As United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County commemorates its 75th anniversary recent years show what is possible because of the foundation created over the years. During the past three years the community has faced several challenges. Together and without hesitation United Way stepped up to meet the needs of the community which includes Baytown and Chambers County.

Hurricane Harvey struck and a new program, Baytown Area & Chambers County Disaster Recovery (BACC DR) was created to manage the recovery process. The program provided support to individuals whose homes were damaged. This was possible because of individual and corporate donations, federal, state and local grant makers, agencies, and a lot of volunteers. When the program ended, 88 homes were restored and thousands of individuals received help through referrals to a network of services.

United Way continued to impact our region but the big storm turned out to be the 2020 Pandemic. United Way opened the COVID 19 Emergency Fund in response to the new needs of service providers who help individuals access basic needs. Through donations from individuals and corporations over $102,739 additional funds were awarded to local programs that helped more than 12,000 residents access food and prescriptions, and more 

In preparation of strategic planning, United Way hosted several community conversations to learn what is important to and what concerns individuals and families. The Board of Directors used this information to develop Impact 2025 the strategic plan that is already guiding the work of United Way.

When Humble Oil took an active role in creating the local United Way they did with it with the assumption that the community will be a better place for all. Today, although we can say more is needed, our community is a better place. Here are a few reasons our community is better because of YOU and your United Way.

• A volunteer Board of Directors leads the organization with specific guidance from volunteer-led committees.
• No administrative fees are charged for UW’s work, which means an individual’s donation is not reduced to cover operations.
• Funds are raised through the workplace and public to provide competitive funding to local agencies with programs that provide support and solutions to community-wide issues each year.
• Local human service agencies receive ongoing support to be successful including access to data such as the ALICE Texas report, critical funding, professional education, and 2-1-1, a free resource and referral network.
• Donors have a trusted local organization that they can support financially as well as be actively engaged in the work and mission to improve the community.

The 75th anniversary is a milestone that all of us can be proud of. We hope this publication has been made possible by The Baytown Sun, with contributions from Kathy Jaeger, Cherie Morgan, Carol Skewes and all of the kind and caring sponsors brings good memories and better understanding of your United Way’s role in the community.

With every good wish for a sound future ....

Melissa Reabold, CEO

United Way sets drive kick-off date Thursday, January 21, 2021

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Growing with the needs of OUR COMMUNITY

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is seeing patients, both in person and virtually, because your health is still important. That’s why you can be confident that we are taking every necessary precaution during the coronavirus pandemic to keep you safe.

At Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, we continue to improve the quality of our health care and expand our services.

We are proud to offer these recent additions:

- A new leading-edge emergency department featuring 42 private treatment rooms
- A new and expanded cancer center offering infusion and radiation therapy, 12 private chemotherapy suites and support services from patient navigators
- A new neonatal intensive care unit
- Two new patient care units with 46 spacious private patient rooms
- New state-of-the-art operating rooms for cancer treatment, orthopedics, cardiovascular treatment, gynecology, gastroenterology, pulmonary, and bariatric and robotic-assisted surgery
- A new outpatient center featuring ambulatory surgery, orthopedics and sports medicine, physical and occupational therapy, imaging, laboratory services, breast care center, primary care services and an occupational health clinic
The Baytown Sun

75 Years of service to others

Tri-Cities War Fund & Community Chest Drive Starts October 10

By Sherman Shuster, news chairman of United Way of Greater Baytown & Chambers County

The 2020 United Way campaign is on the way.

In 1946, the United Way was created to help support community organizations, and in 1954, the United Way of Greater Baytown & Chambers County was established.

The United Way of Greater Baytown & Chambers County is a collaboration of local organizations that work together to support community needs.

The United Way of Greater Baytown & Chambers County focuses on programs and services that address the basic needs of the residents in the Greater Baytown Area.

United Way of Greater Baytown & Chambers County is a critical partner for local United Ways across the country, and a major contributor to the United Way's efforts to bring about positive social change in communities across the United States.

For someone in need, the stress and severity of a situation is only heightened when there is no clear path forward to find a solution to the challenges they are facing.

Not only are social service organizations now able to offer resources more effectively, United Way of Greater Baytown & Chambers County makes every effort to ensure those in need have access to available resources in times of need, and to support innovative approaches to improving quality of life in Baytown, Highlands, and Chambers County.

Naturally, 211 is a free, comprehensive resource with the goal of connecting those in need with local experts to find a solution to the challenges they are facing.

In the course of our work on the 2020 United Way campaign, we ask that you consider giving a financial gift.

For more information, please visit the United Way of Greater Baytown & Chambers County website at https://www.unitedwaygbacc.org/alice-report.

211, a 24-hour Hotline for those seeking help and resources

Kaci Pena, coordinator, Community Impact & Investments

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1849's
Mutual Benefit Societies were formed.

