



# United Way of South Mississippi

United Way of South Mississippi  
[UnitedWaySM.org](http://UnitedWaySM.org)



# Thank You!

---

**Merit Health** knows what it means to LIVE UNITED! Your support helps to improve the quality of life for those who live and work in Hancock, Harrison, Pearl River, and Stone Counties.

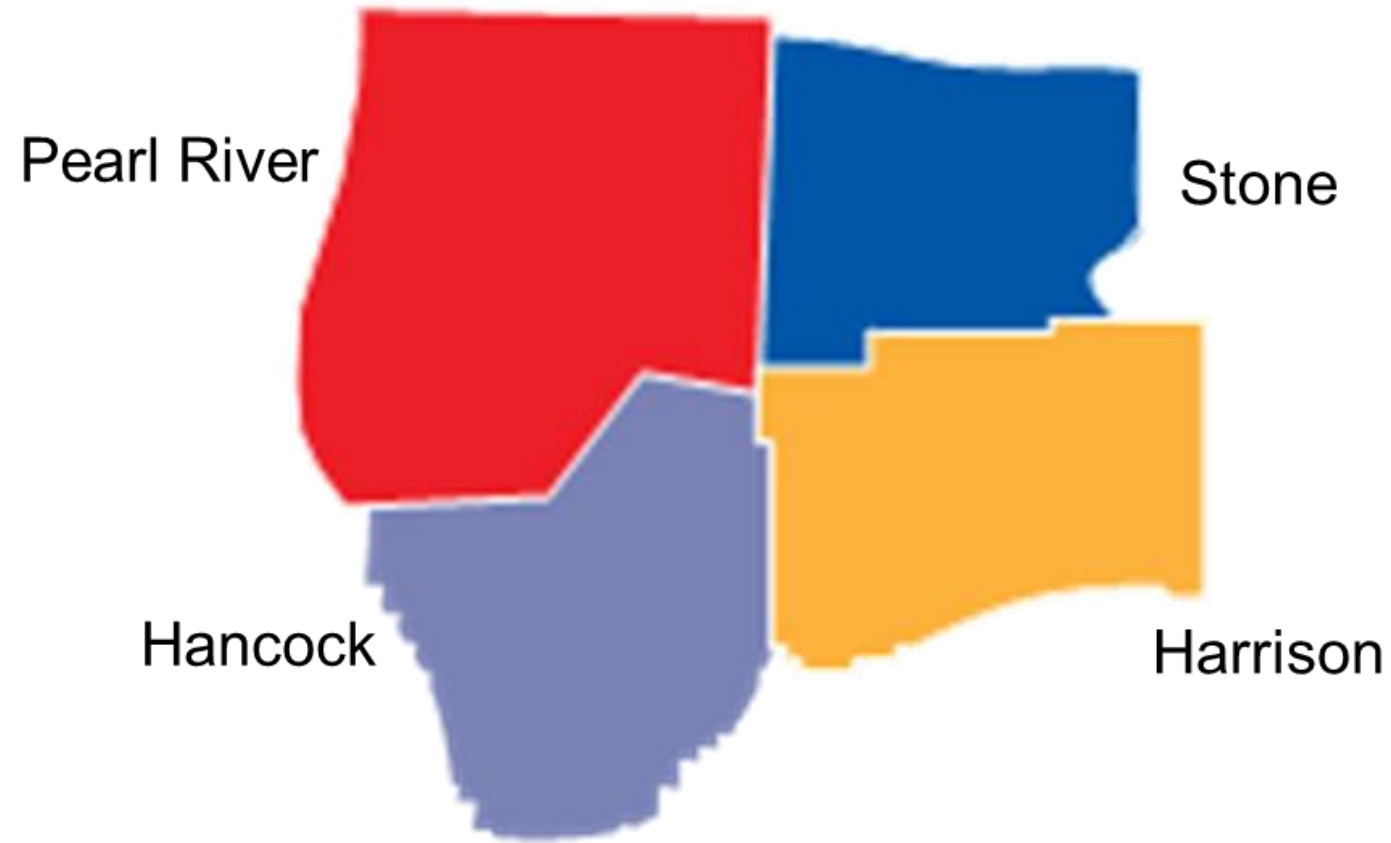
Each year, **Merit Health** and other local organizations support United Way of South Mississippi by running a workplace giving campaign.

