



Photo by Jen Osborn

Kids playing is a familiar sight at the Children's Development Center in Raeford, an organization funded in part by the United Way.

By Kristin Guthrie  
 Staff writer

After reaching their goal of raising \$43,000 last year, the United Way of Hoke County increased its goal to \$47,000 for their upcoming fiscal year.

"Last year was the best year we've had in several years. For several years we were not able to reach our goal," said United Way Secretary Sandra Kelly.

With their goal met last year and their sights set on an even bigger goal this year, they are looking to all of Hoke County for financial support to their community.

Linda Steed, United Way campaign chair, said they are seeking 100 percent participation from all the people who receive pledge cards.

"Everyone should give whatever they feel comfortable with," Steed said.

Any amount is appreciated, said Steed.

"Only about 2 percent of the money we raise is sent out of the county and that is only to enable us to use the United Way logo to be connected nationwide," said Kelly.

Organizers say it's reassuring to know the money is staying in Hoke County, but before anyone is willing to open their wallets and write a big check to United Way, they should know what United Way is all about.

"United Way of Hoke County is the umbrella agency under which several agencies are able to serve the citizens of Hoke County,"

**'If Hoke County United Way did not sponsor H.E.L.P., I am totally convinced that H.E.L.P. would not exist.'**

Nora Cockburn, H.E.L.P. program director

Kelly explained. "For the past 42 years, United Way has provided services, benefits or assistance to agencies affecting the human health and welfare."

The agencies to be supported by United Way during their 1996-97 fiscal year include: American Red Cross, \$6,500; Bethesda Inc., \$1,000; Cape Fear Council Boy Scouts of America, \$5,000; Hoke County 4-H, \$7,000; Hoke County Reading Literacy Council, \$7,000; Hoke County Rescue Squad, \$2,500; Hoke County Association for the Developmentally Handicapped, \$3,500; Pines of the Carolinas Girl Scouts, \$5,000; Senior Citizens, \$2,000; and H.E.L.P./Share Your Christmas, \$5,000.

The remainder of the \$47,000 budget for this year's United Way fiscal year will be spent on the continuation of United Way in Hoke County. They will spend \$300 on statewide United Way agencies and \$2,200 on local operational costs.

Some of the organizations would not be able to operate without the funds, while others say the donation is a small part of their budget. Regardless of the situation, all recipients say they are grateful for the support

of United Way and more directly the people of Hoke County for their donations.

**Appreciative groups**

"We are indeed very, very grateful," said Barbara Buie, executive director of the Hoke County Reading Literacy Council, in reference to her appreciation to the financial support from the United Way of Hoke County. "United Way gives an agency credibility. If United Way gives to you, it makes it easier to get other funding."

United Way has given \$7,000 to the Hoke County Reading Literacy Council, which Buie said they will use for administrative needs and supplies for new reading activities. Some of the funds will be used to pay telephone bills and staff salaries, buy reference books and copy paper, pay for postage and much more.

As for the \$5,000 allocated for the Hoke Emergency Liaison Program, program director Nora Cockburn said they will use \$4,000 for the expenses of the H.E.L.P. store and \$1,000 for their Share Your Christmas project.

Cockburn said their money hasn't been earmarked for any specific purpose, but "it helps toward food, diapers, medication for the sick... wherever there is a need." One thing Cockburn does assure, "every penny United Way gives the H.E.L.P. center stays in Hoke County and is used to help Hoke County's people."

"If Hoke County United Way did not sponsor H.E.L.P., I am totally convinced that H.E.L.P. would not exist," Cockburn said.

For four of the total five years H.E.L.P. has been in existence, Cockburn said United Way has always been there to offer their financial support.

Hoke County's United Way also recognizes that organizations outside of Hoke County

*Where there's  
 a will,  
 there's a way*

*Organizations depend on  
 contributions from United Way*



Photo by Jen Osborn

Red Cross volunteers throughout the country helped feed residents after Hurricane Fran. The organization survives on donations, one of which is the United Way.

provide services to local people. Offering support in the way of \$6,500 to the American Red Cross, United Way has recognized the great need for nationwide organizations in times of great disasters.

With the money from United Way, executive director of the Red Cross in Fayetteville Bob Zeigler said they plan to continue to extend their services in Hoke County.

First, they collect blood through regularly scheduled blood drives in the county. Second, the Red Cross offers 24-hour service to military men and women and their families in times of emergency through Armed Forces Emergency Services. They respond to calls at any time of the day or night requesting that they contact military men or women all around the world to alert them of family emergencies.

Further, they provide disaster relief after tragedies like the recent Hurricane Fran. Zeigler said they had members of the Red Cross at the shelters in Hoke County and they were responsible for training many of the other Hoke County workers who were available to help with disaster relief efforts. They also help with more personal disasters, such as house fires or floods.

Zeigler said they are very much in need of more volunteers to help with all aspects of the American Red Cross. To volunteer or for more information call 875-8151.

For the people at Bethesda Inc., a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center, director Glenn Greene said this is the first year they have ever received funds from United Way of Hoke County. The organization is located in Moore County and they have received funds from the Moore County United Way in the past, but they have finally started receiving money from the Hoke County United Way because Greene said, "We get right many people from Hoke County."

With the \$1,000 the United Way of Hoke County has allotted for Bethesda Inc., Greene said "We're using the money to continue operating expenses."

As for the Hoke County 4-H program, they have been given \$7,000, which will be used in a variety of areas. 4-H Agent Sandra Kelly said they will use the money for their scholarship program, camping activities, school enrichment materials and youth at risk program.

With the funding from United Way, Kelly said a lot of children are able to come to their programs — kids who would not

otherwise be able to come.

"We also use the money to subsidize activities so they are more affordable," said Kelly.

Also helping make activities more affordable for children, United Way has allotted \$5,000 for the Pines of the Carolinas Girl Scouts of the USA.

"It definitely helps tremendously," said field director Linda Nagel.

For example, Nagel said the troop packets cost about \$50, a cost too great for some troops to even begin. Some of the \$5,000 from United Way helps to pay for this packet cost.

"Troops kits are so expensive that if troops had to buy them themselves, they couldn't afford it," said Nagel.

In addition, the money is used to pay for programs for the 17 troops in Hoke County, five outreach programs, books, training for the leaders, camping supplies and a small part of Nagel's salary.

If a girl between kindergarten and 12th grade would like to join the Girl Scouts, Nagel said there is plenty of room. Call 875-6952 for more information.

The United Way didn't forget the Boy Scouts when they funded the Girl Scouts. They gave the same amount to the boys, \$5,000.

"We can count on their support every year," said district executive of the Hoke County Boy Scouts Robert Turner.

"We enjoy working with them — the partnership we enjoy. We hope we can continue the relationship," Turner said about his workings with United Way.

As for the Boy Scouts, Turner said their money will pay for training materials and resources as well as a recruiting system to encourage more boys to get involved with the already 12 total units in the county.

**Getting involved**

For those who would like to help the United Way fund these programs and more, there are several opportunities to help other than joining the United Way.

Many local companies like Chesapeake Ponds, Spanco and Burlington Industries can take a donation directly out of an employee's paycheck to help make giving easier. Kelly said other donations can be made by picking up a pledge card from the Cooperative Extension Office or calling 875-2162 or just sending a check to P.O. Box 914, Raeford, N.C. 28376.



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A Girl Scout science fair is an example of one program offered with help from the United Way.