

**GOALS FOR THE
COMMON GOOD
COMMUNITY
BENCHMARKS FOR
BLOUNT COUNTY**



**United Way
of Blount County**

WHAT GETS MEASURED GETS DONE



Michelle Hanks

FOR THOUSANDS OF HARD-WORKING FAMILIES, the basic ingredients for a good life are increasingly out of reach. Right here in Blount County, almost one in four working parents don't earn enough to provide for their families. An alarming 12% of teenagers drop out of school, imperiling their chances to make a successful transition to adulthood. More than 20,500 Blount County residents lack even basic health insurance.

United Way has a theory about how to create changes within our county. It begins with declaring bold goals. When the stakes are high, the people of Blount County have proven again and again they will rise to the

occasion. That leads to partnership, the second critical element in establishing change. This work requires collaboration across all sectors — big businesses, small businesses, elected officials, nonprofits, academia, the faith community, the labor movement, the media, parents and neighbors. Working together, we can accomplish things that no organization, no individual and no government can accomplish on its own.

Michelle Hanks
President & CEO
United Way of Blount County

EDUCATION



SELF-SUFFICIENCY



HEALTH

Education, self-sufficiency and health are the building blocks for a good life. Education is essential to getting and keeping a job with a livable wage and health benefits. An income adequate to pay for today's necessities and save for the future provides families some sense of financial stability. Access to quality health care keeps children on track in school and adults productive at work. Remove any one of these building blocks and the other two topple.

Working with many partners, United Way continually looks for the most effective

ways to help people gain access to educational, economic and health-related opportunities. To achieve further progress, we must measure where we stand in these areas and look ahead to where we need to be as a county. The nine indicators presented here show how Blount County has fared in improving education, self-sufficiency and health status. They are based on the most reliable and relevant data available.

Taken together, these indicators show isolated signs of progress, but, overall, emphasize the enormity of the task ahead.

United Way of Blount County 2010 FUNDING PRIORITIES

Target Issue	Historical Funding Rank	Survey Rank	Service Gap Rank	Score
#1—Financial Stability	6* x 1	8 x 2	8 x 3	46
#2—Health Care Coverage & Prevention	7 x 1	4 x 2	7 x 3	36
#3—School Readiness	4 x 1	9 x 2	4 x 3	34
#4—Transportation	1 x 1	1 x 2	9 x 3	30
#5—Adult Job Skills	2 x 1	6 x 2	5 x 3	29
#6—Special Needs Services	5 x 1	2 x 2	6 x 3	27
#7—Academic Achievement	9 x 1	7 x 2	1 x 3	26
#8—Access to Safety-Net Services	8 x 1	5 x 2	2 x 3	24
#9—Stable Housing	3 x 1	3 x 2	3 x 3	18

* 9 is highest importance, 1 is lowest importance

HOW WAS RANK DETERMINED?

Target Issue was identified as important to Blount County by focus panels made up of over 100 local volunteers.



Historical Funding
(How much funding to Target Issue in 2009?)
Weight: 1



Blount County Leader Survey
(What issues are most important to local people?)
Weight: 2



Gaps in Services
(Which issues that are least addressed?)
Weight: 3



SCORE

WHAT DO THE RANKS MEAN?

In a perfect world, funding for each of the Target Issues would be now determined by using these ranks: 15% of United Way’s funds to Financial Stability, 14% to Health Care Coverage and Prevention, and so on and so forth.

But we do not live in a perfect world, and some of the programs funded by United Way would disappear altogether if a lower Target Issue, such as Academic Achievement, went from receiving 35% of the funding in 2009 to only 9% in 2010. Therefore, the Community Impact Committee took the above “recipe” and added the human element to take a little from some categories to strengthen those that are weaker.

To increase United Way’s impact on the most pressing concern identified, the highest scoring Target Issue, “Financial Stability,” was allocated an additional \$25,000 to be awarded this spring after a Request For Proposals (RFP) is sent out to all 501(c)3 nonprofits for Venture Programs to fund new ways of getting Blount County residents back on their own two feet.

ISSUES AND INDICATORS AT-A-GLANCE

EDUCATION

HELPING INDIVIDUALS ACHIEVE
THEIR POTENTIAL

Target Issue #1: School Readiness

Intended Result: Children enter school developmentally on track in terms of social, emotional and intellectual skills.

County-Wide Indicator: *Percentage of incoming kindergarteners with school readiness skills.*

Baseline: 73.8% of Blount County children ranked over 50% in skills needed to start school 2009.

Target Issue #2: Academic Achievement

Intended Result: Young people graduate from high school.

County-Wide Indicator: *Percentage of public high school students who drop out of school.*

Baseline: 5.6% of Blount County youth were counted in the 2009 drop-out rate.

Target Issue #3: Adult Job Skills

Intended Result: Every adult has the skills needed to find a living-wage job.

County-Wide Indicator: *Local unemployment rates as compared to state and national rates.*

Baseline: 2009 Blount County unemployment rates averaged .3% better than TN and equal to the USA rate.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

PROMOTING FINANCIAL STABILITY
AND INDEPENDENCE

Target Issue #1: Stable Housing

Intended Result: Families and individuals have safe, permanent shelter.

County-Wide Indicator: *% of households paying more than 30% of income for housing.*

Baseline: 25.5% of Blount County households paid over 30% of their income for housing in 2008.

Target Issue #2: Financial Stability

Intended Result: Families increase their income to become financially stable.

County-Wide Indicator: *Percentage of individuals that are lower-income as defined by Census Form S1701.*

Baseline: 9.5% of individuals in Blount County were in poverty in 2008.

Target Issue #3: Transportation

Intended Result: Families increase their ability to get to work, school or medical appointments that enable self-sufficiency.

County-Wide Indicator: *% of households without access to personal vehicle.*

Baseline: 3.8% of Blount County households did not have access to a vehicle in 2008.

HEALTH

IMPROVING PEOPLE'S HEALTH
AND WELL BEING

Target Issue #1: Access to Safety-Net Services

Intended Result: Blount County residents are able to access immediate safety-net services.

County-Wide Indicator: *Rate of use of 2-1-1 referral program for social service needs.*

Baseline: 1.95% of Blount County households knew to use 2-1-1 for social service needs in 2009.

Target Issue #2: Health Care Coverage and Prevention

Intended Result: Uninsured and underserved have access to preventative and specialty health care.

County-Wide Indicator: *Rate of uninsured.*

Baseline: 17.1% of Blount County individuals were uninsured in 2008.

Target Issue #3: Special Needs Services

Intended Result: Access to services for those who are functionally disabled.

