



United Way
of Henderson County

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



THANK YOU

United Way of Henderson County (UWHC) has served our community since 1953, and we are committed to serving our Henderson County neighbors for decades to come. Our mission is to organize and mobilize community resources to improve the lives of Henderson County residents, and that's what we do best.

Each year, we help provide over 40,000 local services to Henderson County neighbors in need. Thanks to our strong partnerships, volunteers, and donations from supporters like you, we are proud to say that for every dollar raised, we invest the value of over a dollar back into our community.

Whether it is through our Community Investment Fund that supports 25 local nonprofits, our Food Pantry funding that supports 13 local food pantries, or our Hurricane Helene Response funding that has awarded 30 local grants to support Helene recovery, we are providing essential support to local agencies providing critical services to our community every day.

And, while funding is a big part of what we do, there is so much more to our work. Our Girls EMpowered program has expanded to 8 locations, our Rising Leaders program is in its 15th year, and our EveryDay Strong program is growing throughout the region.

When Helene struck, we were called to serve at an even higher capacity. In October alone, we connected over 1,500 volunteers to support Helene response and recovery. We have been working diligently behind the scenes to provide critical funding, supplies, and volunteers to support our community. Most recently, UWHC has been the driving force behind the creation of our new program, the Disaster Recovery Partnership, which connects more than 50 agencies working collaboratively to address the Helene recovery needs that our community continues to face.

From immediate response to long-term recovery, we are working every day to help rebuild Henderson County and to make our community stronger. We are committed to continuing to build upon our 70+ years of service to create positive change for decades to come. It will take all of us, working together, to lift up Henderson County, and all of that is made possible because of people like you.

With gratitude,



Kat Carlton
Executive Director



OUR MISSION



To organize and mobilize community resources to improve lives of Henderson County residents.

Scan here for a full list of our
Board of Directors and UWHC Staff:



OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT

This past year, United Way of Henderson County's overall impact to the community is valued at

\$4,260,632

Other Grants &
Donor Designations

\$1,035,124

INCLUDES GEM, FOOD PANTRY +
RESCUE SQUAD GRANTS, AND
DISASTER RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP

INCLUDES HURRICANE
HELENE RESPONSE,
NC211, BIKE FOR KIDS,
AND DAYS OF CARING

Initiatives & Programs

\$2,119,452

Grant Allocations

\$352,000

COMMUNITY
INVESTMENT GRANT
FUNDING

Gift In-kind & Non-Cash
Resources

\$754,057

INCLUDES FOOD DRIVE, HELENE
SUPPLIES, AND VOLUNTEER HOURS

***For every dollar raised, we invest the value of over
a dollar back into improving our community.***

YOUR INVESTMENT IN ACTION



Thanks to supporters like you, we are able to help ensure residents have access to healthy foods, crisis support, educational opportunities, mental health support, affordable housing, and so much more.

FUNDED COMMUNITY PARTNERS

United Way of Henderson County supports 42 programs at 25 local nonprofits through our Community Investment Grants and 13 local food pantries through our Food Pantry Grants



BASIC NEEDS

- Calvary Episcopal Church Food Pantry
- Children & Family Resource Center
- Henderson County Rescue Squad
- Interfaith Assistance Ministry
- MANNA FoodBank
- Medical Loan Closet
- Mountain Aging Partners
- Pisgah Legal Services
- Safelight
- The Free Clinics
- The Mediation Center
- Thrive



HEALTH

- Aspire Youth & Family, Inc.
- Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC
- Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County
- Children & Family Resource Center
- Crossnore Communities for Children
- Hope Coalition
- MANNA FoodBank
- St. Gerard Center for Autism
- The Free Clinics



FINANCIAL STABILITY

- Habitat for Humanity
- Housing Assistance Corporation
- Literacy Connection
- OnTrack Financial Education and Counseling
- Pisgah Legal Services
- Safelight
- Thrive
- WNC Source



EDUCATION

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC
- Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County
- Children & Family Resource Center
- Smart Start Partnership for Children

FOOD PANTRIES

- Back On Track Addiction Ministry
- Caja Solidaria
- Calvary Episcopal Church Food Pantry
- Community Food Pantry in Edneyville
- East Flat Rock First Baptist Church
- Hola Carolina
- Interfaith Assistance Ministry
- Love's Kitchen
- Only Hope WNC
- Pan De Vida
- The Salvation Army
- The Storehouse
- Welcome Table

BASIC NEEDS

BASIC NEEDS & CRISIS SERVICES

We are working to provide essential services and resources to residents in crisis.



