

United Way Myth Busters

I heard that...

...the United Way spends way too much on salaries and other administrative costs.

Actually, more than 97 cents of every dollar that goes to United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties funded agencies, which is much more than the amount recommended by BBB Wise Giving Alliance of 65 cents, and even better than the amount of 75 cents required by the U.S Government for organizations participating in their giving program, the combined Federal Campaign. The United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties has a full time Chief Executive Officer and a full-time communication Manager and still relies heavily on volunteers to help run the organization- allowing every opportunity we have to invest the most money possible in our local communities.

...a colleague/friend/family member doesn't like the United Way because his boss made employees donate to the campaign.

The United Way has never- and will never- condone this sort of fundraising on our behalf. Once employees are asked to donate, we leave it at that. We never want employees to feel intimidated or threatened to participate in our campaign. Of course, gentle reminders to turn in their campaign paperwork (even if the amount is \$0) are okay. Always remember that donations are a personal matter and people must take many things into consideration before making the choice to donate.

...my sister called the United Way for help with her utility bill, and they wouldn't help her.

The United Way does not offer direct assistance to the residents in our community. Instead, we allocate our funds -your donations- to those organizations that are best equipped to meet the needs of our residents and ask them to distribute the funds. Even though you might be receiving the help of the Mt. Graham Safe House, Wellness Connections, Boys & Girls Club, SEACUS, Duncan First Southern Baptist Church Food Bank, Our Neighbor's Farm & Pantry, Safford- Graham County Library, or any other partners, know that United Way dollars make their work possible.

...the money raised by United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties is sent to the United Way Worldwide, and they take their cut and then decide how to distribute the money locally.

Not True. Every United Way is an independent, autonomous organization, with its own Board of Directors. United Worldwide does not exercise any control over how we allocate our funds to the community. We do pay membership dues to United Way Worldwide (1% of the amount we raise each year) and those funds provide marketing materials, supplies, and training opportunities for the staff and board.

...you support X organization. There is no way I want my money to go to that place.

The United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties funds over 50 different organizations in Graham and Greenlee Counties, and our local board of directors feels they all do a great job meeting the tremendous needs in our communities. However, we also know that not everybody feels the same way about each organization. Please don't let your feelings about one organization stop you from donating to United Way. Instead, feel free to designate your donation to the organization of your choosing. This way, you have the total control over where your money goes.

-United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties-