

MARCH 2022

UNITED WAY OF LAURENS COUNTY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

For more information about any of our topics below, please email aredmond@uwlc-online.org or call 864-833-3623

WEBSITE UPDATE

The United Way website is getting revamped! We are steadily working away on updating our site so that it is more informative and user-friendly.



TOGETHER SC SUMMIT

This month our Executive Director, Alesia Carter, thoroughly enjoyed the Together SC Summit “Urgency of Now”. She was able to network, hear great speakers, and participate in important discussions about diversity and inclusion. We can’t wait until next year!

DAY OF CARING

Our Annual Day of Caring is going to be held this year on May 7th. This event serves as a day for volunteers in our community to help with clean up projects, painting, etc, at non-profits in LC. We are always looking for more volunteers for this great event. We are so excited to get back to a more relaxed setting! We had a different format due to Covid for the past two years but thankfully we are able to get back together this year.

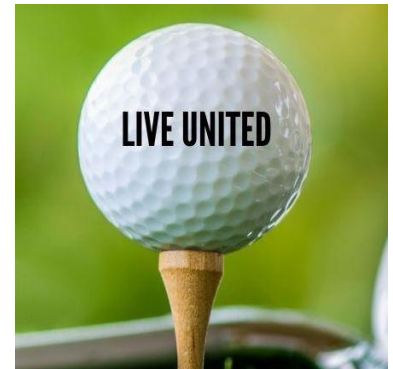


LAURENS COUNTY PREVENTION COALITION

The United Way of Laurens County team attended the Laurens County Prevention Coalition monthly meeting. Our Resource Development Manager, Aryele Redmond, presented about our raised beds community garden project. We also discussed important topics in Laurens County currently going on, such as the increase in the use of Narcan Dispensation. We enjoyed a nice lunch together, provided by the Coalition.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 29th Annual Golf Tournament is being held on Friday, June 3rd. It is taking place at The Links at Stoney Point Golf Course. To participate is \$400 per team of 4 people. To sponsor: \$150 for hole sponsor, \$500 for hospitality table, \$1,000 for Corporate Sponsor, \$1,500 for Presenting Sponsor.



SC PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE 2022

Alesia and Aryele were able to attend the SC public Health Conference at the DoubleTree Resort in Myrtle Beach, March 28th-31st. At the conference they were able to be a part of discussions regarding health disparities in rural communities. They were also able to hear from wonderful speakers regarding their community gardens and the benefits these green spaces have on underprivileged communities.



RAISED BEDS

COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

The United Way of Laurens County is currently hard at work on getting the raised beds project going. We have determined the locations for the 3 sets of 5 beds, placing 15 total beds in Laurens County. The three locations are Pleasantview Elementary in Gray Court, Waterloo Elementary in Waterloo, and across the street from the United Way Office in Clinton. We are trying to make the locations for the raised beds into community garden spaces that everyone can enjoy. Each garden will be in a location that will have sufficient supervision and care.

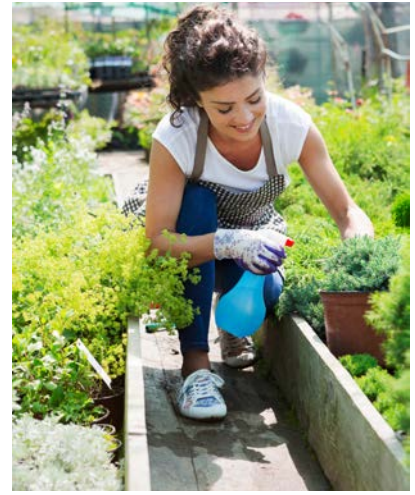


The hope is that these garden spaces will lend themselves well to future programs at United Way, partnering with other organizations. Such programs that have already been brainstormed are cooking classes, family gardening days, nutrition classes, community service spaces, etc.

Laurens County has areas that are considered Food Deserts, and these gardens would help alleviate some of that at no cost to community residents that live in these areas.

FREE LITTLE LIBRARIES IN THE MAKING

United Way is partnering with Thornwell Charter School and Mrs. Heather Beasley's 7th Grade Art Class to paint a new Free Little Library for the Laurens County community. The little library's theme is based on the children's book, "A Bad Case of Stripes." The students are working with UWLC's part-time person Catherine Perkins. Currently, the little library that Laurens Middle and LC 4-H are partnering on is almost finished. We expect the libraries to be completed around the same time.



WE'RE HIRING FOR THE GARDENS

We have two part-time positions available to create and care for the gardens so that each space remains vibrant and a growing part of the community around it. For more details about the open positions, please contact United Way of Laurens County at 864-833-3623 or email aredmond@uwlc-online.org



VITA

Pictured above is Tahj Carter, a student at Clinton High School, who serves on our Youth Advisory Committee. He also serves as a VITA volunteer. He is pictured working on a tax return. Youth are our future leaders, we must train them early! As of this week, our volunteers have completed 450 tax returns. We are so grateful for the amazing volunteers who work diligently every year to serve the community.