

2023-2024



Annual Report



www.unitedwayathenslimestone.com

Our Vision

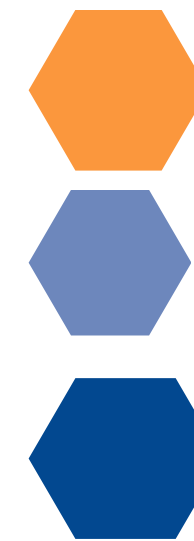
United Way of Athens-Limestone County will be a leader in our community where all individuals and families achieve their potential through education, leading to financial stability and healthier lifestyles.

Our Mission

United Way of Athens-Limestone County secures resources to include financial support, volunteers, and in-kind donations of goods and services. We accomplish this by providing high-quality community services through collaborations and partnerships aligned with our vision.

Our Values

Trust and Integrity through transparency
Respect and Dignity
Innovative Leadership
Accountability
Stewardship to our donors
Responsive to our community



Who we are

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| John Carter | President |
| Kim Bell | Vice President |
| Annette Barnes | Treasurer |
| Kurt Leopard | Immediate Past Chairman |
| Denver Betts | Chair of Joint Venture |
| Dana Henry | Vice Chair of Joint Venture |

BOARD MEMBERS

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Annette Barnes | John Hubbs |
| Kim Bell | Kurt Leopard |
| Denver Betts | KaDaija Madden |
| Britley Brown | Randy Moore |
| Chris Latham-Brown | Ray Neese |
| Kay Burlingame | Beth Patton |
| Brett Davis | Brooke Pettus |
| Wes Harris | Susan Riddle |
| Dana Henry | Bethany Shockney |
| Jeff Hodges | Allison Usery |

EX-OFFICIO

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Colin Daly | Chairman: Limestone County Commission |
| William Marks | Mayor, City of Athens |
| Jeff Hodges | Emeritus Board Member |

UNITED WAY STAFF

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Kaye Young McFarlen | Executive Director |
| Amy Hall | Communication Manager |
| Michelle Beggs | Office Manager |
| Jenni Westhoven | Accounting |

Agency Leaders

American Red Cross

Robert Rolfe - Chairman
Khris Anderson Regional Manager

Athens Limestone Counseling Center

Lisa Coleman - Executive Director
Johnny Turner - Limestone County Director

Birdie Thornton Center

Debbie Legg - President
Susan Klingel - Director

Boys and Girls Club of North Alabama

William Smith - Chairman
Pat Wynn - President
Susan Rainey - Vice President

Boys and Girls Scouts of America

Dan Ownby - Chairman
Russell Curts Hunt - Regional Director

Crisis Service of North Alabama

Hal Moody - Chairman
Janet Gable - Limestone County Executive
Director

Family Resource Center

Rachel Smith - Chairman
Emmitt Moore - Director

Girls Scouts of North America

Sarah Edwards - Chairman
Karen Peterlin - CEO

Hospice Of Limestone County

Cecil Armstrong - Chairman
Rhonda Andrews - Director

Learn to Read

Lori Wilson - Chairman
Rhonda Andrews - Director

Limestone County 4-H program

Chloe Wilson - Coordinator
Austin Lewter - 4 H Youth
Development
Coordinator

Make-A-Way

Stacey L. Givens - Chairman
Todd Tomerlin - Vice President

RSVP

Henry White - Chairman
Betty Ruth - Director

Salvation Army

Beth Green - Chairman
Lt. Richard Watts - Executive Director

USO

Edward Powell - Executive Director



Week of Caring

In 2023, United Way Athens -Limestone County brought together agencies with local businesses, social organizations, and individuals. In doing so we were able to provide volunteers opportunities to give back to the community. Below are some of the services that were provided:

Alpha Delta Kappa, Tau Chapter

Athens Boys & Girls Clubs – Mulch and plant flowers in beds

Athens Boys & Girls Clubs – Paint walls in restrooms

Birdie Thornton Center – Received donations of crafts and activities

Counseling Center – Flowerbed maintenance; trim bushes, clean out bed, and pressure wash sidewalks

Crisis Services – Donations to Hope Place

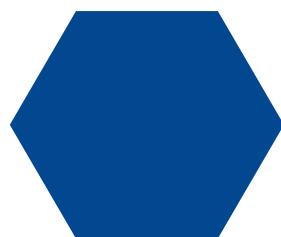
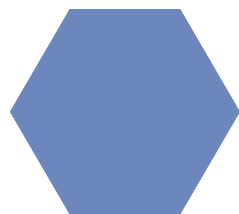
Family Resource Center – Inventory, organize, and store clothes in the Shephard’s Closet

