

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Thursday, November 29th

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UNITED WAY SHARES RESOURCES DURING GATLINBURG WILDFIRES

United Way of Blount County is deeply saddened by the wildfires in Gatlinburg and surrounding areas. People and families have lost their homes, their belongings, their workplaces and so much more. Here at United Way of Blount County, our goal is to connect people with the necessary resources, and we have outlined a number of information pieces below.

I NEED HELP.

Need help? Dial 2-1-1. 2-1-1 is a free and confidential multilingual information and referral service that connects people in need with a full range of services.

There are a [number of evacuation centers open for evacuees and pets.](#)

TELL PEOPLE YOU ARE SAFE.

Disaster victims and their families can [register on the American Red Cross website to find each other.](#) Facebook [has also activated its safety check feature](#) for the fires.

HOW CAN I HELP?

DONATE. The American Red Cross is accepting donations for evacuees and first responders to the Sevier County fire. They are also accepting donations at the Pigeon Forge Fire Hall Station 1 at 3229 Rena Street in Pigeon Forge. The Red Cross is not looking for untrained volunteers, but is accepting monetary donations. People can make a \$10 donation by texting "REDCROSS" to 90999.

SUPPLIES NEEDED. Water, Gatorade, protein bars, basic toiletry items, diapers, wipes, blankets, AA batteries, chapstick, small tissue packs, large blister bandages, dog food and kennels.

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS.

- United Way of Blount County
- Foothills Bank & Trust (also collecting monetary donations for displaced families)
- Townsend Visitors Center
- Blount Partnership
- Blount County Sheriff's Office (front parking lot of the Justice Center)

VOLUNTEER. Volunteer East Tennessee is connecting volunteers to volunteer needs in response to the Sevier County fires. Visit <https://www.volunteere tn.org/DisasterRecovery> to see how you can best support our region's recovery efforts.

United Way fights for the health, education and self-sufficiency of every person in Blount County. For more information, please call us at 865-982-2251, or visit our website at www.liveunitedblount.org.

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