



Celebrating Over 70 Years of Service to the Greater Rockbridge Community!

Annual Report July 1, 2018 - December 31, 2019

Message from the President

I am honored to write this message as President of the United Way of Rockbridge Board. On behalf of the Board, we are grateful for your help as we strive to make our community an even better place to live. As we reflect on our accomplishments and set goals for the future, we focus on our **70-year milestone of community service**. We reflect back to 1949 with a kick-off event held at Lexington High School. Dr. Francis P. Gaines, President of Washington & Lee University was a speaker. The campaign was called "Six in One" – assist six organizations with one donation with a goal of \$20,000.

Fast forward to present day and the UWR focused on 16 agencies with 23 programs or Sixteen in One. From the special anniversary reception hosted by President Will Dudley of Washington & Lee University, to the community celebration at Hopkins Green, our annual fundraising campaign garnered widespread support. The staff, board members, and volunteers worked hard to emphasize the importance of *'Local People Meeting Local Needs'*.

Our strength is in the partnerships we build. UWR reached out to area citizens, nonprofit organizations, government representatives, local school systems, colleges and universities, large and small businesses, and local professionals to tackle the issues that matter the most. In our mission, UWR focuses on three specific areas: youth literacy and families, safety net, and special needs which is reflected in our grant delivery. Since education is the cornerstone of individual and community success, the Community Impact committee emphasizes early childhood reading. Last fall, the UWR Community Book Drive collected 1,879 new and gently used books to distribute to children through 10 organizations. The annual "A Day in K" event welcomed preschool children and their families as an introduction to kindergarten. This collaborative effort involved the three area public school districts along with Southern Virginia University, Virginia Military Institute, and Washington & Lee University. We thank the many volunteers for their expertise and enthusiasm!

Grants from the Ellen Charske Bequest were selected to recognize Ms. Charske's love of this community. The UWR Board funded one-time special projects or programs for three area non-profits, Blue Ridge CASA for Children, Boxerwood Education Association, and the Rockbridge Area Relief Association. We are planning more special one-time grant opportunities going forward.

Thank you again for your interest and support of United Way of Rockbridge. Please take time to read about our community happenings and accomplishments.

Janet D. Lemmer,
UWR Board President

2018-2019 Corporate and Business Donors

The United Way of Rockbridge extends special recognition and thanks to the generous donors who supported us during our 2018-2019 Annual Campaign. Contributions from individuals, small business leaders, corporate partners, and Generals Club donors provided much needed support to programs in 16 agencies delivering services to local residents.

-LOCAL PEOPLE MEETING LOCAL NEEDS-

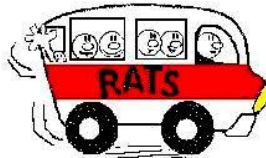
Local Corporate Partner Employees *Pace Setters – Five Greatest Donors	Small Business Stars Giving \$250 or More	
Atlantic Union Bank Carilion Stonewall Jackson Hospital Carter Bank City National Bank Colonial Group Columbia Gas Dupont Credit Union Enterprise Hershey IBM Retirees Kroger* Lee Hi and White’s Truck Stop* Liberty Mutual Modine* Mohawk* Nationwide Price Waterhouse Pitney Bowes SunTrust/BB&T WalMart Washington and Lee University* Wells Fargo	Campbell Insurance CornerStone Bank Devil’s Backbone Jefferson Florist H & J Tire Kendal at Lexington William McClung, PC Natkin and Crickenberger, PC State Farm – Trey Tilson Welsh Construction	
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Small Business Members		
	Ab Hammond CAPTRUST Hamrick and Sheridan JD Electric Lexington Prescription Center Kirchner and Associates Architecture Lexington Eye Care Niko’s Grille Papagallo R. E. Lee Properties Rockbridge Auto Parts Rockbridge Vineyard Skin is In Townside Gardens	

Agencies Supported by United Way of Rockbridge 2018-2019



Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc.