Hospice of Limestone County – Donation of items from their “wish list”

Learn to Read – Donation of items from their “wish list”

Limestone County 4-H – Various items needed to complete a specific project

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United Way Athens Limestone County



Volunteers make a difference for others and enrich the future of those in need through their service. -Unknown

Week of Caring Participants

Alpha Delta Kappa, Tau Chapter
Asahi Kasei
Athens Rotary Club
Dana Henry
Grayson Bailey Landscaping
Hawkins Groundwork
Intech
Retired Teachers - Athens City Schools



Week of Caring T- Shirt Sponcers

Asahi Kasei
First National Bank
First State Bank
Martin & Hubbs Insurance
Publix
Steelcase



Retired Educator of the Year

John C. Maxwell said, “Students don’t care what you know until they know that you care. “

Each year it’s the United Way of Athens and Limestone County’s (UWAL) honor to recognize teachers who make a difference. Applications are accepted prior to the Week of Caring.

“Great teachers do it all. Across all ages, languages, ethnicities, and subjects, teachers are some of the most widely skilled people around to be successful. A day in the life of a teacher can vary greatly depending on the subject and grade level in which they teach. From Kindergarten to high school and special education to statistics, one theme runs consistently throughout every great teacher’s career: their job does not end with the school day. Although standing in front of the classroom is a huge part of a teacher’s responsibilities, they extend far beyond that into the lives of their students, their students’ families, and their community.

Teachers are in a unique position to have a direct impact on their students. Teachers can see their work in action, see the changes they affect, and in so doing they witness firsthand their goals coming to fruition. No matter what the goals are, they can pretty much be summed into a single sentence: You want to help people. And there are many ways you can help someone as a teacher. To name a few, teachers aspire to educate, to inspire, to learn, and to affect positive change.” - quoted from teach.com

The two teachers selected for the 2023 recipients. Ginger Malone, a retired mathematics teacher from Athens High School, and Amelia Smith, a retired Home Economics teacher from Elkmont High School.

Ginger Malone

Recipient of the UWAL Retired Educator of the Year

Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas.
– Albert Einstein, German theoretical physicist

Our nominee spent her time teaching young and old the pursuit of mathematics. She did this with a smile and warmth that made each student see that they could be successful. The hallmark of the success of her students was her ability to meet them at the point of what they did understand and where the frustration of not knowing started. She understood that her subject was based on layers of process and logical steps and if anyone failed to understand the process and next step they would not be able to go forward.

Her talent was to fill in the gaps of understanding and move each student forward until they understood and could logically follow the next steps. She did not give up until the individual students were ready to move forward. Her students believed that she saw them as individuals, not as a collective math class. She engaged them and paid attention to their academic needs. She also saw her students as individuals with strengths and weaknesses in their lives. She bolstered their strengths and encouraged them to shrink the gaps in weak areas which included their academic and personal lives. Her students saw her as an encourager, advocate, role model, and one who could be counted on to help formulate a path to success. She was empathetic and reached her students through her genuine concern for them and ensuring that they would be ready for the next challenge. According to her students, she was ready with a smile; ready to explain a process, ready to explain it again, ready to go back many steps to ensure understanding but most of all ready to be the best cheerleader for each student. I am quite sure if Albert Einstein had her as an instructor if might not have failed that math class.

Ms. Malone has provided her students an experience to learn that math was not so scary and she did so with a smile and kindness. The United Way of Athens-Limestone County is honored to present the 2024 United Way of Athens and Limestone County Retired Teacher of the Year to Ginger Malone who is retired from Athens High School.



Amelia Smith

Retired Educator of the Year

Home Economics stands for the ideal home life for today unhampered by the traditions of the past and the utilization of all the resources of modern science to improve home life.

– [Ellen Swallow Richards](#)

Our nominee made an impact on all of the students that she had in her Home Economics class. Each of her students felt that they were given life skills that are used each and every day. She also taught those skills with grace, humor, and a sense of organization that confounded her students until they learned the art of organizing all types of chaos.

Imagine a room full of sewing machines and young men and women trying to thread the needle, master the scissors, sew the button, insert the zipper to match the seams, and all unsure of the next steps. Enter the teacher that could bring chaos and anxiety levels down to a point that each garment was made. Even if there were mistakes, she gave the skills to fix them and move forward. This was one of the best life skills to have. The ability to take care of the problems you create and move forward. Repair the holes that you poked in the fabric or the fabric of your life and know that you can with knowledge, little luck, little finesse, and a heaping scoop of faith you can wear with pride the fruits of your labor.

