Impact on the Community

“The United Way of Lamar County strives to be a leader in meeting our communities’ needs by creating programming and working with partners to improve the education, financial stability and health of everyone we serve.” – Mission Statement (adopted by the Board of Directors in 2021)

Each year the United Way of Lamar County allocates close to \$500,000 to our partner agencies that are working to address the needs of our community. The impact of these dollars are increased educational activities for youth, reduced hunger and food insecurity, ending homelessness, providing counseling to the abused, increasing literacy, increased access to transportation, advocating for victims of child abuse and domestic violence, caring for children in foster care, afterschool programs for children, social services and assistance for those living in poverty, equine therapy, childcare, and disaster relief.

In addition to funding our partner agencies and supporting the work they do, the United Way of Lamar County runs a rent and utility assistance program. In 2021 over 90 families were able to remain in their homes with over \$62,000 in rental assistance given. That same year, 265 families received help with the utility bills, with over \$56,000 distributed in utility assistance. The impact of these programs on families is priceless allowing them to remain in their homes with the lights on, running water, and heat.

In addition, the United Way of Lamar County gives out college and vocational scholarships, runs a financial literacy class each summer, hosts a county-wide Texas Scholars event to recognize academic achievement of graduating seniors, holds an annual kids marathon and has installed mini libraries and mini food pantries throughout the county aimed at increasing children’s access to books and reducing food insecurity.

As a community leader, the impact goals of the United Way of Lamar County are:

- We will be at the forefront of issues affecting those we serve such as affordable housing, employment, public health, early childhood education, and childcare.
- We will proactively look for ways to become involved in helping find solutions.
- We will advocate for positive change in the community.
- We will lead by example and be a good team player with all funded and non-funded community partners.
- We will listen to the needs of those living in poverty and collaborate with partners who can help.
- We will be forward thinking, reaching out to new partners and forming new collaborations.