County-Wide Indicator: *Rate of gap of free/subsidized services for adults with disability.*

Baseline: 2.89% of adults with special needs in Blount County could be served with free/subsidized services in 2008.

EDUCATION

HELPING INDIVIDUALS ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

“Upon the education of the people the fate of this country depends.” Disraeli was speaking of his country, Great Britain, some 150 years ago, but these words capture the American belief in the critical importance of universal education. Education is the foundation for a good life, setting the individual on a path of personal fulfillment, economic security and societal contribution.

We are highlighting three points in a person’s life that help predict success in life: readiness to enter kindergarten, on-time graduation, and the ability to be employed.

Readiness to succeed in school means that children enter kindergarten developmentally on track in the areas of literacy and in social, emotional and cognitive skills. Those without these skills—the majority of young children—are starting school already at a disadvantage.

Academic achievement is also reflected in the drop out rates of our teenagers. Any dropout rate is unacceptable. Dropping out means these young people will more than likely never earn enough to make ends meet. It means their children will be similarly disadvantaged and perhaps start kindergarten unprepared, thus perpetuating the cycle.

Adults must have job skills that match those needed by local employers. Human resource experts from local businesses report that there are specific job skills lacking for positions available even during difficult economic times. Filling the gap between employer needs and employee skills can be measured by using the rate of unemployment.

Schools cannot do it alone. Parents, businesses, and social agencies will have to support our educational institutions through innovative means. Mentorship, adult education and other programs must create a culture of learning from birth through late adult years.

“Failure to graduate hurts our children, damages our economy and weakens our national security position in the world.”

—General Colin L. Powell (Ret.), Founding Chair of America’s Promise

Target Issue #1: SCHOOL READINESS

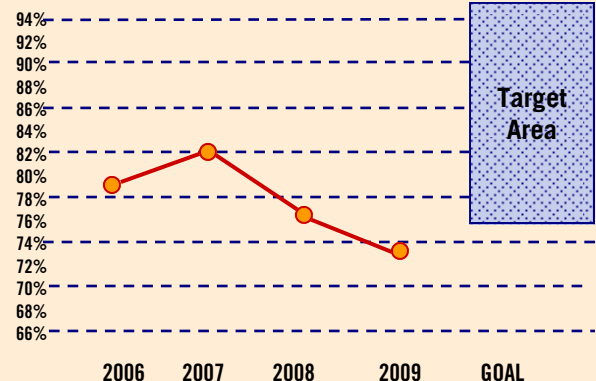
Each spring, incoming kindergarteners take the nationally recognized Brigance Test to measure how ready they are to enter school.

Skills such as number and letter identification, physical ability, and recognizing patterns are

rated by trained teachers. In 2008, 73.8 of the children entering school in Blount County were considered ready to learn.

5 YEAR GOAL: 75% of new kindergarteners will be ready to learn.

AGGRAGATE SCHOOL READINESS RATE IN BLOUNT COUNTY



Priorities for Funding in Blount County

- **Early Intervention Programs for At-Risk Children**—Children who receive early attention for physical, mental and social problems have a much better chance of succeeding in school.
- **Education and Support Programs for Parents of Young Children**—Children do not come with an instruction manual. Every parent needs support and assistance at some time or another.
- **Support Programs for Grandparents who are Caregivers for Young Children**—Grandparents are the largest growing group of child caregivers in the county.
- **Professional Development for Caregivers and Educators of Young Children**—When a child is with someone for more than 8 hours a day, that person must be prepared to educate as well as baby-sit.

Early Childhood Education

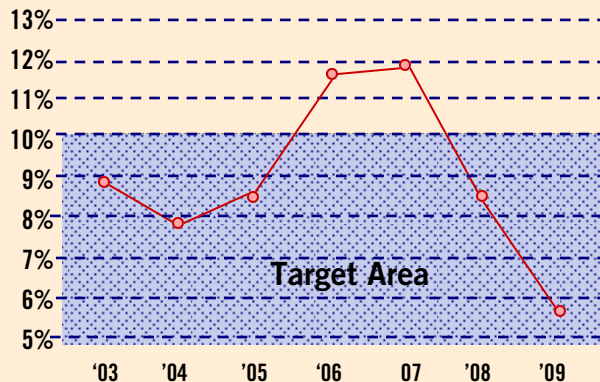
What's the pay off?

- By age 3, 90% of the brain has developed, creating emotional, behavioral, cognitive and social foundations used for the rest of a child's life.
- Studies show that for every dollar spent on a quality preschool education, \$9 to \$17 tax dollars will be saved on adult welfare and criminal programs.
- 73% of all children not yet in school are enrolled in an out-of-home care setting as both parents are (or the only parent is) in the workforce.



Target Issue #2: ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

AGGRAGATE DROP OUT RATE IN BLOUNT COUNTY



Without a high school diploma, finding a well-paying job becomes nearly impossible, and the first step to increasing graduation rates is to keep children in school. The four public high schools of Blount County have different dropout rates,

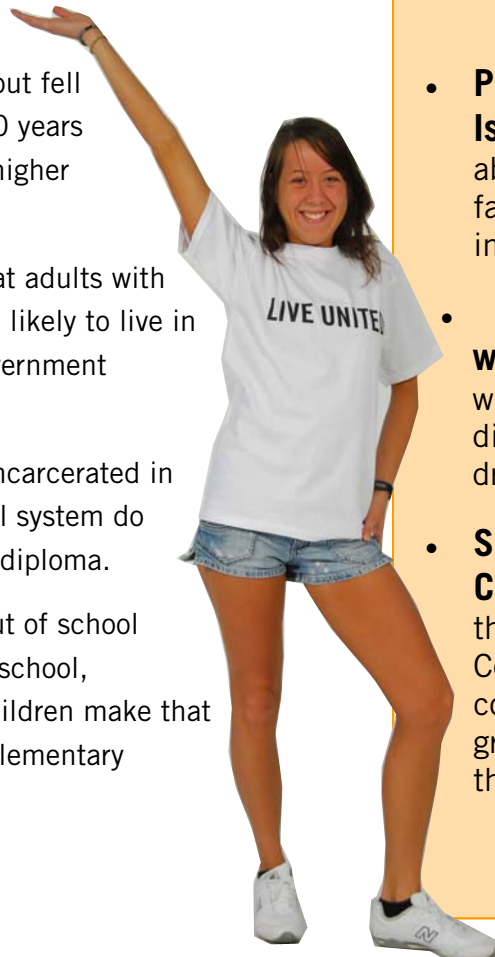
but looking at the overall picture, in 2009 over 5.6% of our students left school before graduation.

