



2025 Campaign Resource Guide

Our mission at United Way of Orange County is to unite people and resources to improve the quality of life and build a stronger Orange County. Our vision is to serve as a champion of our community to empower individuals with knowledge and resources to create lasting, positive change.

Thanks to the support of generous businesses and individuals like you, United Way of Orange County is positively impacting the lives of thousands in our community. By investing in the basic building blocks for a good life –Health, Education, and Financial Stability – United Way of Orange County is inspiring hope for a good quality of life and creating opportunities for a better tomorrow.

But we couldn't do it without you!

What We Do

United Way of Orange County works to unite organizations and individuals to make our community a better place to live. Our core values are:

- Collaboration - partnering with nonprofits, businesses, and local government
- Community - supporting the places we live and work
- Resourceful - making connections and meeting needs
- Transparency - maintaining open and honest communication
- Sustainability - ensuring the organization's longevity

Our Work

United Way of Orange County's annual fundraising campaign is truly a community-wide effort. As your organization's Workplace Campaign Champion, you are a vital partner in the network of caring and collaboration in our community. At United Way of Orange County, we are working to create lasting change, inspiring hope for a good quality of life in Orange County by *Advancing the Common Good*.

Through your work last year (2024), thanks to local workplace and employee campaign contributions, you helped provide the following services to ORANGE COUNTY residents:

- Over 25,000 hot meals were delivered to elderly or disabled individuals.
- 13 clients were provided with overnight accommodation while their loved ones received medical treatment.
- 59 patients received palliative care services through their final days of life.
- 38 Individuals helped with GED, ESL, or Adult Basic Education.
- 235 women with their children provided refuge from domestic violence.
- 126 clients assisted with income tax services.
- 205 clients received outpatient treatment and counseling for drug, alcohol, and other substance abuse.
- 42 clients received inpatient rehabilitation and treatment for substance abuse and addiction.
- 228 clients received counseling for mental health issues.
- 28 clients received professional therapy for speech, behavior, physical or occupational challenges.
- 3,414 clients were provided with emergency food, utility, and rental assistance.
- 54 children taken from their homes were given a court appointed special advocate to help them through finding new loving homes.
- More than 95 individuals received Equine Assisted Therapy to help with muscle development, body stabilization, mental/emotional hardships, and other issues.
- 307 children completed programs to build skills in the areas of character development, leadership, and ethics.
- More than 400 school children were provided with basics like glasses, clothing, shoes, and other necessities to improve their school experience and keep them from becoming at risk students.
- 125 children received after school and summer care with structured education components included.

Together, we accomplish what no one organization or individual can accomplish alone. We provide an umbrella of services to help our friends, family members, co-workers, and neighbors who are in need. And, together we can meet the ever-increasing health and human service needs in our area. Be part of the change our community needs.

Campaign Dates

September 1, 2025 (Labor Day) – November 30, 2025

Important Aspects of a Successful Campaign

- Talk with United Way of Orange County staff
- Meet with your CEO
- Talk with the previous campaign coordinator and analyze your past campaign

- Recruit your team and discuss goals
- Determine dates for meetings and schedule speakers
- Promote your campaign!
- Conduct meetings and special events
- After your campaign, follow-up on pledge cards
- Report results internally and to United Way of Orange County
- Thank your team and employees!

The Importance of Asking

According to United Way research, the primary reason people don't contribute to the annual campaign is because they are not asked. Put simply – there is no task more important than asking people to give.

Campaign Checklist

- Please complete campaign by November 30.
- Return corporate donation sheet and signed pledge sheets to United Way of Orange County. If your company offers payroll deduction, be sure your HR department has a copy of the employee pledges.
- For designation requests, agency must be either a partner agency, or one of another United Way.
- Please completely fill out and submit the Campaign Completion Report to our office.

Tips for a Successful Campaign

There are essentially three elements of a campaign – the employee drive, the corporate gift and special events – and the most successful campaigns employ all three. Here are more great tips to have a successful campaign.

1. **Set goals.** Setting both monetary and participation goals is a critical step in setting expectations throughout the organization and creates a common cause. United Way of Orange County will help you calculate goals that are reasonable for our community and our workforce.
2. **Set a schedule.** Publicize it, and stick to it. Let everyone know ahead of time what events and meetings are planned, when pledges are due, and when totals will be announced. Folks are more likely to turn in their pledge forms when the campaign doesn't drag on so long that the whole thing becomes a distant memory.
3. **Work with a committee.** Feedback we have received from Employee Campaign Coordinators says that assembling a committee to organize the United Way of Orange County workplace campaign is **one of the most important** ways to guarantee a more successful fundraising effort, especially for larger employers. It spreads the labor,

contributes to building a team atmosphere, and produces more creativity.

