

# 15 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, last year United Way of Forsyth County supporters pledged **\$981,866** during the annual campaign. Funds raised will help support United Way’s efforts in the areas of Education, Financial Stability/Economic Mobility/Basic Needs, and Health.

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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/Economic Mobility**, 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? Studies show that **80%** of brain growth happens by the age of 3. Engaging in reading activities from birth gives our children the best opportunity to be proficient in reading by the end of third grade. Children who read proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to graduate from high school, paving the way to higher education or having better opportunities in the workforce. United Way is building a layered approach to literacy starting with programs from birth to kindergarten through programs like “The Basics”, kindergarten through 2nd grade by providing literacy kits, and engaging in national programs like “Read United”.



United Way currently produces literacy kits that are both educational and entertaining. They provide a vehicle for children and parents to interact in activities with an emphasis on reading. For more information visit [www.UnitedWayForsyth.com/literacykits](http://www.UnitedWayForsyth.com/literacykits)

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**4** In 2023, **United Way of Forsyth County** invested **\$1,296,491** into 60 organizations/programs 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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**5** In 2023, with the help of local businesses, civic clubs, individuals and families, United Way’s **Stuff the Bus** initiative collected approximately **4,200** school supply items that were distributed to students in need through Forsyth County Schools, The Place and other nonprofits in the community during the 2023-2024 school year.



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## 15 Days of Email (cont.)



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Did you know? United Way of Forsyth County activates hundreds of volunteers during the community wide *Day of Caring* event every year. In 2023, approximately **640** volunteers packaged **135,000** dried, non-perishable meals for **4** local food pantries. Volunteers also packaged **2,000** family snack packs, assembled **1,000** school supply kits, and assembled **300** literacy kits for Forsyth County students.

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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 2023, **576** returns were prepared at no cost. Taxpayers received federal refunds totaling **\$489,566**, state refunds totaling **\$135,373**, and saved approximately **\$157,000** in filing fees. 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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Did you know? With the help of community volunteers and stakeholders, United Way of Forsyth County developed a mental health website which provides relevant information regarding mental wellness, mental illness, and resources to support improving mental health in Forsyth County. In early 2021, the mental health website was launched and can be found at [www.MHFOCOGA.com](http://www.MHFOCOGA.com).



**MENTAL HEALTH**  
Be Mind Healthy

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In collaboration with Forsyth County Schools, United Way of Forsyth County is invested in our students' overall health by providing funding for on-site therapeutic services to students when costs were more than the family could afford. In 2023, United Way paid out **\$37,081** to this program which equates to approximately **620** therapeutic sessions.

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Putting our community's children on the path to fulfilling their potential requires us to work together toward a single, shared agenda. We've needed a collective vision, unified measures of achievement, strategies for how to attain success and a way to evaluate progress. Through data collected by United Way, we are able to measure how children are faring in Forsyth County and can better determine the services needed to support them and their families.



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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.



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## 15 Days of Email (cont.)



### 12

United Way of Forsyth County actively nurtures and models social behaviors that encourage and promote an inclusive, diverse, and equitable community. We improve lives by serving people without regard to race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, identity, ability, or familial status. Our ongoing commitment to an inclusive, diverse, and equitable community and expectation to improve lives is reflected in all aspects of work from United Way's staff, volunteers, and partners.

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United Way of Forsyth County funds **Forsyth County Schools' Credit Recovery** program, which assists with tuition for recovery credits for failed classes, transportation for before and after school programs or tutoring, graduation fees and High School Graduation Test review sessions as well as other services to help keep students engaged and on track to graduate. These services are offered to students who are identified as economically disadvantaged, special needs or ELL students to remove any and all barriers they may experience getting in the way of on-time graduation. In 2023, United Way funded **\$50,364** to Credit Recovery programs which served Forsyth County students. Since 2008, United Way has funded **\$875,874** to Credit Recovery programs. Additionally, the graduation rate in Forsyth County has increased from **85.8%** in 2008 to **95.8%** in 2022. This is an increase of **10%**.

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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/ECONOMIC MOBILITY**: 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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### 15

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

 [www.facebook.com/UnitedWayForsythCountyGA](http://www.facebook.com/UnitedWayForsythCountyGA)  
 [@UnitedWayForsythCounty](https://www.instagram.com/UnitedWayForsythCounty)  [United Way of Forsyth County Georgia](https://www.linkedin.com/company/United-Way-of-Forsyth-County-Georgia)

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