

You Helped!

Our Mission is to improve residents' lives across the 9 rural counties of northeastern North Carolina we serve through a coordinated response that includes:

- fundraising
- certifying agencies
- supporting programs
- assessing needs, and
- serving as an information and referral service.



ALBEMARLE AREA UNITED WAY
ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



Bill Blake
Executive Director

STAFF



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Community Care Collaborative
Program Manager



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Executive Assistant

Albemarle Area United Way



Dear Neighbors,

Everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive. That's why United Way mobilizes the caring power of neighbors, businesses, and community partners to lead transformational change here in Northeastern NC. And we couldn't do it without **YOUR HELP**.

You helped your local United Way surpass over \$1 Million in pledged funds for the third year in a row. As of June 30, 2024, \$1,104,114 was pledged from thousands of donors, corporations, and grants. All of these monies are invested in local programs to improve the lives of our friends and neighbors.

As you'll read throughout the pages of this report, **you helped** so many of your neighbors through giving, advocating, and volunteering. You helped Sally who learned to swim through the All Kids swim program run by Albemarle YMCA. You helped Joe who got a lifesaving smoke detector installed in his home via the American Red Cross. You helped George who was fed at Souls Feeding and obtained much needed groceries via a client choice pantry at Foodbank of the Albemarle. You helped Beth find shelter and services from Albemarle Hopeline after experiencing domestic violence. You helped countless others because you chose to **Live United**.

Albemarle Area United Way (AAUW) continues to grow its impact by adding new certified partner agencies and expanding its community impact program. Along the way, five new Board Directors have joined the cause. These dedicated, caring board members -- all 22 of them -- help lift an entire community. They deserve our deepest appreciation and unwavering support. We're also especially thankful for organizations that implement workplace giving campaigns, thereby enabling donors to give through payroll deduction. We've had a lot of fun engaging the community with several signature events, including our first Keel Club Karaoke. Our biggest event, Bocce, Beer & Bites, was another tremendous success. Ping Pong down Paradise Plunge at H2OBX Waterpark was again a fun way to support AAUW during the height of summertime. Our special jersey night at the Edenton Steamers, complete with fireworks, was a wonderful way to celebrate America's birthday.

While we have accomplished so much, the mission isn't complete. I encourage you to **LIVE UNITED**. Together, we can solve problems that are too big for any of us to solve alone. When you give -- time, talent, treasure -- good things happen. Because **you helped**, we are truly improving lives. Thank you for loving your neighbor the United Way!

Grateful,
Bill Blake, Executive Director

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Visit us on the web at
<https://www.aauway.org>



Individual
Donations

Corporate
Donations

Employee
Workplace
Campaigns

\$1,104,114.28
Pledges Promised
by nearly 1,100 donors

Grants



Fundraising
Events

In-Kind
Donations

Serving 9 Counties: Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates,
Hertford, Pasquotank, & Perquimans





Dream Hunt & Fishing grants wishes for gravely ill children and their families to experience the outdoors. They also

offer retreats for the families of fallen law enforcement members and firefighters, and provide educational programs in local schools and at community events. Last year, they impacted 472 children's lives & have served 22,314 children since opening in 2002.

Your help makes wishes come true.

- **Youth Bertie** supplied **253 school children** with weekend meals the entire school year.
- **Pilmoor Food Pantry** served **2,402 families** providing **88,347 meals**.
- **SPCA** administered VETMEDS to **2,018 cats and dogs**.
- **Place of Possibilities** reached **350 children** with their Leadership & Empowerment Program.
- **Chowan/Perquimans Smart Start's** Jumpstart Program prepared **24 4-year-olds** for kindergarten.
- **141 children** per week attended **YMCA** summer camps in NENC via scholarships.

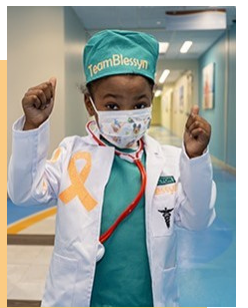
You Helped!