12 AGENCIES OPERATING 14 PROGRAMS
HELPED 19,613 INDIVIDUALS

813 Henderson County seniors citizens received essential services and resources



2,888

people received free, healthy food through local food pantries

HEALTH

HEALTHY YOUTH BEHAVIORS

We are working to decrease risky and harmful behaviors including substance abuse among middle and high school youth.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & NUTRITION

We are working to improve the level of physical activity and nutrition for children and adults.



United Way is committed to uplifting our local youth and clearing a path for them to reach their fullest potential. Breanne was referred to **Big Brothers Big Sisters WNC** for risky behaviors. Her life transformed when matched with Big Sister Jessica, who introduced her to new experiences and healthy outlets. This mentorship helped Breanne gain confidence, learn responsibility, and set goals. **Now, she has a job, excels in school, and is making positive choices for a brighter future, demonstrating the impactful nature of mentorship.**

Helping improve the health and nutrition of

19,552

Henderson County residents

11 AGENCIES OPERATING 11 PROGRAMS

EDUCATION

SCHOOL SUCCESS

We are working to improve the school performance of historically underserved student populations.

With support from United Way, Children & Family Resource Center provided free developmental screenings for **617 children** ages 3-5, made appropriate referrals, and provided follow-up intervention and training for children, parents, and childcare providers.

5 AGENCIES SUPPORTING 7 PROGRAMS
HELPED 6,112 FAMILIES

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

We are working to increase the percentage of children who are ready to learn upon entering kindergarten.

4,187

children received free books through Smart Start's Dolly Parton Imagination Library



FINANCIAL STABILITY

ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

We are working to improve the financial stability of individuals and families experiencing economic hardship.

450

individuals received help with housing appeals and wrongful evictions through **Pisgah Legal Services**

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

We are working to increase the number of individuals and families who have affordable, safe, decent housing.

132

households helped through **Housing Assistance Corporation's Home Repair Program**

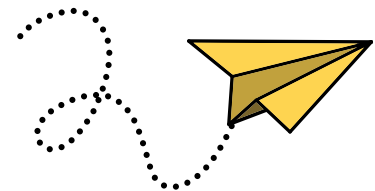


8 AGENCIES OPERATING
11 PROGRAMS HELPED 746 PEOPLE

***Impact numbers are based on data reported from partner agencies 2024-2025 mid-year reports.*



2024 DAY OF ACTION



600
volunteer
hours

On August 1st, over 200 local volunteers came together to contribute a morning of service to Henderson County Public Schools.

United Way's Day of Action has been bringing volunteers to school campuses to work on projects that enhance the school environment before teachers and students begin a new academic year. This year, volunteers worked at HCPS schools to help spread mulch and manage outdoor landscape improvements.

The volunteers included many individuals and families who are invested in their local schools as well as multiple teams of coworkers from local businesses and organizations who choose to support their community. Collectively the volunteers contributed 600 hours of time to help our local schools.



2025 DAYS OF CARING

On May 9th and 10th, 280 volunteers contributed 1,293 hours to support Days of Caring and the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

Since 2014, Days of Caring has been an annual United Way of Henderson County local impact opportunity held the second Friday and Saturday of May.

This annual United Way of Henderson County event helps local nonprofits by completing various projects. This year, 26 projects were hosted by 22 organizations, involving tasks like gardening, painting, and home repairs. Additionally, the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive collected over 39,000 pounds of nonperishable food from residents, benefiting local food pantries.

