

United Way of Lee County
February 2018

LIVE UNITED



Volunteer Appreciation

United Way Volunteer Appreciation is a time for us to highlight our hardworking and dedicated volunteers that help make our campaign a success. So many lives are impacted throughout Lee County because these volunteers choose to Be the ONE to make a difference in our community. Without our business, institution, and industry campaign volunteers we would not be able to provide our 28 agencies with the resources they need. We are so grateful for the time and work these volunteers put into making our community a better place. Our 2-1-1 volunteers, office volunteers, and community fundraising partners all make a huge difference where we work, live, and

play. We thank all our volunteers for choosing to LIVE UNITED!

**Frank M. deGraffenried, IV
Lifetime Volunteer Service Award:
Terry Andrus**



This award is named in honor of Chief Fank M. "Buddy" deGraffenried". Buddy loved this community and he loved United Way and our vision to help those who are hurting and those less fortunate. He desired that both the community and the United Way reach their full potential. Recipients of this award share in this goal and vision. Terry Andrus with East Alabama Medical Center is a champion for this community and has been a tremendous friend and advocate to United Way and many of our partnering agencies throughout the years. Terry has served in every capacity that we have at United Way: from head cheerleader to Allocation Chairman, Campaign Chairman and President of the Board. We thank Terry for all the time and effort he has given to make our community a better place to live.

**Volunteer of the Year:
Leigh Krehling
City of Opelika**



Each year we have the honor of recognizing our Volunteers who go the extra mile for the United Way Campaign. Our 2018 Volunteer of the Year went to Leigh Krehling with the City of Opelika. This was Leigh's first year running a campaign. Leigh not only surpassed the previous year's campaign, but she set the bar high with her fundraising efforts and her enthusiasm. She helped us with our campaign material as well as executing new fundraising ideas in the City of Opelika campaign. She took it upon herself to invest the time and creativity to ensure she makes a positive impact within our community. Because of her leadership and efforts, the City's campaign increased over \$14,000. We are grateful for her service to United Way and to our community.



National 2-1-1 Day



United Way of Lee County, Inc.

United Way celebrated National 2-1-1 Day on February 11th, in recognition of the free, user-friendly phone number that connects people to critical resources, information and services. This day was designed to bring awareness to the 24/7, easy to remember number that can link callers with human services and resources available in their community.

When you dial 2-1-1 (for free), the call is routed to the local 2-1-1 Center. It is answered by a trained information and referral specialist, who discerns your need, then searches a comprehensive database of relevant human service referrals. The 2-1-1 specialist explains how to access those services, and will even follow-up to make sure you were able to connect to the resources. In Lee, Russell, & Chambers counties 5,156 referrals were given to people who turned to 2-1-1 for help in 2017. People called for referrals for meeting basic needs, like heating or utility assistance, emergency help, or to find the closest food pantry. But they also called for everyday information like where to take their child for developmental screening, how to locate job training, or how to find free tax filing support.

In addition to regular information and referral services offered, at the East Alabama 2-1-1 call center, we will provide connections for callers who have children by offering to connect them to a coordinator for early childhood development and school readiness.

For additional information contact Lindsey Hinds at United Way.

Bunny Boxes!

It's almost Bunny Box time. We are partnering with Gigi's Cupcakes again to sell the delicious mini dozen cupcakes. Bunny boxes are \$15, with \$5 being donated to United Way of Lee County. Orders are due by Thursday, March 22nd.

More information coming to our [Facebook](#) page soon!



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United Way Agency Spotlight: East Alabama Services for the Elderly

East Alabama Services for the Elderly's (E.A.S.E.) mission is to promote the general welfare of seniors and disabled individuals. E.A.S.E. provides health, nutrition and everyday living resources to improve this population's quality of life and to accomplish their mission. Several E.A.S.E. programs that are funded by United Way of Lee County play a key role in accomplishing the goals of E.A.S.E.

The Foster Grandparent Program is for individuals age 55 or older who wish to serve as mentors and tutors for children and youth with special needs.

Volunteers provide 20 hours of weekly service. The Foster Grandparent Program is beneficial to both the child and the mentor. Children in this program need emotional, behavioral and intellectual development that may not be provided in the home or at school. By mentoring, these seniors are given the opportunity to stay involved in the community as well as stay mentally and physically active.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program provides volunteer service opportunities for individuals 55 or older who are desiring to give their time and use their skills and experiences in the community. Volunteers serve at various non-profit agencies, elementary schools, day cares, hospitals, and some governmental agencies.

E.A.S.E also has a Home Health Program that provides in-home service for three hours per week so elderly and/or disabled individuals can remain in the comfort of their home rather than be moved to a nursing home. Such services include housekeeping, meal preparation and appointment escort as well as assistance with medication, personal hygiene, and mobility.

For more information about these programs visit their [website](#) or call 334-826-5811.

