



your impact

North Central Florida Community Newsletter

United Way
of North Central Florida

LEADING THE COMMUNITY TO FOCUS ON ISSUES AND BUILD SOLUTIONS THAT IMPROVE LIVES

Fall 2004

United Way Day of Caring

Armed with United Way t-shirts, positive attitudes and can-do determination, participants from 20 area businesses arrived at Citizen's Field on September 2nd for United Way's Day of Caring.

"It is a great pleasure to stand here in front of so many for whom community investment is more than just a dollar out of the pocket," said Tom Mallini, CEO of M&S Bank, as he rallied participants in the morning pep talk.

Sponsored by North Florida Regional Medical Center, volunteers enjoyed breakfast pastries and fruit from Florida Food Service and coffee from Starbucks before engaging in their assigned community impact work. Tasks were varied and included clean up, reorganizing a thrift store to landscaping or washing vehicles. Teams went above and beyond in their efforts to make an impact on our community.

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United Way and Child Advocacy Center staff pause with North Florida Regional Medical Center volunteers.

Enthusiasm High for United Way Campaigns

No matter the weather, United Way campaigns across North Central Florida are up and running with great enthusiasm.

"We've had tremendous response from organizations this year," said United Way Campaign Chair and President of Santa Fe Community College, Jackson Sasser. "They understand the diverse needs of the community and they see United Way as the best way to meet those needs."

The campaign season kicked off with the Day of Caring and continues until the Campaign Finale in December.

If you have not received your pledge card and would like to invest in what matters in our community, please contact United Way at (352) 331-2800.

United Way Information & Referral



The first step toward getting help is knowing where to turn. United Way Information & Referral (I&R) is a free and confidential 24-hour service provided by the United Way of North Central Florida.

With its motto "Any Problem, Any Question, Any Time," I&R is a community resource for information about human service agencies, community clubs, interest groups, support groups, government services, recreation and education programs, and health resources.

"Last year, we received over 35,000 calls," said Jan Zak, I&R Program Director. "Approximately 43% of those calls were from people with basic human needs such as food, shelter, and clothing," continued Zak.

I&R services become increasingly important in preparation for, during and after disasters. More than just a service to find help, I&R assists those looking to give help. "With Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, I&R was very active in the recruitment and placement of volunteers at shelters and food distribution sites," Zak said.

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Visit us online at
unitedwayNCFL.org

Day of Caring memories Deeds well done — above & beyond expectations

What matters more to me than anything else is the kids. That is what we are here for. We wouldn't be here without United Way.

*Keith Blanchard
Executive Director
Boys and Girls Club*

United Way provides me support as an agency director. They help me learn to do a better job and they help connect me with other sister agencies.

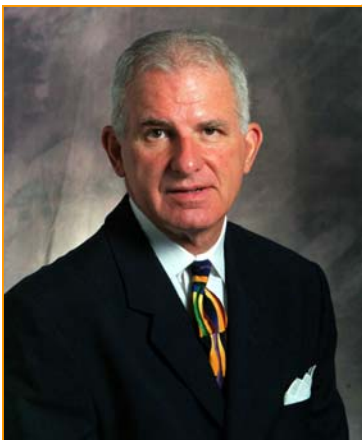
*Candice King
Executive Director
ACORN Clinic*

What matters is working together to "move the needle" on issues of concern in our community.

*Karen Brickleyer
President and CEO
United Way*



Message from the UWNCFL Board Chair



Thank you for your continued interest in and support of United Way, and your concern for the welfare and preparedness of our community. Recent events have proven the value of community preparedness, and United Way is proud to have carried out its role as donation and volunteer coordinator within the Alachua County Emergency Management Plan.

These are exciting times for our United Way. Through formal and informal research, we have reached out to discover what matters in our community. Now, we are implementing a recently adopted strategic plan that will focus the caring power of our community on critical issues and concerns. This strategy will help us to build solutions that bring lasting improvement to people's lives. It will give your Community Care Fund investment the leveraged power to "move the needle" on North Central Florida's most important health and human services issues.

Results matter and we look forward to updating you on your return on investment. United Way of North Central Florida is your 365-day-a-year partner for making an impact on our community.

We appreciate your trust and look forward to your continued investment in United Way and your community.