When Emily was diagnosed with breast cancer, there were many unknowns, from the type of treatment she would receive to the cost of that treatment, and how much time she and her husband may need to be away from work. With **your help**, the **Outer Banks Relief Foundation** provided three months of mortgage payments for Emily and her family. This assistance relieved Emily's anxiety about maintaining her family's home so that she could focus instead on her health. Emily's prognosis is good and her family is grateful.

- **Currituck Kids** served over **500 school children** in 2022-23.
- **Albemarle Hopeline's** Victim to Survivor Program helped **793 women and children**.
- **Foodbank of the Albemarle** served **41,850 individuals**, distributing **thousands of pounds** of nutritious foods, and opened the **first client choice pantry** in Elizabeth City.
- **Albemarle Alliance for Children & Families** provided **290 children** with vision and dental screenings.
- **Girl Scouts** served **602 girls** in NENC selling over **75,000 boxes** of cookies.
- **Pasquotank 4-H** reached **1,999 youth**.
- **Boys & Girls Club** served **150 children** with Brain Gain camp.

Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters was there when Blessyn Watford was 2 years old and her family noticed a drastic change in her behavior. In the emergency



room, they received news that turned their world upside down: Blessyn had leukemia. The doctors and staff at CHKD's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center provided chemotherapy in her spinal fluid with regular lumbar punctures. **Your help** made this happen. Finally at age 4, Blessyn finished her cancer treatment with a special celebration in the hallway outside the cancer clinic, dressed as a doctor and announcing her retirement to a cheering crowd of family and staff. In addition to helping Blessyn, last year CHKD provided services to 316 inpatients and 23,721 outpatients thanks **to your help**.

- **Catholic Charities** assisted **486 people** with food and utility bills.
- **Boy Scouts** had **968 program participants** earning **707 merit badges** providing over **2,600 hours** of community service.
- **Kids First** served **247 clients** resulting in a **91% decrease** in trauma symptoms.
- **American Red Cross** responded to **54 disaster events** assisting **64 families** with **166 lives** impacted, and installed **1,363 smoke alarms**.

\$720,162

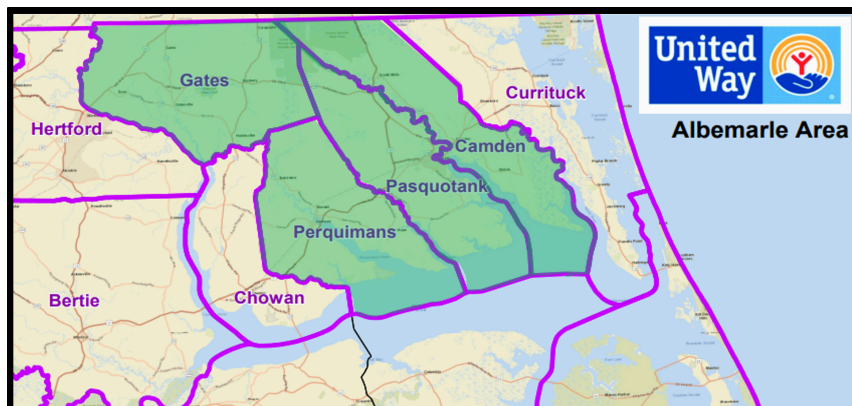
Total Community Investment

Community Care Collaborative

Serves as a local community impact program of the Albemarle Area United Way meeting human needs by providing assistance to those facing temporary emergency crisis with the goal of closing gaps among local resources

\$190,495

in direct assistance provided



“Michael” is a young man working two jobs to save money in an effort to move out of an unsafe living situation. While he had saved up about half of the amount needed to move into his own place, he needed help to cover the rest. CCC paid the remaining balance for “Michael” so that he could move into his new place and have the funds necessary to turn on his lights and get settled.



“Aisha” is the mother of three children who works full-time. Sadly, she needed to take an unpaid leave of absence from her job to be with her son who was being treated for stage IV brain cancer. CCC paid her past due rent so she could afford to travel to another state for her son’s participation in a new clinical trial. Because of the CCC program, “Aisha” was able to focus on her family and spend time with her son instead of worrying about whether she would have a home to come back to.