5 YEAR GOAL: Maintain No Child Left Behind Drop Out Rate requirements. (under 10% - as determined by the State of TN Report Card.)

Lowering Drop Out Rates

What's the pay off?

- The earning potential for a high school drop out fell over 35% in the last 20 years as employers demand higher qualifications.
- Studies have shown that adults with low education are more likely to live in poverty and receive government assistance.
- The majority of those incarcerated in the United States penal system do not have a high school diploma.
- The decision to drop out of school does not occur in high school, according to youth. Children make that decision while still in elementary school.



Priorities for Funding in Blount County

- **Programs Addressing Behavior Issues in Youth**—Drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy and other factors are barriers to children staying in school.
- **Support for Children of Families with Historical Dropouts**—Children who have parents and older siblings who did not finish school are more likely to drop out, too.
- **Support for Children of New Blount County Residents**—Children new to the school systems here in Blount County often have a disadvantage in completing the necessary credits for graduation. They may also not be up to the high standards of Blount County.

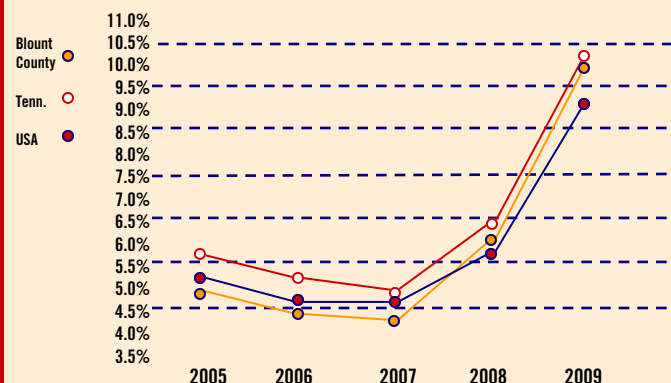
Target Issue #3: ADULT JOB SKILLS

Originally, decreasing the unemployment rate of Blount County seemed the ideal goal as an indicator of job skills. However, current economic issues facing the job market have suggested a new strategy: keeping local

unemployment lower than that of the state and national averages.

5 YEAR GOAL: Attain and maintain at least 1% lower unemployment rate than State of Tennessee.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN BLOUNT COUNTY IN COMPARISON WITH TENNESSEE AND USA



Priorities for Funding in Blount County

- **GED Programs for Non High School Graduates**—Lack of a high school diploma is one of the chief barriers to getting a good wage.
- **Support for Those without Technical Skills**—Understanding how to use a computer is becoming necessary for nearly every job field.
- **Support and Education for the Newly Unemployed**—Retraining and developing skills that match the jobs that are available in Blount County is a must for those laid off from work.
- **“Soft” Skills Education**—Employers say they can train anyone who is willing to work, can show up on time, and has good manners.



The Job Skills Gap

What’s the pay off?

- According to employers, the skills they seek most are a positive work ethic and an attitude that helps an employee work with others. Employers say they can train a new hire in the technical skills.
- Adults who have completed their GED tend to get more working hours, have a lower turnover rate, and a lower absenteeism rate.
- Earning a GED increases a person’s income an average of 19%, making it the number one reason a person stops receiving government assistance.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY


PROMOTING FINANCIAL STABILITY

Sam Houston, Dolly Parton, Davy Crockett, Pat Summitt, Lamar Alexander—these inspirational East Tennesseans have exemplified the uniquely American ideal that hard work will lead to success, and that no matter how humble one’s origins, the sky is the limit in the land of plenty and opportunity.

building assets and reducing debt, but shelter, income and transportation were identified as the first steps to take in Blount County.

Given the cost of living today, a family needs to earn at least 2.5 times the federal poverty level to be considered financially stable in most communities. But the percentage of families with children earning less than the federal poverty in Blount County in 2008 is at 12.2%.

The goal to increase self-sufficiency is for financial independence, not a street of gold. Many families lack the ability to earn a decent income and the skills to manage their money, save even a small portion, or build assets for the future. Self-sufficiency is not giving handouts, but giving hand ups.



That ideal is in peril. Even with more than one family member bringing in wages—or with one person holding down two or three jobs—many families are barely getting by, with no ability to save for college, a home or retirement. Just one unanticipated expense—a car breakdown, an uninsured illness, a week without a paycheck—can lead to crisis.

Self-Sufficiency, or the ability to lead a productive life without assistance, cannot be achieved without permanent shelter, stable income, and reliable transportation. Ultimately, other issues play a part in self-sufficiency, such as access to savings,

“Everyone needs to be valued. Everyone has the potential to give something back.”

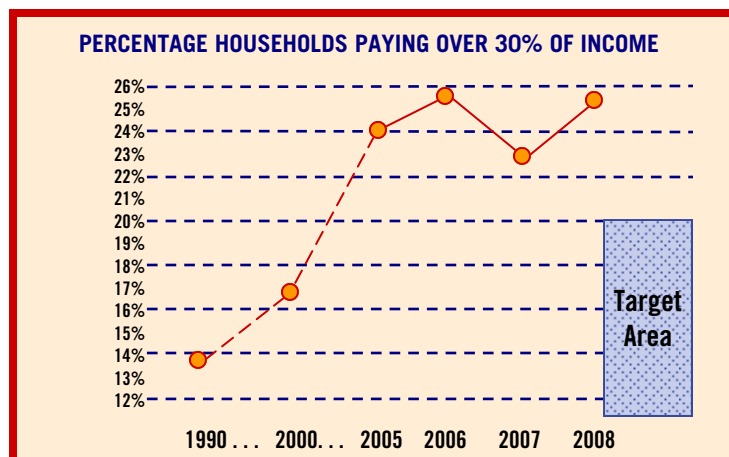
—Diana, Princess of Wales

Target Issue #1: STABLE HOUSING

The homeless population has been very difficult to count due to the very nature of the issue. For that reason, United Way has elected to track what percentage of households pay over 30% of their annual income to housing costs

to get a county-wide picture of the stable housing question.

