



this is the story

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

of our community



**United
Way**



uwcga.org

United Way of Coastal Georgia, Inc.



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Our United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of **every person** in our community.



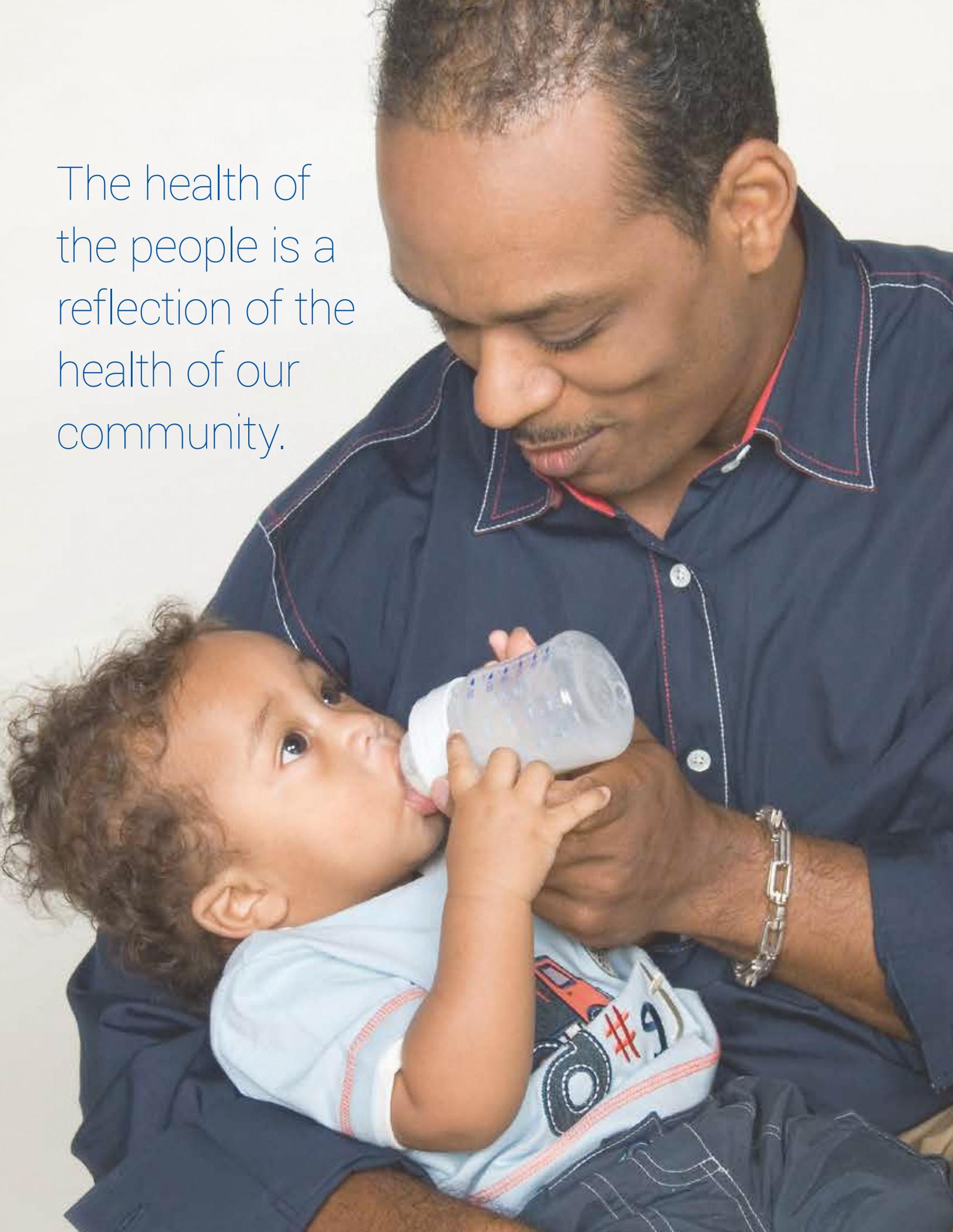
“The only constant is change”: a credo for our community with both positive and negative repercussions. If United Way is to remain relevant and serve those who depend on us for our assistance, we must change. United Way has adopted a Community Impact approach, in which we are more intentional about our work. In 2017 we developed a vision for a pipeline of services that will support our residents, focusing initially on our youth but ultimately on our entire community and economy.

