



UNITED WAY
of Central Texas

United Is The Way

March 2026

ABOUT US

NEED HELP

WAYS TO GIVE

2025-26

**CAMPAIGN
UPDATE**

Campaign & Community Engagement Update

We extend sincere appreciation to every company, workplace team, individual donor, and volunteer who has participated this year's campaign. Your engagement is already translating into measurable impact across Central Texas. Campaign season is actively progressing, with contributions and workplace commitments increasing steadily. Participation momentum remains strong, and engagement activity

DONATE

- Atmos Energy
- Baylor Scott and White Healthcare
- Belton ISD
- Bell County
- Broadway Bank
- Brockway, Gersbach, Franklin & Niemeier, PC
- Cadence Bank
- Caterpillar
- Central National Bank
- Central Texas College

continues to expand week over week. As we move forward, our focus remains on broadening involvement—welcoming additional workplaces, businesses, and individual supporters into this collective effort. Growth in participation directly strengthens our ability to:

- Improve access to health resources
- Advance educational opportunities
- Increase financial stability for local families

Each workplace partnership, each volunteer hour, and each donor commitment compounds our community impact.

This is a participation-driven movement.

- One workplace.
- One donor.
- One act of service at a time.

When engagement grows, outcomes grow. And when we come together with purpose, the scale of change accelerates.

Be part of the impact.

Be part of the change.

UNITED IS THE WAY.

When you give, you don't just donate.

- You **empower**.
- You **uplift**.
- You restore **hope**.

- Central Texas Housing Consortium
- Central Texas Youth Services
- City of Belton
- City of Copperas Cove
- City of Killeen
- City of Temple
- Communities In Schools
- Dooley's Pool Hall & Pro Shop
- Emerson Electric
- Environmental Fund for Texas
- Extraco Banks
- Farmers Insurance
- Families In Crisis
- Fisher House Foundation
- HEB - Belton
- HEB - Copperas Cove
- HEB - Harker Heights
- HEB - Lampasas
- HEB - Killeen-Stan Schlueter
- Killeen-Trimmier
- HEB - Temple-25th Street
- HEB - Temple-31st Street
- Kasberg, Patrick & Associates, LP
- Liberty Insurance
- Materials Transportation Company
- McLane Company
- Oncor Electric Delivery Co. LLC
- Ralph Wilson Youth Club
- Target
- Temple College
- Temple Community Clinic
- Temple Daily Telegram
- Temple ISD
- University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
- Wilsonart Engineered Surfaces
- Workforce Solutions of Central Texas



UNITED IS THE WAY

What's Happening

AWARDED: City of Temple Grant

United Way of Central Texas received a grant that will support the Bridges To Wellness & Health program that provides prescriptions, durable medical equipment and transportation to and from medical appointments for uninsured and underinsured members of the community.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance - VITA



VITA Program Update

VITA started February 2, 2026 with 11 locations and services are actively being utilized, with client appointments continuing to populate as volunteer certifications are completed and weekly schedules open.

Demand remains steady, and locations are being populated based on volunteer availability to ensure flexibility and access across our service area. However; we still need additional volunteers to meet the growing demand for this essential service. Whether serving as a tax preparer, assisting with client intake, or providing general site support, every volunteer role directly increases the number of families we can serve. No prior experience is required. There is no cost for IRS certification.

By volunteering with VITA, you help neighbors keep more of what they earn, strengthen their financial future, and build long-term stability for their families.

The more certified volunteers we onboard, the more appointment slots we can open — and the more households we can support. Join us this tax season and help expand access to this vital community service.

IRS VITA Executive Leadership Visits UWCT Sites, Celebrating Service, Students and Community Impact

The visiting delegation included Richard Rodriguez, National SPEC Director; Joseph Hayek, Acting Senior Operations Advisor to the National SPEC Director; Jennifer Hill, Senior Stakeholder Relationship Tax Consultant; Nithsavath Stucker, Acting Supervisory Stakeholder Relationship Tax Consultant; and Monica Vigliotti, Senior Stakeholder Relationship Tax Consultant.



Their first stop was Temple High School, home to one of United Way of Central Texas' VITA programs. The site is led by Teacher of the Year Jessica Cuellar, who blends classroom learning with real-world service.

"I am incredibly grateful to have the VITA program as part of my class," said Cuellar. "I am so proud of my students for taking on the responsibility of preparing tax returns and serving our community. It is amazing to see them learn, grow, and gain confidence while making a real-world impact through this experience."



