

# LIVE UNITED



United Way  
of Southwest Oklahoma

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **How does United Way work?**

Through financial contributions and volunteer time, United Way brings the people of the community together to build a stronger and healthier community.

### **Who benefits from my donation?**

One out of three of your neighbors, co-workers or even your family will use United Way services this year. Emergency food, shelter and other programs for the needy are only the beginning. If your children are involved in Scouting, or take swimming lessons at the YMCA, you've benefited from United Way.

### **Who is eligible for services?**

Everyone is eligible regardless of race, age, and gender or income level. All partners have criteria for serving clients that ensures that United Way funds serve the neediest in our community. Some partners charge fees on a sliding scale based on a recipient's income.

### **Why don't all non-profit organizations belong?**

Some non-profit organizations choose not to be a part of United Way because of our stringent admissions criteria. Some are not part of United Way because their objectives are national in scope and cannot be altered by local decisions. To obtain partner status, an organization must comply with United Way's high standards of service and accountability. Determining the programs that will receive funding is a local decision made by dozens of volunteers and governed by local morals and values.

### **Who decides how donations are spent?**

Volunteers (like you) decide how much money is allocated to each agency. Community Investment Committee volunteers visit organizations and review their programs and budgets annually to assure that every dollar is well spent. You may designate your gift; however, most donors rely on United Way's volunteer review process. By supporting communitywide solutions the Community Investment Committee balances funding decision with the

needs of the community members. This comprehensive review of programs insures care is available from many sources for an individual or family who need help.

### **What is Leadership Giving?**

United Way's Leadership Giving program was established by volunteers to recognize and promote the generosity of annual individual gifts of \$500 or more. If you and your spouse combine your gift to equal \$500 or more, you'll be recognized as a Leadership Giving Donor.

### **Why should I give to United Way instead of giving directly to an agency?**

There are several reasons why supporting United Way is the best way to help the most people in our community. These reasons include:

- By investing in United Way of Southwest Oklahoma, you help provide solutions to the most critical human care needs of our community. You don't have to choose which need is most important, United Way addresses them all.
- Community Volunteers carefully review each United Way funded program on an annual basis. Their oversight ensures agencies adhere to sound fiscal policies and that your contribution is invested in programs that do the most good.
- Giving through United Way reduces costly and time-consuming fundraising efforts for the agencies providing programs. This enables them to better spend their time helping people who really need help.
- When you give through your workplace campaign, your gift can be spread out over the course of a year through payroll deduction, making it easier for you to support the human care needs of our community.

### **Who is responsible for the activities of United Way?**

Volunteers! The volunteer members of the Board of Directors, in addition to being accountable to the community, are legally responsible to see that the affairs of United Way are properly managed. United Way funds are audited yearly by an independent auditing firm and audits are open to the public. Volunteers also serve in Funds Distribution, campaign and on leadership committees for our direct initiatives.

### **My spouse gives, why should I?**

Charitable giving is an individual decision. Your spouse's gift may be based on his or her income level, not your combined income.

### **How can I get other questions answered?**

Call the United Way at 355-0218 to receive answers any questions you or your coworkers may have.