

United Way FAQs

Q What does United Way do?

A The Capital Area United Way raises fund to support over 40 health and human care programs through 18 partner agencies. With your help, United Way brings together the resources of the community, volunteers, funds, knowledge, and YOU - to help those most in need.

Q I've never been helped by an agency. Why should I contribute?

A While it is true that some of the services provided by United Way funded programs are for the underprivileged and this in need, there are many programs that provide necessary community services such as the character-building programs of agencies like the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts or the emergency services provided by the Oahe Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Q I already support my favorite charity. Why give to United Way, too?

A The needs of the community are much broader than any one agency can handle. United Way partner agencies offer a comprehensive mix of programs and services to meet the diverse needs of our total community. Also, many contributors like the option of making one donation and having to spread among many programs in the community.

Q How much of my money actually goes to serving those in need?

A United Way and our community take pride in the fact that 87 cents of every dollar goes directly to our partner agencies. The remaining 13 cents provides for fundraising, marketing and administrative services.

Q Why doesn't United Way include all organizations?

A Although we work closely with 18 partner agencies, many others receive funding through our donor choice program. Not all nonprofits want to be part of a single, community-wide campaign. United Way only sends funds to agencies that provide health and human services and are 501 © 3 tax exempt as determined by the Internal Revenue Services. This does not include agencies that are primarily academic, animal welfare, cultural, grant making, political, recreational, or religious in nature.

Q Can I designate to my favorite organization?

A United Way honors designations to a number of local organizations but does not encourage them. We believe that our citizen review panel does an effective job in allocating funds to our partner agencies from annual campaign funds. However, if you choose to designation, United Way will honor your wishes. As administrative fee is charged to process designated funds to agencies that are not members of United Way.

Q How can I get other questions answered?

A Call the United Way office at 224-9229 to answer any questions you or your co-workers may have about our community partners or how money is allocated. Better yet, get involved! **United Way needs YOU!**