VITA site at First Heroes National Bank continues to serve as a vital resource for the community, providing free, reliable tax preparation services to eligible individuals and families. The recent visit from the IRS highlights the quality, compliance, and impact of the program, reinforcing its importance in helping residents access refunds, maximize credits, and build financial stability.



All VITA volunteers are IRS-certified at no cost, ensuring accuracy and trust. During the most recent filing season, United Way of Central Texas mobilized 199 volunteers who completed nearly 2,200 tax returns—bringing more than \$2.6 million back into the local economy, directly strengthening families and stimulating the Central Texas community. Program statistics provided by United Way of Central Texas.

"We appreciate the opportunity to host the IRS SPECT leadership team during their visit to Central Texas," Greene added. "Their engagement highlights the importance of collaboration in delivering free, high-quality tax assistance to our community."

This visit was an opportunity to recognize the dedication of volunteers, students, and community partners who make the VITA program possible.



Honoring the Voices Behind 2-1-1



National 2-1-1 Awareness Day.

While many people recognize the number 2-1-1 as a lifeline for community resources, we recognized the people behind the phones who make that help possible.

Every day, compassionate call specialists answer conversations that carry real weight—stories of hardship, uncertainty, and sometimes crisis. They listen patiently, respond with empathy, and guide individuals and families toward hope and solutions. These professionals show up day in and day out, often hearing difficult situations, yet they continue to serve with kindness, professionalism, and heart.

Because of them:

- Someone finds food when their pantry is empty.
- A family discovers housing support during a difficult season.
- A neighbor learns about healthcare, counseling, or emergency assistance.

- A caller who feels alone is reminded that someone cares.

UWCT extends our deep gratitude to the 2-1-1 team members across the country and right here in our community who dedicate their work to helping others navigate life's challenges.

- Your voices bring calm to chaos.
- Your guidance creates pathways to stability.
- Your compassion changes lives.

Thank you for being the human connection behind 2-1-1.

Read Across America



Read Across America Day (March 6, 2026), created a moment that lasts far beyond the classroom. Volunteers read to elementary students across Central Texas. When a child sees an adult take time to show up just for them, it changes how they see learning — and how they see themselves. This alone can change the path of a child to go from having to read to wanting to read, and this alone can light a burning fire.



It only takes a small investment of time to make a lasting difference.



Volunteer

UMHB Career Fair with Students

United Way of Central Texas participated in the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB) Career Fair on February 12, 2026, connecting with students at the Business



Career Fair. The event had a strong turnout, with a wide range of employers and a high level of student engagement throughout the day. It was an impactful opportunity to share how United Way of Central Texas supports the community while also encouraging the next generation of leaders to consider purpose-driven work. We are honored to have participated and are looking forward to returning again next year, as we continue to build

relationships and inspire future talent at UMHB.

Community Investment Grant Application Review Training: Onsite & Virtual



February 25 and February 27, 2026

United Way of Central Texas hosted Community Investment Grant Application Review Trainings for the 2026 Citizens' Review Committee volunteers, offering both in-person and virtual sessions to ensure accessibility and participation. The trainings prepared volunteers to thoughtfully evaluate grant applications and support informed funding recommendations aligned with United Way of Central Texas' mission and community priorities. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Jetonda Green.

Contact Info: jetonda.green@uwct.org or call the office at 254-778-8161.

McLane Company Continues to Support



McLane Company continues to support the community by organizing a coat drive and delivering donated coats to United Way of Central Texas for distribution to those in need. Efforts like these make a meaningful difference—helping ensure individuals and families are prepared, protected, and cared for during colder seasons. It's partnerships like this that keep community readiness and compassion at the forefront. A big thank you to McLane Company.

Community Connections

Upcoming Community Connection Meeting – 2nd Quarter

We're looking forward to our upcoming 2nd Quarter Community Connection Meeting, where partners from across Central Texas will come together to collaborate, share updates, and strengthen our collective impact.

- **Apr. 15, 2026 - "It's Draft Time"-5th Quarter (Superhero University)**
- **May 20, 2026 - TBD**
- **Jun. 17, 2026 - BSWH Trauma Injury**

These meetings continue to serve as a valuable space for organizations, businesses, and community leaders to align efforts, exchange resources, and stay informed on key initiatives supporting health, education, and financial stability. We look forward to seeing you there and continuing the work—together. **UNITED IS THE WAY.**



Past Events

Jan. 21, 2026:

Baylor Scott & White Health hosted the Community Connection meeting with 40+ attendees, bringing partners together to strengthen healthcare access and collaboration across the community.

