



A YEAR UNLIKE ANY OTHER

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT



FRIENDS,

This has been a year unlike any other. In August, Hurricane Harvey tore through the Gulf Coast, ravaging homes, uprooting families, and threatening the foundation of life in our area.

We locked arms as the water rose. We left the comfort of our homes and families to help complete strangers. Together, we pulled down sheetrock, pulled up floors, and packed up boxes. We piled our lives up on our curbs and, as trucks hauled our memories away, we assured each other that we'd make new memories. We promised that together, we will rebuild.

Through it all, you made sure that United Way has remained a beacon of hope, ready to serve all who seek help.

As we came together to make sure our kids were safe in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, we also came together to make sure our kids are getting the foundation they need to succeed in school.

As we worked to make sure families had what they needed to get back on their feet after the storm, we also worked to make sure families have what they need every day to be self-sufficient and strong.

As we connected the hundreds of thousands who called for help before, during, and after the hurricane with resources, we also are connecting hundreds of thousands of others with food, housing, child care, and support to face the storms of daily life.

In times of disaster and every day, for the first steps and the long road ahead, United Way of Greater Houston is here.

We've been here for more than 95 years - through booms and busts, floods and droughts, good times and bad. And we'll be here for the long haul, helping our neighbors get back on their feet after Hurricane Harvey and helping them pursue their dreams long after.

You make it possible.

This year, your community spirit shined brighter than ever. You stood with us and contributed a record \$120 million to fuel United Way's work in our community.

We have never been more proud to call this community home and to call you our friends and neighbors.

Thank you for standing with us, inspiring us, and proving that we truly are stronger together.



Anna M. Babin
President and CEO



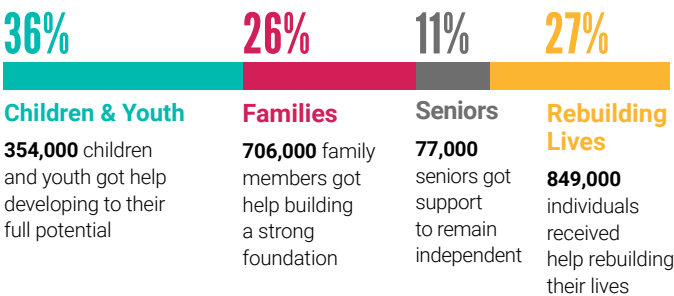
Marc Watts
Chair of the Board

LIFTING UP OUR NEIGHBORS AND OUR COMMUNITY

United Way of Greater Houston improved the lives of nearly 2 million of our neighbors this year.

At the heart of our work is ensuring the safety net by providing life-saving services to meet our neighbors’ most basic needs, like food and shelter. For others, we provide the support needed to get through a tough time. And for others, we provide a pathway to self-sufficiency and success. For all of our neighbors, we are a symbol of hope, an agent for change, a leader, a convener, and the organization working to improve the quality of life for everyone in our area.

United Way of Greater Houston invests in quality services throughout our community, leads special initiatives, like United Way THRIVE and United Way Bright Beginnings, operates the 2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE, awards grants for community projects, provides capacity-building services for nonprofits in our area, and brings stakeholders together to address community-wide issues.



*Percentages denote United Way’s community investment by goal area.

Our investment decisions are intentional, backed by research and data, made by trained volunteers, and approved by our volunteer Board of Trustees. We invest more in our community than any other United Way in the country, and are proud of the results we deliver.



Community building is a vital part of the mission of United Way of Greater Houston. To support this important work, United Way reserves resources that are available to community groups for innovative health and human service projects. Awards up to \$10,000 provide organizations with the support needed to further impact our community.

In 2017, 10 volunteers reviewed 37 grant proposals and awarded 14 grants to nonprofit organizations serving Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, and/or Waller Counties. One grant recipient used their award to install a mobility lift, making it easier for clients to get on and off their horses so they can participate in a therapeutic equestrian program.



United Way Centers in the Bay Area, Fort Bend, Montgomery, and Waller Counties

United Way of Greater Houston operates Centers in neighboring communities to increase the access and availability of health and human services in each of these areas. United Way Centers house a wide variety of health and human service providers that help with basic needs, counseling, services for children and youth, employment services and other critical social service needs. Within our four Centers, community members can access 36 agencies providing 63 programs, plus United Way THRIVE services, information and referral, and meeting space.

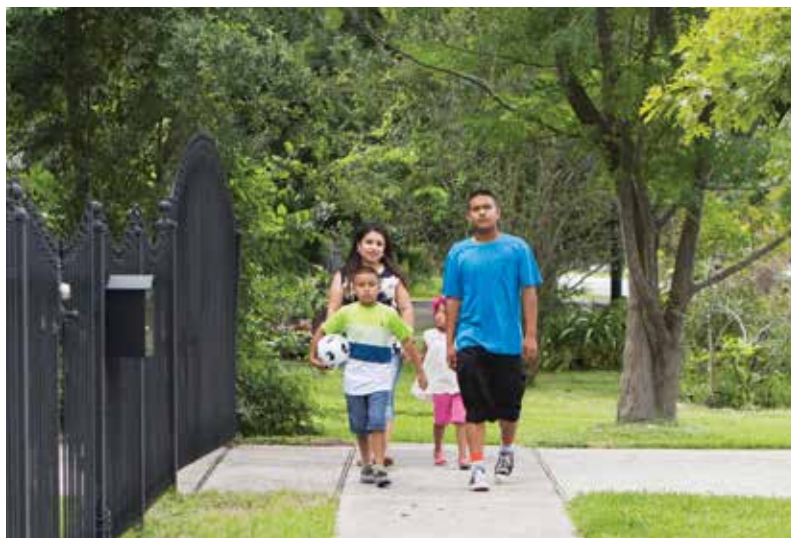
Basic Needs Initiative Grant

As part of our efforts to monitor and address changing community needs, we invite community assistance ministries to apply for grants based on the volume of referrals from the

2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE. In 2017-2018, United Way invested \$525,000 in 14 community assistance ministries to support their work to meet families' basic needs in the areas of rent, utilities, food, medical, and transportation assistance.

Continuous Quality Improvement Training

United Way is committed to helping build the capacity of nonprofits in our community. One of the ways we do that is by helping agencies develop an organizational culture focused on continuous quality improvement (CQI). This year, United Way provided CQI training to more than 400 people. The six part module series on outcomes, S.M.A.R.T. indicators, logic models, and assessment tools promotes better understanding of CQI and how it can benefit the agency, programs, and clients.



Nearly 30 volunteers gave their time to conduct United Way of Greater Houston's Community Investment Process in Montgomery County for the first time this year.

United Way THRIVE services at our Centers helped 1,390 families along the path to financial stability, including financial coaching for nearly 700 clients and employment coaching for 580 clients.

A VOICE OF HOPE

2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE

A free, confidential helpline operated by United Way of Greater Houston, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE continued to break records in 2017, answering more than one million calls for help. Top calls were for assistance with basic needs, like food, followed by medical and prescription assistance, help paying the rent or mortgage, utilities and shelter.

The 2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE is the largest helpline of its kind in the country and one of our community's most valuable resources. With dedicated United Way THRIVE, seniors, and veterans specialists on staff, 2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE connects families and veterans with resources to meet their unique needs. 2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE is also the information resource before, during and after natural disasters, connecting people in need with up-to-the-minute information and critical services.

In times of disaster, 2-1-1 is a critical resource. This year, 2-1-1 helped more than 360,000 of our neighbors find help related to Hurricane Harvey.

This year, the 2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE connected more than 116,000 seniors with the help they needed.

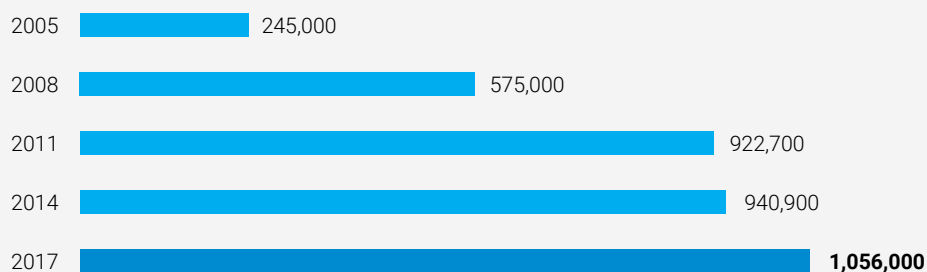
In 2017, 2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE answered 13,500 calls from veterans and their families.

In addition to answering more than one million calls for help, the 2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE provided help via text message for 125,000 people.

This year, 2-1-1 helped more than 26,000 people register with STEAR, the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry, which provides local officials with information about those who might need assistance during an emergency evacuation.

1,000,000+

For the first time ever, our 2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE connected more than one million people for help in a single year.



The number of calls to our 2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE has quadrupled since 2005 and continues to increase each year.



WHEN THE WATER ROSE, SO DID YOU

*"Without you, I wouldn't have had anyone to call.
When we were in the dark, you all gave us light."
2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE caller*

When Hurricane Harvey dumped 51+ inches of rain on our community, United Way of Greater Houston, supported by so many incredible donors and volunteers, sprung into action. And in the months since, we have worked together to help thousands of our neighbors rebuild their homes and their lives.

2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE answers the call 24/7

Our 2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE is our community's go-to resource in times of disaster and every day. In the days surrounding Hurricane Harvey, our HELPLINE specialists connected more than 360,000 of our neighbors with the help they needed. During times of disaster, 2-1-1 maintains up-to-date information on shelters and other essential resources. 2-1-1 also facilitates STEAR, the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry, maintaining a registry of people who need assistance in case of an emergency evacuation.

Making sure our first responders are ready to act

Year-round, United Way reserves resources to support our community's first responders in times of disaster. These agencies provide immediate relief services such as emergency shelter, food, clothing and water during and immediately after a natural disaster. We also immediately issue emergency grants to help with short-term relief and basic needs, like food and shelter.

United Way Relief Fund

As Hurricane Harvey flooded our community, we quickly realized the needs would be unprecedented. We launched the United Way Relief Fund to help meet those needs, and people and organizations near and far responded with incredible generosity, helping us raise more than \$47 million for recovery.



In its efforts to support disaster response, recovery, and rebuilding, United Way of Greater Houston invested a portion of the United Way Relief Fund to establish Community Disaster Grants for local nonprofits. The Hurricane Harvey Task Force approved 29 grants to help nonprofit organizations serving Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, and/or Waller counties provide services to individuals and families affected by the storm.



We were fortunate to be a beneficiary of so many incredible fundraising efforts across the country, from a star-studded telethon to lemonade stands.

Leading our community's long-term recovery

When the debris is cleared and the first responders have gone, United Way's role as the leader of long-term recovery in our area begins. United Way convenes and works with our community's social service providers to assess the needs, identify partners to help meet them, invest in the services needed, and provide ongoing resources and support. We co-lead long-term recovery committees in four counties in partnership with the local offices of emergency management.

Investing in recovery

While our work focuses on long-term recovery, which can take three to five years, we have already invested \$11.8 million of the United Way Relief Fund in Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, and Waller counties, helping more than 45,000 of our neighbors so far.

We continue to invest to help our community recover. Here are some highlights of our investments as of March 31, 2018:

Basic Needs Invested: \$2.45 million Helped: 41,594 households	Disaster Case Management Invested: \$3.17 million Helped: 5,486 households
Unmet Needs Invested: \$2.05 million Helped: 1,275 households	Minor Home Repair Invested: \$3.45 million Helped: 386 homes approved/203 assigned in progress/27 completed

*Other investments include \$375,000 for system support and \$339,000 in Community Disaster Grants.



In-kind gifts

As generous donations of goods poured in to help with the unprecedented needs, we had to act fast. We partnered with the Houston Food Bank, which secured a 140,000 square foot warehouse that allowed us to collect, organize, and distribute items ranging from food to furniture for those affected by Harvey.

The power of great volunteers

In the wake of Harvey, our volunteers stepped up in big ways. Here is a quick look at some of the work they did to help families affected by Harvey.

1,700 volunteers gave their time to more than 60 Harvey-related volunteer projects, from sorting donations to repairing facilities.

150 volunteers answered calls to help our 2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE manage high call volume and register individuals for emergency evacuation assistance for future disasters.

400 volunteers sorted and packaged donated goods for distribution, ensuring relief to families in need.

8,000 Thanksgiving meal kits were put together by volunteers for families in need through a collaboration with United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County and Rockwell Automation.

After the Storm

United Way of Greater Houston created After the Storm, a resource guide to help our neighbors recover. We distributed more than 115,000 copies in English and Spanish through shelters, our agencies, and other organizations and offered it for download on unitedwayhouston.org.

Hand in Hand Telethon: Celebrities including Beyoncé, Blake Shelton, and Justin Timberlake joined forces to help raise money for hurricane relief, including \$2.5 million for United Way of Greater Houston and other Gulf Coast United Ways.

Hearts for Houston: Houston Ballet principals Yuriko Kajiya and Jared Matthews, along with long-time United Way supporters Phoebe and Bobby Tudor, brought dancers from all over the country to New York City for a night of performances benefitting the United Way Relief Fund.

We have been overwhelmed by the incredible generosity of our neighbors across Texas and all over the world. We are so grateful to the many organizations and individuals who gave to the United Way Relief Fund and to the major donors below who led the way.