5 YEAR GOAL: Less than 20% of Blount County Households will be paying more than 30% of their income for shelter costs.



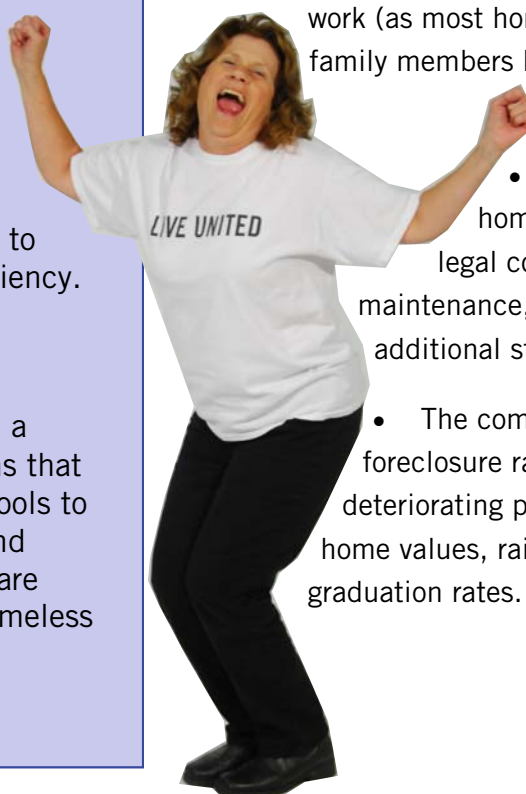
Priorities for Funding in Blount County

- **Programs Assisting Individuals in Crisis Situations**—Emergency shelter must be available for women, children and men seeking respite from dangerous situations.
- **Shelter for Families with Children**—Few shelter options allow families to stay together. Protecting the family unit is vital to overcoming barriers to self-sufficiency.
- **Foreclosure and Eviction Prevention Resources and Education**—Keeping a family in a home in the first place. Programs that help keep utility bills low, offer tools to managing mortgages and rent, and help landlords help their clients are proactive and less costly than homeless shelters.

Foreclosure and Eviction:

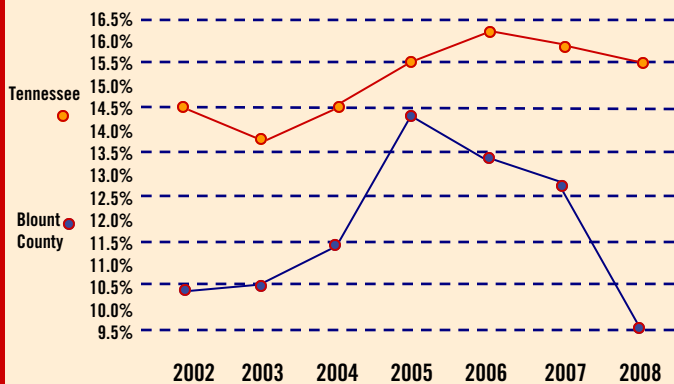
Everyone Loses

- When a family becomes homeless, the children are less likely to finish school, the parents will have a higher absentee rate at work (as most homeless do have jobs), and family members become more prone to illness.
- The lender of a foreclosed home has additional costs for legal counsel, building maintenance, appraisal fees, and additional staff hours.
- The community with a rising foreclosure rate is more likely to have deteriorating properties which decrease home values, raise crime rates, and lower graduation rates.



Target Issue #2: FINANCIAL STABILITY

PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS BELOW POVERTY RATE IN B.C.



In order to compare Blount County with other counties within Tennessee and the rest of the United States, the task force has identified the indicator as the percentage of individuals that are lower-income as defined by Census Form S1701. A high

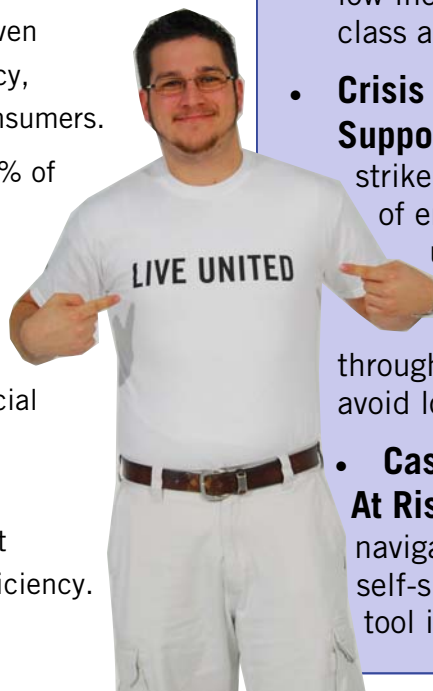
poverty rate reflects not only crisis for individual families, but the economic health of a community.

5 YEAR GOAL: Blount County's goal is to attain and maintain a lower percentage of low-income individuals than the Tennessee state average by 5%.

Financial Literacy

What's the pay off?

- Only 25% of Americans across all economic levels feel they know enough to truly manage their households financially.
- Credit card debt in young people aged 18 to 25 has increased 95% in the last 15 years.
- In the last decade, one of every seven households has declared bankruptcy, passing those costs on to other consumers.
- Conservative estimates suggest 10% of households in the US do not use banks: mostly from the ranks of seniors, youth and minorities.
- 57% of all divorces result from arguments about money and financial issues.
- Studies have shown that increased financial literacy is one of the most effective ways to increase self-sufficiency.



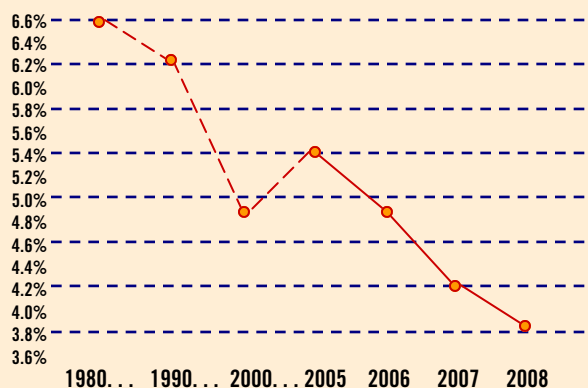
Priorities for Funding in Blount County

- **Financial Literacy Programs**— Knowing how to save and spend wisely is the first step to financial stability. Classes, workshops and other educational tools are vital to not just low-income families but the working class as well.
- **Crisis Prevention Resources and Support**—Financial emergencies can strike at any time: medical bills, loss of employment, and other unexpected hardships can push a family to the brink. Having resources to get families through the tough times is vital to avoid long-term problems.
- **Case Management Programs for At Risk Families**—One-on-one help navigating around barriers to self-sufficiency has been a proven tool in financial stability.

Target Issue #3: TRANSPORTATION

Nearly every focus group and agency gathering information from individuals striving to achieve financial self-sufficiency identified transportation as a major barrier. Without reliable transportation, a person cannot get to work or to necessary health appointments. Except for ETHRA (East Tennessee Human Resource Agency), there is no public transportation, and ETHRA must triage its clients, resulting in being unavailable for all situations of need. There is no ideal data source available to reliably track this service gap. Therefore, though tracking how many households own a vehicle, we are not promoting this as a solid indicator of success.

PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT A VEHICLE



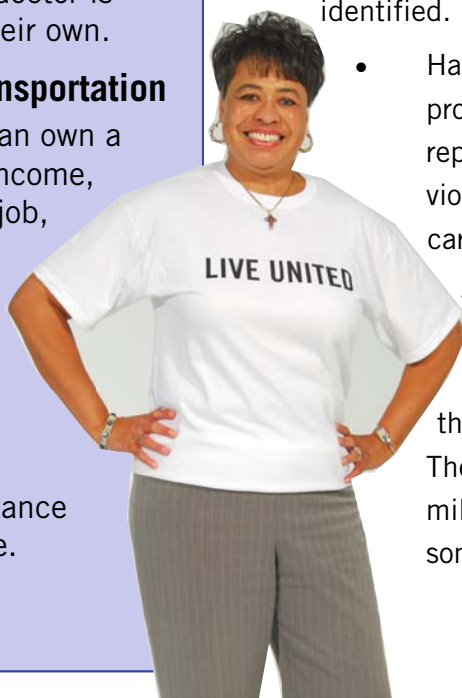
Priorities for Funding in Blount County

- Senior Citizen Outreach Programs**—Our oldest population deserves to be able to remain self-sufficient as long as they are able, but sometimes the ability to drive is challenged by health issues. Transportation to the store or doctor is vital to our seniors living on their own.
- Low-Income Population Transportation Programs**—Before a family can own a car, a family needs a regular income, but before a person can get a job, he needs reliable transportation.
- Transportation for People in Crisis**—A crisis can be the loss of a car in a house fire or natural disaster, or a health emergency that requires assistance when you don't have insurance.

Transportation—A Reoccurring Barrier

What our Community Partners Say . . .

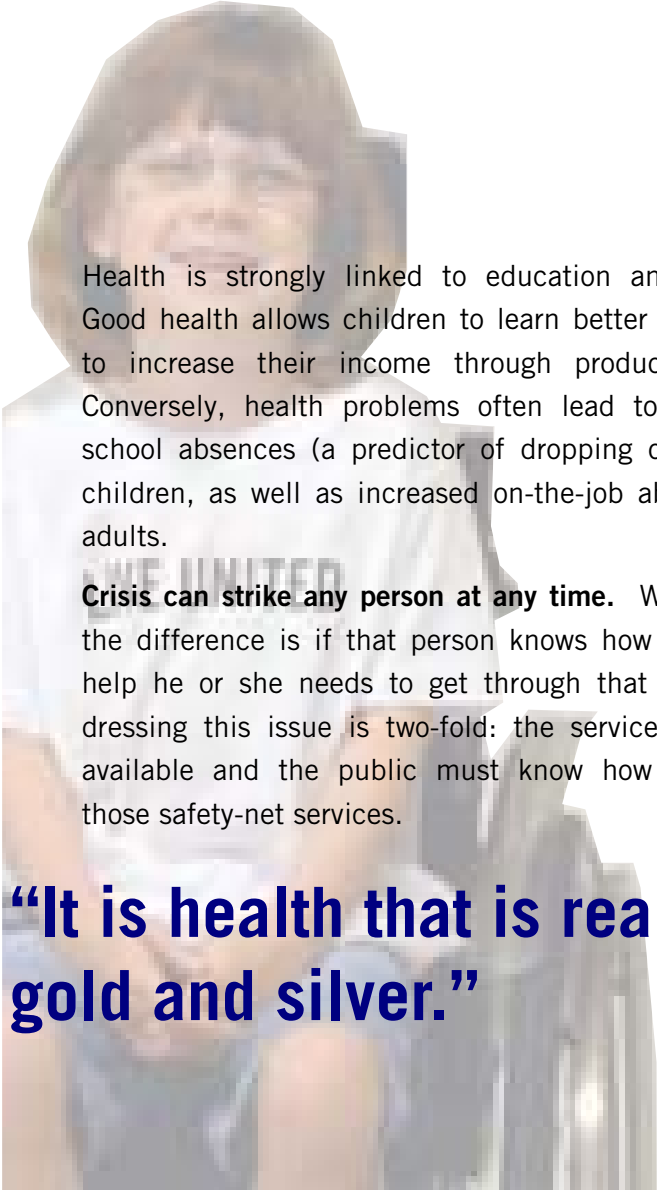
- Child and Family of Tennessee's Firm Foundations program offers case management to at risk families. These families identify several personal barriers to self-sufficiency. Lack of reliable transportation is almost always identified.
- Haven House, the domestic violence program operating in Blount County, reports that few women fleeing from violent relationships are able to bring a car with them in their escape, making job searches difficult.
- Several agencies have indicated that their clients have cars that are old and in need of repair. These cars cost their owners in high gas mileage and emergency repairs, something they can ill afford.



HEALTH

INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

**According to an Arabian proverb,
“He who has health has hope, and
he who has hope has everything.”**

A young girl with brown hair, wearing a white t-shirt with the United Way logo, is smiling and holding a small object. The image is semi-transparent and serves as a background for the text.

Health is strongly linked to education and income: Good health allows children to learn better and adults to increase their income through productive work. Conversely, health problems often lead to increased school absences (a predictor of dropping out) among children, as well as increased on-the-job absences by adults.

Crisis can strike any person at any time. What makes the difference is if that person knows how to get the help he or she needs to get through that crisis. Addressing this issue is two-fold: the services must be available and the public must know how to access those safety-net services.

A lack of health care coverage often means that primary care—so important to preventing or treating illness before it becomes more serious—is an unattainable luxury. A serious illness with no or insufficient health insurance has driven thousands of Americans into financial crisis. The main reason for bankruptcies in 2005 and 2006 was medical debt.

Our most vulnerable population is one of our most underserved populations. Individuals who suffer from permanent physical, emotional and mental disabilities face a gap in services for physical and social needs. Additionally, the families who serve as full-time caregivers for these special individuals have increased financial and mental stress. As the population of Blount County becomes older, the need for services such as hospice care and wellness visits will become even more important.

“It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.”

