

PROGRESS REPORT

June 2021



Received the final United Way Worldwide report on the BET Saving Our Selves initiative results | Collectively, local United Ways provided roughly 3.6 million individuals with just-in-time supports, including providing over \$10 million in financial assistance | In Orleans Parish, we served over 192,000 people through 11 funded partners

Joined our Ready Louisiana partners for Early Ed Day at the Capitol | Governor Edwards, State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley, and other leaders joined us to educate our state's elected officials about local investments in early care and education (ECE) and share opportunities to increase the state's ECE investment during the 2021 legislative session | [Watch the program here](#)

Continued to forward Action Alerts to UWSELA Board of Trustees, Women United, Public Policy Committee, collaborative partners and staff to support legislation as approved in our 2021 Louisiana State Legislative Agenda | We would like to thank each of you for contacting Louisiana Legislators | An update on all legislation can be viewed on the Louisiana State Legislature's website: <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/home.aspx>

Announced our [Top 10 Most Generous Workplaces and LIVE UNITED award winners](#) at our 2020-21 Annual Meeting | Thank you to our in-person and virtual attendees who helped celebrate our collective wins and honor the remarkable individuals and partners who make all our work possible!

Top 10 Most Generous Workplaces:

1. Entergy Corporation
2. Shell
3. Valero Meraux Refinery
4. Pan-American Life Insurance Group
5. Freeport-McMoRan, Inc.
6. UPS
7. Phillips 66 Alliance Refinery
8. Chalmette Refining, LLC – PBF Energy
9. Hancock Whitney
10. International Paper

Collectively, the workplaces contributed \$3.7 million through employee contributions and corporate gifts, and fundraisers

2021 LIVE UNITED Awards:

Volunteers of the Year

- Ralph Mahana, Windsor Court
- Travis Tague, Hyatt Centric French Quarter

Community Impact Funding Partner Award – Jefferson Parish Council

Community Impact Service Partner

- Louisiana Budget Project
- Plaquemines Community C.A.R.E Centers Foundation, Inc.

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Hidden Heroes

- Brad Fleming, Entergy Services, Inc.
- Barry Hadley, Barry Hadley Screen Printing & Embroidery

Outstanding Communications – Biz New Orleans

Public Policy Award – Bill Hammack, Link Restaurant Group

Presented the inaugural Lisa Arseneaux Employee Campaign Coordinator of the Year award to Canal Barge's Sheila McGuire in recognition of her dedication to excellence in fundraising and engagement | UWSELA staff created the award in memory of Arseneaux, who was tragically murdered in April 2021, served as EY's employee campaign coordinator for several years, leading model campaigns with high participation and engagement

Elected our incoming Board of Trustees as voted electronically by our donors | The members will each serve a three-year term:

For a first three-year term:

- Ken Flower, Woodward Design+Build
- Shelley Meyer, EY
- Ayame Dinkler, LCMC Health
- Beatrice Forlano, Enterprise
- Ronnie Slone, The Slone Group
- Ron McClain, Institute of Mental Hygiene

Beginning their third and final three-year term:

- Norma Grace, Community Leader
- Bob Kimbro, Community Leader
- Adrienne Slack, Federal Reserve Bank
- Michael Todd, Billes Architects

Participated in the [NFL's Players Coalition's New Orleans Economic Advancement Town Hall](#), and in-person, community-led forum with elected officials and community representatives to discuss plans to develop New Orleans East and outline a path forward for establishing livable wages | Panelists, including Saints' and United Way advocates Demario Davis and Cam Jordan, organized the event to:

1. Provide community members with a platform to communicate directly with developers
2. Educate citizens on upcoming legislation meant to establish livable wages in NO East
3. Increase public awareness and corporate support of living wages legislation

Hosted the United Way HandsOn Entergy Volunteer Center's two family-friendly Days of Action in June, completing landscaping and painting projects on the west bank and in Slidell | Thank you to all our volunteers who came out, braved the weather, and made a measurable impact in their communities!