1,293
volunteer
hours

HURRICANE HELENE

A COMMUNITY UNITED

Since the first week after the storm, United Way of Henderson County (UWHC) has been on the ground rapidly organizing and mobilizing resources to improve the lives of Henderson County residents.

Helene devastated our community. And it also highlighted just how strong, resourceful, and resilient our community is. We are a community united, standing side by side to support each other. We have a lot to be proud of, and a long way to go. It is going to take all of us, working together, to lift up Henderson County.



1,500

volunteers
served disaster
response



6,600

volunteer hours
logged helping
recovery



1,300+

Henderson County neighbors
connected to resources through
2-1-1 or nc211.org within the first
thirty days following the storm.

ORGANIZING AND MOBILIZING



- UWHC served through April at the **Disaster Recovery Center**, Disaster Recovery Fairs, and other community outreach events
- Provided leadership and funding to create the Henderson County **Disaster Recovery Partnership**, connecting over 50 local organizations supporting the long-term recovery of our community

- Created and managed logistics to mobilize over **1,500 volunteers** and over **\$150,000 in supplies**
- Creation of local resources and navigation sites, connecting neighbors and nonprofits with available resources
...and so much more.

\$1,833,432

raised for Helene Response to date



which
includes

\$376,617

in supplies and volunteer hours!