\$5,000,000	\$500,000 - \$999,999	United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County	Hirsch Family Foundation	Harris Simmons	Wendy and Jeff Hines
Lilly Endowment Inc.	21st Century Fox	Wells Fargo	Houston Methodist	The Spirit Golf Association	Hyundai Construction Equipment
\$2,500,000 - \$4,999,999	Amegy Bank	\$100,000 - \$249,000	M.R. and Evelyn Hudson Foundation	Tellepsen	Japanese Business Association of Houston
ConocoPhillips	Chevron Phillips Company LP	Arabian Petroleum Supply Company (APSCO)	Yvonne and Walter Johnson	Texas Capital Bank	Johnny Johnson
Hand in Hand	EnCap Investments L.P.	Debbie and Steve Bergstrom	JPMorgan Chase	Stephanie and Brad Tucker	National Basketball Players Association Foundation
McNair Family and the Houston Texans	ExxonMobil	Camden Property Trust	David A. Kerstein	Phoebe and Bobby Tudor	Beverly and Jim Postl
\$1,000,000 - \$2,499,999	The Friedkin Group	Patricia and Stephen Chazen	Steve Lindley	U.S. Capital Advisors	Regions Bank
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation	Shell Oil Company	Chicago Bears	Louisiana Pacific Corporation	United Way Suncoast	Shiner Beers of Shiner, Texas
Baltimore Ravens	Williams	CSL Limited	Anna and Scott McLean	Katherine Osborne Valdez	Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Rich and Nancy Kinder Foundation	\$250,000 - \$499,999	Culver's Restaurants	Mercuria Energy Trading	Vinson & Elkins LLP	Steelcase
Lennar Foundation	Accenture	Deloitte	Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas)	Western National Group	Anne Laure and Steve Stephens
Macy's	BHP	Lynn and John Elsenhans	Navy Federal Credit Union	Zorich Family Foundation	Pamela Kennedy and Mike Stinson
NFL Foundation	Blue Cross/Blue Shield	Enbridge	Nordstrom	\$50,000 - \$99,999	Sumitomo Corp. of America
Phillips 66	BP America	EOG Resources	NOV	Blood Systems	Team Tacala Charities
TechnipFMC	Carnival Cruise Lines	Jana and Richard Fant	Orbital AKC	J. Michael Bontrager	Trinseo
United Way Worldwide Harvey Relief Fund	CenterPoint Energy	Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas	Pappas Restaurants	Callon Petroleum	United Way of Forsyth County
	Chevron Corporation	Cherie and James Flores	Perella Weinberg Foundation	Ann and Clarence Cazalot	David Webb
	Fayez Sarofim & Co.	Fluor	Marty Phillips	Consolidated Communications	Kalen and Michael Webb
	GE	The Gap	Powell Foundation	Steve Denning	Westlake Chemical Corporation
	Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo	Cindy and John Grempe	Rooms to Go	Denver Broncos	David C. Whitney
	Kiewit	Helis Foundation	Mariana R. and Robert P. Scripps	Marianne and Neil Duffin	
	Elizabeth C. and Richard C. Schafer		Jeri and Marc Shapiro	Halliburton	
	Service Corporation International/Dignity Memorials		Sharma Foundation	Michael K. Hayde	

IMPROVING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

At United Way, we know that successful young people grow into successful adults. Through innovative work to improve academic success, we make sure our kids enter school ready to learn, are reading proficiently by fourth grade, transition in and out of middle school, graduate from high school and are prepared for college, work and life.

United Way Bright Beginnings

United Way Bright Beginnings, a partnership between United Way of Greater Houston and ExxonMobil, is an innovative early education program designed to help children from lower-income families achieve social, emotional, physical and cognitive milestones and enter school ready to succeed.

This year, we celebrated the 15-year anniversary of United Way Bright Beginnings and the 11,700 Houston-area children who are on track to reach their full potential because Bright Beginnings gave them the strong foundation they needed.

34 United Way Bright Beginnings centers serve nearly 1,000 children.

Over the past five years, United Way Bright Beginnings alumni exceeded HISD averages on STAAR math and reading exams 80 percent of the time.

United Way Bright Beginnings centers boast a staff retention rate that is nearly double the retention rate nationally.

United Way Bright Beginnings 2.0

United Way Bright Beginnings works with Family Home Providers who operate licensed child care facilities out of their homes. United Way Bright Beginnings provided professional development training, leadership development, and one-on-one coaching. In 2017-2018, United Way Bright Beginnings added five new Family Home Providers, expanding our reach and serving more children.

In 2017, United Way Bright Beginnings expanded into Montgomery County with two new centers thanks to additional support from CB&I.

“United Way of Greater Houston created a successful model with United Way Bright Beginnings that stands out as a beacon of light for the rest of the nation as to all that is possible in quality early childhood environments.” Joshua D. Sparrow MD, Director, Brazelton Touchpoints Center, Boston Children’s Hospital

United Way Reading Together

Through third grade, students are learning to read. From fourth grade on, they are reading to learn. United Way Reading Together pairs elementary school students who are up to a grade behind in reading with corporate and community volunteers to ensure that students are reading proficiently by the time they enter fourth grade, a key indicator of future success. During the 2017-2018 school year, volunteers helped more than 100 students improve their reading skills.

