

Advancing Education,  
Income, and Health

LIVE UNITED

United  
Way



**UNITED WAY OF OCONEE**  
**49<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
**August 18, 2015**

Give. Advocate. Volunteer.  
[www.oconeeyoung.org](http://www.oconeeyoung.org)

**LIVE UNITED**

United  
Way



United Way of Oconee  
County

# THE UNITED WAY

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

I was elected the United Way of Oconee County (UWOC) Board of Director's President in 2013 and have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure. We have a great board and strong support from our local community. I also work for the City of Seneca which has been a stalwart supporter of the United Way Campaign and its initiatives. Seneca is the only City in Oconee County that conducts an annual United Way Campaign and the City has won numerous awards through the years as a result.

As a member of the Community Impact Team I have witnessed and been fortunate to be a part of the United Way worldwide paradigm to promote the success of individuals and communities through three veins, including: healthy relationships, education, and financial stability. The United Way is committed to assisting individuals in moving toward independent living and partners with agencies within the United Way structure to assist individuals with job placement, education advancement, the development of parenting skills, family counseling, money management, and improved decision making.

We believe these resources raise the self esteem of the individuals we have served and will continue to serve in the future, and can be a catalyst in breaking the cycle of generational poverty. These initiatives parallel my own beliefs which makes serving in this capacity so rewarding. Furthermore, the UWOC Community Impact Team has successfully implemented (and maintains) three Born Learning trails within the three major cities in our county. What an exciting time to be part of the UWOC team!

The UWOC has hosted summer interns that have also been very beneficial in their respective disciplines. The UWOC venue hosts parenting classes, Born Learning initiatives, the senior farmers market federal program, Family Friends, and the three agencies that are under the Community Impact umbrella (Heath's Haven, Ripple of One, and Oconee First Steps). It has been exciting to watch these agencies grow and network with other human services entities to meet the needs of our collective clients. The many, many volunteers that give of their time and resources to UWOC (as well as our financial supporters) are priceless and so...



...appreciated. We extend our thanks to the individuals that read to students at all eleven elementary schools across the county last March, to the volunteers that provide financial guidance, healthy lifestyle coaching, and educational information. We express our gratitude to those who build wheelchair ramps or do residential repairs for the disabled and seniors, and to the Day of Action people that show up, ready for any assignment. I give a shout-out to all of these folk that share our common interest in ministering to and assisting our fellow citizens collectively and tangibly. I would like to thank the entire board of the UWOC for your dedication, thoughtful and insightful input, and support to me over the past two years—it has been a pleasure to serve alongside of each of you!

Lt. Lisa L Williams, BS, MS  
United Way of Oconee County, Board President  
Seneca Police Department

## BORN LEARNING

**B**orn Learning Upstate SC is a public engagement campaign that aims to help parents, caregivers, and communities provide young children with quality learning opportunities. The campaign is built around research that shows children are “born learning,” with the first three years of a child’s life proving to be an especially critical time.

“This is when that brain is truly a sponge,” said Lisa Williams, board chair of United Way of Oconee County and lieutenant with the Seneca Police Department. “We as parents, grandparents, educators, police officers—all of us—must do what we can to ensure they’re soaking up the right things.”

The Born Learning campaign includes a Web site, [BornLearningUpstate.org](http://BornLearningUpstate.org), which offers an extensive collection of resources for parents, including easy games to play at home or around town and a list of United Way-supported early education programs in each of the 10 Upstate counties.



**“We as parents, grandparents, educators, police officers—all of us—must do what we can to ensure they’re soaking up the right things.”**



Another key component of the project is the installation of Born Learning Trails across the Upstate. These trails include fun, engaging activities designed to boost language and literacy skills, and encourage children and their families to be active physically and mentally.

There are currently 15 Born Learning Trails across the region. Trail locations can be found on the Born Learning Web site, or by calling 2-1-1, United Way's 24-hour resource line.

The United Way collaborative is partnering with schools, libraries, child care programs, doctors' offices, health clinics, the faith community, neighborhood centers, and United Way-funded programs to increase access to Born Learning materials and promote usage of the website:

[bornlearningupstatesc.org](http://bornlearningupstatesc.org).



## LEARNING TRAILS

The campaign is one part of the United Ways' overall work to help all children enter school on track developmentally and prepared to learn. While individual United Ways have long invested donor resources in early education programs in their communities, Born Learning Upstate SC represents the first joint effort between the seven United Ways serving the Upstate region.

The United Way of Oconee County has partnered with some of its agencies, such as Heath's Haven and First Steps of Oconee, to install 3 Born Learning trails, so far, in Oconee County.



**bornlearning<sup>TM</sup> UpstateSC**  
an early learning partnership of Upstate United Ways

# UNITED WAY OF OCONEE HONORS OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER

Each year the United Way presents a Volunteer of the Year award to an individual who has demonstrated tremendous support for the organization and donated volunteer hours above and beyond what can truly be acknowledged. **This year's award is presented to John E. Palmer, Jr.**, a volunteer who understands what it means to LIVE UNITED and does so on a daily basis. LIVE UNITED is more than just a philosophy or goal—it is a call to action—to give, advocate, and volunteer in order to improve the lives of everyone in the community. The recipient of this award, through his leadership, example, and consistent effort, has made the United Way of Oconee County stronger and healthier.

