

United Way Myth Busters

I heard that...

...the United Way spends way too much on salaries and other administrative costs.

Actually, approximately 94 cents of every dollar goes to United Way Initiatives to drive solutions to hunger, childhood development, and mental health/substance abuse disorders and invest in Funded Partners, which is much more than the amount recommended by BBB Wise Giving Alliance of 65 cents, and even better than the amount of 75 cents required by the U.S. Government for organizations participating in their giving program, the Combined Federal Campaign. The United Way of Pettis County has a full-time Executive Director and a half-time Administrative Assistant and still relies heavily on volunteers to help run the organization – allowing every opportunity we have to invest the most money possible in our local community.

...a colleague/friend/family member doesn't like the United Way because his boss made employees donate to the campaign.

The United Way has never – and will never – condone this sort of fundraising on our behalf. Once employees are asked to donate, we leave it at that. We never want employees to feel intimidated or threatened to participate in our campaign. Of course, gentle reminders to turn in their campaign paperwork (even if the amount is \$0) are ok. Always remember that donations are a personal matter and people must take many things into consideration before making the choice to donate.

...my sister called the United Way for help with her utility bill, and they wouldn't help her.

The United Way does not offer direct assistance to the residents in our community. Instead, we allocate our funds – your donations – to those organizations that are best equipped to meet the needs of our residents and ask them to distribute the funds. Even though you might be receiving the help of the Association for Persons with Disabilities, Blind of Central Mo, Boy Scouts, Boys & Girls Club, CACTUS, CASA, Children's Mercy, Community Café, Compass Health, Food Bank of Central and NE MO, Girl Scouts, Green Ridge Schools, Meals on Wheels, Open Door, Pettis County 4H, PCCP, Red Cross, Sedalia Senior Center, Show-Me Christian Youth Home know that United Way dollars make their work possible.

... the money raised by United Way of Pettis County is sent to United Way Worldwide, and they take their cut and then decide how to distribute the money locally.

Not true. Every United Way is an independent, autonomous organization, with its own Board of Directors and Allocations Committees. United Worldwide does not exercise any control over how we allocate our funds to the community. We do pay membership dues to United Way Worldwide (1% of the amount we raise each year) and those funds provide marketing materials, supplies, and training opportunities for the staff and board.

...you support X organization. There is no way I want my money to go to that place.

The United Way of Pettis County strives to bring our community together to drive solutions to hunger, childhood development and mental health/substance abuse disorder initiatives and funds 19 organizations in Pettis County, in addition to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Our Board of Directors feels they all do a great job meeting the tremendous needs in our community. However, we also know that not everybody feels the same way about each organization. Please don't let your feelings about one organization stop you from donating to United Way. Instead, feel free to designate your donation to the organization of your choosing. This way, you have total control over where your money goes.

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