United Way Reading Together students increased reading and social-emotional skills at significantly higher rates than their peers.



United Way Peer-To-Peer Tutoring

Academically-borderline students are trained to tutor students who are a year behind in reading, with both students building critical reading skills, plus confidence and a deeper connection to school. During the 2017-2018 school year, more than 200 students participated at eight schools.

Second and third graders in peer-to-peer tutoring significantly increased their reading comprehension scores from the pre- to post-assessment. Participants in all grades (second through fifth) significantly increased their word reading fluency scores from the pre- to post-assessment.

United Way M.A.T.H.

United Way M.A.T.H. is a partnership between United Way of Greater Houston and ConocoPhillips, aimed at improving Algebra I passage rates through increased hands-on experience with math, by making career connections and through peer-to-peer tutoring. United Way M.A.T.H. trains eighth-graders on the academic bubble to become student leaders and tutors to sixth-graders who are also struggling in math. This year, United Way M.A.T.H. helped more than 120 students from six schools get ready for algebra.

During the last school year, math problem-solving skills for the majority of tutors and tutees increased from the pre- to the post-assessment.

United Way M.A.T.H. Camp

Another component of United Way M.A.T.H. provides much-needed math enrichment while helping to stem the learning loss many students experience while out of school. During the summer, more than 900 students participated in fun, hands-on math activities that reinforced classroom instruction, strengthened pre-algebra skills and energized students to take and pass algebra.



Students in United Way M.A.T.H. Camp showed gains in math skills and in their attitude toward math. Middle school student skills gains were 43% in 2017, up from 24% in 2016 and, importantly, summer slide (the learning loss some students experience during the summer) was eliminated for most of the youth in the program.



Summer Learning

During the summer, we found creative ways to curb the learning loss many students experience during the out-of-school months and to ensure their success in the classroom when the new school year starts. Through book clubs, kindergarten prep camps and STEM activities, we kept 4,000 students and 2,500 parents engaged in learning over the summer.

158 summer book clubs kept more than 1,800 students engaged in reading. Collectively, book club participants spent more than 900,000 minutes reading last summer!

Students in the Summer of Learning project spent the summer doing hands-on math and science activities, which increased their STEM knowledge; children in the program showed a 20% improvement in knowledge by the end of the summer.

Three academic bridge programs helped more than 200 incoming college freshmen who come from economically-disadvantaged families prepare to start, and succeed in, college.



Out 2 Learn

In January 2017, we launched Out 2 Learn, a collaborative led by United Way of Greater Houston, City of Houston Mayor's Office of Education, Harris County Department of Education/CASE, and the Houston Endowment. Out 2 Learn works to increase access to out-of-school programs, improve the quality of programs, and build stronger connections between out-of-school programs and the community.

IMPROVING FAMILY FINANCIAL STABILITY

With the right tools, families can achieve what we all want: good jobs with good wages, safe and affordable housing, success for our children and financial stability.

United Way THRIVE: Helping families achieve financial stability

United Way THRIVE, launched and led by United Way of Greater Houston, is a collaborative of more than 20 nonprofit partners and partners across multiple sectors that work together to provide comprehensive services to support hardworking, lower-income families in their efforts to achieve financial stability.

United Way THRIVE takes a holistic approach to financial stability, addressing the complex issues and obstacles preventing families from achieving financial independence and making sure families get comprehensive and individualized help that address the many challenges they face.

United Way THRIVE helps families achieve financial stability by focusing on three key goals: increasing income, building savings and acquiring assets.

Highlights of United Way THRIVE's ninth year:

67,000 families put on the path to financial stability

36,500 tax returns completed with more than \$49 million in net refunds returned

16,500 families benefitted from financial education and coaching

14,600 families received workforce development services

2,500 people got new or better jobs

10:1 return on investment

Innovative Employer-led Pilots

United Way THRIVE continues to seek innovative partnerships to help close the skill gap, give hardworking families an opportunity to thrive, and position our region for long-term economic competitiveness. This year, we were partners in two employer-led pilot programs:

Health care: We partnered with CHI St. Luke's, Lone Star College, Volunteers of America, and Wesley Community Center to screen, train, and prepare 17 individuals for living-wage careers as Patient Care Assistants. Ongoing United Way THRIVE services, like financial education and coaching, help participants maximize their income and meet their goals.

Construction: In partnership with TD Industries, Workforce Solutions, The Women's Resource, Harris County Department of Education, and SER Jobs for Progress, 12 women were selected to train to become sheet metal and plumber helpers, and to receive a continuum of services, including financial and workforce coaching and academic tutoring.