There is probably not a house in the Elkmont area that does not have a special box with recipes that are used and cherished, these recipes are started in her class. Having the skills to make everyday nourishing food and food for special events. The recipes have the ingredients, the amounts, and instructions to provide independence and substance. Those memories of how to cook grace homes in Limestone County each night because of her instruction.

She is a community volunteer who has helped with Elkmont Schools, the Town of Elkmont, and her church family. She has provided her community with her time, skills, and knowledge, therefore it is our honor to present Amelia Smith as the United Way of Athens- Limestone's Retired Educator of the Year.



Former Retired Teacher of the Year Honorees



2022 - Ron Oakley & Angela Pettus - Athens City Schools
Ruth Jane Johnson - Limestone County Schools

2020 - Jennifer Hooper & Pat Lann Athens City Schools
Lynn Abernathy - Limestone County Schools
Cindy Hall - Lindsay Lane Christian Academy

2019 - Tee Jackson - Athens City Schools
Sandra Simmons & Naomi Lovell - Limestone County Schools

2018 - Hedy Lou Cannon & Julie Prater - Athens City Schools
Amy Edge, Shanda Chafin, & Pam Hasting - Limestone County Schools

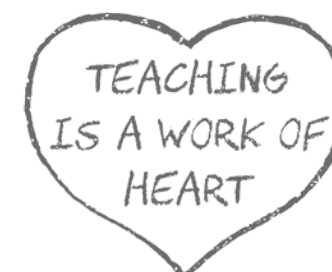
2017 - Celestine Higgins Bridgeforth, Donna Morris, Jane Davis, Patricia Hatchett,
Guy McClure, Cherry Ann Ward - Athens City Schools
Melanie Bridges & Donna Morris - Limestone County Schools
Nannette Fairly - Lindsay Lane Christian Academy

2016 - Marcia Day & Bill Swindell - Athens City Schools
Morris Schrimsher - Limestone County Schools
Bill Jackson - Lindsay Lane Christian Academy

2015 - Helen Greenhaw, Howard Jagers & Jim Minor - Athens City Schools
Mary Anne Chambers - Calhoun Community College
Margaret Scurlock & Lester Smith - Limestone County Schools
Diana Meek - Lindsay Lane Christian Academy

2014 - Roberta Hamilton, Jan Hargrove, Donna Dabney, McDaniel & Marjorie, Walker -
Athens City Schools
Marcia Edmonds Black, Sue Hobbs & Ann Russell - Limestone County Schools

2013 - Elizabeth “Lib” Brett, Carolyn Crow & Dan Havelly - Athens City Schools
Barbara Harrison, Evelyn Harrison, Floyd Johnson, Sr. Limestone County Schools





Every year, it is our honor to partner with the Marine Corps to provide less fortunate children within our community with Christmas gifts. The community donated a generous number of gifts. Because of this we were able to help over 120 children this Christmas season. Thank you is inadequate to express our gratitude.

Donation Locations

- Asahi Kasei
- Dollar General - Reid Community
- First National Bank - Highway 72
- Listerhill Credit Union
- Publix Supermarket at Eastside Junction
- Publix Supermarket at Midtown Centre
- Publix Supermarket at Village Shoppes of Madison
- Steelcase
- TBAKI

Additional Donations

- Athens Bible School
- Athens Intermediate School
- Michelle Beggs
- Christopher Davis
- Helen Kerry
- Lillian Hall
- Wayne White's Sunday School Class
- Patricia Smith
- 4-H



Week of Caring Poem

Theresa Chambers is the United Way of Athens -Limestone County Poet Laureate. She is a client at the Birdie Thornton Center. Ms. Chambers writes lovely poetry and we are so fortunate that she was able to share her Week of Caring poem at our 2023 celebration luncheon.

Caring for Each Other!

We are caring for each other.

We are sharing one another.

Cheering for people is a wonder of love.

By hearing and listening to needs of our fellow brothers.

We are helping each other together.

We are bringing someone a special supper.

Doing community works; We can discover some brand new friends.

Written By Theresa E. Chambers

Volunteer Programs

FRONT DESK PROGRAM

United Way of Athens-Limestone County has had a volunteer front desk program for over 19 years. This program has been embraced by the volunteers, agencies, and clients.

