



Big Hearts...

One of my favorite holiday cartoons is the Dr. Seuss classic, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." I love the part where the Grinch's tiny heart expands as he thinks about the Whos down in Whoville who still clasp hands and sing on Christmas morning, even though all their presents have been whisked away by the Grinch.

"Well, in Whoville they say - that the Grinch's small heart grew three sizes that day. And then - the true meaning of Christmas came through, and the Grinch found the strength of ten Grinches, plus two!"

There are many who believe that those with big hearts suffer the most, and perhaps there is some truth to this. A capacity for compassion means that when we see another person in distress, we also feel pain ourselves. And when we open our eyes, there are plenty of people, both in our community and beyond, who are in great distress. William Butler Yeats, Irish poet and Nobel Laureate, said it well, "Too many things are occurring for even a big heart to hold."

Yes, having a big heart can be excruciating at times. But it is not a weakness. Our hearts lead us to do what is good and right. They link us to others who face difficult circumstances and need the support of people who care. They remind us of what it means to be truly human.



United Way depends on people with big hearts. We need you to help us continue to improve the lives of vulnerable people in our community. And there are many of you out there! I've loved watching how we have all come together this past year to make a difference. Whether it is through volunteering for Day of Caring, Day of Action, or one of our funding panels, learning how to serve nonprofits through our Rising Leaders training, or making a meaningful financial gift, thousands of Henderson County residents with big hearts have shown up to help strengthen our community for everyone.



Last year, over 30,000 of our neighbors in Henderson County saw their lives improve for the better because of people like you. **As the year draws to a close, I invite you to make a financial gift to United Way of Henderson County so that we can have an even larger impact in our community next year.** Simply click the donate button or [this link](#) to donate through our secure online portal. Or you can call us at 828.692.1636 to make your donation over the phone.

When we all come together and pool our efforts and resources, our power is huge. We have the strength of "ten Grinches, plus two!" This is what it means to be people with big hearts. And this is what it means to LIVE UNITED!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Denise Cumbee Long'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise Cumbee Long
Executive Director