Our vision is guided by compelling evidence: 58% of our low income children are not receiving a pre-K education and risk falling behind; 35% of our children live in poverty despite being surrounded by incredible community wealth; and 22.6% of our citizens, aged 16 to 24, are neither employed nor in school. These indicators tell us that our youngest citizens do not have access to the resources they need to successfully transition to adulthood and are caught in a multi-generational cycle of poverty.

But we can change this cycle by creating a pipeline of services that meet our community's needs. As both a convener and connector of caring individuals, businesses and groups, United Way is uniquely positioned to bring our Coastal Georgia community together. We are already impacting the challenges and will continue identifying and solving problems to make our community stronger and better prepared for our collective future. This is a role that United Way has played for many years and one that remains at the core of our work today.

On behalf of everyone at United Way and our community partners, thank you to all who are helping us make a positive impact in the lives of individuals and families in Coastal Georgia.

The health of
the people is a
reflection of the
health of our
community.



areas of impact **Health**

The **health** of the people is a reflection of the health of our community and requires continuous attention. **Lack of education** and **financial stability** can be a barrier to maintaining good health.

HEALTH

WE ARE A PROUD PARTNER OF



Through this partnership FamilyWize is providing access to more affordable prescription medications to individuals and families in Glynn and McIntosh counties.

- **\$132,522** in prescription savings in 2018
- **\$645,000** total prescription savings
- **6431** people helped
- **39%** average prescription savings

List of **Funded** Programs

Special Court Advocates, CASA Glynn | Residential Program, Hospice of the Golden Isles
Adventure Based Counseling, Safe Harbor | Children's Advocacy Center, Safe Harbor
Court Appointed Special Advocates, Atlantic Area CASA | Healthy Families, Coastal Coalition 4 Children
Grandparent Connection, Coastal Coalition 4 Children
Coastal Outreach Soccer | Amity House, Glynn Community Crisis Center
Community Outreach, Glynn Community Crisis Center | Women's Residential Recovery, Grace House
Community Mental Health and Collaboration, Morningstar | Special Sports Support, SOAR
CMAP, Coastal Medical Access Project

areas of impact **Education**

Education is **essential** for both individual and community success. For children, learning and understanding begin **long before** they enter school. Many children enter kindergarten unprepared, lacking a foundation that is critical to graduating from high school and achieving financial stability as adults. Education is **essential** to getting and keeping a job with a livable wage and health benefits.

EDUCATION



2017 STRATEGIC FOCUS AWARD OUTCOMES

- **Boy Scouts, Coastal Georgia Council**

Exploring is a career mentorship, leadership and job development program for youth aged 14-20.

2 new Explorer Posts + 1 existing post expanded

- **GOLD Club After School Program, Goodyear Elementary School**

Expanded the afterschool program to focus on reading development, behavioral improvement, and increased parental involvement of low-income students in grades 3-5.

82% of participants increased reading proficiency by three or more grade levels

29% reduction in discipline referrals (481-342)

Parental involvement increased from 5 to more than 250 families for each evening event

- **Children's Donation Center and Employment Services, Safe Harbor**

Supportive employment program for youth, over age 16, allowing them to gain work experience while building their vocational and soft skills.

80% of eligible participants transitioned to off-site employment



List of **Funded** Programs

707 Program, The Gathering Place

After School Program, Boys and Girls Club | Teen Center, Boys and Girls Club

Academic Tutoring, Safe Harbor | Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, Boy Scouts

Girl Scout Leadership Experience, Girl Scouts | Be A Friend First (BFF), Girl Scouts

Adult Education Program, Coastal Pines | Site Coordination, Communities in Schools

Service Learning | Golden Isles College and Career Academy

areas of impact **Financial Stability**

Lack of education, poor health or other environmental factors may prevent individuals from working. Low-income and financially unstable individuals and families face numerous barriers **meeting their basic needs** such as shelter and food. Before a person can become **self-sufficient**, these needs must be met.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

As a result of a grant from Hello Goodbuy, we were proud to present

WALK A MILE IN THE SHOES OF THOSE FACING POVERTY

In 2018, 42 Coastal Georgia residents had a chance to participate in a Poverty Simulation, a program allowing individuals to simulate a month long walk in the shoes of someone who is facing poverty. They realized how complex and interconnected issues of poverty really are.