451 Cases

Types of Assistance

Utilities	239
Rent/Mortgage	164
Gas Vouchers	26
Other	22



Community Care Collaborative
Providing assistance to individuals facing a temporary emergency crisis
Serving Pasquotank, Camden, Perquimans & Gates Counties





Bocce, Beer & Bites



A great day was had by all at the 6th annual Bocce, Beer & Bites event. A total of 40 teams signed up to play bocce and scores of family and friends came to watch, all supported by a crew of nearly 50 dedicated volunteers. Those who attended enjoyed Currituck BBQ lunches, Ghost Harbor brews, Kona Shaved Ice, Kettle Corn, face painting, and great music by DJ Taz2. Best of all, this fun day benefited the mission of AAUW in funding needed services for our Albemarle Area neighbors.



Save the Date!

Edenton Steamers Game



It was a great night to be at the ball field! Through the Steamers' commemorative jersey auction, they raised \$2,736.85 for AAUW! That's a home run in our book!

Ping Pong Down Paradise Plunge

A beautiful, sunny day was the backdrop for the annual race down Paradise Plunge of over 300 ping pong balls at H2OBX Waterpark. One lucky winner went home with a \$500 grand prize and season tickets to the park, and the community will benefit from the funds raised.



Keel Club Karaoke

2024 brought us the inaugural Keel Club Karaoke event, complete with silent auction and lots of good food and fellowship. Many songs were sung, all to benefit AAUW and our community.



Pictured: Bill Blake, AAUW Executive Director and Brian White, United Way of North Carolina Board Chair

Day of Caring



Save the Date!



Our 2023 Day of Caring aligned 124 volunteers with 13 different organizations to help them achieve their goals! From stocking shelves to painting walls to trimming bushes, volunteers from all over our area turned out to help our valued United Way Partner Agencies in ways big and small.



Tocqueville Society

Our Tocqueville Society is comprised of donors who have provided support of \$10,000 or more annually.

8 Members and growing!

Our Keel Club is comprised of donors who have provided support of \$1,000 or more annually.

99 Members and growing!



Certified Partner Agencies

Albemarle Alliance for Children & Families
Albemarle Chapter of the Red Cross
Albemarle Hopeline
Bertie County 4-H Youth Development
Bertie County YMCA
Boys & Girls Club of the Albemarle
Boy Scouts of America - Tidewater Chapter
Carolina Rebuilding Ministry
Catholic Charities
Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters
Chowan County 4-H
Chowan/Perquimans County Smart Start Partnership
Community Care Clinic of Dare
Cultivator, Inc.
Currituck Kids
Dream Hunt & Fishing
East Carolina Council Boy Scouts of America

Elizabeth City Habitat for Humanity
Food Bank of the Albemarle
Gates County 4-H
Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast Conference
Just Girls "Hearts of the Albemarle"
Kids First, Inc.
OBX Room In the Inn
Outer Banks Relief Foundation
Pasquotank County 4-H
Pilmoor UMC Emergency Food Center
Place of Possibilities, Inc.
SOULS Ministry
SPCA of NE NC
Special Olympics North Carolina
YMCA - Albemarle, Currituck, and OBX
Youth Bertie, Inc.

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS





Community Partners



Small Biz United



2024-2025 Board of Directors



AAUW Board of Directors in action!
Final Board Meeting of 2023

Denise Brothers	Robert Ramage
Chris Carver	Tyler Russell
Damian Dondero	Tammy Sawyer
Becky Elliott	John Shannon
Brian Harvill	Bryan Spence
Dr. Tiffany Hinton	Lauren Spruill
Jamie Koch	Jesse E. Stallings
CDR Heidi Koski	Ray Turner
Arthur Manigault	Clark Twiddy
Annalisa Morgan	Melissa Verkuilen
Dr. Keith Parker	Deborah White
Heidi Prentiss	Holly White