4. **Have a visible role for executives and management.** Make sure all employees know that the United Way of Orange County campaign is supported by management, all the way to the top. Arrange for the CEO to speak to the employees. Have CEO sign emails and letters that go out to all employees expressing support for the campaign.
5. **Emphasize giving through payroll deductions.** Giving through payroll deductions is the easiest way for most employees to make the biggest impact they can. Funds are multiplied when employers offer a corporate match.
6. **Let United Way of Orange County help you.** We are ready to help you conduct your employee campaign in a number of ways. We can:
 - Come and talk to your employees.
 - Arrange for an agency representative to talk to your employees.
 - Arrange for tours of our partner agencies for your employees.
 - Respond to any questions, concerns, or comments that might arise among your employees.
 - Provide success stories.
7. **Motivate employees.** Whether or not we admit it, we all respond to incentive. Knowing you are "doing a good job" is nice, knowing you are doing a good job and have a chance to win an extra day's vacation is even nicer! Here are some ways to motivate your employees.

Track your Goals

One great way to motivate employees is to publicly track your goal.

- Email goal updates to employees, this can be paired with United Way of Orange County success stories.

Special Events

The primary purpose of special events is to help create a fun atmosphere during the workplace campaign while raising additional dollars beyond employee pledges.

- Department/Shift Competitions
- Food! Sell Root Beer Floats, Sundaes, Hot Dogs, or something else yummy
- Theme Days – 50's, 60's, 70's, etc.
- Bake Sale
- Car Wash
- Themed Basket Giveaways

Prize Ideas

Many businesses in town are happy to contribute small prizes for your employees. Also, discuss what funds or incentives are available through your employer. Prizes don't need to cost much to help employees have fun with the campaign.

- Floral bouquet
- Gift cards – restaurants, salons, gas, oil change, golf, etc.
- Tickets to events
- One full or half vacation/personal day
- Prime parking spot for a week/month
- Casual dress for a week
- Items available for purchase from United Way Worldwide:
www.unitedwaystore.com
- Anything else you can think of that would appeal to your employees

8. Thank everybody and celebrate your success. Thank everyone, whether or not they chose to give this year.

- Send an email from you or your CEO to all employees to thank them and to report results.
- Hand out candy or other small tokens.

Top Ten Reasons to Invest in United Way of Orange County

10. You care. You care about youth development and nurturing children, fostering independence for older adults and those with disabilities, providing basic needs to people in crisis, and strengthening and supporting families.

9. We hold our partner agencies – and ourselves – accountable. You can trust that money you contribute to United Way of Orange County will be allocated to programs at agencies that are held to the highest standards. Our partner agencies submit to a rigorous application process each year, which includes careful examination of their financial records, goals, programming, and work in the community. Dedicated and conscientious volunteers distribute the funds, ensuring that the dollars have the greatest possible impact.

8. Your investment stays here in our community. Dues to United Way Worldwide are only 1 percent of the amount we raise locally; in return, we receive benefits worth many times more than that small investment. This means that almost every penny of your donation stays right here in our area, helping to make our community an even better place to live for everyone.

7. **It's tax-deductible.** Any donation you make to United Way of Orange County qualifies as a deduction on your personal or business taxes. (Consult your tax advisor for more information)
6. **Any of us could benefit from our partner agencies' services.** The programs we fund are not just for the "other guy". Our partner agencies serve a broad spectrum of the population, from the hungry and the homeless to hard-working employed people who just need a hand up to get through a tough time.
5. **United Way of Orange County collaborates with the community.** United Way of Orange County works with businesses, faith-based organizations, local government, the non-profit sector, and many other community groups to build the infrastructure we need to proactively tackle our biggest challenges.
4. **You get a lot of bang for your buck.** When you give once to United Way of Orange County, you are really joining with the entire community to invest in over twenty community partner agencies and the services they provide to people right here.
3. **It feels good.** When you invest in your community through United Way of Orange County, you have the satisfaction and confidence of knowing that you, personally, are helping to sustain and improve the lives of your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and maybe even your own family members.
2. **You are part of real solutions.** United Way of Orange County is interested in more than a "band aid solution". We know that long-term community impact comes only from forward-looking and thoughtful planning.
1. **It matters.** And that's the bottom line.

And again, THANK YOU! #UNITEDISTHEWAY

Contacting United Way

Please feel free to contact us at any time with questions, comments, or concerns.

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