



Our 2021 -22 Goal:
\$1,000,000.00

Together we stand United to create strong communities made up of healthy children and families, thriving economic conditions, and good education options.

THANK YOU SOUTH GEORGIA!!

UPCOMING DATES FOR 2021:

A Night To Unite Dinner
August 19, 2021

ACCC Taste of Georgia
August 24, 2021

Mental Health Awareness Night
(Downtown Valdosta)
September 16, 2021

Day of Caring - October 15, 2021

6th Annual Charity Golf Tournament
November 16, 2021

New Year's Eve Party - December 31, 2021

Greater Valdosta United Way has had a busy summer so far. From barbeques to break-ins, and the return of an intern; there has not been a dull moment.

We kicked off our summer by wrapping up a successful 2021 Campaign which allowed us to allocate \$600,000 to our 20 local partner agencies. In addition to the allocations we have given \$31,250 through our Bruce Williams Impact Grant this year. The funds were used to help ACTO obtain a new computer, kayaks for the Boys and Girls Club, a hospital lift and bed for LARC, furniture for LAMP, and summer camps for Jacob's Ladder, just to name a few.

In May we had the return of intern Chesley Wetherington from Valwood and our annual Teriyaki Chicken sale. This year the sale was a two day event. The first day we sold plates at the courthouse in Downtown Valdosta for their Brown Bag Lunch event that we were a sponsor for. The next day was a drive through event at our office where anyone who prepurchased a ticket could pick up their to-go plates. We prepared over 700 plates, raising \$8,424 along the way and had a blast doing so.



This May, we also observed Mental Health Awareness month, launching a summer-long mental health campaign. Greater Valdosta United Way was awarded a \$100,000 Mental Health grant from Resilient Georgia, and we are putting those funds to good use. The GVUW hosted Lunch and Learn events to help community groups to recognize and cope with mental stressors, such as Compassion Fatigue. GVUW sponsored mental health trainings with the Valdosta Firefighters, The Haven, Children's Advocacy Center, Boys and Girls Club, and Lowndes County Government. This Mental Health Initiative covers seven South Georgia counties.



MENTAL HEALTH (NOT MENTAL ILLNESS)

IT'S **OKAY TO SAY** YOU'RE NOT OKAY.



We also partnered with Georgia Power and CBC Bank to host capacity building trainings through the JW Fanning Institute for Leadership Development at the University of Georgia. These trainings were designed to help nonprofits operate their organizations more efficiently.

On June 11th we had a wonderful time assisting the America Red Cross with their blood drive at Guardian Bank, with director Michael Smith donating blood himself. June also brought The United Way office a little makeover. The GVUW employees got together to lay sod around the building. Staff also created a rock garden at the front of the building, displaying the colorful logos of partner agencies, kind affirmations, and dazzling doodles. Intern Chesley got in on the fun, helping to paint rocks and lay sod. These additions have made the office a much livelier and inviting space. The GVUW made additions to the community by constructing new food pantry boxes. We have added two new locations: The City of Hahira, GA and Southside Recreation Center in Valdosta.



Perhaps we made the office too inviting, as we also experienced a break-in! Luckily, nothing was stolen. Thanks to the quick response of the Valdosta Police Department and their K-9 unit the culprit was apprehended onsite.

This summer we have also been lucky to work with our 2022 corporate sponsor Prince Automotive. The GVUW partnered with them at the 3rd Annual Freedom Fest event, during which every test drive equaled a contribution to United Way. We are grateful to have them as partners and we encourage other community partners to help the campaign, so we can recover and grow South Georgia.

