

MARCH 1, 2023

Newsletter

United Way of Lee County



UWLC Director, Tipi Miller, UWLC Campaign Chair, Allison Blakenship, and UWLC board Vice-President, Steve Pelham, with Dr. Christopher Roberts, Auburn University President, and nine of our Auburn University campus campaign coordinators at the AU "thank you" reception

FEBRUARY IN REVIEW:

FEBRUARY 2: UNITED WAY BENEFIT DAY AT LILY JANE BOUTIQUE

Thank you to everyone who came out to Lily Jane boutique for our United Way benefit day! Because of your generosity, we raised \$82.71 to be invested in our community. Thank you, Lily Jane, for your partnership with the UWLC! We encourage any local businesses interested in hosting their own UWLC benefit day to reach out to our marketing specialist at marketing@unitedwayofleecounty.com.

FEBRUARY 7: Our director had the opportunity to speak to the Lee County Young Leaders program courtesy of the Opelika Chamber.

FEBRUARY 8: Our director and marketing specialist attended the *Grow Your Nonprofit* program courtesy of the Cary Center at Auburn University and the Community Foundation of East Alabama.

FEBRUARY 15: Auburn University United Way Campaign Coordinator "Thank You" reception hosted by Dr. Chris Roberts, President of Auburn University. The 2023 AU campaign raised \$124,039 in pledges from 860 employees!

FEBRUARY 22: Received an Eagle Award from the Auburn Chamber for charitable contributions to the Auburn community.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH:

MARCH 23: Publix Appreciation day. We are celebrating United Way Worldwide's number 1 global corporate leader, Publix Supermarkets, to thank them for their commitment to improving their communities.

MARCH 28: United Way spirit day at Barberitos. Enjoy lunch or dinner at the Auburn or Opelika location and support the UWLC.

CONNECT WITH US:

Facebook: @Unitedwayofleecounty,Inc.

Pinterest: @uwleecounty

Website: <https://www.unitedwayofleecounty.com>

Address: 2133 Executive Park Drive Opelika, AL 36801

Instagram: @uwleecounty

Phone: 334-745-5540

VOLUME 2

Newsletter Highlights

February in review

Looking ahead to March

Agency Highlight:
Unity Wellness Center

How you're making a difference

Agency News



United Way of Lee County, Inc.

AGENCY HIGHLIGHT: UNITY WELLNESS CENTER

Unity Wellness Center is a subsidiary of East Alabama Medical Center and provides HIV testing & counseling; HIV primary medical care; medical case management services; and HIV prevention, education, and awareness programs. They serve Lee, Macon, Chambers, Russell, and Tallapoosa Counties residents in East Alabama. Their goals include increasing testing, awareness, and education in our communities in order to reduce new infections; providing high-quality, compassionate care so that people with HIV never develop AIDS; and advocating for funding and laws that improve access and quality of HIV care. Services provided by UWC include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Case management as well as access to medical care
- Access to the Alabama Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and Compassionate Use Programs for HIV
- Variety of education and awareness programs and events
- Oral Fluid HIV-antibody Testing

They provide all of these services with low to no cost to the recipient regardless of health care insurance. They are located in Opelika at 122 N 20th St Building #26.



HOW YOU'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

A female Client initially came into Unity Wellness Center in 2016 with a new HIV diagnosis. Prior to her HIV diagnosis, she had already been taking medication for diabetes and high blood pressure. She did not know a lot about HIV when diagnosed and was shocked to learn she was positive. Her initial reaction was one of fear and uncertainty about what her future would hold. She was disappointed thinking that she would never be able to have a family. She was unaware that HIV positive mothers will not transmit HIV to their child as long as they maintain an undetectable viral load. She was very receptive to the HIV education provided by UWC and successfully started ART (antiretroviral therapy) during which she took one pill per day. Within the first few months of starting her medication, she achieved an undetectable viral load and has maintained it ever since. UWC has become her medical home, treating not only her HIV but her other comorbidities. After a few years in care, she made the decision that she was ready to become a mom. UWC supported her through the process, answering her questions and working with her OBGYN to ensure a healthy pregnancy. This year, she gave birth to a healthy baby. She is thriving, healthy and enjoying her life as a new mom.

Agency News

- The Lee County Literacy Coalition moved into a new building at 505 W Thomason Circle.
- The Lee County Literacy Coalition was chosen as a recipient of the Toyota "Need a Nudge" program grant.
- Project Uplift matched 10 new mentors with their little brothers/sisters.
- The Child Advocacy Center of Twin Cedars named their new director: Tori Mayers.
- The Lee County Court Appointed Special Advocates swore in 12 new volunteers. The largest group in three years.
- The Food Bank of East Alabama is holding their Empty Bowls Fundraiser at Kiesel Park on March 25, 2023 from 5-7PM.
- The Boys and Girls Club of East Alabama is having a Spring Break Camp at both the Auburn and Opelika clubhouses. Go to their website, bgceastal.org, for more information.

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month

Alabama Head Injury Foundation is planning several events with the hope to educate people about traumatic brain injuries:

- February 28: AHIF's Scott Powell will be on WSFA 12 News
- March 9: AHIF will meet with Alabama legislators in Washington DC about TBI advocacy
- March 23: TBI and severe weather with WBRC Fox 6
- March 25: 7th annual Beer, Band & BBQ at Ghost Train Brewing Company from 12-5PM.
- March 30: AHIF Annual Survivors Panel

Also thanks to the support of the Lee County DA, AHIF is working with Sheriff's Departments across the state to conduct trainings that allow officers to understand and respond appropriately to individuals with TBIs.