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY SERVING THE SHENANDOAH AND ROANOKE VALLEYS OF VIRGINIA



[Rockbridge Area Transportation System]



[Boxerwood Education Association]



The Community Table
FOR THE ROCKBRIDGE AREA

ALSO:

- Campus Kitchen at W&L
- The Coffee House of Rockbridge
- Natural Bridge/Glasgow Food Pantry
- Rockbridge Reads! - United Way of Rockbridge

2018-2019 Grant Funding

The United Way of Rockbridge funds programs and projects to address specific and targeted areas of need in the community. These brief summaries give a glimpse of how donations were distributed.

❖ **Total Funding Provided by UWR 2018-2019 - \$272,516**

Blue Ridge CASA for Children - \$8,000 – Blue Ridge CASA successfully advocates for children who have been victims of abuse and neglect. They do so by recruiting, selecting, training and supervising volunteers to advocate for children age's birth to 18 years living in households under the poverty and/or ALICE threshold. During the 2019 calendar year, CASA advocated for the well-being of 11 children with 7 trained volunteer advocates.

Blue Ridge Legal Services - \$12,500 - UWR funding helps to cover a portion of the cost of providing free legal assistance. Overall, BRLS obtained 212 outcomes for 213 clients benefiting 525 low-income people in the community. They recovered \$66,388 in lump sum benefits for these clients while avoiding over \$58,606 in claims and liabilities against them. In the 42 cases involving on-going representation, they successfully achieved their clients' goals in 90% and partially achieved them in the remaining 10%. 77 cases were for families with children ages preschool to 3rd grade.

Campus Kitchen at W&L - In 2019 Campus Kitchen partnered with RARA, the largest not-for-profit organization alleviating hunger and addressing poverty in the Rockbridge area, to re-imagine the Mobile Food Pantry and make deliveries more efficient.

- **Backpack Program - \$1,500** - The Campus Kitchen Backpack Program provided weekly after school snacks to about 771 pre-K and elementary school students on the free or reduced lunch program in Rockbridge County. Backpacks contain 5-7 snack and meal items for each student and delivered to the schools in preparation for the weekend.
- **Mobile Food Pantry - \$3,000** - To alleviate some issues regarding food access in our county, the Campus Kitchen Mobile Food Pantry program distributed to 100 households consisting of around 30 children, 75 adults and 90 elderly per month in Goshen, Buena Vista, Natural Bridge Station, Lexington House and Windemere Apartments.

Coffee House of Rockbridge - \$1,000 – On a monthly basis the Coffee House of Rockbridge provided monthly evenings of entertainment, snacks/meal, social interaction, and networking for individuals with developmental, cognitive and physical disabilities for ages 16 and older. The Coffeehouse averages 57 participants. 10 to 12 volunteers assist at each monthly event; three of the events are funded by UWR.

Community Table - \$5,000 – The Community Table provided 'meals without a cash register' where guests can enjoy a high-quality, nutritious meal, in a dignified dining environment one evening and lunch per week. Having experienced a steady increase in the number of younger children attending meals, they instituted a series of childhood nutrition education events. This affords the opportunity to introduce children to new and different foods and tastes and provides them with the social etiquette skills to be confident in the cafeteria and dining setting of school. The Community Table served 8212 meals during 2019.

Natural Bridge/Glasgow Food Pantry - \$3,000 - NB/GFP serves qualifying households in the southern Rockbridge County communities of Natural Bridge, Natural Bridge Station, Arnold's Valley, Fancy Hill, Plank Road and Glasgow within an estimated 15-25 mile radius of the Glasgow facility. The NB/GFP delivered food boxes that fed an average of 500 individuals per week in 2019. Due to increased funding, the food pantry also was able to install new commercial doors to facilitate the unloading of large pallets of USDA food from the Verona food bank.

Rockbridge Area Health Center - \$20,000 - UWR helped fund the RAHC In-School Dental Program which provided oral health services to area schools, pre-schools, and Head Start programs. These services included exams, x-rays, fluoride treatments, sealants and most importantly oral health education. The dental team visited each location two times during the school year.