John has given over 1,500 hours of his time in the service of United Way of Oconee in the past 15 years serving in a variety of capacities, including: Campaign Chair, Campaign Education Division Chair, Board of Directors Member, Board Treasurer, Board President, Ad Hoc Committee Member, and Tutor and Mentor. He started a United Way Adult Literacy program that is now running 5 years strong and teaches adults to read at the United Way Center in addition to acting as a reading volunteer within our elementary schools, serving as a member of the Emergency Food and Shelter Board (chairing for the past 8 years) and volunteering with the Seniors Farmers Market Voucher Program.



He and his wife have even volunteered to answer the front door of our United Way Center when the staff was out for a retreat. This person has given more volunteer hours, that we know of, than any other person in the history of United Way and we want to honor that person in a special way. With the support and approval of the United Way Association of South Carolina and all of the United Way of Oconee, the United Way of Oconee County Volunteer of the Year Award will hereafter be called and presented as the:

**JOHN E. PALMER LIVE UNITED VOLUNTEER AWARD**

# THOUGHTS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The year 2016 will mark a great milestone for the united way of Oconee county. Our 50 year anniversary will be celebrated during the 2016 annual meeting and you know what folks, we may just celebrate all year. Realizing such a huge event is on our horizon, one may think it difficult to discuss the accomplishments of years past. Nothing could be further from the truth. The last fiscal year (ending June 30, 2015) was spectacular in so many ways. Excitement was abundant.

Our new “born learning trails” joined a growing network of trails that continue to reach every part of our great county. Community impact became more solidified with each of our three pillars (i.e., income, education, health) stretching and becoming more widespread. These pillars continue to sink their roots deeper into our community. The significant positive long term difference made in the lives of our neighbors was and is truly astonishing.

Our veteran agency partners continue to enhance the services they have offered for so many years. Our new partners offer unparalleled hope for a brighter future. They instill leadership, commitment, and goal setting, demonstrating what it means to succeed with pride. Our many accomplishments are carried out the old fashioned way: hands on, hand-in-hand, with hugs offered and arms outstretched. There is no way to hide true caring or the value of real life principles and we witness this truth each year through the thousands of hours given by our selfless volunteers.



WE APPRECIATE YOU  
**THIS MUCH!**  
AND SO MUCH MORE.  
THANK YOU FOR INVESTING  
IN A BRIGHTER TOMORROW  
AND A BETTER TODAY.



I am proud of our united way family and I am honored to be a part of this team. I am also inspired and eager when I envision the path we have chosen for our future. I hope you will all join us as we develop a community with improved healthy lifestyles, an endless desire for educational opportunities, and the safe secure feeling that comes when we know our families are financially sound.

God bless you,

David R. McCutcheon  
Chief Professional Officer

# UNITED WAY OF OCONEE SUPPORTS EARLY GRADE READING

The research is clear—students who do not read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school than proficient readers. It is easy to see why. A critical transition occurs around the third grade, as students progress through their educational career.

While up until third grade children are *learning to read*, after that point they begin to *read to learn*. If students are not reading at grade level by this pivotal period, they will quickly fall behind.



Through the United Way of Oconee Community Impact Education Initiative, United Way supports children in targeted elementary schools, teaching them to become proficient readers by the end of third grade. We provide young learners with books and resources appropriate for their reading level in classrooms and at home.

We also connect committed volunteer readers, who spend time reinforcing reading, with each one of these elementary schools. A goal of the United Way of Oconee County is to be in all 11 public elementary schools in the next five years.



# LIVE UNITED™



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

# AMERICORP VISTA

I began my year of service as an AmeriCorps VISTA to gain vital work experience and to help those who are less fortunate. As a VISTA I have developed numerous skills and become more connected to the community. Although it has been challenging at times, I am grateful for the experience. After my year of service at United Way comes to an end, I hope to join another AmeriCorps program and eventually obtain a graduate degree.

My role is to develop the Financial Stability Program. The purpose of the program is to address the ongoing needs of individuals and families in Oconee County and help them attain greater economic self-sufficiency and independence. The Financial Stability Program helps lower-income individuals and families achieve financial independence by equipping them with the tools and skills necessary to maximize their income, accumulate savings, and generate assets. We are excited about this program and the direction it is heading!