Participation is not just a way for **Merit Health** to show community support, but by allowing associates and team members to pay their pledges through payroll deduction, they are empowered with the ability to support dozens of programs year-round.

We can't do our work without you!

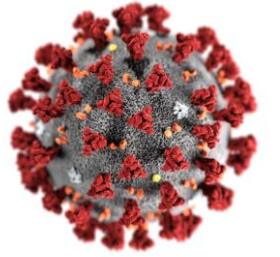
# Who We Serve

---



# COVID-19 Response

---



**\$290,000**

- HOUSING • UTILITIES • MEDICINE
- FOOD • BASIC NEEDS

Back Bay Mission  
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast  
Catholic Charities  
Disability Connection  
Feeding the Gulf Coast  
Hancock Resource Center  
Manna Ministries  
Moore Community House  
Salvation Army  
St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy

# Community Impact Grants - \$650,000

---

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast – *“Project Learn”*

CASA Hancock County – *“Foster Care Program”*

Catholic Charities – *“Case Management Services”*

Feeding the Gulf Coast – *“Mobile Food Pantries”*

Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence – *“Children’s Programs”*

Hancock County Human Resource Agency – *“Early Childhood Program”*

Hancock Resource Center – *“Navigator Program”*

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center – *“SMARTIES”*

Manna Ministries – *“Head & Heart Program”*

Moore Community House – *“Early PreK”*

The Nourishing Place – *“ENHANCE Tutoring Program”*

# Community Impact Grants

---



“United Way of South Mississippi provides valuable support to agencies like CASA who are charged with advocating for child victims of abuse and neglect. They are partners who stand side by side our organization to ensure that children are safe and that they achieve permanency.”

Cynthia Chauvin, Executive Director of  
CASA of Hancock County



# Childhood Success

PreK4Ward is a grant-funded initiative designed to promote kindergarten readiness and is offered as a collaboration between United Way of South Mississippi and local school districts.

9 Classrooms in Gulfport and Harrison County School Districts

180 Students

Certified Teachers in every classroom

Teacher's Assistants in every classroom

- PreK4Ward follows Mississippi State Department of Education's *"Early Learning Standards for Classrooms serving 4 year olds"*
- UWSM is a member of the Barksdale Reading Institutes "Parent Academy"
- Offer 6 Parenting Classes per school year following criteria from the Parent Academy



United Way of South Mississippi  
[UnitedWaySM.org](http://UnitedWaySM.org)





United Way supports 211, a free and confidential service that helps people across North America find the local resources they need 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Information 211 Provides:

- Covid-19 Assistance
- Supplemental food and nutrition programs
- Shelter and housing options and utilities assistance
- Emergency information and disaster relief
- Employment and education opportunities
- Services for veterans
- Health care, vaccination and health epidemic information
- Addiction prevention and rehabilitation programs
- Reentry help for ex-offenders
- Support groups for individuals with mental illnesses or special needs
- A safe, confidential path out of physical and/or emotional domestic abuse



# Youth Success



United Way of South Mississippi is proud to sponsor Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

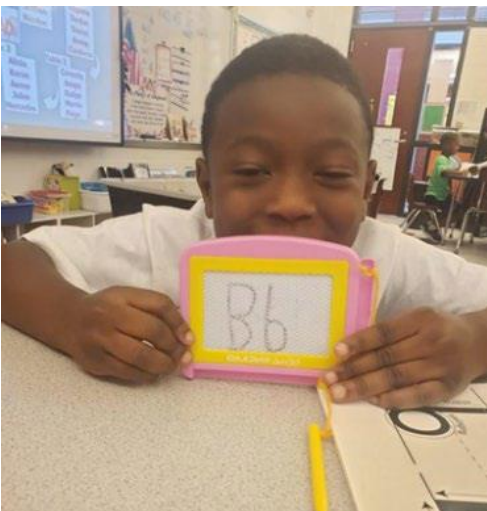
Over 1,172 children in Hancock, Harrison, Pearl River and Stone Counties.