Workforce Connector Pilot

United Way THRIVE partners continued working with Workforce Solutions career offices at 11 sites this year to ensure that clients receive the best of both services. United Way THRIVE staff collaborate with staff from the Gulf Coast Workforce Board/Houston-Galveston Area Council to guide this work, including sharing best practices and identifying potential employer partners.

Workforce Development Workgroup

We continue to lead this workgroup in collaboration with the Greater Houston Partnership – UpSkill Houston, and Gulf Coast Workforce Board, working to align, improve, and standardize nonprofit workforce development services to meet employer needs and help lower-income adults attain employment in high-wage, high-growth careers.

Financial Coaching Network

United Way now provides in-depth financial coaching training to THRIVE partner coaches and case management staff of affiliate partners, helping spread THRIVE services and impact to a larger audience.

Breaking Barriers

Because transportation is often a barrier for United Way THRIVE clients, this year, we developed a pilot with Workforce Solutions, the Houston-Galveston Area Council, and a number of transportation organizations to help THRIVE clients, especially those in outlying areas, connect with transportation so they can get to work. United Way THRIVE is also forming partnerships that will help clients in vocational training connect with child care services.

DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Day of Caring

This year, nearly 10,000 volunteers representing more than 40 companies from across our region gave their time and talent to better our community through more than 600 United Way Day of Caring projects.

Volunteers saw first-hand how their support of United Way makes a difference as they hosted reading activities and field days for children, painted and made repairs to facilities, and readied gardens for planting.



Houston Texans Team Up with United Way to Rally Kids around Reading

Nearly 500 elementary school students joined United Way, volunteers, the Houston Texans and Texans defensive end D.J. Reader at the annual Readers Do Something About It Reading Rally on December 6. Students spent time reading, wrote their own stories, played literacy and geography games, and took home bags full of books!

Back to School Bash

In July, our Leadership Donors came together to donate school supplies and fill more than 540 backpacks for our United Way Bright Beginnings alumni and their siblings. United Way Women's Initiative members volunteered to check each backpack and make sure our United Way Bright Beginnings students would receive the exact supplies they needed to start the school year.

Women's Initiative Holiday Projects

Just in time for the winter holidays, Women's Initiative members gathered to wrap more than 1,000 books they collected for United Way Bright Beginnings students. The group provided gifts of three books each to more than 300 children at seven United Way Bright Beginnings centers, spreading holiday cheer and helping the students start their own home libraries. In May, Women's Initiative members collected basic needs items to fill gift baskets for the mothers of United Way Bright Beginnings students. The ladies put together more than 200 gift baskets which United Way Bright Beginnings students gave to their moms for Mother's Day.

United Way Reading Together

This year, United Way Reading Together includes 90 volunteers reading one-on-one with elementary students at five schools. With the help they are getting from their volunteer reading buddies, United Way Reading Together students have improved their reading skills!



Women Who Rock

The annual Montgomery County Women Who Rock Luncheon celebrates the generosity of the Women's Leadership Council members and raises money for the Young Mothers' Child Care Scholarship Program. The February 2018 luncheon was attended by more than 550 individuals and raised more than \$80,000, which will provide scholarships allowing young moms to access quality child care for their kids while they pursue higher education. The Young Mothers' Child Care Scholarship program celebrated its first graduates in 2016-2017 and celebrated three more graduates during the 2017-2018 school year. Congratulations to the women who graduated from college this past year with help from the scholarship!

Ideas that Connect

More than 200 United Way Young Leaders and LINC members turned out for this year's Ideas that Connect event featuring Houston Texans President and United Way board member Jamey Rootes on his many years in the world of sports and why giving back is important to him and the Houston Texans, and Dr. Cassandra McZeal, computational sciences function manager for ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company, on her journey from reluctant math major to successful mathematician.



United Way LINC

United Way LINC is focused on volunteering, offering young people an opportunity to engage in meaningful service coupled with social activities and personal and professional development. This year, more than 1,000 members representing 75 companies joined United Way LINC and contributed more than 1,700 volunteer hours.



Book Nooks

United Way LINC implemented a new signature volunteer project, Book Nooks. Book Nooks are reading benches that create fun, comfortable spaces for students to read and provide them immediate access to quality literature. Each bench seats two to three children and includes a box of donated books for teachers to start or expand their libraries.

In addition to giving children the encouragement and resources to become strong readers, the United Way LINC Book Nook project helps volunteers learn about the needs of our neighbors and how they can play a role in preparing children for success. As volunteers work in teams to create the Book Nooks, they gain an understanding of the importance of early grade reading and access to books.