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Promoted [Red Beans N Rice sponsorships and team registration](#) for the 12th annual West event on July 26 in Covington and the 17th annual East event on Aug. 2 in Slidell | Sponsorships are available at multiple levels to suit all interests | Funds raised at our annual events support suicide prevention, mental health services, and other United Way programs in St. Tammany Parish | Please contact SonjaN@UnitedWaySELA.org for more information

Celebrated the announcement of a \$225,000 donation made possible by the Jefferson Ready Start Network, which will fund early child care and education seats for 16 children | Charmaine Caccioppi, as chair of the network's advisory council, held a meeting to discuss next steps for increasing access across Jefferson

Confirmed Charmaine Caccioppi as a panelist in the Louisiana Center for Women in Government's Louisiana Girls Leadership Academy *Leaders in Action* panel to tell her story | Charmaine will and also serve as a moderator for the second panel discussion with government leaders | The Louisiana Center for Women in Government is a nonprofit, nonpartisan leadership organization dedicated to empowering women and promoting female involvement | The Center's statewide leadership programming includes the Louisiana Girls Leadership Academy whose vision is to develop high-potential leaders in community and public service through responsible citizenship

Reviewed progress and challenges from 2021 Louisiana Legislative Session, which ended with sharp racial divisions and occasional altercations; still, a remarkable number of bills were passed | Please take a moment to read a statement regarding the regular session from our Public Policy Team:

The year that began with concerns of another high deficit caused by COVID-19 was relieved by Federal Stimulus Dollars:

- Stabilized unemployment fund
- Teacher pay raise
- Infrastructure
- Boasted Go-Grants that will make college more affordable for low-income students
- Creation of the M. J. Foster Promise Program to provide workforce training for Louisiana citizens

Legislators also took important steps to help women and families afford basic necessities by:

- Eliminating the pink tax
- Passing the pregnant worker fairness act
- Extending the sunset date for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Mandating Kindergarten
- Allowing Sexual Assault Victims to end their leases early
- Overhauling University Title 9 regarding policies to ensure campus protections for students
- Removing barriers to acquiring temporary restraining orders for victims of domestic violence
- Requiring State Board of Elementary seasonal education to study best practices screen usages to protect the eye health of students

We successfully negotiated a dedication of 25% of all Sports Betting Revenue (up to \$20M) for the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund | And through the Pelicans License Plate, profit gains received will be shared with Early Childhood Education

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The Louisiana Ready Coalition celebrated and honored Early Childhood Education (ECE) Champions during the last day of the Louisiana Legislative Session:

- Sen. Cleo Fields, D
- Sen. Patrick McMath, R
- Sen. Ronnie Johns
- Sen. Page Cortez
- Sen. Rick Ward
- Rep. Stephanie Hilferty
- Rep. Aimee Freeman
- Rep. Rodney Lyons
- Rep. Jonathan Goudeau
- Rep. Rick Edmonds
- Superintendent Cade Brumley
- Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser
- Governor John Bel Edwards
- Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne

Distributed the following ACTION ALERTS in the final week of session:

- Action Alert: Final Push for Bill to Protect Domestic Abuse Survivors
- Action Alert: New Funding for Early Care & Education is Within Reach - <https://conta.cc/3fZ6g9z>
- Action Alert: Last Chance to Help End the Pink Tax in Louisiana - <https://conta.cc/3zdzWHv>
- Thank You! Big Wins from the Final Hours of Session - <https://conta.cc/3pRxBxO>

Prepared for the opening of the Nancy Marsiglia Institute's fall 2021 class | Applications to open July 1 | The Institutes' alumni will gather for the alumni association's annual summer gathering in July to strengthen the groups' commitment to advocacy and action

Helped facilitate the return of 1,695,671 dollars to our [SNAP Employment & Training](#) partners to date | These are dollars partners can reinvest in their workforce readiness and development programs to help facilitate the training for participants to get a job or get a better job

Began planning discussions for Save the Children's Stuff the Bus tour stop in New Orleans | UWSELA staff assisting with logistics and securing additional partners to offer resources and information to attendees | The event will provide 2,000 backpacks and supplies to elementary students in Orleans Parish | UWSELA will also partner with WDSU once again for a secondary school supply giveaway, serving all area residents and potentially offering a delivery option for the first time through our Door Dash partnership

Hosted Women United's first in-person book club meeting in 2021 to discuss "The Person You Mean to Be" by Dolly Chugh

Prepared the New Orleans Campaign for Grade-Level Reading's grant application, Black and Latinx Women Building Wealth through Caregivers Careers, for the 2021 AdvancingCities Challenge | Our proposed initiative seeks to engage the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to create workplaces and policies that value Black and Latinx women as mothers and caregivers while supporting them in building wealth through careers and businesses in child care