## ENHANCE TUTORING PROGRAM

KL (2nd grade) was an early reader needing help with vocabulary and comprehension skills to advance. Since beginning tutoring she has learned to dissect stories. She can now point out main topics and key details. She has also become more fluent. We are so proud of her successes!

# Youth Success



## ENHANCE TUTORING PROGRAM

This student (1st grade) was not very motivated to learn and disliked reading. After attending tutoring, he has become very motivated and involved in reading instruction. He is encouraging to the other children about learning and listening when the teacher is trying to teach. Before tutoring, he was not very excited to be at school. His mother told me that now he is very excited about coming to school. He is now ready and willing to try anything I ask of him. I believe the extra time I have had with him in tutoring has really made a difference in his attitude toward school and learning.

## BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

JB is an six-year-old member who has faced many Academic and personal obstacles in his young life. Although Jude has grown socially, academically he has had challenges. This school year Jude struggled to maintain a mid to average grade in reading and did not have much confidence in his reading abilities. Since attending Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast, Forest heights, Jude has participated in tutoring services, including the Stride program and KidzLit. Staff has witnessed his reading skills sharpen, his love for reading develop, and his ability to communicate improve. To ensure that he retained as much as possible during the school year he participates in KidzLit activities. His participation in Stride and KidzLit proved to be beneficial for his academic support. Jude scored well on his first term progress report and we anticipate that he will continue to do well. He enjoys the curriculum and looks forward to his time in Stride. We have paired our Stride programming with KidzLit and He is working on improving her reading comprehension skills. With programs like Stride and the assistance of caring adult professionals, Jude has the opportunity to believe, achieve and excel academically just like his peers.

Kristopher Riley  
Unit Director

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast, Forest Heights Center

# Community Engagement



In 2019, **\$409,000** saved on prescription medication with FamilyWize prescription saving card in South Mississippi!

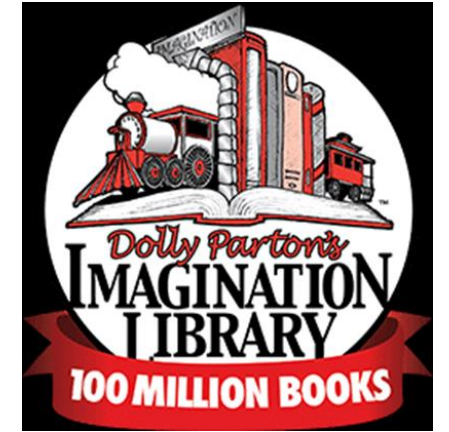


VITA/TCE sites still submitted nearly 2.4 million returns nationwide. That's 2.4 million individuals and families who received free, quality tax return preparation.

In South Mississippi, **\$200,483** was returned to tax payers who used VITA for tax preparation.



America's  
Favorite  
Charities  
★2019



# THANK YOU.



**United Way**  
2020 Membership  
Requirements  
**Completed**

## Contact:

Mignon Bouchon  
*Director of Resource Development*  
228-896-2213  
mbouchon@unitedwaysm.org  
11975 Seaway Road  
Suite B-170  
Gulfport, MS 39503



**United Way of South Mississippi**  
UnitedWaySM.org







United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community. We have one life. To live better, we must LIVE UNITED. Volunteer or donate at [unitedwaysm.org](http://unitedwaysm.org).



© 2018 United Way Worldwide



United Way of South Mississippi  
[UnitedWaySM.org](http://UnitedWaySM.org)

