

# 2023-2024



# Annual Report

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[www.unitedwayathenslimestone.com](http://www.unitedwayathenslimestone.com)



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# 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  
Khristian 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

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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

**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

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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.

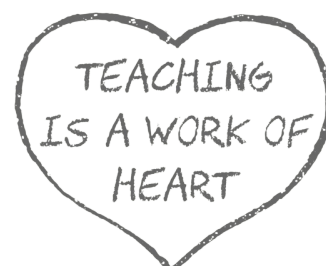
There is probably not a house in the Elkmont area that does not have a special box with recipes that are used and cherished, these recipes are started in her class. Having the skills to make everyday nourishing food and food for special events. The recipes have the ingredients, the amounts, and instructions 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 RECOGNITION 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**