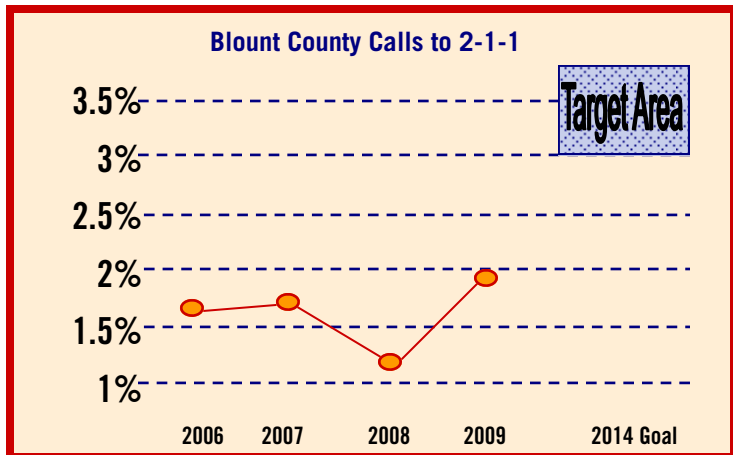
—Mahatma Gandhi

Target Issue #1: ACCESS TO SAFETY-NET SERVICES

Blount County is home to many exceptional social service programs. Unfortunately, families often do not know where to ask for help in the early stages of a problem when it may be easiest to assist them and avoid a full-blown crisis. The

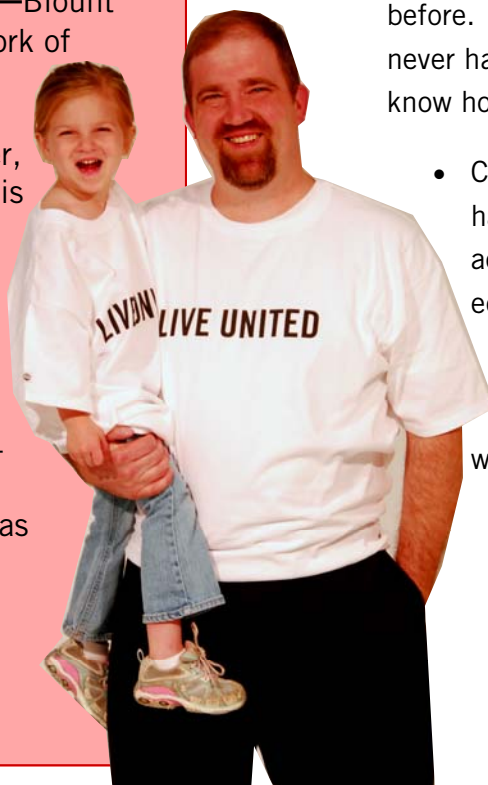
2-1-1 program exists to link people to these programs, but can only work if residents know to use it.

5 YEAR GOAL: Increase the rate of use of 2-1-1 program for social service needs to 3% of the population.



Priorities for Funding in Blount County

- **Information and Referral Programs to Access Social Services**—Blount County has an excellent network of social service agencies and programs covering a variety of issues and concerns. However, the best network in the world is worthless if individuals and families cannot access it.
- **Programs to Assist in Emergency Situations**—Disaster can strike anyone at any time. From natural disaster to personal crisis, having responsive programs in place as well as prepared individuals trained to help are key to surviving.

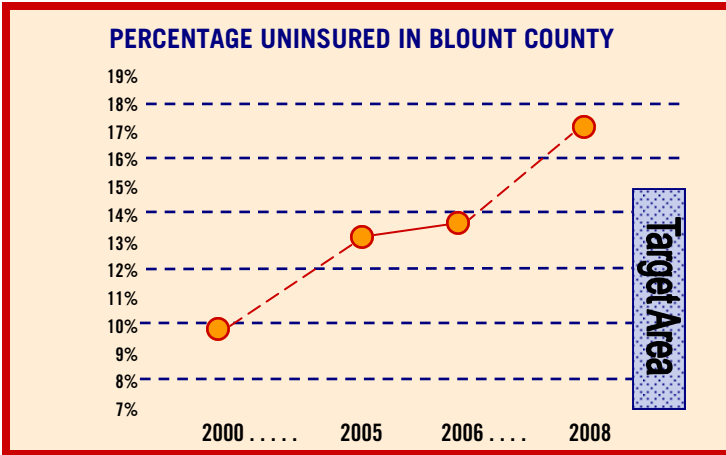


Safety-Net Services

What's the pay off?

- In the last year, increasing layoffs in a frightening economy has put more pressure on the middle class than ever before. Unfortunately, these families have never had to ask for help and may not know how to get it.
- Crisis and emergency situations can happen to anybody at anytime: accidents are blind to race, economics, gender, religion, or age.
- Preventative social services cost a tenth of what treatment would cost later.

Target Issue #2: HEALTH CARE COVERAGE & PREVENTION



The task force has identified the rate of uninsured as the indicator for this issue. We recognize that some individuals choose to remain without insurance and that not all insurance plans are equal. This information

was considered as the committee recommended a future goal for this issue.

5 YEAR GOAL: To lower and maintain the uninsured rate to 15%.

The Cost of Health Care

What's the pay off?

- 20% of the uninsured say that the emergency room is their only source of health care, directly impacting the cost of health insurance.
- Medical bills are the number one reason given by those requesting utilities, rent or mortgage assistance.
- The US spends over \$100 billion in medical treatment for uninsured citizens suffering from problems that could have been treated more easily with an early diagnosis.
- 29% of people who have insurance are actually “underinsured” and are likely to put off needed medical treatment to avoid out-of-pocket costs.
- Each year, hospitals provide \$34 billion in uncompensated health care.



Priorities for Funding in Blount County

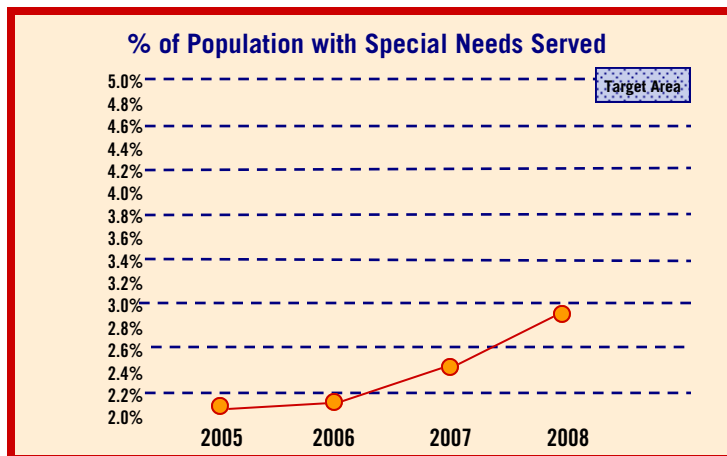
- **Programs to Reach the Newly Uninsured**—Individuals and families who have recently lost jobs and benefits may not have the resources to find health care coverage. State and federal programs can be difficult to understand.
- **Education and Support Programs for Underinsured People**—Not all insurance plans are equal. Many families are not aware of resources for preventative services covered by their insurance coverage.
- **Preventative Programs for Physical and Mental Health**—Preventative care for physical, dental and mental health can cut health care costs for all of us.