Numbers and Neutrons

United Way LINC members welcomed more than 130 third, fourth and fifth graders from United Way after-school programs to the United Way Center for the fourth annual Numbers and Neutrons, a night of math and science. Students learned about the wonders of Earth and extreme natural environments. Most importantly, they saw how fun math and science can be and heard how United Way LINC volunteers use math and science in their jobs every day!

Holiday Cheer for United Way Bright Beginnings Students

United Way LINC members collected holiday gifts and basic needs items for more than 180 students in United Way Bright Beginnings. Volunteers gathered at 8th Wonder Brewery to wrap presents and hear about the work of United Way Bright Beginnings.

Congratulations to United Way Project Blueprint Class XXXV! This year, Project Blueprint, our leadership development program that prepares emerging leaders in our multicultural community for leadership roles on nonprofit and public sector boards, boasts 23 graduates.

CAMPAIGN

Under the leadership of Campaign Chair Neil Duffin, contributions to the Community Campaign topped \$73 million this year, combined with \$47 million to the United Way Relief Fund, for a total of more than \$120 million, a record for United Way of Greater Houston!

As part of the Community Campaign, more than 10,500 leadership donors contributed \$35.5 million to fuel United Way's work. The Women's Initiative contributed \$5.8 million, while United Way Young Leaders contributed \$4.5 million. Impact Circle members contributed \$4.8 million; Leadership



Circle members contributed \$2.9 million; and Chairman's Club members contributed nearly \$10 million this year.

It is with sincere gratitude that we salute the corporations, individuals, foundations and other donors who made this year a memorable one.

Million Dollar Corporate Donor Circle

This year, 14 companies contributed one million dollars or more to the annual campaign. ExxonMobil topped the list with \$13 million, followed by Anadarko Petroleum Corporation with \$5.7 million and ConocoPhillips with \$2.9 million. Rounding out the million dollar circle: Phillips 66 (\$1.9 million); CenterPoint Energy (\$1.9 million); Enbridge (\$1.7 million); Schlumberger (\$1.7 million); TechnipFMC (\$1.7 million); BHP (\$1.4 million); Shell Oil Company (\$1.4 million); LyondellBasell (\$1.3 million);

Kinder Morgan (\$1.2 million); Service Corporation International (\$1 million); and H-E-B (\$1 million).

Campaign Vice Chairs

Dorothy M. Ables	John T. Grempe	Meg O'Neill
Jeanne P. Abundis	Jonathan C. Homeyer	Ron Oran
Marc Boom, MD	Sue Kean	Jim Postl
Timothy J. Booth	Lynne Liberato	Scott M. Prochazka
Murry Bowden	Margaret M. Mattix	Steven W. Roll
Chip Casey	David M. McClanahan	Jamey Rootes
Clarence P. Cazalot	Paul E. McEntire	Tom Ryan
Thao Costis	Scott J. McLean	Bobby Tudor
Pam Darwin	Cassandra M. McZeal	Marc Watts
Melanie Gray	Jack B. Moore	

The Alexis de Tocqueville Society

Led by Meg O'Neill and Steve Roll, the Alexis de Tocqueville Society contributed more than \$18.4 million this year, with 820 members. ExxonMobil had the most Alexis de Tocqueville Society members with 164 donating more than \$2.7 million, which includes gifts of more than \$800,000 from ExxonMobil retirees.

Alexis de Tocqueville Society Major Donors

Major Donors (\$25,000-plus) are a powerful force for good in our community. This year, we gratefully acknowledge 195 Major Donors who improve lives in our community with their generosity, influence, and compassion by collectively giving \$11 million. We also thank the 37 donors who used the Challenge Match to be recognized as Major Donors, bringing the group's total membership to 232 donors collectively giving \$11.6 million.

Forty-One Families Contributed \$100,000 Or More

Our Visionaries (\$200,000-plus) and Benefactors (\$100,000-plus) are extraordinary leaders whose generosity ensures United Way has a strong foundation for the future. This incredible group has grown to 41 families contributing more than \$6.2 million. We proudly recognize and thank our Visionaries and Benefactors:

Visionaries

Polly and Murry Bowden	Nancy and Rich Kinder
Charles Butt	Janice and Robert C. McNair
Janet and John Carrig	Susan and Fayez Sarofim
Pat and Steve Chazen	Bonnie and David Weekley
Wendy and Jeff Hines	



Benefactors

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1,000 Women Strong

The United Way Women's Initiative was 1,000 women strong again in 2017-2018. More than 200 Women's Initiative members are Alexis de Tocqueville Society members and another 140 are members of our Leadership Circle. This year, Women's Initiative members had unique opportunities to network, learn and serve, like filling backpacks with school supplies for students and hearing from health and wellness experts and other dynamic speakers.

