During this time of year, it is so easy to be distracted by the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping, tree decorating, and visiting with friends and family. Sometimes we need to slow down, and reflect upon the many blessings we have received.

What about those who don't have a tree to decorate? What about those with no friends or family? How are we making a difference in their lives? By working at United Way, I have encountered tons of opportunities to get involved. Recently, I experienced something that changed my life for the good. I delivered Meals on Wheels for our agency, Community Council. This humbling experience will keep you grounded and thankful. The elderly home-bound seniors in our community just want a friend, someone to talk to. It made my day to see a smile and receive lots of hugs because of donors like you!

Money is great, without it we would not be able to do what we do, but it also about about giving of your time and talents too. Whether it's time talents, or treasures make it your new year's resolution to GIVE BACK in 2019. GIVE UNITED. LIVE UNITED!
Make Volunteering Your New Year's Resolution

- Storehouse Food Pantry (629 Cherry Street) distributing groceries to individuals in our community who suffer from food insecurity. Mon. and Wed. 10am-12pm Thurs. 5pm-6pm.
- Vicksburg Family Development (601-638-1336) providing leadership training opportunities for their youth mentoring programs, such as team building, decision-making, conflict resolution.
- Warren County Habitat for Humanity (601-634-6633) creating a team willing to assist in the renovation or building of an affordable house in 2019.
- Someplace Special (601-638-0021) or local nursing homes calling BINGO
- Keystone Ministry (601-631-4557) serving daily hot meals starting at 5:30PM.
- Grace Christian Counseling Center (601-636-5703) volunteering or participating in the 11th Annual Chill in the Hills 10K Run, 5K Walk, or 1 Mile Fun Run. January 12th
- THRIVE Mentor volunteers (601-636-1733) mentor a child weekly with academic skills and leadership building.

Donate Items

Many agencies in our community are in desperate need of cleaning supplies and paper products. All items can be brought to United Way and given to the agency of your choice. Visit our website for a full list of items needed for donation: unitedwayvicksburg.org/holiday

Michele's Message

The driving force of our mission is the face of a child, a family member, or elderly person who truly needs the services being offered in our community to survive. They often sit beside you at church or stand in line with you at the grocery store and you don’t know it. And other times you may never cross paths. There must be statistical proof to support the success. But there also needs to be the face you see when you close your eyes at the end of the day. United Way plans to continue supporting our service area in promoting financial stability. Helping youth and children achieve their full potential. Educating others on the importance of good health. Together as a community, we have lifted 6% of our service area’s children out of poverty in just three years. Together we increased the high school graduation rate by 10% in the past six years. Together we decreased the adult obesity percentage by 4% in a three year span. It is our collective calling to build a brighter tomorrow for the next generation and support the most basic needs of those who are unheard and unseen. And somewhere along this journey – we will touch the life of someone who will be able to proudly say – ‘I am the face of your donation’ I look forward to seeing all of the great work that will be accomplished in 2019 because of your generosity and the hard work of those who choose to LIVE UNITED.
Create next year's memories by being a United Way donor. Give today at unitedwayvicksburg.org

2018 YEAR-END COLLAGE
United Way of West Central Mississippi
A Newsletter From
By the way...

Photo Booth

Charlie from First Presbyterian Daycare poses as Santa's Helper at the Pajama Drive.

Hundreds gathered for the Inagural Supper on the 'Sip: Dine and Stroll the Old Mississippi River Bridge.