Target Issue #3: SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES

Local assessments show that there is a large gap in free, subsidized or low-cost services available to individuals over the age of 24 who are disabled. This gap is due to the cut-off age for participation in public

school programs for this population. While for-profit businesses exist, many families cannot afford their services. Measuring the gap in services will indicate needs being met.

5 YEAR GOAL: Increase capacity by 2%.



Priorities for Funding in Blount County

- **Programs for Adults with Special Needs**—Once an adult leaves the public school system and its resources, a family must still find programs to fill their loved ones needs for social interaction and mental stimulation.
- **Respite Care Programs for Families and Caregivers of People with Special Needs**—Families caring for individuals with special needs face a long-term commitment that is costly in time, energy and dollars. Programs that support these heroes in their efforts is vital for not only the well being of their loved one, but in protecting the mental and physical health of the caregiver.

Supporting People with Special Needs

What's the pay off?

- Depression is one of the most common issues for people with special needs AND for those family members caring for them.
- In Tennessee, it costs parents about \$910 extra in out-of pocket expenses to care for a child with special needs each year, making Tennessee the 2nd most expensive state in the United States.
- School systems have programs designed for children with special needs. Once a child reaches age 24, parents must find private programs for assistance.





United Way
of Blount County

THE NEXT STEP

What will United Way Do?

Each year, over 100 volunteers from Blount County determine how best to invest United Way campaign dollars back into the community. The information gathered here will guide these decisions for the next several years in the following ways:

1. Funded Programs Must Address the Target Issues

All programs submitted to United Way for funding must fit within the nine target issues identified by the community. While other issues may be concerns, diluting the funding beyond these nine categories lessens the impact United Way can make. In time, issues will be re-evaluated and adjusted accordingly.

2. Funded Programs Must Provide Outcomes

Agencies must provide proof that the programs funded by United Way's donor dollars are making a difference in Blount County. Outcomes are more than how many people were served. Outcomes reflect the success rate of a program over time and provide information in making annual program improvements.

3. Community Gaps Identified and Addressed

Sometimes United Way will need to reach out to our community partners for help in creating programs that address gaps in services. In other cases, other funding sources and programs may be available to take up the slack in an issue area, freeing up funds for another program needing assistance. Each year, this information will be examined by our volunteers.

Reporting Results

Each year at our annual meeting in January, United Way of Blount County will update the community on the progress made in our Community Benchmarks. We may find we are doing well in one area and while needing improvement in another. This information, shared regularly and widely, will help all of us address the issues and concerns facing Blount County. Strengthening and enriching our community will take all of us working together. To receive regular information about Blount County issues in the health and social service sector, please see our website at LiveUnitedBlount.org and sign up for our newsletter or call United Way of Blount County at 865-982-2251.

Together, we can make a difference. LIVE UNITED.

NOTES ABOUT THE INDICATORS AND BENCHMARKS

WHERE DID WE GET THE DATA?

Education—Readiness to Succeed in School

- Brigrance Scores from Maryville City Schools, Alcoa City Schools and Blount County Schools for students entering school in the fall.
- % of children rated at 51% or higher are considered “ready for school.”

Education—Academic Achievement

- Drop Out rate for each local public high school is available at edu.reportcard.state.tn.us for 2003—2009.
- County aggregate drop out rate was determined by percent of population in each school geographic area.

Education—Increasing Job Skills

- Blount County and Tennessee Unemployment Rates are non-seasonally adjusted annual rates documented at the TN Department of Labor & Workforce Development.
- USA Unemployment Rates are non-seasonally adjusted annual rates documented at the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Self-Sufficiency—Stable Housing

- Blount County % of income to housing statistics available through the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005—2008 American Community Survey, Selected Housing Characteristics.

Self-Sufficiency—Financial Stability

- Blount County individual poverty statistics available through the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005—2008 American Community Survey, Selected Economic Characteristics.
- Tennessee individual poverty statistics available through through the U.S. Census Bureau, 2002—2008 American Community Survey, Selected Economic Characteristics.

Self-Sufficiency—Access to Transportation

- Blount County access to vehicle statistics available through the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005—2008 American Community Survey, Selected Housing Characteristics.

Health—Access to Safety-Net Services

- Records of Blount County 2-1-1 requests are available on line at www.211tn.org or by calling the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee at 865-546-6262.

Health—Health Care Coverage and Prevention

- Blount County health coverage statistics are available at the U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimate Data for 2000, 2005 and 2006.
- Blount County health coverage statistics for 2008 are early estimates from the US Census Bureau and the Center for Disease Control.

Health—Access to Special Needs Services

- Identified free or subsidized programs for adults with special needs in Blount County include programs of East Tennessee Technology Access Center, Douglas Cooperative, Senior Citizens Home Assistance and The Gate: Gateway to Independence. Each program was surveyed to track capacity for services in Blount County.
- Adult population with permanent disability statistics is available through the US Census Bureau, 2005-2008 American Community Survey, Selected Social Characteristics in the United States.

“How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

—Anne Frank

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THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS SERVED ON THE FOCUS PANELS

