

20 Days of Email!

Keep United Way in front of everyone during your campaign and throughout the year! Every day or every week, share with your employees these facts, figures and “did you knows” about United Way of Forsyth County. Show them the impact their dollars are making right here in our community.

Simply copy and paste one fact into an email and keep your co-workers informed at United Way.

1 Thanks to the generosity of so many individuals, organizations and businesses in our community, in 2017 United Way of Forsyth County supporters pledged **\$1,533,457** during the annual campaign. Funds raised will help support United Way’s efforts in the areas of Education, Financial Stability, Health and Basic Needs.

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2 We help children **START STRONG**, youth **GROW STRONG** and families **STAY STRONG** by focusing on the basic foundations for a better life – quality **Education, Financial Stability**, sufficient **Basic Needs** and good **Health**. These are the building blocks that we all need for a good life. Our goal is to create long-lasting changes by addressing the underlying causes of problems. That’s what it means to **LIVE UNITED!**

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3 Did you know? In 2017, with the support of United Way of Forsyth County, **Georgia Highlands Medical Services** low-income patients received over **\$1,452,045** in free prescription samples through its **Patient Assistance Program (PAP)**, which led to a Net Cost Savings of **\$704,931** in out-of-pocket expenses.



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4 United Way of Forsyth County activates hundreds of volunteers during the community wide **Day of Caring** event every year. In 2016, approximately **950** volunteers packaged a record **156,000** dried, non-perishable meals for **10** local food pantries and worked at **3** nonprofits around the community.

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5 In 2017, **The Place of Forsyth County** served **165** families per week through The Market, a client choice food pantry that is structured as a shopping experience for the families and is supplemented with fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs and/or meat in addition to bread, pastries and pre-packaged food items. Last year, the garden provided over **1,500** pounds of fresh vegetables.



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6 In 2017, United Way of Forsyth County invested **\$1.4 million** into **60** programs that assisted over **52,000** people in our community. Children and youth succeeded, families and individuals achieved self sufficiency, senior adults were strengthened and a safety net of essential human care services was maintained.

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For many low to moderate income families and seniors, the costs associated with having their income taxes prepared can take a bite out of the income they need to support themselves and their families. United Way of Forsyth County and The AARP Tax Aide Program team up each tax season to provide FREE Income Tax preparation to assist low to moderate income families (those earning \$54,000 or less) and those individuals 60 years and older in Forsyth, Dawson and surrounding counties. In 2017, **293** returns were completed at no cost, refunding over **\$276,541** to these clients. Free tax preparation supports the goal of VITA and United Way of Forsyth County to build financial stability for everyone in our community.

Earn It!
Keep It!
Save It!

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In partnership with the Forsyth County Post Office and Georgia Mountain Food Bank, United Way of Forsyth County met the critical needs of **6 local food pantries** through the **National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive** in May 2017. Over **10,000 pounds** of food was collected at mail boxes and distributed to these pantries, allowing them to increase their support to families in need.

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In 2017, with the help of local businesses, civic clubs, individuals and families, United Way's **Stuff the Bus** initiative collected **47,000** school supply items that were distributed to students in need through Forsyth County Schools, The Place and other nonprofits in the community during the 2017-2018 school year.



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Need help or want to give help? It's as simple as dialing **2-1-1**. United Way 2-1-1 is a free, confidential information and referral service that connects people to trained call specialists who help them find local resources for everyday needs or in times of crisis or disaster. The majority of calls request information about utility assistance, housing assistance and food.



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Through a collaborative between Forsyth County Schools, local dental practices and United Way, over **39** smiles were brightened through **Give Kids A Smile Day** in 2017. Students from 11 different schools that otherwise would not receive dental services were given screenings, x-rays and cleanings, free of charge from **2** participating dentists.



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Together, you and United Way of Forsyth County invest dollars for impact on lives in our community. Through a process trained community volunteers – people just like you - decide where the money will have the most impact. All requests from agencies and programs must demonstrate conclusively that their programs are meeting the needs of our community in order to be considered for funding.

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The Forsyth County Drug Awareness Council was started in 2013 to educate, advocate and empower youth, parents and all other citizens to prevent substance use and abuse throughout Forsyth County. United Way of Forsyth County serves as the administrator for a federal grant the Council received, provides administrative support to the program and in 2017 impacted over 700 lives in our community.



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United Way realizes to create positive, lasting community change we need to get to the root cause of our most critical needs. It's not enough to find a shelter for a family; but to change the condition that led to homelessness in the first place. This requires the work of our entire community. All this is done in collaboration with diverse community partners: individuals, businesses, partner agencies, schools, government, civic clubs, faith-based organizations and many others. United Way of Forsyth County knows where your contribution is most needed to have the greatest impact. United Way is your best investment because we're effective, efficient and convenient.

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In 2017, **53** United Way student scholarships, valued at over **\$17,000** were awarded at **Lanier Technical College**. These scholarships help bridge the financial gap between costs that were not covered by the Hope Scholarship which excluded anyone from eligibility who graduated from high school more than seven years ago. These scholarships allowed students to complete their degrees, giving them the skills to be highly competitive in today's job market and lead more self-sufficient lives.

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With your help, **Family Haven** provided **3,135** victims of domestic violence and their families with safe, confidential emergency shelter, food, case management, child advocacy, counseling, crisis intervention and referrals, outreach and other services in Forsyth County. Through case management, victims were able to file documentation needed to receive financial benefits, access childcare to enable job training and employment, develop life skills such as budgeting and develop parenting skills to help their children cope with the trauma of violence.



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United Way of Forsyth County works to help bridge the gap between the needs that exist, the services that are provided and the cost of making those services available to those who need them. You can help us in this work by supporting Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier, Forsyth County Chapter. After years of planning, the very first Boys & Girls Club in Forsyth County will open its doors at Cumming Elementary for the 2018-19 school year. It is estimated that 25%-35% of people in the area of Cumming Elementary School live in poverty. By offering an afterschool program through Boys & Girls Clubs, parents with one child in the program will be receiving a savings of approximately 58% of their current afterschool costs, making available more money for food, rent and other necessities.

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Because United Way recognizes the importance of education, over **\$983,000** has been invested directly into **Forsyth County School System** programs over the past **12 years**. Programs that provided scholarships for special needs students for summer camp, transportation for high school clubs to do service projects, support programs for students with special needs and many other means of support that are helping to build a strong educational foundation for the children and youth in our community.

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Want to know what your contributions are doing in our community? Stay connected with United Way through www.UnitedWayForsyth.com, on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to see the impact we're making throughout Forsyth County.

 www.facebook.com/UnitedWayForsythCountyGA  [@UnitedWayFCGA](https://twitter.com/UnitedWayFCGA)
 [@UnitedWayForsythCounty](https://www.instagram.com/UnitedWayForsythCounty)

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One of the most important resources we have is our partners. United Way is engaging people from business, government, nonprofits and ordinary citizens. A long-term commitment is essential when tackling the issues that matter most. Working together, we can get results that no one can accomplish alone. Whether it's through a grant to a nonprofit for direct services, a collaborative effort on a community-wide initiative or a corporate sponsorship of United Way's work, each partnership and project addresses one of our target areas: **EDUCATION**: ensuring children and youth have a foundation to reach their full potential, **FINANCIAL STABILITY**: ensuring individuals and families are financially secure and self-reliant, **HEALTH**: ensuring individuals are physically, socially and emotionally healthy and **BASIC NEEDS**: ensuring people are able to meet their basic needs for food, clothing, shelter and safety.

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