

Think United. Act Local.

2022 COMMUNITY IMPACT





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BUILDING A LEGACY OF GOOD

To Our Community,

Looking back at our second year of the United Community Bank Foundation, we are proud of how our teams have partnered with local nonprofit organizations to make a difference in the communities we serve.

We believe in using our financial expertise to improve the lives of our customers and others that live in our communities. We are eager to partner with other committed community organizations to take action on pressing local needs. We know that, in many ways, banks are a reflection of their communities. Healthy communities and healthy banks go hand in hand. By helping our communities become stronger, we also help build a stronger future for ourselves.

Our strategy with the Foundation is to amplify the efforts of our employees as they volunteer and serve with community organizations. We focus on those organizations which are making an impact in the areas of economic empowerment, housing, youth development, and inspiration through the arts. In 2022, the Foundation supported nearly 200 organizations where our United team members volunteer.

One example of Foundation activities this year was our partnership with Habitat for Humanity affiliates in cities across our footprint. We worked with 15 Habitat affiliates in 15 counties and had over 100 United volunteers work on building homes and supporting the mission of Habitat. They were able to build connections with each other and, more importantly, see the direct impact their work has in the lives of Habitat home recipients.

We are proud to support causes that improve the financial health of the local communities we serve. In total, the Foundation has given nearly \$825,000 in grants since it was founded in 2020. We are excited to continue our mission for years to come.



Lynn Harton

President
United Community Bank Foundation

FOUNDATION OVERVIEW

Serving our communities has always been at the heart of our company and, throughout our history, driven by people with unbelievable passion for others.

Our teammates have always been passionate about making a difference in the communities they live and work in. Through the creation of the United Community Bank Foundation, we can amplify this impact by supporting local organizations that align with employees' individual interests, contributions, and volunteer efforts.

To guide the Foundation's impact, we established four pillars of focus based on employee survey results, representing important issues to our team. These pillars help us deliver on our mission to improve the financial health of the local communities we serve.

Through the Foundation, United can truly support and expand the ongoing work of our team in their local communities. Through the submission of grant applications in the four core areas, employees can request funding to support organizations they care about personally and are also encouraged to get more deeply involved in causes close to home. This year alone, the Foundation supported nearly 200 organizations and awarded 108 grants totaling \$547,000 in donations.

In the following pages, we share stories of our bankers and the organizations we've supported together over the past year. We look forward to continuing to make an impact in the years to come.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Advancing small businesses and financial literacy in local communities

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

Inspiring communities through the arts

HOUSING STRATEGIES

Putting people on a path to homeownership

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Preparing future leaders for success

\$547,000

IN TOTAL DONATIONS

197

ORGANIZATIONS IMPACTED

108

GRANTS AWARDED

to organizations nominated by United team members, totaling \$426,800

5

GOOD DAYS

Grants totaling \$120,500 awarded to 100 organizations

5

STATES IMPACTED

Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

We believe that investing in small businesses in our communities creates better opportunities for everyone to achieve their financial goals.

Small businesses are critical for vibrant communities, and you can see firsthand how SCORE, a resource partner of the US Small Business Administration, has positively impacted Brevard, North Carolina. That's why Brittany Marcum Cohn, Branch Manager, is a big advocate and supporter of the organization that is dedicated to educating entrepreneurs and encouraging the formation, growth, and success of small businesses.

SCORE Western Carolina is on a mission to foster vibrant small business communities and give everyone the support they need to thrive as a small business owner through mentoring and education. The organization provides free and confidential one-on-one business counseling and conducts workshops for both start-up entrepreneurs

and seasoned small business owners.

"As a native of Brevard, it is really cool to see how the city has repositioned itself into a tourist destination and made it a lively place to live. Organizations like SCORE have had a huge impact on local businesses, helping them thrive and keeping the economy going in Brevard," said Brittany.

The Foundation was proud to support SCORE Western Carolina in 2022, knowing that every day, they are working to provide resources for the very businesses that keep our local economy running.