Sincerely,

James Doughton
Board Chair
United Way of North Central Florida

Hurricanes & Your United Way

United Way Activated as Emergency Support Function 15 (ESF15) at the Alachua County Emergency Operations Center



After the Storms

(left & right) The Rotary Club of Gainesville was one of many civic- and faith-based organizations to partner with United Way and assist in the cleanup of debris from yards of disabled and senior citizens after the storms.



Food, Water & MREs

(left) United Way worked alongside military personnel to distribute food, water, meals-ready-to-eat (MREs) and other essentials.

Letter to the Editor

E. Scott Medley, M.D. writes to the Gainesville Sun in praise of UWNCFL Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne efforts.

October 22, 2004

Letters to the Editor, Gainesville Sun

I believe that everyone agrees what a fine job our local fire and rescue, law enforcement, utility and government agencies did during and following Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne. But perhaps many do not know how the staff of our local United Way spent their hurricane season.

Some United Way staff joined with members from the above agencies for 20- to 30-hour shifts at the Alachua County Emergency Operations Center. Others drove ice, food or water trucks to distribution points, or spent their weekends in the hot sun handing out supplies.

United Way staff coordinated the volunteer efforts of faith- and community-based organizations to help with distribution sites, debris clean-up and transportation. United Way made sure that area shelters had adequate nurses and volunteers.

United Way's Information & Referral experienced double its usual call volume as people in need called in for assistance after the storm.

United Way was there to help because that's what matters in this community. Thank you United Way.

Sincerely,

E. Scott Medley, M.D.

Community Impact 2004

This year, United Way of North Central Florida helped...

... 350 abused children get services they needed. United Way helped pay for taped forensic interviews and counseling. Taping the interviews meant that these children didn't have to relive the trauma of the event over and over again, and law enforcement was better able to investigate successfully. Now children are safer because many child abusers are off the streets and the cycle of abuse has been broken.

... 874 children without homes. These children were provided a safe environment and counseling. They got help and were not on the street being victimized, or getting into trouble. Now, 89% of those kids are back with their families or appropriately placed. Furthermore, they have received the counseling and skills necessary to make better choices in their lives.

... 391 children go to a diabetes camp where they received diabetes education and motivational training. Now they have a better understanding of their condition and of how to regulate their blood sugar. That means that they are less likely to need emergency room services and less likely to miss school because of diabetes. By helping them to avoid diabetes complications, United Way helped put them on track to lead more productive lives.

... over 2,800 youth participate in Girls Club and Boys & Girls Club programs. The healthy body, healthy mind approach to these programs has helped these youths to become team players with improved self esteem and better motivation. The future is brighter for them and they are better prepared to become good citizens in our community.

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**United Way
of North Central Florida**

What's in a name...

What used to be called the United Way of Alachua County is now the United Way of North Central Florida. In fact, the counties of Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy and Union have always been a part of our United Way family. The new name is simply a more accurate representation of this United Way's responsibility to our community.

Dates to remember...

November 19 — 2004 Campaign ends
December 3 — All pledges due to United Way
December 15 — United Way Campaign Finale

A website to remember...

Visit United Way online for information about your community, important links and the all-powerful Information & Referral Mini-Directory of community resources.

unitedwayNCFL.org

United Way I&R

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After the hurricanes passed, I&R coordinated civic- and faith-based groups to assist in debris cleanup for disabled and senior citizens.

"It is a wonderful feeling to be able to help," said Zak. "Whether it's coordinating volunteers after a disaster or connecting someone in need with the right agency."



For any problem, any question, any time, call (352) 332-INFO (4636). United Way Information & Referral is here to help.

A brief history of United Way I&R

- ◇ June 1972 — I&R begins operations with a small staff and few volunteers out of an office in the bottom of a church. Funding is from the Older Americans Act and the Alachua County Commission
- ◇ 1975 — I&R merges with the Crisis Center, allowing crisis and I&R services to be available to members of the community 24/7.
- ◇ 1975-1981 — I&R coverage expands to include the 16 counties that make up Department of Children and Families, District 3.
- ◇ April 1982 — United Way of North Central Florida assumes half of the fiscal support for I&R.
- ◇ January 1983 — I&R moves to United Way central office and changes name to United Way Information & Referral.
- ◇ January 1990 — I&R fully funded and is a direct service of United Way of North Central Florida.