Rockbridge Area Relief Association - \$38,000 – UWR provided funding for the Food Pantry and the HELPLine at RARA.

- **FOOD PANTRY** - Provides quality, healthy food to area residents who are living at 200% of poverty level or below with a goal to increase food distribution by 50% (to 300 tons per year) by the end of 2020. RARA partners with other local agencies in an effort to fight food insecurity in Rockbridge County while incorporating “Flavor” into the Food Pantry to promote tasty, nutritious food. They recently implemented a new Senior Food Box program to address the growing problem of senior hunger and encouraged local gardeners to “grow an extra row” for the Food Pantry. Since several other food pantries have opened, RARA has helped to create and coordinate the Rockbridge Hunger Coalition.
- **HELPLine** - Provides financial assistance with utilities, heating fuel, rent, shelter, and transportation to area residents who are living at 200% of poverty or below. They also provide screening assistance for the local churches and serve as the EnergyShare agency for Rockbridge County. The HELPLine offers a lifeline to ensure warm, safe shelter by preventing evictions and utility cutoffs.

Rockbridge Area Transportation System - \$6,000 - Dialysis patients need to go to treatment 3 days each week, 52 weeks per year. For private paying individuals, the cost for transportation is too much. UWR funds RAT’s free rides for Dialysis patients. Overall, RATS provided 27,018 one-way trips during the past year and they continue to look for partnerships within the community with other local agencies to provide much needed transportation.

Rockbridge Regional Library

- **Pre-K Kits - \$2,100** - RRL created and distributed “Get Ready for Kindergarten” kits to over 200 five-year-old children across the service area. The kits included activities designed for parents and children to help children develop the skills needed to succeed in school. RRL was able to distribute more kits by connecting with area preschools, who gave the kits to rising kindergartners at May graduations.
- **Youth Literacy - \$5,000** - RRL has partnered with Rockbridge County and Lexington City schools since 1992 to provide a Youth Literacy program. School staff refer students to the program and match them with reading tutors/mentors who are trained through the Youth Literacy program. Volunteers commit to serving students for an academic year, helping them develop the functional reading skills that increase their chances of moving on to middle school, on to high school graduation, and on to better paying jobs that sustain households. This past year 64 reading tutors/mentors served 74 students.

Talking Book Center - \$2,000 – The new full time TBC Supervisor is expanding programming for the visually impaired. Last May, TBC was recognized with the National Library Service Sub-regional Library of the Year award for 2018. 2019 saw the start of the TBC book club and summer reading challenge. Many patrons took advantage of the book clubs held at the local Rockbridge Regional Library and utilized TBC for not only a copy of the discussed book, but time and location of the book club event which was delivered to the TBC patrons in a user-friendly format. TBC works together with the Rockbridge Regional Library Bookmobile for outreach.

Valley Program for Aging Services - UWR funded four programs at VPAS during the 2018-2019 year.

- **Pilot program/A Matter of Balance - \$2,500** - 27 Rockbridge County residents participated in Matter of Balance classes in Rockbridge Baths and Steeles Tavern. New Tai Chi for Arthritis and A Matter of Balance classes were planned for Maury River Senior Center this spring but were postponed due to COVID-19.
- **Pilot program/Dementia Education - \$1,000** - Over 225 people attended the 18 sessions offered on Dementia Education.

- **Medicare Counseling - \$9,000** - 158 Buena Vista residents, 67 Lexington residents, and 336 Rockbridge County residents received Medicare Insurance Counseling. By understanding their most cost-effective options for prescription drug plans, local residents who received Medicare Insurance Counseling saved \$81,736 in medication expenses in 2019. United Way funding provided counseling for 109 individuals.
- **Meals on Wheels - \$4,000** - 57 Buena Vista residents, 17 Lexington residents, and 27 Rockbridge County residents (unduplicated individuals) received Meals on Wheels. 18,912 meals were served to 101 residents In FY 2018-2019. VPAS collects information annually from a survey and 89% clients report being able to remain independent in their home with the assistance of Meals on Wheels. Meals are delivered hot and freshly cooked. The food delivery also serves as a wellness check for residents.