Diondria Brownlee  
AmeriCorps Vista Volunteer  
Financial Stability Coordinator



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Annual Campaign	\$ 510,000
Other Revenue	\$ 68,500

**Total Public Support \$ 578,500**

Allocations to Funded Agencies	\$ 159,250
Allocations to Other United Way Agencies	
Administrative	\$ 162,000
Fundraising & Building	\$ 128,000

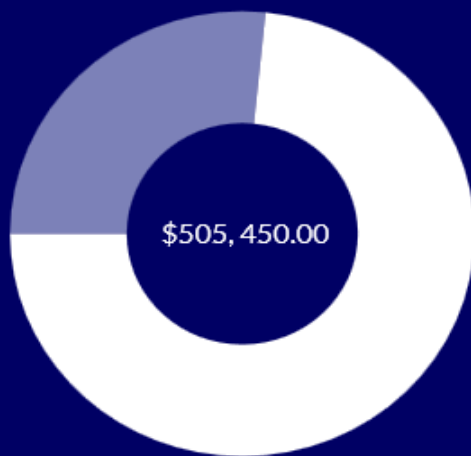
**Total Allocations & Expenses \$ 449,250**

————— *June 30th, 2014* —————



# THE UNITED CAMPAIGN

## Donations to the United Way Campaign



Contributions from donors giving \$1,000 or more represent 23% of the more than \$505,450 raised. As many as 61 Companies donated more than 73% of the remaining campaign dollars.

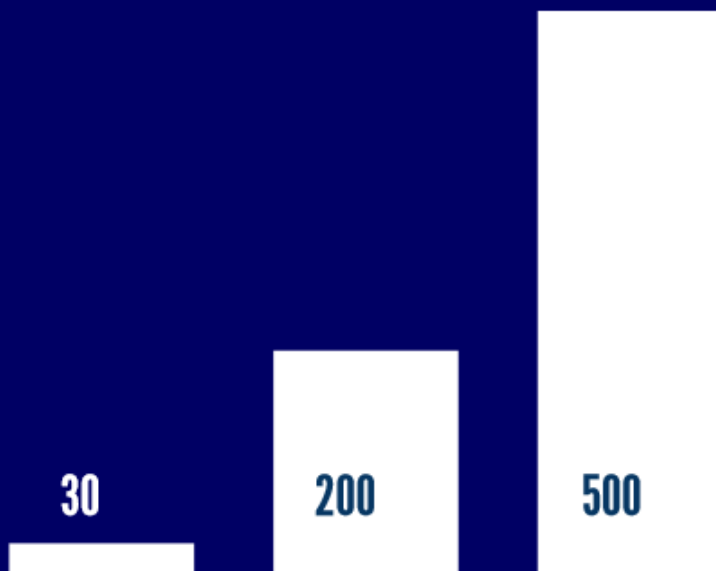
## 1,924 Families Served

Through diaper hygiene and basic needs assistance.



## 450 Children Educated

Through improved school readiness and reading programs.



## Community Members Served

As many as 500 Low Income Seniors were served through the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program that took place in June, 2014. As many as 30 Seniors received Home Repair Services that improved the quality of their lives.

Additionally, more than 200 community members were served as a part of United Way's Day of Caring.

# United Way Saves

United Way of Oconee and FamilyWize are proud to announce that their partnership has saved residents more than \$282,000 on everyday prescription costs.

---

## Palmetto Society Members

The United Way Palmetto Society is about ordinary people with extraordinary visions coming together to make our community the best it can be. Their leadership and generosity exemplify the caring spirit of our community.

These generous donors contribute \$1,000 or more annually through the United Way. The Palmetto Society was started in 1989 to recognize those giving at the leadership level. As many as 41 Palmetto Society donors contributed over \$116,920.

Ms. Gina Pruitt  
Mr. Robert E. Stoffel Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. David McCutcheon  
Mr. and Mrs. David Chudyk  
Mr. Greg Diettrick  
Mr. and Mrs. James Mouw  
Mr. John Boehme  
Mr. Larry Goebel  
Mr. and Mrs. William Ebeling  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hofer  
Mr. Keith Butdorf  
Mr. Herbert Richardson

Ms. Glenda Johns  
Mr. Christopher Painter  
Ms. Dana Moore  
Mr. and Mrs. David Baxter  
Mr. Ed Burchfield  
Ms. Glenda Johns  
Mr. James Sites  
Mr. Jason Plumb  
Ms. Margie Barnes  
Mr. Michael Dunton  
Ms. Patricia Smith  
Mr. Paul Ingersoll

Mr. Paul Burnett Jr.  
Mr. Philip Culbertson  
Mr. Steve Hammond  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ray  
Mr. Alan Blackmon  
Mr. Brett McCall  
Mr. Samuel Dickson III  
Mr. Scott Davies  
Mr. Duncan McIntyre  
Mr. Jay Ratliff

\*Eight society members wished to remain anonymous

---

Source:

<http://piktochart.com/resources/tutorials-create-piktochart-infographic/>

<http://www.skylinetechnologies.com/Blog/Article/2425/A-Minimalist-Approach-to-Reporting.aspx>

---

Designed by:  
Piktochart

# THE UNITED STAFF



**LaShauna Harrison**  
Chief Operating Officer



**David McCutcheon**  
Chief Professional Officer



**Cheryl Owens**  
Finance Officer



**Kimberley Ellis**  
Financial Stability  
Program Coordinator



**Allison Smith**  
Campaign Manager



**Diondria Brownlee**  
AmeriCorps VISTA  
Financial Stability Coordinator



**Khadijah Carter**  
Administrative Receptionist



**Lt. Lisa Williams**  
Board President

**GIVE**

**ADVOCATE**

**VOLUNTEER**