Young Leaders

Nearly 2,500 United Way Young Leaders contributed close to \$4.5 million to support United Way's work during 2017-2018. This year, in addition to networking and opportunities to hear and learn from business and community leaders, Young Leaders volunteered at a food fair, preparing and distributing meals to veterans and community members in need to help supplement their food budget.

Law Initiative

Under the leadership of Co-Chairs Chip Casey, general counsel, Upstream Companies, Exxon Mobil Corporation, and Lynne Liberato, partner, Haynes and Boone LLP, the United Way Law Initiative contributed nearly \$2 million this year and expanded their reach by finding new ways to engage the Greater Houston legal community. This year, the Law Initiative hosted two General Counsel panel events that gave United Way Young Leaders the opportunity to hear from general counsel at corporations with which their firms do business. Also this year, longtime Alexis de Tocqueville Society members David and Judy Beck hosted an evening of networking and socializing in their home, with 16 firms and 11 companies represented.

Caring Champions

In addition to championing their own company campaigns, Caring Champions sponsor campaign activities, visibility and marketing efforts throughout the year. Special thanks go to our 2017-2018 Caring Champions: ConocoPhillips; Enbridge; ExxonMobil; Anadarko Petroleum Corporation; Bank of America; CenterPoint Energy; The Friedkin Group; Schlumberger; Shell Oil Company; LyondellBasell; and NOV.

We thank the 30 Loaned Executives who helped share the United Way message and support the Community Campaign this year. Thank you to ExxonMobil, Zachry Group, BHP, Asia Chemical, and Hanover Company for lending employees, and to Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, Chevron, Fluor, Jacobs Engineering, The Friedkin Group, and Shell Oil Company for sponsoring Loaned Executives.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: JOHN GREMP

“John makes the impossible seem possible. He is an advocate, a friend, and a compassionate volunteer. Our United Way, our community, and each of us have benefitted from his good judgment, counsel, and kindness.”
Anna M. Babin



John Grempe, retired chairman of FMC Technologies, was named 2017 Volunteer of the Year by United Way of Greater Houston. The prestigious Robert W. Kneebone Volunteer of the Year Award is the highest honor given by United Way of Greater Houston to a volunteer for extraordinary leadership and community service.

John served as chair of the United Way Community Campaign in 2016-2017, helping raise \$76 million to fuel United Way's work. As part of that effort, John spent countless hours sharing the United Way message and the stories of people United Way has helped with candor and genuineness, helping everyone understand the importance of the role they play in changing lives.

John is the best kind of leader because he leads by example. He inspires people not to follow him, but to join him.

Whether meeting with company or community leaders, a room full of young professionals, or anchoring United Way Game Day – our campaign kickoff in 2016 – John knows how to connect with and motivate people.

John assumed the role of campaign chair only a few months after the merger between Montgomery County United Way and United Way of Greater Houston. He worked tirelessly to help people connect the dots, to build relationships, and to position our new regional United Way to help more people and affect greater change across our region. He handled it with thoughtfulness, compassion and a fierce commitment to the people we serve, to our donors and stakeholders, and to our mission.

John is thoughtful and strategic. He can see the big picture and understand the steps needed to get there. His ability to share that with others – to help them see why and how much United Way matters as well as how they, as one person, contribute to that, has been an incredible asset to our United Way and our community.

John knows the importance of relationships and has built and cultivated deep and meaningful ones. Both as a business leader and as a United Way volunteer, John made the time to really show his own support of United Way. He attended meetings and events, he spent time talking with people, he made sure he was accessible and responsive.

He worked tirelessly to reach out to our area's top companies, sharing his own passion for United Way, and encouraging other business leaders to step up and do more.

In addition to his contributions as campaign chair, John has served on the United Way Board of Trustees and on the Executive Committee since 2014. He has also been part of United Way's Strategic Thinking Committee, helping guide United Way's strategy and sharing his experience and expertise to help United Way set and reach big goals.

And, he and his wife Cindy give generously as Alexis de Tocqueville Society Benefactors.



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United Way of Greater Houston

50 Waugh Drive, Houston, TX 77007 • 713-685-2300 • unitedwayhouston.org

Bay Area Center
1300 Bay Area Blvd.
Building A
Houston, TX 77058
281-282-6000

Fort Bend County Center
12300 Parc Crest Drive
Stafford, TX 77477
281-207-2300

Montgomery County Center
1600 Lake Front Circle
Suite 248
The Woodlands, TX 77380
281-292-4155

Waller County Center
531 FM 359 S
Brookshire, TX 77423
281-822-4200