Yellow Brick Road Early Learning Center - \$35,000 - UWR's funds supported scholarships that YBR provides to families who are otherwise unable to afford such an exceptional early childhood education. YBR was able to provide child care for 82 families, 31 from Lexington and 51 from Rockbridge County during the 2018-2019 school year with scholarship assistance to 37 families in need. Due to the lack of special needs pre-school classrooms in the area, YBR has also been able to offer childcare for 3 children in foster care and 9 children with special needs.

YMCA of Rockbridge - \$13,450 - Funding by the UWR enabled the YMCA to hold an After School Care program at Central, Enderly Heights, and Waddell Elementary Schools, enrichment at Fairfield Elementary School, Fun Fridays at Natural Bridge Elementary, and Summer Camp. The YMCA is now serving students at every elementary school in the Rockbridge Area. Approximately 180 students each week receive services from the YMCA. The YMCA also benefits from the UWR Book Drive and receives books for children.

UWR Community Impact - Rockbridge Reads! - Is United Way of Rockbridge's own collective impact program. UWR works with families, schools, and other organizations in the community to develop activities that promote early childhood literacy.

- **Project – A Day in K - \$3,192** – To prepare Pre-K children for the new experience of school, the fourth annual “A Day in K” event was held at Hull’s Drive-in last April. Children and their families were invited to see an original video on Kindergarten, watched movies, and participated in multiple activities. Children were able to experience the library’s book mobile, a school bus, and become acquainted with local fire and police. Every rising Kindergarten received a bag of school supplies, learning activities and a new reading book.
- **Project – Christmas Basket Books - \$2,000** – Coordinated by Rene’ and Bob Glidden with the generosity of several donors, UWR provided a new, age appropriate book to each child through the Rockbridge Christmas Basket program.
- **Project – For the Love of Books! - \$10,305** – Coordinated by Anna Lisa Fitzgerald at Books & Co...Toys Too! with the generosity of several donors, a new book has been provided to each first and second grade child at the end of the school year.

Other Designated - \$44,969 – Specifically designated donations received and distributed to non-profits not currently funded by the UWR allocation grant process.

SPECIAL GRANTS - FROM THE ELLEN CHARSKÉ BEQUEST

Rockbridge Area Relief Association - \$18,000 toward the purchase of a new truck

Boxerwood Education Association - \$18,000 toward the completion of a new lodge roof

Blue Ridge CASA for Children - \$4,000 to provide a Child Trauma-informed Court System Program

Kudos to our Community Volunteers



Without our volunteers, the United Way of Rockbridge could not succeed; they fill a gap our tiny staff would be unable to achieve. We offer this very special **SHOUT OUT** to our many community helpers.

