

## **United Way Allocation Panels 2021 for 2022**

### **Panel #1**

*Rod Howell, Ora Coots, David Hart, Anne Swartzentruber, Tommie Beth Willis, Brent James*

**Red Cross** – Tracy Willis-Kight, Mark and Connie Fleetwood, local volunteers.

Terri was sick and could not join. Tracy joined via online Webex. Request for increase in disaster services to prevent what they see as a potentially devastating hurricane season starting June 1. Mark explained Disaster Services and said that Colquitt County has a majority of house fires when it comes to disasters. RC put many individuals and families in hotels due to tornadoes last year. Mark is the “feeding link” for Georgia. He says on virtual disaster calls from around the state, as well as travels to help with emergencies. Connie and Mark do not know how much money is utilized locally for Disasters and can’t really speak to the increase other than disasters can happen at any time. They mentioned many local partnerships that have been established recently from Food Bank, Children’s Cheer and Toy Shop and more. Tracy explained that the total budgeted expenses are \$55,000 for our county with \$25,000 a year dispersed between debit cards going directly to aid victims. They do not receive govt monies. Misc. revenue is support from National when they need help with expenditures. Terri has planned two fundraisers for the year. What happens when victims do not have insurance? The answer is unknown other than they check in with follow ups and RC will refer to other resources in the community. Salary line is percentage of ED time, Disaster Program Manager, and Tracy’s time spent on assessing Colquitt county. Mark and Connie volunteer for free. They spend an average of 20 hours per week on RC when not assessing disasters. Home Fire Campaign consists of educational programs like the pillowcase project, fire awareness and installation of fire alarms for free.

Panel recommends continuing the \$12,500 for Disaster Services. RC’s increase is based on the potential increase of disasters, panel suggest when disasters occur to look into special grant or disaster relief grant opportunities if need arises. Also, RC doesn’t have a budget specifically for CC so that makes it hard to see what is actually spent in CC.

**Original – 12,500 (Disaster Services) – TOTAL \$12,500**

**Request (Disaster Services) - \$15,000 – Recommend - \$12,500**

**Food Bank** – Laura Keith, Executive Director

Number of meals in 2019 – 58,500 for the first four months; 2020 – 100,260; 2021 for the first four months – 65,520. 2020, of course, was higher due to Covid. Individual donor dollars were up in 2020 due to Covid. Laura started in March 2019 and works as a ED Volunteer/ No salary. She has created a better relationship with Second Harvest, and they now deliver to Moultrie from Valdosta at no charge and at times gives extra food. Laura says it will be fall before they are back to normal with volunteers. Current needs are handicapped restrooms, lockable storage closet, big awning/front building remodel, and new fencing for loading dock area. Ran Wilson is drawing up the plans for the renovations to front of the building. Laura says he is doing it for free or a very good, discounted price. They are currently waiting for the display freezer to be built \$18,000. Laura did not have her paperwork, so she kept using Rod’s – she wasn’t very prepared. She didn’t show up to the first on site visit, so we had to move on. Increase request is for food purchases - \$2,000 increase. Second Harvest offers from 18cent – 20cent a lb for food. UW covers 50,000 lbs of food and the increase will bring it up to 60,000 lbs. Panel inquired about the organization not having a conflict-of-interest policy or a paperwork retention policy – Laura says there are no conflicts since no one is paid and that they keep paperwork digitally now and for 7 years but there is no written policy. Panel recommends increasing by \$2,000 but are concerned with Laura’s management style and suggest more board oversight and maybe some younger board members of volunteers. We didn’t tour the facility, so we didn’t get to see the equipment need. Organization seems good for today but not prepared for tomorrow.

**Original - \$10,000 - Request - \$12,000 – Recommend \$12,000**

**Toy Shop** – Angie Kling, ED and social worker at Sunset and Mary Beth Watson (helping with budget and financials). CCTS has transitioned to new toys only. Cash is better than donations- cash goes further. Drive thru set up worked much better than prior years. Looking into changing distribution days from 5 to 3 days. Last year they served 1,785 individuals. Projecting a bigger need for 2021. Panel is pleased with what this organization does for the kids in our county and recommends continuing funding the request.