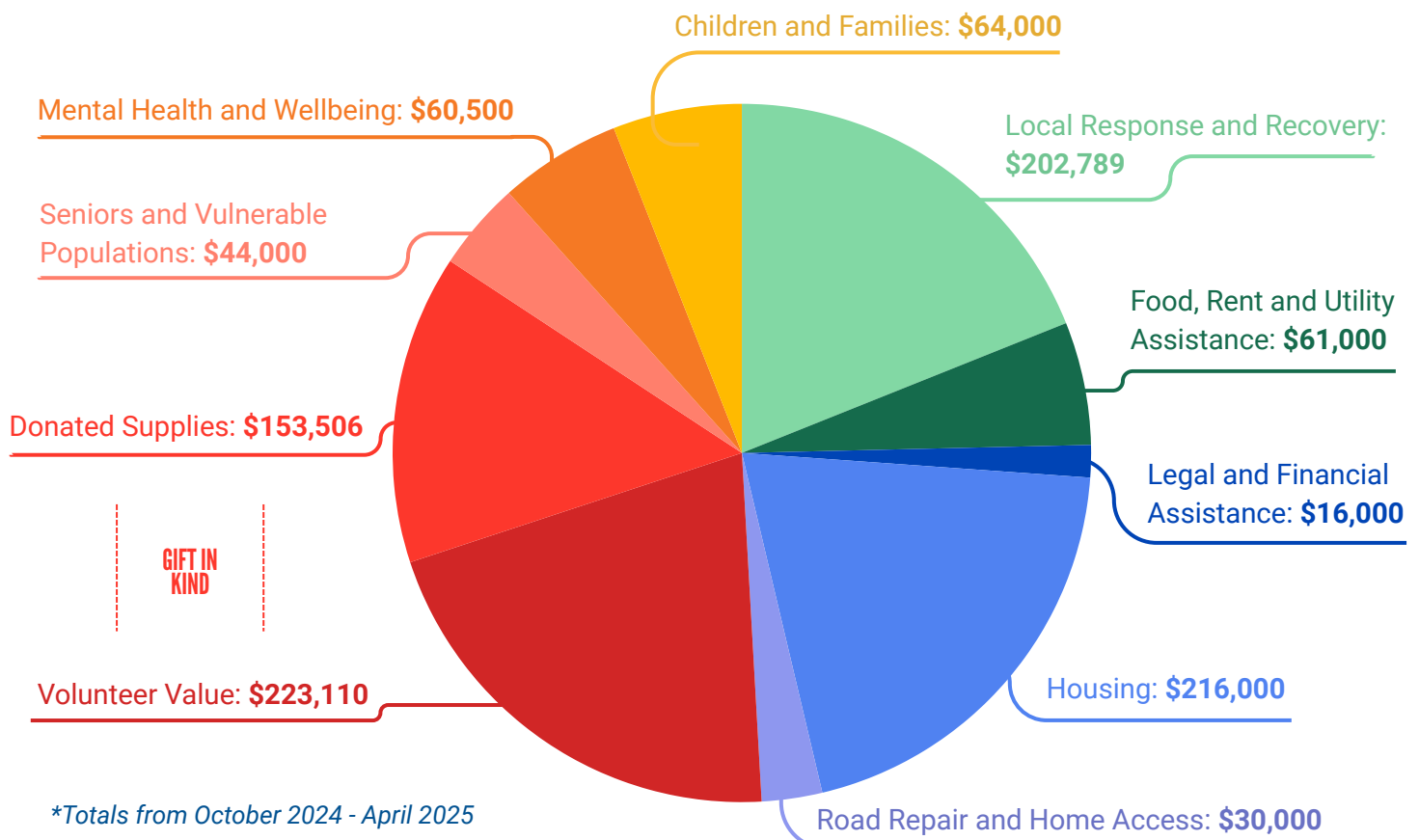
FROM RESPONSE TO RECOVERY

United Way of Henderson County has served our community since 1953 and is here for the long haul. **From immediate response to long term recovery, we are working every day to help rebuild Henderson County and make our community stronger.**

It will take years for Henderson County to recover from Helene's catastrophic flooding and destruction. As of April 2025, we have invested over one million dollars in Helene Response Funding in Henderson County. And our work is not done.

Over the coming months and years we will continue to invest funding and resources to support the recovery of our neighbors. We know it is a long road ahead and our commitment is as strong as ever.

OUR HELENE INVESTMENT IN HENDERSON COUNTY



DISASTER RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP

Our record of strong partnerships, community engagement, accountability, and trust has resulted in the request for UWHC to lead the creation of the Disaster Recovery Partnership (DRP) and serve as the Fiscal Sponsor for this collaborative work.

The Disaster Recovery Partnership is being housed as a program under UWHC while it grows to become a sustainable and scalable community organization. The mission of the DRP is to unite and empower Henderson County communities in the face of disasters by promoting effective information sharing, simplifying access to critical resources for individuals and families, and collaboratively addressing unmet needs.

True to our mission to organize and mobilize community resources, this collective work builds upon local, regional, and national networks of disaster recovery resources to collectively meet the significant Helene recovery needs that our community continues to face. We know that it will take all of us, working together, to recover from Helene.



**DISASTER
RECOVERY
PARTNERSHIP**

EVERYDAY STRONG

EveryDay Strong focuses on training trusted adults, peers, and professionals in evidence-based mental and behavioral health practices to support youth. In 2024, UWHC held its first community class in WNC, attended by 40 nonprofit staff from 15 organizations, with sessions offered in English and Spanish for 35 participants. Partnerships with Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC enabled training for their staff and volunteers, including mentors and Americorps volunteers.



RISING LEADERS

United Way of Henderson County created the Rising Leaders program 15 years ago to help volunteer leaders in Henderson County develop critical skills to effectively serve on nonprofit boards.

After monthly sessions on topics that included nonprofit board basics and governance, legal and financial oversight, and fundraising, sixteen Rising Leaders graduated from the program this year. Graduates ended their time together with a "speed-matching" event that provided a networking opportunity with representatives from 16 local nonprofits.

**Special thanks to our 2024
Rising Leaders Sponsors:**

Advent Health



WNC Bridge Foundation
A PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH



GEM (Girls EMpowered)

Women United began its signature program, Girls EMpowered (GEM), in 2017. GEM is a weekly afterschool program designed to increase confidence and school success for girls in fifth and eighth grades. GEM began in Upward Elementary School and quickly expanded to Hillandale Elementary School and Hendersonville Middle School.