1850's
Biennially, Charity Organizations were formed to meet the needs of immigrants.

1855
Citizens of Baytown approved a $1.5 million bond to partner with the government to make the ship channel 30 feet wide.

1857
Humble Oil & Refining Company began construction of oil refineries on the ship channel.

1865
Community Chest was chartered to later be known as the United Way.

1866 – Proposed moving into Chambers County in the future.

1869 – (Name change) The Baytown & East Harris County Community Chest.

1870’s
The Great Depression was a severe worldwide economic depression that took place mostly during the 1930s, beginning in the United States.

1871
United Way GBACC.

1877
Environmental protection efforts focused on clean water and air. The Clean Water Act was signed into law.

1879 – The NFL and United Way joining forces to increase awareness of social issues.

1905
After the tax law of 1884 making non-profits exempt from paying income taxes, over 200 Charity Organizations were formed to meet the needs of immigrants.

1913
Community Chest was founded by the Cleveland, Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

1919
- Humble Oil & Refining Company began construction of oil refineries on the ship channel.

1920’s
- Many on a waiting list. Tropical Storm Imelda homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey with heavy rains, flooded homes, and loss of program.

1922
- NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive collected a total of 27 mail trucks full of food which equaled out to about 18,000 pounds of food, the most ever.

1927
- Strategic plan with newly formed funding initiatives to be used by many instead of just a few.

1930’s
Community Chest non-profits were in the hundreds and many on a waiting list.

1940’s
- MD Anderson created a service contract with the United Way.

1942 – Community & War Chest campaign goal of $60,000.

1946 – Tri-Cities & East Harris Community Chest was chartered to later be known as the United Way GRACC.

1946 – Community Chest adopted the Red Feather as its symbol and called itself United W a y.

1949
- Funds available.

1946 – Final campaign figure of $824,555.

1949 – Baytown United Way Day on November 22nd.

1950 – Women’s Leadership Council developed.

1950’s
- Strategic plan with newly formed funding goals implemented.

1959
- NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive collected a total of 27 mail trucks full of food which equaled out to about 18,000 pounds of food, the most ever.

1960’s
- MD Anderson created a service contract with the United Way.

1966 – Proposed moving into Chambers County in the future.

1967
- The United Way created its first service contract with the Community Chest.

1968 – (Name change) Amendment to The Articles of Incorporation changing the name from Baytown and East Harris County Community Chest to UNITED WAY OF BAYTOWN.

1970’s
- MD Anderson created a service contract with the United Way.

1972
- First Day of Caring held on November 21st.

1975 – (Name change) Amendment to The Articles of Incorporation changing the name from Baytown and East Harris County Community Chest to UNITED WAY OF BAYTOWN.

1980’s
- Hurricane Harvey, heavy rains, flooded homes, Baytown Area & Chambers County Disaster Recovery formed to oversee recovery.

1981
- United Way GBACC to support new program.

1982
- Community Initiatives Committee welcomed a new partnership with Exxon Mobil.

1983
- Strategic plan with newly formed funding goals implemented.

1985
- Strategic plan with newly formed funding goals implemented.

1986 – Achieved the $1,000,000 campaign figure of $824,555.

1987
- Final campaign figure of $824,555.

1990’s
- MD Anderson created a service contract with the United Way.

1990 – Miles Inc. hosted a Duck Derby.

1991
- First Day of Caring held on November 21st.

1993
- Brochure was developed for the first time.

1994 – Final campaign figure of $824,555.

1995
- Final campaign figure of $824,555.

1996
- Achieved the $1,000,000 campaign figure of $824,555.

1997
- (Name change) Amendment to The Articles of Incorporation changing the name from Baytown and East Harris County Community Chest to UNITED WAY OF BAYTOWN.

2000-2009
- (Name change) United Way of Baytown Area.

2006 – United Way of Baytown Area Campaign achieved $2,000,000.

2007 – Chambers County Long Term Recovery Organization was created.

2008 – Organised and led the area’s Hurricane Harvey Recovery.

2009 – Kickstart Readership program initiated.

2010-2019
- $3,000,000 milestone.

2012 – Campaign achieved $3,000,000 milestone.

2013 – Service area increased to include Chambers County.

2014
- Strategic plan with newly formed funding goals implemented.

2015
- Women’s Leadership Council developed.

2016
- Hurricane Harvey, heavy rains, flooded homes, Baytown Area & Chambers County Disaster Recovery formed to oversee recovery.

2017 – Hurricane Harvey, heavy rains, flooded homes, Baytown Area & Chambers County Disaster Recovery formed to oversee recovery.

2018
- Women’s Leadership Council developed.

2019 – Disaster Recovery has completed 58 homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey with many on a waiting list.

