



**United Way of  
Central Texas**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**February 2023**

# **LIVE UNITED®**

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### **VITA- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance**

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The VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program has had several successful sessions to date. VITA services continue to be provided across locations of Temple, Belton, Fort Hood, Harker Heights, and Killeen.

Appointments are FREE (no hidden costs or fees) for individuals and families whose household income is \$60,000 or less.

Tax Season will run from January 2022 – April 2023.

Click [HERE](#) to schedule your appointment or call 254-778-8616 for more information.



**STRATEGY 2 & 4 - Develop partnerships that will create solutions and invest accordingly**  
**FINANCE GOAL - Create through community collaboration**  
**FINANCE PRIORITY - Support existing or administer program**

## Read Across America

# READ ACROSS AMERICA

MARCH 3, 2023



Read Across America will be on March 3, 2023, this year. We look forward to supporting our volunteers as they read to the children of our future.



STRATEGY 5 – Engage in advocacy

EDUCATION GOAL- At risk to individuals, community collaboration

## Advocacy Efforts

### Reforming Payday and Auto Title Lending



On February 9, 2023, Stephanie O'Banion served as panelist during a legislative briefing at the State Capitol titled "Strengthen Texas Families and Local Economies: Reform Payday and Auto Title Lending". Over 50 legislative staff members attended and received information on our legislative priorities for the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.



STRATEGY 3 & 5 – Focus on integrated client journeys and engage in advocacy  
FINANCE PRIORITY – Support existing or administer program  
HEALTH GOAL - Ensure all have access  
EDUCATION GOAL- At risk to individuals, community collaboration

## 88th Legislative Session Outlook

### Ray Perryman



At the December United Way of Central Texas Impact Briefing, Dr. Ray Perryman launched his new economic impact study on the harms of predatory lending to the community. Over 70 leaders from across the region, including District 55 State Representative Hugh Shine and District 54 State Representative Brad Buckley, attended. The new report detailing the economic harms of Payday and Auto Title Lending on the Killeen- Temple MSA and the State of Texas economies was presented. A link to the study can be found [here](#).



STRATEGY 2 & 5 - Develop partnerships and engage in advocacy  
FINANCE GOAL - Create through community collaboration to pathways for financial stability

## UWCT Leadership Chairman Transition





As we close the year out our current Board Chair, Dr. Robin Battershell administrates her last meeting as UWCT Chair. Thank you Dr. Battershell for your trusted leadership.



As the new year opens, we welcome Kayla Landeros as our new UWCT Chair. Welcome Kayla and we look forward to a great year!

## New Board Members Welcome to UWCT



We would like to welcome our new Central Texas United Way Board Members as pictured from left to right: Nancy Glover-City of Temple, Matthew Bates-City of Belton; Pastor Robert Beamon-A New Day Learning Academy; Preston Rucker-Family Promise; Ben Lopez-Workforce Solutions of Central Texas, Evelyn Waiwaiiole-Temple College

## Health Insurance Marketplace

**Get health insurance**

OPEN ENROLLMENT RUNS  
NOV 1 TO JAN 15



Put your health and well-being first with Marketplace health insurance. We can help you compare plans and find out what your costs will be before you enroll. You may qualify for savings, even if you haven't before! If you need assistance, United Way of Central Texas has Navigators available to assist by appointment.

**Health Insurance Marketplace**  
Do you need help with cost?

How can I learn more? Visit [www.UWCT.org](http://www.UWCT.org) for more information or call (254) 778-9616.

United Way  
United Way of Central Texas

## Get health insurance

Open enrollment closed on January 15, 2023, over **30** families were assisted with health insurance. We performed cost comparisons and helped clients understand the needs for coverage before enrolling into a specific plan. Clients found this resource to be very helpful and not as overwhelming with navigator support.



STRATEGY 3 - Focus on client journey  
HEALTH GOAL - Ensure all have access

## Campaign Highlights

GIVE \* ADVOCATE \* VOLUNTEER

LIVE UNITED

**THANK YOU**  
For Changing Lives

United Way  
United Way of Central Texas

2022  
Campaign

Many campaigns continue to use a hybrid combination of digital and paper pledge forms as options to complete their campaigns.

2022-2023 Campaigns continue to be completed and United Way of Central Texas is excited to partner with every participant. We live united.

- Acadian
- A New Day Learning Academy
- American Express
- Atmos Energy
- Bell County
- Belton ISD
- Brockway, Gersbach, Franklin & Neimeier
- CASA
- Cadence Bank
- Central National Bank
- Central Texas Youth Services
- City of Belton
- Communities in Schools
- Costco Warehouse
- Don Ringler

- Extraco Banks
- Families In Crisis
- FedEx
- Fosterlove
- HEB
- Hilton Garden Inn
- Our Lady of the Angels Maternity Shelter
- McClane Group
- Target
- Temple College
- Temple Daily Telegram
- UMHB
- UPS
- Wilsonart

## Campaign Comments

Contributions continue to come in, however; below are comments received during past campaign participants.