United Way of Henderson County and Women United launched an ambitious 3-year expansion and will ultimately serve 12 locations and up to 900 girls by the end of the expansion period. Throughout the 2024-2025 school year and summer break, GEM served 70 girls across 3 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and the Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County. WU members served as guest speakers, volunteers, mentors, and chaperones. The GEM girls received educational presentations from a variety of women professionals, enjoyed women leadership tours, and received self-care kits and backpacks filled with school supplies.

394 girls empowered since 2017

GEM Schools and Organizations:

- Hillandale Elementary
- Sugarloaf Elementary
- Upward Elementary
- Apple Valley Middle
- Flat Rock Middle
- Hendersonville Middle
- Rugby Middle
- Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County



70

girls served in
GEM in 2024



BIKES FOR KIDS

Partnering with United Way of Henderson County, The Tempo Project's Bikes for Kids initiative is an annual event that provides bicycles and helmets to local families in need during the holiday season. Collaborating with volunteers, local businesses, and community leaders, The Tempo Project has formed a strong alliance focused on making a positive impact. During the 2023 holiday season, over 400 requests were received from local families, highlighting a growing demand. Supported by the community, Bikes for Kids happily distributed 165 bikes to local children last December and is on track to increase that number this year.

The initiative not only brings joy to children, but also promotes physical activity and builds a sense of adventure. Volunteers work tirelessly to ensure each bike is assembled with care and safety in mind, ensuring that every child can ride confidently.

Together, we can inspire more smiles, foster healthier lifestyles, and strengthen the bonds within our community. With ongoing support, The Tempo Project looks forward to making an even greater impact in the coming years, ensuring every child has the opportunity to experience the simple joy of riding a bike.



KIMBERLY-CLARK GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 27th Annual Kimberly-Clark Golf Tournament benefitting United Way was a great day for the 21 teams who assembled to play. This annual event, hosted by Kimberly-Clark, gathers business partners and friends from WNC and all across the southeast to support the health, education, financial stability, and basic needs of all Henderson County residents. We are grateful for our longstanding partnership with Kimberly-Clark and all they do to support our community.



BEARFOOTIN' ART WALK

United Way was represented in the 2024 Bearfootin' Art Walk by Aila, a beautiful bear lovingly created by artist Laura Bell and sponsored by BMW of Asheville. Aila (eye-luh) is an ancient name from Europe and Asia. Depending on its place of origin, it can mean "from the strong place", "noble", "oak tree", or "bringer of light". Aila sold at the Bearfootin' auction and is now adorning the homeplace of a local resident.

WOMEN UNITED

Women United is a growing group of dynamic, passionate, and community-minded women who work together to make a significant impact for good. Women United members enjoy social and networking events, as well as the opportunity to volunteer and give back to the community in a variety of ways together.

This past year, our members gave back by donating books for children in foster care, collecting "HUGS" - Hats, Undies, Gloves and Socks - for local children, granted three \$1,000 mini-grants to programs that support the education and self-sufficiency of women and children in Henderson County, and gathering holiday gifts for children through The Storehouse Blessings in Boxes Program. Learn how to become a member at liveunitedhc.org/women-united.



Special thanks to our 2024 Women United Sponsors:



GEM BACKPACK:  **Kimberly-Clark**

SMALL BUSINESS LEAGUE

The Small Business League (SBL) is made up of locally-owned businesses who believe in supporting the needs of Henderson County neighbors. Participation as an SBL contributor enables business owners to make a greater connection with nonprofit service providers, establish a philanthropic business model, and partner with like-minded local business owners.

League members also support a funding award to a local nonprofit. Funding recipients have included the Hendersonville Rescue Mission, Apple Country Transit, Children and Family Resource Center, Safelight, and Meals on Wheels.



BORN LEARNING TRAIL



The Born Learning Trail is a series of 10 interactive signs that offer fun, active learning for young children. United Way has installed two Born Learning Trails in Henderson County, and they are open all year for children and their parents and caregivers to enjoy. Since March of 2024, both trails have received an update including new colorful signs that are printed in both English and Spanish. You can find our two Born Learning Trails at Mills River Park and along the Oklawaha Greenway in Hendersonville.