- **Betsy and Lai Lee** for their guidance with meeting facilitation and strategic planning.
- **Pat Cleaveland and Pat Thomas** who donate their time and money to buy and distribute books for the Rockbridge Lexington Health Department and the Rockbridge Area Health Center.
- **Lisa Clark, Jon Ellestad, Lauren Fauber, Sherry Higgins, Tracy Hinty, Josh Iddings, Kim Kearney, Tim Martino, Haley Sigler, Rebecca Walters, Kelly Fujiwara and Janet Lemmer** for organizing, coordinating and assisting the 'A Day in K' event.
- Our 2019 Community Children's Book Drive, annual campaign kick-off event drop off locations – **Books & Co...Toys Too!, The Bookery, Cattlemen's Market, CornerStone Bank, Maury River Senior Center, Rockbridge County 4-H, Rockbridge Regional Libraries, Spencer Home Center, Spirit Horse Shenandoah, Sweet Treats Bakery, and the YMCA**. Over 1800 Books were collected and distributed at RARA, The Community Table, RAHC Dental Clinic in Buena Vista, the Rockbridge Area Health Center, Rockbridge County preschools, The Village, and the YMCA's elementary schools' After School Enrichment Programs. Thanks also to **Andrew Lemmer** who assisted with the distribution of books.
- Our Book Elves **Rene' and Bob Glidden**, for their fundraising and purchase of 1,000 childrens' books to fill the Christmas Baskets, and **Tracey Riley** who assisted with book sorting.
- **Kelly Fujiwara** for the planning and coordination of the beautiful UWR 70th Anniversary Generals Club reception at W&L, with President Will Dudley.
- Our Allocation Community Reviewers who volunteer to visit an applicant agency, review their proposal for requested funding, then present a completed report to the Allocations Committee. Community Reviewers in 2019 were **Andy Briggs, Ruth Candler, Kelly Fujiwara, Carole Elmore, Bob Glidden, Maggie Shapiro Haskett, Ann Hopkins, Farris Hotchkiss, Greg Lemmer, Sue LaRue, Tracy Lyons, Rissie Murphy, Karen and Mike Pleva, Alysan Raymond, BreAnne Rogers, Joanne Robblee, Barbara Rowe, Frank Settle, David Wade, Margaret Ann Whittington, Sally Wiant, and Jerry VanBrocklin**.

2018-2019 Memory Gallery



Christmas Basket book elves



Rockbridge Regional Library Story Time



Line dancing at a fun Coffee House event



Rockbridge Area Relief Association Charske Grant Recipient



Community Table staff preparing a scrumptious dinner



Catching up with the YMCA at our Annual Meeting



Greeting a rising kindergarten student at 'A Day in K'



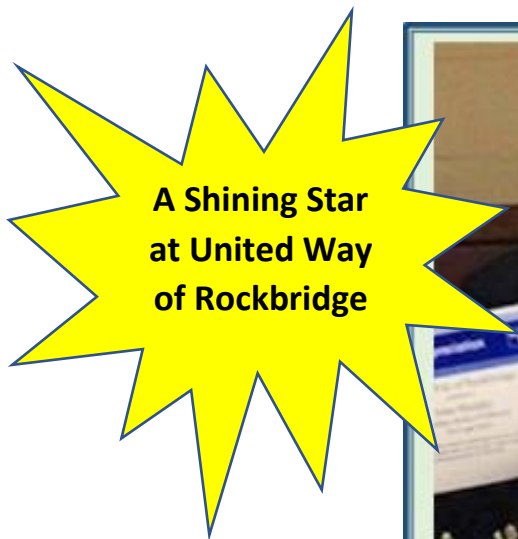
Blue Ridge CASA for Children Charske Grant Recipient



W&L President Will Dudley greets the Generals Club



Boxerwood Education Association Charske Grant Recipient



We pay special tribute to our former Board President and volunteer extraordinaire,

