



United Way of Jefferson County
501 Washington St.
P.O. Box 1463
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740-284-9000
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are United Way's administrative costs?

In 2007, .81 cents of every dollar went directly back out to the United Way charities to help people. The .19 cents represents not only administrative costs but all fundraising costs as well. The recommended percentage for non-profit organizations by the Better Business Bureau is at least .65 cents of every dollar.

Does all the money raised by United Way stay in Jefferson County?

About 1% of funds raised in 2008 left Jefferson County so that our organization can be a member of United Way of America.

Does the United Way help the middle class or just the poor?

United Way agencies help all people – regardless of income. You are a rare person if you or your family never uses a United Way agency. United Way services include providing disaster relief (floods & fires) services, family counseling, daycare services, homeless sheltering, domestic abuse sheltering, services for the elderly, summer day camps for children, services for the disabled, workforce development, scouting programs, as well as assistance with food, utilities, mortgage and rent payments.

Why not give directly to agencies instead of giving through United Way?

United Way was formed over 75 years ago as the best way to raise charitable funds in a single workplace appeal, rather than companies opening their doors to multiple requests from local non-profit agencies. That function remains valuable today to thousands of agencies which cannot raise funds as effectively and efficiently as United Way. In addition, many contributors appreciate the ease and convenience of payroll deduction, and the thousands of donors who support United Way say it is the one choice that can make the greatest difference for all of us in Jefferson County.

How do I know the money I contribute gets to the agencies?

United Way is held accountable for the money it raises by many community volunteers who have served on the board of directors and on allocation committees. These volunteers have allocated money based on agency and community needs, making sure designated funds are distributed according to contributors' wishes.

I never use agency services. Why should I give? The strength of a community is directly influenced by the health and well-being of its residents. Every day, United Way

supported programs and services help people – your friends and neighbors – deal with many health and human service problems.

Your continued financial and volunteer support assures help is there for someone who needs it now or in the future. While you or you family may not need services immediately, you or someone you care about may need assistance in the future from United Way supported programs or services.

Why aren't all agencies affiliated with United Way?

Any qualified non-profit 501 ©(3) agency can apply for funding of its programs. However, some agencies do not meet United Way standards, while others follow national policies that require they operate independently. Some are not directly funded by United Way because their programs closely resemble or duplicate existing programs available to the population being served.

Who decides how much money programs and agencies will receive?

Trained community volunteers decide how much money each program receives. Knowledgeable about local needs and programs, they study the impact of each agency's services on community needs. They base their funding decisions on standardized evaluations and visits they conduct at each agency in the spring of each year, where they review programs, budgets and funding requests. Volunteers also make sure agencies are well managed, have an annual independent financial audit (based on funding amount requested) and maintain policies which make services available to all segments of the community.

Who oversees our local United Way?

Each of the 1,400 local United Ways in the U.S. has its own volunteer Board of Directors which reviews local needs, oversees fund raising and funding of nonprofit organizations and management. Our United Way Board also has an Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and several other committees which regularly issues reports and recommendations to the full board. Our United Way is a member of United Way of America who also has standards for membership in place.

Who monitors the money United Way uses to raise funds?

United Way strictly adheres to the stringent standards of accounting and financial reporting which govern the fiscal affairs of voluntary health and human service organizations. Each year, an independent public accounting firm performs a financial audit.

I can't afford to give to United Way.

Only you can decide if you can or cannot afford to give. However, for as little as \$1 each week through payroll deduction, you can provide 25 hours of quality youth programs to a child in Jefferson County. Whatever you contribute makes a great difference.

Further questions can be directed to Nancy Grim at 740-284-9000.