Thank you to our Born Learning Trail Sponsor



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 CAMPAIGN SPONSORS

COMMUNITY CHAMPION SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSORS



We deeply appreciate the numerous ways businesses contribute to their communities. Whether through sponsorships, employee donations, volunteering, or gift matching, our local companies certainly know how to extend their impact throughout our local community!



25

event and program
sponsors in 2024



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY



We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Tocqueville Society members of United Way of Henderson County. These philanthropic leaders are making a lasting impact on the community through generous annual contributions of \$10,000 or more.

William C. Beck
Beverly Dillon
Lowry and Anne Hobbs
Marilyn Jentzen
Linda Klein
Barry and Vickie Kilgerman

Chuck and Jean McGrady
John and Doreen McTigue
Darrell Menscer and Faith Baker
Nick and Merrie Carol Weedman
Dirk and Paige Willms

LEGACY CIRCLE

Anonymous (2)
Ruth Birge
Gay Burgess and Joy D. Blazey
James H. Bryson*
John and Judy Hansen
William and Donna Hastie
Vicky Lieber
Normac Humanitarian Fund

Chester W. and Virginia G. Phillips*
Barbara and Yorke Pharr
Patsy Reeves Estate
Norm Rogers
Vina and Richard Sauer*
Everett and Ellen Stone*
Allan and Jean Amanda* Thomas
Elizabeth Warrick*

IN MEMORY OF GIFTS

Cam Boyd
Jeff Bruton
Myrtle Warren Jenkins Johnson Moore
Shirley Netz
Jean Amanda Thomas

IN HONOR OF GIFTS

Denise Cumbee Long

* Deceased

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Community Champion Award

celebrating the highest impact in our community through United Way

Kimberly-Clark

Premier Cornerstone Award

in recognition of the highest overall employee contributions

Wilsonart

Power of Partnership Award

in recognition of outstanding corporate and employee contributions

Cummins

Standing Ovation Award

in recognition of 100% employee participation in a workplace campaign

Dampp-Chaser

Edward C. Brisley Jr. Award

in recognition of outstanding volunteer service to United Way of Henderson County

Kathryn McConnell

Rob and Ginger Cranford Community Service Award

in recognition of outstanding contributions to the people of Henderson County

Elizabeth Willson Moss & Bill Moss

DISASTER RESPONSE AWARDS

Responsive Leadership Award

in honor of exceptional leadership and courage in guiding our community through crisis

Jimmy Brissie

Heart of Community Award

in recognition of selfless service and strong dedication to our community

Stephen Curtis

Voice of the Community Award

in recognition of your strong and compassionate voice that united our community through crisis

Mark Warwick & Paige Posey

Change Maker Award

in recognition of your rapid and impactful community response

First Citizens Bank

Community Cares Award

in recognition of continued dedication to our community

Publix

Live United Award

in recognition of outstanding support and care of our community

Vulcan Materials Co.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Financial Position for FY Ending June 30, 2024

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	436,064
Account receivable	96,432
Pledge receivable, net	324,938
Prepaid expenses	8,612
Beneficial interest in assets held by others	516,783
Life insurance cash surrender value	61,948
Property and equipment, net	160,108
Operating lease right-of-use assets	18,632

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 1,623,517

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities:

Current portion of operating lease liab	5,504
Allocations and designations payable	458,155
Operating payables	15,727
Accrued expenses	14,995

TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES

\$ 494,381

Long-term Liabilities:

Operating lease liab, net current portion	13,128
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TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$ 507,509

Net Assets:

Unrestricted net assets	
Unappropriated	819,353
Board appropriated	240,917
Total net assets	1,060,270
With donor restrictions	55,738
	1,116,008

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$ 1,623,517

Note: The summary above has been extracted from the FYE June 30, 2024 audited financial statements prepared by Prager Metis and primarily reflects the 2023 campaign activity. The accompanying notes are integral to the statements, and the Independent Auditors' Report should be taken in their entirety. The full audit statement along with the 990 are available at liveunitedhc.org.



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