In Glynn County, over 15,000 people live at or below poverty level. Most are considered the “working poor”, receiving a minimum or low wage.

DISASTER SUPPORT

Immediately following the impact of Hurricane Irma on Coastal Georgia, United Way and the Communities Foundation of Coastal Georgia established a **Community Emergency Needs Fund** to address disaster related needs of our residents. United Way secured **\$78,536** in funding from United Way Worldwide and the Lily Foundation to address short- and long-term recovery efforts. In addition to securing funding, United Way built partnerships with local, state, and national organizations that provide vital support and awareness to our continuing recovery from Hurricanes Matthew and Irma. Contributions from these organizations include guidance in establishing a disaster preparation and response collaborative known as **Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster of Coastal Georgia** or VOAD (pronounced VO – add).



List of **Funded** Programs

Food Distribution Program, America's Second Harvest

Disaster Services, American Red Cross | Hope House, Glynn Community Crisis Center

Job Readiness and Retention Supports, Goodwill Industries | KARE Kitchen, Salvation Army

Homeless Shelter, Salvation Army | Social Services, Salvation Army

Employment Readiness Program, STAR Foundation

Community Roundtable Program

22.6% of Glynn County residents ages 16 - 24 are neither working nor in school.

Many of Coastal Georgia's youth are unable to successfully transition from high school to employment or post-secondary education. Compare Glynn County's statistic of 22.6% to 15.5% in the state of Georgia and 12.3% in the United States. Despite the availability of a labor force, local employers report persistent recruitment and retention challenges.

The Workforce Development Roundtable is an initiative that brings together a cross-sector collaborative to focus on lowering barriers to

success and improving opportunities for children and youth. The Roundtable began in early 2018 and United Way serves as the managing partner and convening entity. Initial funding was provided by the Terry Thomas Foundation, and ongoing funding is provided by the Fitzgerald Foundation

United Way has chosen workforce development as one of its top priorities and is a vocal advocate for opportunities for low income children. The Georgia Center for Nonprofits (GCN) facilitates and provides research support. A core group of partners is committed to making a measurable impact in Glynn County and are identifying innovative solutions to long term barriers and problems.

Our collaborative members for the Workforce Development Roundtable are:

- Employers (Gulfstream Aerospace, Sea Island Company, King and Prince Seafood, Rich's Products, Southeast Georgia Health Systems)
- Brunswick/ Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce
- Brunswick/ Glynn County Development Authority
- Education/ Training (Glynn County Public Schools, Golden Isles College and Career Academy, Coastal Pines Technical College, Goodwill Training Center, Eckerd Works)



United Way of Coastal Georgia wants a better future for our youth.

Solutions include:

- Targeted training and support services provided by nonprofit and for-profit agencies
- Increased access to affordable workforce transportation
- Increased access to affordable childcare
- Increased affordable housing
- Awareness of workforce opportunities among the education and nonprofit community, as well as parents of targeted youth

United Way fights for the opportunity to have a stable income that supports a family – for every person.

The Problem:
Every day, people in our community struggle with overwhelming economic issues: working families who can't afford to put food on the table; youth who don't qualify for a living wage job; families who need affordable child care so they can accept a job offer.

23% of our children don't know when they will get their next meal.

Source: Feeding America, "Map the Meal Gap" project.

20% of our neighbors are living at or below the poverty rate

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community

Survey, 2012-1016.

The Vision:
United Way wants every person to have the opportunity to maintain good health, access lifelong education, and improve their financial security for their family.



Spotlight On Volunteers

With a full time staff of four, we rely on a **huge number** of volunteers to get the work done in Coastal Georgia!

394 volunteers donated **29,136 hours** to accomplish the work of the United Way of Coastal Georgia in 2018.

Whew! THANK YOU!!