2020
- Hurricane Harvey disaster recovery efforts end with 88 homes restored. COVID-19 Pandemic – $102K in additional funds distributed to local agencies helping individuals and families meet their basic needs.
By Jennifer Walsh, chairman, Women United

Jennifer Walsh took the lead Women United role in 2020. Under her leadership, the council that drives the work of the affinity group has established a strategic plan and hosted events to engage members. Here is her perspective on volunteering and United Way’s work in the community.

United Way is at the heart of giving in this community – not just financially but through volunteerism and advocacy. They are a core unifier to helping build a better and stronger community for everyone, especially those who need the help the most. It reaches my heart to see the success stories and the impact United Way makes to improve the lives of our neighbors and make a real difference in their lives.

I’ve been involved with United Way in a variety of roles before taking a leadership position – from helping coordinate a company’s Days of Caring to sponsoring its fundraising campaign. Under Melissa’s leadership I have seen this organization mature, I see them treating a non-profit like a business – making sure that they are financially responsible, creating strategic plans and collaborating with municipalities, education facilities and other organizations to create meaningful partnerships.

I have experienced firsthand what it’s like to feel desperate, scared and struggling. It was thanks to charitable organizations that I was able to get a hand-up out of my situation to turn my life around.

You can give to United Way at any level. It doesn’t have to be financial – it can be volunteering your time or a special skill. If you aren’t sure about donating to United Way, I encourage you to volunteer and witness firsthand the impact they make and how they run their organization.

As you know, 2020 was a challenging year for all of us. Here at United Way of Greater Baytown Area and Chambers County, we were immersed in helping people who were suddenly hit with job loss, having to shelter in place, and seeing others lose their livelihoods. For so many, I’m sad to say, it was a nightmare.

By Jennifer Walsh, chairman, Women United
CONGRATULATIONS ON 75 YEARS OF SERVICE!

Lee College is proud to support the United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County!

Here’s to another 75 years of serving the community.

Congratulations and thank you to United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County for 75 years of dedication to the community!
At Chevron Phillips Chemical, we are proud to recognize the community partnerships we have with local non-profits, schools, and service organizations that enable us to be a neighbor of choice. We strive to offer all the communities we operate in support and development through volunteerism and financial aid. We actively promote volunteer opportunities for our employees and empower them to contribute their personal time toward causes they are passionate about.

Performance by design.
Caring by choice.”
The Baytown Sun

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Volunteers are the heart of United Way

by Kaci Penza, Coordinator, Community Impact and Traci Dillard, Director, Resource Development

Since its inception, United Way of Greater Baytown Area and Chambers County has been a vital volunteer-focused organization. As United Way acknowledges the impact of 75 years of community service, it is volunteers that have sustained and sustained every change.

In 1971, Hurricane Harvey damaged homes and made the loss of 100 homes impossible. It challenged this community in a way it had never been before. As volunteers from across the area came together to help their neighbors, one thing was clear: there was a need to ramp up and do more for those who used to live along a helpful hand. The result of a community action was greater than what anyone could have imagined, and we continue to shape the not only the identity of the community, but of your local United Way.

Driven by the passion to see lasting change and engage each member of the community, United Way began creating opportunities to continue the momentum garnered in the effort to help our Hurricane Harvey recovery. In 2013, United Way established a替换 fund to support the local community. Two years later, the United Way created United Way of Greater Baytown Area and Chambers County, Inc.(

In 2020, United Way launched a new initiative dedicated to uniting volunteer efforts from across the area, called the Volunteer Council. Filled with community leaders and volunteers, this council is shaping the way Volunteer Connect is being used not only by United Way agencies, but by the community at large. The Council’s mission is to create a centralized hub for all volunteer opportunities that focuses on the power of ownership.

In 2017, Hurricane Harvey destroyed homes and made the lives of people impacted moments for me! due to the pandemic, volunteering at various food distribution events are creating joyful family was able to return to a safe, sanitary home were “tear-jerking” joyful moments. Now, are all part of one endearing family!

I knew is that it was helping our community in a variety of ways. However, curiosity kicked Crisis Fund policy.

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By Guido Persiani, chairman, Baytown Area & Chambers County Disaster Recovery

Guido Persiani, a long-time volunteer and donor of United Way was asked to give his perspective on volunteering and United Way’s work in the community.

I am the 2020-2021 Chair of Emerging Leaders, an affinity group of UWGBACC. I first became involved with United Way when I moved to Baytown in the Fall of 2019. I was looking for opportunities to connect with my new community and to support United Way’s efforts and thought it looked interesting. A few days later, my workplace began their United Way campaign and I was able to learn about how much United Way does for our community. I joined United Way’s Emerging Leaders group after reading about the opportunity to connect with other local young professionals from all walks of life and together to make our community through volunteering.