The program has enhanced the way in which United Way works with the public. The volunteers serve to greet visitors, direct them to the appropriate agency or person, assist with referrals, answer phones, and help with special projects. The volunteers work three-hour shifts either in the morning or afternoon.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In the summer of 2015, United Way of Athens-Limestone County launched an internship program to allow area students to work with United Way agencies and other area non-profits to explore careers, have first-hand work experience, work for the betterment of the community, and fulfill volunteer hour requirements.

Each of the agencies is required to provide meaningful work or a long-term project for the students during their internships. The program has led to employment with our agencies and helped to secure employment in students' chosen professional fields.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Youth Volunteer Program offers opportunities for students to fulfill their goal of short-term volunteer projects within United Way agencies or other community partners. Many students who volunteer for this program are working as a part of a group, church youth group, or school organization. The activities are diverse, meeting the varied needs of the agencies while utilizing the wide range of talents of the volunteers.



Volunteer Programs

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

United Way of Athens-Limestone County is working with our area schools to supply subject matter experts through our Speaker's Bureau to speak to their students about careers and social issues. Mobilizing the people resources of our community allows students to have direct knowledge of current career choices and the path to obtaining those careers.

We have worked with Athens Intermediate School to provide speakers for their Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. One of the objectives of the AVID program is to engage students with people in our community to discuss their careers and the paths that took them to that career.

United Way of Athens-Limestone County has been working with area counselors to provide speakers for middle and high school career days. Numerous speakers have been secured for the various events.



Other Service Programs



ACT PREP

United Way of Athens-Limestone County is pleased to offer American College Testing (ACT) Preparation classes for local high school students. Given that all students have different strengths and weaknesses, preparation in a small group setting allows the teacher and student to develop study plans tailored to the needs of the students. Our classes are taught by a state-certified teacher. These classes help the students understand where improvements are needed. The most current ACT preparation book is provided to each student as a study aid.

GRADUATE RECOGNATION PROGRAM

To honor students who are active volunteers through United Way of Athens-Limestone County, we offer the Graduate Recognition Program. High school seniors, at participating schools, who qualify will be presented with a certificate acknowledging their community service at their Senior Awards Day. They will also receive honor cords in recognition of their service to wear with their graduation regalia.

For a student to qualify, the following requirements must be met:

- The student must have completed a minimum of 10 recorded community service hours coordinated through the United Way of Athens-Limestone County for the United Way or its member agencies during their graduation year.
- The United Way Athens-Limestone must receive written or digital documentation from the school's principal, allowing students to participate in the program.

Partner In Education

United Way of Athens-Limestone County is glad to be Elkmont High School's (EHS) partner in education. Through this partnership, we are able to help EHS prepare its students for bright futures.

A few examples of what we have been able to provide this year are treats for the teachers prior to school starting, breakfast for students before state testing, and Hershey Kisses for Valentine's day.

We strive to enhance the learning experience for each student and to provide support and encouragement for the teachers at EHS.



AGENCY PROGRAMS

American Red Cross
Single Family Fire Program

Birdie Thornton Center
*Medicare/Medicaid Match State
and Federal Funding*

**Athens Limestone Counseling
Center**
At-Risk School Counselor

Boys and Girls Club North Alabama
Academic Success

Boy Scouts of America
Scouting Program

Crisis Services of North Alabama
*Hope Place Outreach Services 2-1-1
Family Resource Center
Family Solutions Program*

**Girl Scouts of North Central
Alabama**
Leadership Experience

Hospice of Limestone County
*Camp Hope/Bereavement
Program
Indigent Care*

Learn to Read
*Basic Literacy
ESL
Computer-Assisted Learning Labs*

**“Life's most
persistent and urgent
question is:
What are you doing for
others?”
– Martin Luther King, Jr.**

4-H Program
**Limestone County
Extension Office**
*Youth Leadership
Youth Mentoring
Youth Basic
Life Skills
Reading Buddies*

RSVP
Tax Assistance Program

Salvation Army
*Christmas Assistance
Program
Material Assistance
Program Emergency
Housing Program Branch
Transitional Living*

USO
Troop Support

Make-A-Way
Sensory Rooms

Leadership Giving



With gratitude and admiration, the United Way of Athens- Limestone County salutes each member of our Gold Feather Society, Red Feather Society, Torch Club, and Gold, Silver, and Bronze Level Donors. We are proud of this group identified as this community's "Leaders in Giving." Your involvement and support will provide stability, character, and leadership to unite people and resources in our community and improve lives. The United Way is only able to fulfill our mission by partnering with individuals and agencies. It is through their support that we can assist our associate agencies. During 2023-2024 our office saw incredible generosity.