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Lisa Benoit
<i>Knoxville Com. Action Com.</i></p> <p>Lisa Blackwood
<i>Good Neighbors</i></p> <p>Amanda Blanberg
<i>Boys and Girls Clubs</i></p> <p>David Bonewitz
<i>BC Habitat for Humanity</i></p> <p>Elaine Bowers
<i>Headstart</i></p> <p>Teri Brahams
<i>Pellissippi State</i></p> <p>Martha Bryant
<i>Maryville City Schools</i></p> <p>Holly Burkett
<i>Pellissippi State</i></p> <p>Etta Caldwell
<i>Maryville City Schools</i></p> <p>Trudy Carpenter
<i>ET Development District</i></p> <p>Brenda Carroll
<i>First United Methodist Church</i></p> <p>Carol Clotfelter
<i>National Kidney Foundation</i></p> <p>Judith Crow
<i>Marriott International, Inc.</i></p> <p>Cookie Crowson
<i>Parks & Recreation</i></p> <p>Terry Elmore
<i>Maryville Housing Authority</i></p> <p>Carol Ergenbright
<i>Adult Ed. Foundation of BC</i></p> <p>Tom Eustis
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<i>United Way of Blount County</i></p> <p>Sharon Hannum
<i>Community Volunteer</i></p> <p>Edward Harper
<i>Blount Memorial Hospital</i></p> <p>Laura Harrill
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<i>Haven House</i></p> <p>Kathy Hatfield
<i>Child and Family Tennessee</i></p> <p>Deborah Hicks
<i>Fairpark Healthcare</i></p> <p>Tami Hill
<i>East Tennessee Medical Group</i></p> <p>Shirley Hogsed
<i>Gateway to Independence</i></p> <p>Deb House
<i>Legal Aid of East Tennessee</i></p> <p>Susan Hughes
<i>Family Promise</i></p> <p>Rebecca Kelly
<i>Child and Family Tennessee</i></p> <p>Denia Lash
<i>Blount Memorial Hospital</i></p> <p>Linda Lawson
<i>First Baptist Church of Maryville</i></p> <p>Meredith Liemohn
<i>Town and Country Realtors</i></p> <p>Cindy Mayes
<i>Community Volunteer</i></p> <p>Gelinda McKee-Clark
<i>Community Volunteer</i></p> <p>Bonny Millard
<i>Blount Education Initiative</i></p> <p>Lindsey Monday Jackson
<i>Blount County Government</i></p> <p>Jan Morgan
<i>Gateway to Independence</i></p> <p>Ellie Morrow
<i>Community Volunteer</i></p> <p>Jack Neithammer
<i>Marriott International, Inc.</i></p> <p>Tim Ogle
<i>Blount County Fire Department</i></p> <p>Steve Olsen
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<i>Helen Ross McNabb</i></p> <p>Pam Potocik
<i>LTVEC-Birth to Three</i></p> <p>Deborah Quillen
<i>TN Rehabilitation Center</i></p> <p>Judy Rice
<i>Alcoa City Schools</i></p> <p>Micky Roberts
<i>Blount County Health Dept.</i></p> <p>Sharon Russell
<i>Knoxville Com. Action Com.</i></p> <p>Anna Seales
<i>Consumer Credit Counsel</i></p> <p>Nancy Sentell
<i>BC Community Action Agency</i></p> <p>Tom Shamblin
<i>Alcoa City Schools</i></p> <p>Joani Shaver
<i>Haven House</i></p> <p>PJ Silver
<i>BC Education Foundation</i></p> <p>Joan Van Sickle Sloan
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<i>East TN Technology Access Center</i></p> <p>Glenda Thomas
<i>Blount County Schools</i></p> <p>Don Thompson
<i>TN Department of Education</i></p> <p>Janet Thompson
<i>Parks and Recreation</i></p> <p>Jennifer Wackerhagen
<i>United Way of Blount County</i></p> <p>Christy Walsh
<i>Gateway to Independence</i></p> <p>Mary Waugh
<i>Helen Ross McNabb</i></p> <p>Jean Williamson
<i>United Way of Blount County</i></p> <p>Lori Willbergh-York
<i>East TN Technology Access Center</i></p> <p>David Yoder
<i>Legal Aid of East Tennessee</i></p> |
|--|---|---|

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED IN THE NEED PRIORITY SURVEY

Mike Baker <i>BB&T</i>	Laura Harrill <i>Community Volunteer</i>	Mark Ratliff <i>Standard Aero</i>
Dave Bennett <i>Blount County Government</i>	James Haynes <i>UPS</i>	Judy Rice <i>Alcoa City Schools</i>
Scott Boyles <i>National Safe Skies Alliance</i>	Mike Herron <i>Mountain National Bank</i>	Micky Roberts <i>Blount County Health Dept.</i>
Rob Britt <i>Blount County Schools</i>	Tish Hickman <i>Realty III</i>	Evelyn Sandlin <i>The Daily Times</i>
Joe Bruce <i>Citizen's Bank of Blount County</i>	Alan Hill <i>AT&T</i>	Brenda Sellers <i>Chroma Graphics</i>
Matthew Bryan <i>BankEast</i>	Joe Ingram <i>Ingram Overholt & Bean</i>	Dr. Bill Seymour <i>Maryville College</i>
Holly Burkett <i>Pellissippi State</i>	Christopher Jackson <i>Alcoa Inc.</i>	Tom Shamblin <i>Alcoa City Schools</i>
Dan Caldwell <i>Cornerstone of Recovery</i>	Tom Jensen <i>National Safe Skies Alliance</i>	Boyce Smith <i>Wal-mart</i>
Gary Cheatwood <i>Kroger</i>	Mark Johnson <i>City of Alcoa</i>	Marty Snow <i>Atmos Energy</i>
Melvin Covington <i>Wal-mart</i>	David Jordan <i>Clayton Homes</i>	Bob Sullivan <i>BankEast</i>
Judith Craw <i>Marriott International, Inc.</i>	Nick Karvelas <i>FED EX</i>	Stephanie Thompson <i>Maryville City Schools</i>
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Jackie Crumpton <i>JC Penny</i>	Mark Loudermilk <i>Foothills Bank and Trust</i>	Joan Van Sickle Sloan <i>Blount County Public Library</i>
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Tom Eustis <i>Community Volunteer</i>	Denny Mayes <i>Farm Bureau of Blount County</i>	Kathy Yeazel <i>Target</i>
Mike Floyd <i>Kroger</i>	Brett McBreyer <i>Alcoa Inc.</i>	
Carolyn Forster <i>Community Volunteer</i>	Greg McClain <i>City of Maryville</i>	
Fred Forster <i>Chamber of Commerce</i>	Adriel McCord <i>SunTrust</i>	
Roy Gallaher <i>Gallaher and Associates</i>	Sandra McNeillie <i>Home Federal Bank</i>	
Dr. Gerald Gibson <i>Maryville College</i>	Kathleen Metts <i>Impact Associates</i>	
Ron German <i>East Tennessee Medical Group</i>	Virgil Metts <i>Impact Associates</i>	
Don Gibson <i>Smith Funeral & Cremation Ser.</i>	Doug Myers <i>Steelworkers 309</i>	
Bunker Handy <i>Belk</i>	Jack Neithammer <i>Marriott International, Inc.</i>	
Virginia Hardwick <i>Staffing Solutions</i>	Kevin Painter <i>LeConte Wealth Management</i>	





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Aaron Killian, Coordinator of Communications and Marketing

Jessica Wallace, Associate of Community Impact

Tony Teffeteller, Receptionist

United Way of Blount County

1615 E. Broadway

Maryville, TN 37804

Phone: 865-982-2251

Fax: 865-981-4084

www.LiveUnitedBlount.org

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