In 2011, Hurricane Harvey destroyed homes and made the lives of people impacted. Since its inception, United Way of Greater Baytown Area and Chambers County has only strengthened our agency. The earned credibility of being a United Way agency opened the door to apply for United Way funding and, when approved, submitting the required reports and multiplying our agency impact in the communities we served. Meeting the requirements of the United Way was truly serving so many in need outside of my family.

When I first started contributing to the UW over 40 years ago via payroll deduction all I knew is that it was helping our community in a variety of ways. However, curiosity kicked

My current role is chairman of the Baytown Area and Chambers County Disaster Recovery (BACC-DR) board that United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County (UWGBACC) formed in response to Hurricane Harvey’s impact on Baytown and Chambers County residents. Being a Chambers County Long Term Recovery Organization board member I assisted UWGBACC with the formation of BACC-DR and later as chairman, collaborated with both organizations to become one under United Way.

I find myself on the board of numerous organizations that are all part of one endearing family!

By Francesca Linder, Chair of Emerging Leaders

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In 2011, Hurricane Harvey destroyed homes and made the lives of people impacted.
J. W. Frymire, Roy Elms, Milton C. Kelley, Bryan S. Culpepper and L. W. Strickler all may be described as Good Samaritans. They saw the unmet needs of the Baytown community, joined together to make positive changes occur and founded the Tri-Cities and East Harris County Community Chest on January 21, 1946. This was the beginning of the United Way of Greater Baytown and Chambers County.

They were Humble Oil employees, the beloved coaches for Lee High School and a banker and were all devoted to community enrichment. Their non profit was a volunteer ran organization that collected funds used to sponsor local agencies in meeting community needs.

Roy Elms was a young man when he joined the Humble Oil Company in 1934. He was the first to join the company after returning from service as a marine in World War II. He began a long career at Humble Oil and was the President of the Tri-Cities and East Harris County Community Chest on January 21, 1946. This was the beginning of the United Way of Greater Baytown and Chambers County.

He volunteered with the Baytown Welfare League and was elected President of the newly formed Community Chest. Milton continued to serve his community even while working nights as a bookkeeper and days as a bank cashier. He was a Board member of the newly founded Community Chest.

He was a Board member of the locally founded Community Chest and was a recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellow award. He was also on the Board of the newly founded Community Chest.

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Former United Way Director Mohlman reflects

By Carol Skewes

BETHANY CREDEUR, MBA, CPA

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Daryl W. Fontenot, CFP®

The number people who give at $1,000 or more wasn’t even being recorded, or tracked,” said Mohlman. “Asking is for free.”

He reflected on how much United Way has changed over the years. “The future is always an ever-evolving process, as life evolves, challenges and needs evolve, such as the way the organization was able to respond following Hurricane Katrina (2005) and Ike (2008).“ We were able after all to do some things because of immediate generosity and response from the community. Meaningful things were done.”

“In the next couple years, the long-term recovery program was formed in Chambers County. When Ike happened in 2008, it was gratifying how much that paid off. Having the capacity in place made financial resources available and you had an organization available to use those and put money to work in Chambers County that was not there before. There were so many houses after like Ike that were fixed. Roofs were fixed. People to ask if they would consider coming back to the United Way campaign.”

“People had not been asked to make gifts at that level before and about half did. It went up from there. I learned you are not asking someone who is not able to make gifts at that level. I became comfortable on and asking for support of the United Way campaign. We learned you are not asking money, you are telling into which they grew and response from the community.”

“The rule of thumb had always been average pay per month. There would be anything in place to ask people to make higher dollar gifts. We identified 25-30 people to make higher dollar gifts. We identified 25-30 people to make higher dollar gifts. We identified 25-30 people to make higher dollar gifts. We identified 25-30 people to make higher dollar gifts. We identified 25-30 people to make higher dollar gifts. We identified 25-30 people to make higher dollar gifts. We identified 25-30 people to make higher dollar gifts. We identified 25-30 people to make higher dollar gifts. We identified 25-30 people to make higher dollar gifts.

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Join us in celebrating 75 years of driving positive impact and change in the greater Baytown and Chambers County areas.

Make Your $75 gift today!

And receive a commemorative sticker with your donation to proudly display your support all year long.

For more information call Traci Dillard at 832-926-4005 or email tracid@unitedwaygbacc.org

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For 75 years, United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County has been dedicated to serving this community. In 1946, Humble employees were instrumental in United Way’s start up in Baytown and since then, ExxonMobil has proudly supported their mission to meet the current needs of our community and to work towards a better tomorrow.

From donations to hands on volunteerism, it has been a privilege to partner with United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County and contribute to their dedication and hard work.

We look forward to many more years of service together!

Cheers to 75 years!