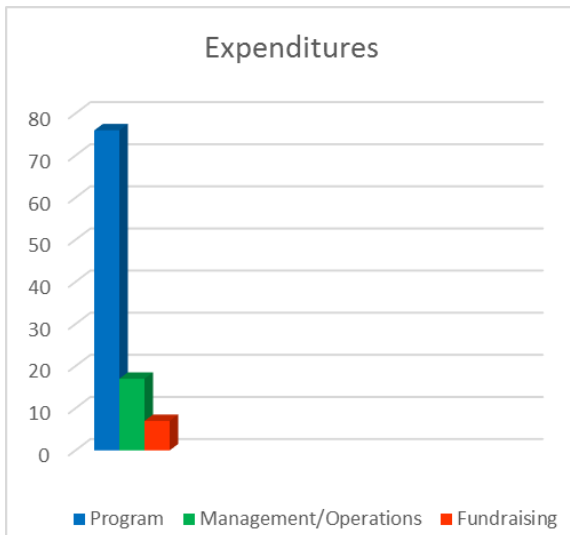
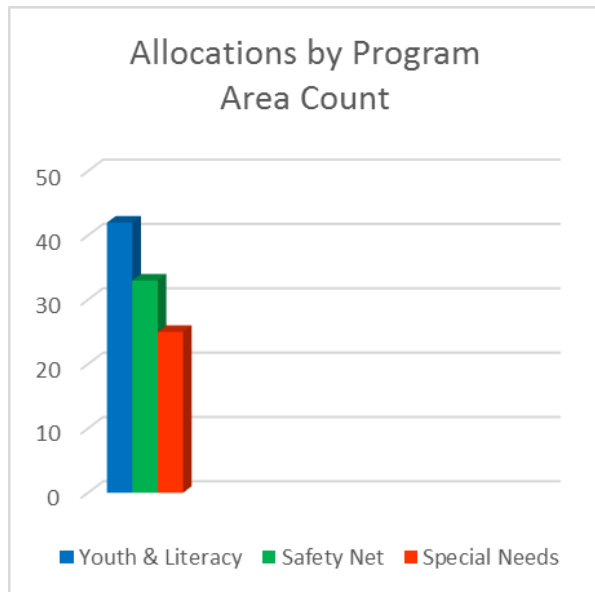
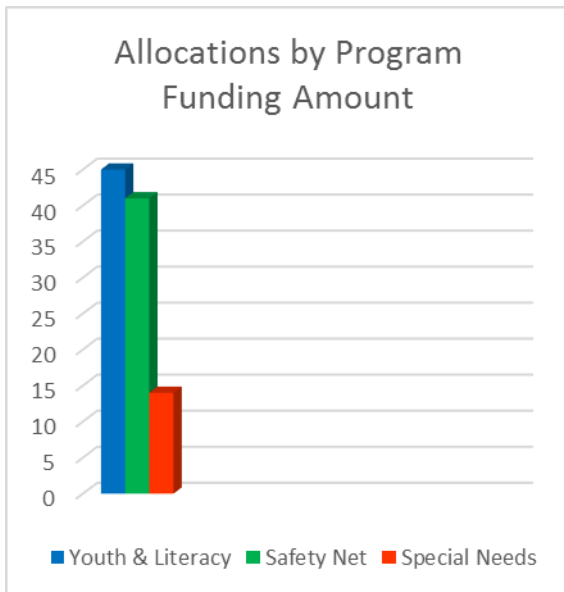
John F.X. Murphy

who passed away March 28, 2019.

We miss John's good humor but remain mindful of his unflinching persistence in advocating for the underserved.

Financial Report

Certified Public Accountants, Raetz and Hawkins, P.C. performed an annual review of United Way of Rockbridge which included the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2019 and 2018, the related statements of activities, cash flows and functional expenses for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. This review included primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of company management. Based on Raetz and Hawkins' review, the Board of Directors of the United Way of Rockbridge was notified on October 18, 2019 that there is no awareness of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



To offer greater transparency, and to minimize the number of pages in this Annual Report, the complete results of the financial review are posted at:

[United Way of Rockbridge Financial Information](#)

Board Members FY18-19

Janet Lemmer, President
Paul Robblee, Vice President
Lynwood Dent, Secretary
Debbie Pollard, Treasurer

Malcolm Brownlee
Holt Merchant
John Murphy (Deceased 2019)
George Pryde
Dale Raymond
Frank Settle
Christian Worth

Patte Wood, Executive Director
Wenle Mu, W&L Work Study Student

Allocations Committee

Holt Merchant – Chair
Malcolm Brownlee
Paul Robblee
Joe Skovira – Community member
Mike Smitka - Community member

Find biographies of Board members at
www.uwrockbridge.org

Audit Committee

Paul Robblee - Chair
Janet Lemmer
Dale Raymond

Finance Committee

Debbie Pollard – Chair
Dale Raymond
David Zwart – Community member

Governance Committee

Paul Robblee – Chair
Janet Lemmer
Holt Merchant
John Murphy
Christian Worth

Community Volunteers

Pat Cleaveland and Pat Thomas
Carroll Comstock
Carole Elmore
Kelly Fujiwara
Rene' and Bob Glidden
Barbara Rowe