The Coastal Georgia Volunteer Center helps people find fulfilling volunteer opportunities. We match interests and talents with the needs of local nonprofit organizations. Whether a group or individual, volunteers are matched with projects tailored for the team size and schedule.

We recognize the busy schedules of our volunteers and the need to make it easier for them to give their time. Several volunteer projects are offered year-round to enhance the volunteer experience.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Every day, we strive to create permanent and positive change in communities around the world-but **we can't do it alone**. Thanks to the generous support of volunteers, donors, partners, philanthropic leaders and other influencers, we are able to give back so that others can get ahead.

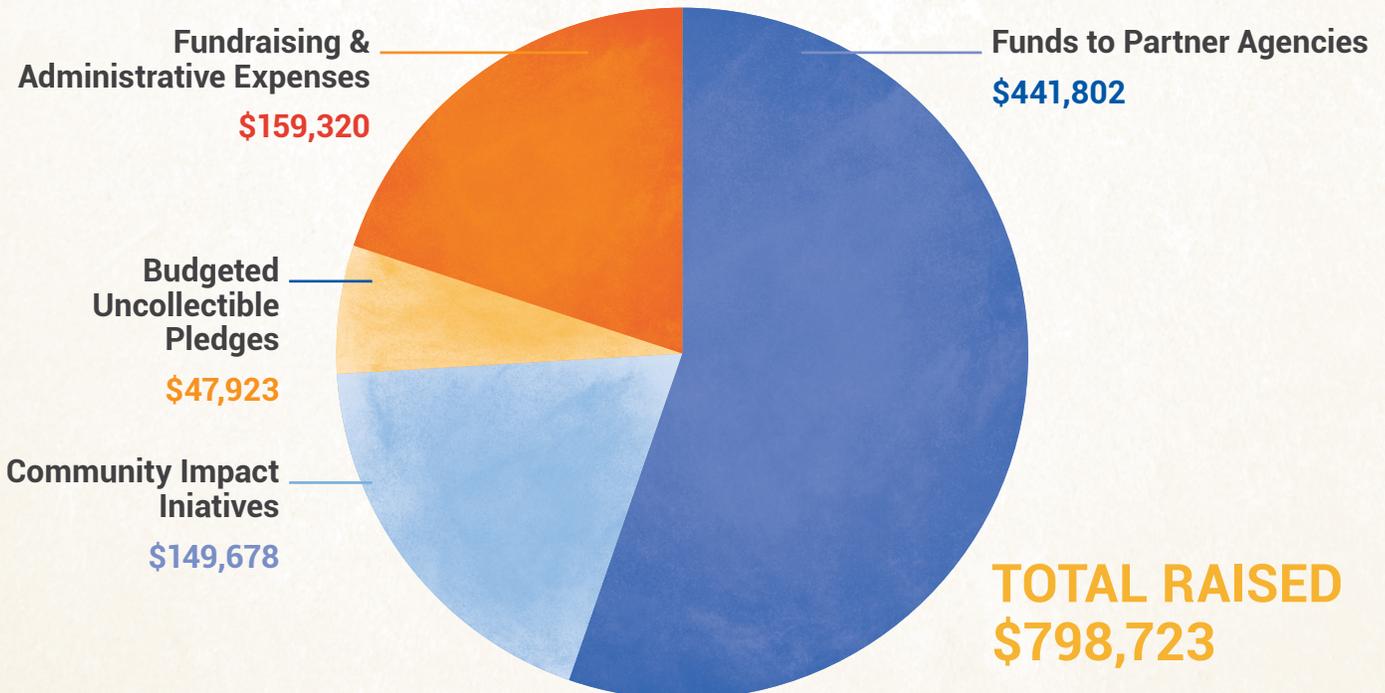
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Top Workplace Campaigns

Georgia – Pacific Corporation
Glynn County Board of Commissioners
Glynn County School System
Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation
Jekyll Island Authority
King & Prince Seafood
Publix Super Markets
Rich Products
Sea Island
Southeast Georgia Health System

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW





WE ARE WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE UNITED.

**United
Way**



uwcga.org

United Way of Coastal Georgia, Inc.

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Serving Glynn and McIntosh Counties