Feb. 18, 2026:

Belton ISD's Project Heartbeat hosted the February Community Connection meeting with 50+ attendees, including board members Tammie Bowman and Rucker Preston.

2-1-1 Call Center

THE TOP 5 REASONS CALLERS REACHED OUT TO THE 211 HELPLINE AFTER THE MAY TORNADO IN BELL COUNTY:

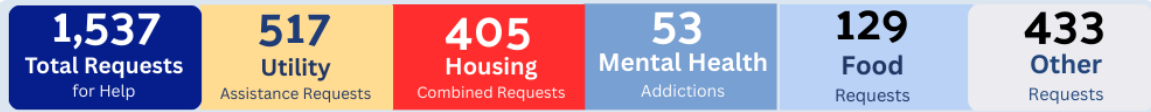
- Electric Rental Assistance
- Food Pantries
- Rent Payment Assistance
- Low Income/Sub Rental
- Homeless Shelter



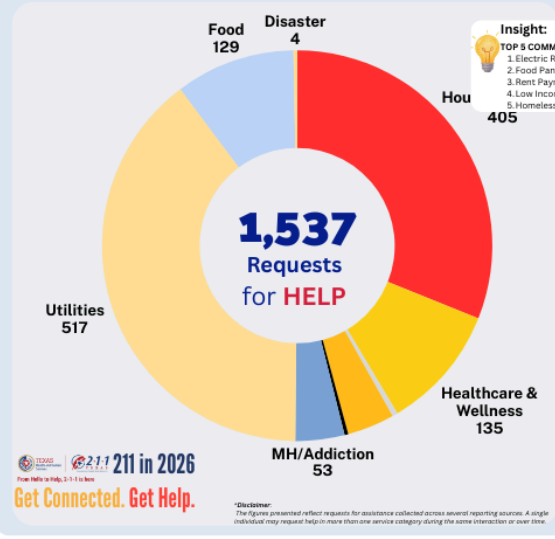
LEARN MORE

From Hello to Help, 2-1-1 is Here

The United Way of Central Texas 2-1-1 Helpline is free and confidential, and available 24 hours, 365 days a year. 2-1-1 is staffed by trained specialists who can find real answers for callers as they navigate the most comprehensive social services database in the state of Texas.

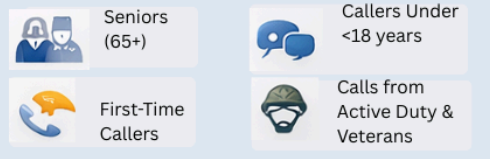


Central Texas Service Demand Overview

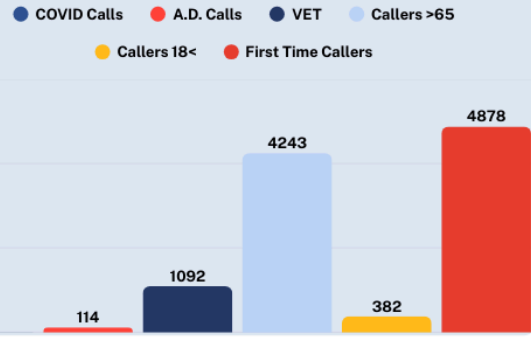


Insight:
TOP 5 COMMUNITY NEEDS
1. Electric Rental Assistance
2. Food Pantries
3. Rent Payment Assistance
4. Low Income/Sub Rental
5. Homeless Shelter

Who Is Calling?



2025 YEAR RECAP



Jan. Calls: 1,750 24/7 Availability Free & Confidential Statewide Database Access

Note: "Other" can consist of categories such as: Complaints, Support, Advocacy, Clothing, Household goods, Childcare, Domestic Violence, Legal Aid, Elderly, Special Services, Other bill requests, Child Abuse, Crisis and much more.

United In The News

Check out this recent news article:

[Jan 12, 2026-United Way of Central Texas seeks volunteers for 2026 tax assistance program](#)

[Jan 7, 2026 - United Way of Central Texas' VITA now accepting volunteers](#)

Contact Us
254-778-8616

Webpage
uwct.org



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