

# Frequently Asked Questions and Myths about United Way



United Way  
of the Blue Mountains

It seems everyone is asking for money. How can you be sure the money you give goes to needed services? Here are a few of the top myths and questions about United Way giving.

## **Does my donation stay here in my community?**

Every dollar you invest in United Way of the Blue Mountains stays in your community (unless you designate otherwise). We believe in taking care of our own and we want to build a thriving community where we all live, work and raise our families.

## **I'm on a tight budget, will the amount I can afford to give make a difference?**

There is strength in numbers. Your investment in United Way makes a huge difference for our community. From \$5 to \$5000, investments in United Way's Community Fund fuel the support for thousands of people in need to help change their lives for the better. Sharing an hour's pay per month, when combined with others' donations, helps countless people in our community.

## **I've heard most of my donation is going to overhead and operating expenses.**

In fact, 84 cents of every donated dollar goes back into the community to support critical programs and services. The BBB Wise Giving Alliance indicates that a charity should spend no more than 35% of related contributions on fundraising. United Way of the Blue Mountains is below this guideline.

## **Aren't United Way programs just handouts and band-aid solutions?**

United Way is dedicated to identifying the greatest needs in the community and investing dollars in those areas. We convene and participate on community coalitions, initiatives and collaboratives to address challenges and build a stronger community. All United Way partner programs and initiatives are evaluated to confirm they're achieving positive results for our community and local people in need. You can read more about our Collective Impact work on our website.

## **I'm never going to need these services so I have no reason to donate.**

When our community thrives, we all thrive. Gifts to United Way help people become self-sufficient members of our community. Your support helps United Way address today's needs and work to reduce dependency on safety net needs in the days ahead. You never know when a family member, neighbor, friend, or even yourself may need or have used the services provided through United Way funding.

## **Does United Way provide any volunteer opportunities?**

Not only are there various opportunities to volunteer with United Way throughout the year, but we are thrilled whenever we have the opportunity to partner with your local business or organization on a project you care about.

## **Nobody gives through their workplace anymore. The United Way model doesn't work.**

In our Blue Mountains region, we partner with numerous companies and campaign coordinators! We are fortunate to have the support of these companies and employees in the Hermiston, Pendleton,

Walla Walla and surrounding area,s and feel honored that they connect with us for their philanthropic giving.

**Isn't United Way just a "middle man"?**

No one agency or organization can make changes alone. For more than 75 years, we've been a trusted leader across the region. Giving to United Way of the Blue Mountains means you are directing much needed dollars towards the root-causes of some of today's and tomorrow's most pressing issues in Health, Education, and Financial Stability. Our trusted and knowledgeable staff and volunteers work with dozens of partners across the community and know how your funds can do the most good for the most people.

**I already have a group of charities I support so I don't need to give to United Way.**

We all have our favorite charities, and United Way can easily direct your donation to yours if you choose. But United Way is your community solutions provider and is uniquely positioned to identify current, under-funded and emerging needs. The needs in our community are larger and more complex than any one agency can meet. We bring stakeholders and groups together to develop and fund targeted solutions in Health, Education, Financial Stability.

**At my workplace I feel like I'm being pressured to give to United Way.**

We believe in education and motivation--United Way hopes people will give because they have come to understand the critical needs of local people and because they feel United Way is one of the most efficient, effective and economical ways to improve people's lives and make our community a better place.