**"Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ."**

**"Thanks for all you do!"**

**"Thank you for all that you do to support the Central Texas community!"**

**"Praying for God to bless all those that donate and those that receive the donations."**



STRATEGY 2 - Develop partnerships that will create solutions  
FINANCE GOAL - Create through community collaboration

## First Aid Mental Health Training



Central Counties Services trainers Melissa Mitchell and Ricardo Acosta provided a Mental Health First AID training course to the staff.

United Way of Central Texas staff that attended became Mental Health First Aid Certified. The MHFA certification is compliant for 3 years.



STRATEGY 2-Develop partnership that will create solutions  
HEALTH GOAL - Ensure all have access

## Chrome and Carols - Thank You!

# CHROME & CAROLS FESTIVAL OF TREES



# Thank you



The new year has already begun but before we close the book on 2022, we wanted to just take a moment and reflect on our past event and its' success.

The 2022 Chrome & Carols Festival of Trees was held on Thursday, December 1st, 2022 at Horny Toad Harley Davidson!

It was a remarkable event filled with laughter and joy. We are very happy to share that the community together for United Way of Central Texas raised nearly **\$60,000**.

A special THANK YOU to all of the **Chrome & Carol Tree Sponsors**.

We are so grateful for the support and look forward to next year's event.

- Bell County Commissioners
- Cedar Crest
- Central National Bank
- CRW Construction
- Don Ringler
- HEB plus!
- Horny Toad Harley-Davidson
- Johnson Bros.
- McLane

- Materials Transportation Company
- McLane Group
- One Dozen Giving Gals
- Popelka Paint Contracting, Inc.
- Precious Memories Florist & Gift Shop
- Salado Business Park
- Steve Jackson Construction LLC
- United Way of Central Texas Board of Directors
- Wilsonart Engineered Surfaces

**Click on the FB icon to be taken to the 2022 12th Chrome and Carols pictures.**



STRATEGY 2 & 4 – Develop partnership and invest accordingly

FINANCE GOAL - Create through community collaboration to pathways for financial stability



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services



## 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 work the most comprehensive social services database in the state of Texas.

### January 2023 Calls Taken: 4,086

#### 2023 Call Stats To-Date (January 1st, 2023):

- Total number of calls: **4,086**
- Active-Duty Military & Veterans Connected to Resources: **141**
- Seniors aged 65+: **539**
- First Time 2-1-1 Callers: **396**
- Calls Related to COVID-19: **131**
- People connected with food assistance: **240**
- People connected with utility assistance: **771**
- People connected with health care: **214**
  - Other: (all other health-related calls) **148**
  - Mental Health: **46**
  - Substance Abuse: **20**
- People connected with housing or shelter: **779**
- People connected with rent or mortgage assistance: **350**

#### The top 5 needs of callers in our 7 County Region\* in **JANUARY** 2023 include:

1. Electric Service Payment Assistance
2. Rent Payment Assistance
3. Low Income/Sub. Rental Housing
4. Food Pantries
5. Water Payment Assistance

*\*Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, and San Saba Counties!"*

#### The top 5 un-met needs of callers in our 7 County Region\* in **JANUARY** 2023 include:

1. Rent Payment Assistance
2. Electric Service Payment Assistance
3. Motel Bill Payment Assistance
4. Child Care Expenses
5. Water Connection/Repair

*\*Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, and San Saba Counties*

#### The top 5 needs Referrals in County Region\* in **JANUARY** 2023 include:

1. Financial Stability Program- (Catholic Charities of Central Texas)
2. Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program- HCCAA Hill Country Community Action Association
3. Rent and Utility Assistance Program - (Salvation Army of Bell County)
4. Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program
5. Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program - (TDHCA)

#### 2023 **January** Calls from our **7 county** region:

- Bell County: **3,288**
  - Temple: **869**
  - Belton: **174**

- Killeen: **1,467**
- Coryell County: **277**
- Hamilton County: **31**
- Lampasas County: **63**
- Milam County: **128**
- Mills County: **12**
- San Saba County: **17**

## United Way in the News

Check out this recent news article:

**January 14, 2023:** [United Way to start tax assistance program in January](#)

**November 25, 202:** [Chrome & Carols fundraiser sold out, but virtual tickets available](#)

**October 21, 2022:** [KWTX Waco, Tx Good News Friday](#)

**October 4, 2022:** [Temple Daily Telegram: United Way Day of Caring set Friday](#)

**October 1, 2022:** [Temple Daily Telegram: Day of Caring Volunteers tackle community projects](#)

