



Frequently Asked Questions

Who runs United Way of the Greater Triangle?

United Way of the Greater Triangle is run by a volunteer board of directors comprised of community leaders, experts and others interested in creating community solutions. Trustees represent the three counties served by United Way of the Greater Triangle.

Are volunteers at United Way of the Greater Triangle paid?

No, our volunteers are donating their own time and energy to help United Way of the Greater Triangle with our events, campaigns, and committees.

Why should someone who doesn't use any agency services care about the success of United Way of the Greater Triangle?

United Way of the Greater Triangle partner agencies provide services for all people from the very youngest children to senior citizens. No one knows when a problem could devastate you or a loved one. By giving to United Way of the Greater Triangle, you can be assured that necessary services will be in place when they are needed.

Are United Way contributions tax-deductible?

Yes, if you itemize. However, there are certain limitations. Donors should consult with their financial advisor for details.

How accurate are the various online nonprofit evaluator rankings?

Ever mindful of being good stewards of donated monies, United Way of the Greater Triangle is open and transparent about its finances. Our 990 is posted on our website. A variety of on-line charity evaluators rank our United Way, along with other nonprofits, based on varied criteria. Innocuous changes can often impact these rankings. For example, UWGT awarded its 2008 donations in January of 2009 and this caused a lower score on some evaluation sites than in previous years when money was awarded in the same year it was pledged. We are always available to talk to donors and concerned individuals about UWGT finances.

Why should I give to United Way and not directly to an agency of my choice?

United Way of the Greater Triangle offers donors the opportunity to support the entire community and maximize their giving. United Way provides a wide-range of services to meet community needs. United Way ensures that an individual's total needs are met. Giving to United Way of the Greater Triangle also offers smaller local agencies the advantage of fundraising, while freeing up their limited staff to focus on providing services. Additionally, United Way of the Greater Triangle offers donors the opportunity to designate a gift to a specific agency. We offer this for donors' convenience and to enable them to take advantage of payroll deduction, which is the easiest way to give. United Way of the Greater Triangle would never discourage direct giving, if a donor prefers that option.

If I need help, who can I call?

United Way of the Greater Triangle provides the first place to call for free, confidential, bilingual information and referral services. Simplify your life by calling 2-1-1 or 1-800-831-1754 for answers. We're here for you 24-hours-a-day everyday.



How do I find agencies that need help so I can volunteer?

Almost all agencies are eager for un-paid volunteers. Your commitment can range from a one-day project, to a daily commitment. The options are limitless. You can find volunteer opportunities in your area by contacting 2-1-1 or by watching your local newspapers. Volunteer opportunities can also be found at United Way of the Greater Triangle's Volunteer Solutions Web site, www.volunteersolutions.org.

Will the money I give to United Way go outside the community?

No. The money raised in the Triangle area stays in the Triangle area unless you, as the donor, request that it be sent to another United Way. Your local United Way does pay annual dues to United Way of America, the trade association for United Ways, and also to United Way of North Carolina, the state trade association. Those dues, which amount to about one cent of every dollar pledged, are used to help underwrite the costs of the United Way/NFL television spots, help defray the costs of marketing materials that our local United Way uses, and support training for United Way staff. Those dues represent the only money that leaves the Triangle area and those dollars are eventually returned to the community in services received.

Who decides where the money goes?

People like you, right here in the Triangle! More than 300 community volunteers, experts, and agency representatives work together to identify community needs, reduce duplication of services, and close gaps in services as they invest donors' gifts in the areas of health, income, education and safety in the Triangle.

How much of each contribution is spent on administrative costs?

Only 16 cents out of every dollar pledged covers fundraising expenses and other administrative costs. It's an investment well made when you consider that nationally-accepted maximum limits for non-profit overhead costs vary from 40 percent to 50 percent. The Philanthropic Advisory Service of the Council of Better Business Bureaus sets the maximum permissible rate for overhead costs at non-profit organizations at 50 percent. The National Charities Information Bureau sets the rate at 40 percent.

Does United Way of America set policy for our local United Way?

No. Every decision at your United Way is made locally for the benefit of our community. United Way of the Greater Triangle is a separate organization, operating independently of the trade organization, United Way of America. United Way of the Greater Triangle is governed by its board of trustees, comprised of local business and community leaders and assisted by more than 50 volunteers from the local community.

How does United Way pay for its events?

Annual events, such as Campaign Kick-Off, are designed to boost morale and create a synergy among volunteers. Donor contributions are not used to fund United Way of the Greater Triangle events. Sponsorship defrays the cost and the remainder is covered by the ticket price for each event.

What if I don't like one of the agencies that United Way supports?

You can specify which United Way agency or agencies will receive your gift by designating your gift on your pledge form.