OTHER GRANTS INSPIRING SMALL BUSINESS ADVANCEMENT AND FINANCIAL LITERACY

Girls, Inc.

Marietta, GA

NOMINATED BY: **Bridgette Reynolds**

**Goodwill Industries
Manasota**

Sarasota, FL

NOMINATED BY: **Steve Altier**



ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

We believe in supporting programs that make a difference in our world. The arts are vital to our lives. They unite communities, improve well-being, and strengthen our economy.

Teller Scarlett Brooks gravitated to the Rome Little Theatre when she first moved to the area and was looking for ways to get involved in the community and meet new people.

The Rome Little Theatre is one of the oldest community theatres in the country and has been committed to entertaining, engaging, and educating the Rome community through the practice of theatre arts since 1933.

“Getting involved with the Rome Little Theatre when I first moved to Rome and didn’t know anyone has enabled me to really get in touch with the community and connect with people with similar interests,” Scarlett said.

When Scarlett started to audition and participate in plays, she quickly realized how much the Rome Little Theatre means to the community. Their commitment to furthering the cultural and educational life of the community, presenting amateur theatrical productions, and encouraging interest in drama shines through every production.

“Scarlett was instrumental in bringing the Rome Little Theatre to the attention of the Foundation. As a longtime resident of Rome, it’s been amazing to see her come here and jump right into getting involved in our community and building relationships,” said Jarrod Floyd, Commercial Relationship Manager and Together for Good council member.

The Theatre’s work is made possible by volunteers, members, donors, and patrons. The Foundation is proud to support the Rome Little Theatre and its efforts to bring the Rome community together through artistic expression.

“I feel really grateful that the Rome Little Theatre was selected by the Foundation for support. It has been a blessing in my life, and I’m excited others get to see what it’s all about,” added Scarlett.

**OTHER GRANTS
INSPIRING
ARTISTIC EXPRESSION**

**South Carolina
Children’s Theatre**
Greenville, SC
NOMINATED BY: **Lisa Shelnett**

Mint Museum
Charlotte, NC
NOMINATED BY: **Michael Rodriguez**

HOUSING STRATEGIES

We believe every person who dreams of homeownership should reach that goal. We want to use our skills, resources, and financial expertise to help people not just buy a house but make a home.

At United, we've devoted ourselves to financially supporting those around us while working alongside one another to build up our communities. We also recognize the need for decent and affordable housing in the areas we call home.

As part of our commitment to supporting housing strategies in our own communities, the Foundation partnered with Habitat for Humanity affiliates across our footprint in 2022. Habitat for Humanity works to build a more equitable world by helping put millions of people on the path to affordable homeownership.

"Our team is passionate about investing in our communities and helping our customers reach their housing goals from a financial perspective, and the Foundation stands behind that," said Moryah Jackson, SVP of Community Development and Engagement.

The partnership included supporting the cost of local builds and giving local team members the opportunity to volunteer. Bankers were also encouraged to collaborate with their local Habitat by sharing financial expertise with new homeowners to achieve stability, independence, and financial goals.

In 2022, United team members participated in builds across 5 states through partnerships with the following affiliates:

- Habitat for Humanity of Wake County (NC)
- Habitat for Humanity of NW Metro Atlanta (GA)
- Central SC Habitat for Humanity (SC)
- Habitat for Humanity of Greenville County (SC)
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville (TN)
- Habitat for Humanity Broward County (FL)
- Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando and Osceola County (FL)

In total, the Foundation contributed \$94,700 to 15 affiliates in 2022. Going forward, the Foundation's goal is to continue partnering with Habitat affiliates across the Southeast by providing financial counseling to help more families achieve their dream of homeownership.

"This has been a great opportunity to give back to the communities we serve and live in, and we can't wait to see this positive impact continue throughout our communities," added Moryah.