"No one has ever become poor by giving."
- Anne Frank

The Gold Feather Society
- \$5, 000-7,499.99
1 individual

The Red Feather Society
- \$1,000 to \$2499.99
Over 150 Individuals

Torch Club
- \$500-\$999
Over 120 Individuals

Gold Certificate
- \$400-\$499
Over 25 Individuals

Silver Certificate
- \$300-\$399
75 Individuals

Bronze Certificate
- \$200-\$299
Over 250 Individuals

Circle of Corporate Giving

Platinum Circle - \$15,000 or more

Publix
Steelcase Foundation

Gold Circle - \$5,000 to \$14,999

Athens News Courier
Carpenter Technology
Mauldin & Jenkins
Target
TVA-Brownsferry

Silver Circle - \$1,000 to \$4,999

Arnold Foundation
Asahi Kasei
AT&T
Jack's
Johnson, Figley, Newton and Brand, LLP
Lockheed Martin
Morrell Engineering
Raytheon
S & W Mini Storage
Snap-On Tools
Turner Industries
UPS
WestRock

Bronze Circle - \$500-\$999

Bank Independent
BBVA Compass Bank
Bush Tax Services
Coil Plus
First National Bank
General Electric (G.E.)
Hendricks and Patton
IBM
Redstone Federal Credit Union
Reliance Bank
Riddle Tax Service
Staplcotn
Trustmark Bank



2023- 2024

Companies and Businesses



| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 3M | Learn to Read Council |
| Hospice of Limestone County | Limestone Board of Education |
| AIG/AGF | Limestone County Commission |
| Alabama Cooperative Extension | Limestone County Counseling Center |
| ARC/Birdie Thornton Center | Limestone County 4-H |
| AsahiKASEI | Limestone County Economic |
| Ascend Performance Materials | Development Limestone County Water |
| American Red Cross | Authority Lockheed Martin |
| Athens Board of Education | Lovvorn Brothers Farms |
| Athens City General Fund | Lovvorn Investment Company |
| Athens-Limestone Counseling Center | Lowes Home Improvement |
| Athens-Limestone Hospital | Mauldin & Jenkins |
| Athens Rotary | Mental Health Center of North Alabama |
| Athens State University | Morgan Stanley Company |
| Athens Utilities | Morrell Engineering MCAMRA |
| AT&T | News Courier Northrop Grumman |
| BP | Orbital ATK |
| Bank Independent | O'Reilly Auto Parts |
| BBVA Compass | PNC Bank |
| Birdie Thornton Center | Publix |
| Boeing | Raymond James |
| Boys & Girls Club of North Alabama | Raytheon |
| Bush Tax Service | Redstone Federal Credit Union |
| Calhoun Community College | Regions Bank |
| Carpenter Technologies | Riddle Tax Service, Inc |
| Century Link | S & W Mini Storage |
| Combined Federal Campaign | Salvation Army |
| Costco | Snap-On Tools |
| Comcast | Solutia |
| Crisis Services of North Alabama | Springleaf Corporation |
| Dunn Building Company | Staplcotn |
| Enterprise | Staples |
| Family Resource Center | State Combined Campaign |
| FedEx | Steelcase |
| First National Bank | Target Distribution Center |
| First State Bank | TVA |
| General Electric | Tris USA |
| General Motors | Trustmark Bank |
| Girl Scouts of North Alabama | Turner Construction |
| H&R Block | Union Parcel Service |
| Hendricks and Patton Company | United Health Group |
| IBM | United Way of Alabama |
| International Paper | United Way of Allegheny County |
| Jack's | United Way of Athens-Limestone County |
| JFNB, LLP | |
| Kennametal | |
| Lewit | |

2023 - 2024

Companies and Businesses

United Way of Bergen County
United Way of Capital Area
United Way of Central Alabama
United Way of Central Florida
United Way of Central Indiana
United Way of Central NE Connecticut
United Way of Forsythe County
United Way of Greater Atlanta
United Way of Greater Kansas
United Way of Madison County
United Way of Marshall County
United Way of Metro Chicago
United Way of Metro Dallas
United Way of Metro Nashville
United Way of Morgan County
United Way of Northwest Alabama
United Way of Southeast Michigan
United Way of Williamson County
United Way Worldwide
UPS
Logistics Group
UPS Retirees
Valley Motors
Vulcan Plastics
Walgreens
Wal-Mart
Wells Fargo
WestRock

**“There is no better exercise for your heart than reaching down
and helping to lift someone up.”
– Bernard Meltze**