OTHER GRANTS PUTTING PEOPLE ON THE PATH TO HOMEOWNERSHIP

Neighborhood Lending Partners

Tampa, FL

NOMINATED BY: Sonja Newland

Community Housing Services Agency

Savannah, GA

NOMINATED BY: Deborah Wright



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

We believe every child deserves the best support they can get, as early as they can get it. We support programs that help our children, because when we strengthen young lives, we strengthen our future.

OTHER GRANTS PREPARING FUTURE LEADERS FOR SUCCESS

Union County High School Business Incubator Program

Blairsville, GA

NOMINATED BY: **Jimmy Nichols**

PASOs

Columbia, SC

NOMINATED BY: **Maricela Gonzales**

When Alex Ponzio, President of Reliant MH, a division of United Community Bank, heard about Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Tennessee from one of his good friends, he knew immediately he wanted to get involved and become a Big Brother.

“I am a Big Brother to an 11-year-old boy whose family recently migrated from Guatemala to Knoxville. His family has very limited resources and education, so he struggles with cultural and language barriers. As an immigrant, I can relate to these struggles, and I am trying to help him navigate his transition to master his reading, writing, and overall communication skills,” said Alex.

Since 1970, the vision of Big Brothers Big Sisters has been that all children achieve their full potential. They uphold a mission to create and support one-on-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

According to the organization, youth that have been through their programs have a higher sense of belonging, an increase in confidence, and better academic performance. Big Brothers Big Sisters serves 23 counties with more than 400 active matches in their program.

“It is my hope to inspire my mentee to want to work hard and see the value that education can add to his future. I’m glad to support Big Brothers Big Sisters, and I’m grateful to have the support of the Foundation behind it as well to impact even more lives,” said Alex.

5 GOOD DAYS

Selected because of their importance to United employees, the Good Days are honored by the Foundation with donations made in each state of the United footprint.

The organizations that receive donations are typically tied to a particular cause related to the Good Day. United employees are also encouraged to volunteer on each Good Day through activities coordinated by the Together for Good Council.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 17)

World Animal Day (October 4)

Financial Literacy Month (April 1–30)

Veterans Day (November 11)

National Day of Service (September 11)



As part of Financial Literacy Month, Nathan Rackley volunteers with a local school to provide financial education.

"I love the volunteer environment that United Community Bank encourages, and I saw an opportunity with Habitat to provide cybersecurity expertise. I believe fundamental cybersecurity knowledge is something everyone should have access to, and Habitat agrees. I'm so thankful to serve our community to help make it a better place."

**— Nathan Rackley, Vulnerability Management Engineer
Greenville, SC**



In honor of World Animal Day, the Foundation sponsored a therapy dog through Southeastern Guide Dogs and fondly named her "Blair", in honor of our commitment to serving others and our beginnings in Blairsville, GA.

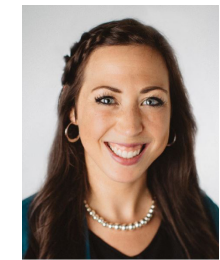
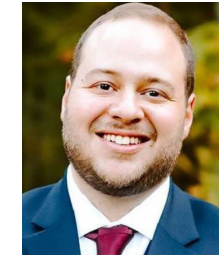
"A dog truly loves its people unconditionally. I personally know the difference a dog can make in a person's life and can only imagine the difference a guide dog can make."

**JimmieSue Easter,
Relationship Manager
Blairsville, GA**

TOGETHER FOR GOOD COUNCIL

The Together for Good Council is a volunteer group of employees who help advance United Community Bank's social impact programs.

Across the footprint, our teams consistently give of their time and heart to support their communities, and this council aims to amplify the good work being done and ensure that we stay true to serving our local communities as we grow.



OUR MISSION

Improve the financial health of the local communities we serve.



Scan here to learn more about the United Community Bank Foundation and its work in the community or visit ucbi.com/united-in-our-communities





 United
Community Bank
Foundation

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