**Original - \$15,500 - Request - \$ 15,500 – Recommend - \$15,500**

## **Panel #2**

*Kashima Lattimore, Marybell Hernandez, Bob Swadel, Judy Payne, Ross Dekle, Michelle McDaniel, Quentin Bates.*

### **Crossroads – Randy Benner, President**

Randy began with telling a success story about John who now works at Chickfila and is enrolled in college. Randy and Jase (life under the son) relationship works because Jase ministers to those imprisoned and once they get out Randy can house them and get them on their feet and ready for the future. Jase, also, helps as a mentor. CR goal is to fix broken relationships, map out a plan for the future for those sheltered. Each individual has a specialize program molded to fit their needs. CR is not just a meal and a bed, but it helps with longevity and sustainability. CR takes most individuals except sexual offenders. Residents are required to have a photo ID, TB test, Covid test, and drug/alcohol test. If they fail drug/alcohol test they must enroll in a 30-day program and be drug free for 30 days before reapplying. CR has 28 life coaches. Since Randy started the number of church donors have increased from 8 to 17 churches. Currently they have 9 residents with 3 open beds – 12 capacity. Resident Director, Thomas, is the only paid staff at this moment – lives in shelter, cooks for residents and works daily admin. Trying to hire an ED, offered to three people – all turned down. CR runs off mostly referrals. Long term vision – Randy wanted to obtain Eastside Baptist Church (next door) to run a soup kitchen or women’s shelter and it didn’t work out. He wants to package up the idea and concept of CR and branch out to the region adding shelters in various communities. Panel was concerned that he didn’t answer the question of the need for increase. Caroline is to email Randy to get a clear description of the increase. Panel would, also, like an explanation of expansion plans. Panel recommended increase by \$500 to bring CR to \$17,000.

**Original - \$16,500 – New Request - \$17,500 - Recommend \$17,000**

### **Serenity House- Haley Clark, Executive Director**

SH has revamped the children’s program and playroom at the shelter. All staff members were required to take a training on Mental Health and Trauma to better serve their residents. The shelter is fully structurally sound after 16 months of renovations. Next is the AC/Duct work. SH secured a shelter van to transport residents to work, school, etc.. The numbers seem to increase each year. Currently, Haley has no permanent office and will move into Sheriff’s dept office soon. SH is expanding client resources and outreach from bill pay to transitioning victims into their homes with security deposits and more. Average stay for resident is typically 30-45 days, some have a greater need, and it can be 4 to 6 months just depends. The capacity is 17 beds and they just moved out two families, so they currently have 4 residents. 2021/2022 will be fully state funded and project budget cuts for federal funding. This comes after the 2020/2021 state budget cut of 5.2%. SH takes 10-15% of homeless cases. All services and programs are offered to all residents. Case workers will focus on what each resident will need. There are 10 paid staff members – half are part-time. Childcare is provided in shelter. Advertising is a new expense line item for outreach and community educational seminars. Admin expenses have intentional decreased in order to save money and give their employees a small increase in salary to stay competitive in job market. Panel is pleased with organization and recommends continued funding.

**Original - \$25,000 - Request - \$25,000 – Recommend - \$25,000**

### **Panel #3**

*Lisa Zeanah, Anna Ford, Chas Cannon, Tyler Mobley, Kareem Kelly, Steve Scarrow*

#### **C.C. Arts Center – Kim Yarbrough, Program Director**

Kim reviewed all 10 of the requested programs. Senior Adult Painting – 8 to 10 on the roster and meet once a week. Fine Arts Camp – 8 weeks/full days and BGClub will provide breakfast and lunch. They are looking at 6 scholarships per school. Primetime Art/YMCA – MSL pays for first semester and UW pays for second. Scholarships – these have decreased because of the increase from an individual donor. Covers supplies or ballet shoes whatever is needed for the students that attend. Family Theater – 15/20 cast in a free play for the community. Senior Living Facility – Legacy Village, Magnolia Manor, & Golden Apple – during Covid AC delivered Art Kits to each location. Art kits can range from canvases and paint to color sticks and sun catchers. Doerun Library – once a week and now over the summer to use rollover funds from covid. Green Oaks – Art with clients about once a week or once a month depending on the need. Serenity House – Art with residents depending on how many are in shelter once a month. NAMI Nights – on hold due to Covid but sent out 80 art kits. Program increase request for Open Studio. Open Studio was funded by the GA Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) for \$18,000. Due to the changes in requirements for advocacy for LGBTQ and other inclusion efforts, AC decided not to apply for this funding in the future. This program is an open to the community art workshop. Plans for printmaking, instrumental art, painting, ceramics, and stain glass for 2022. Funding from GCDD ends April 2021. Kim says that even if it weren't fully funded for the \$3200 that whatever is funded, they could just make some changes to the program/art. Individual donations have been down – looking for new AC patrons. Rollover funds were used to purchase materials for all art kits. Lisa recommends obtaining a whistle blower policy – need to talk to Connie. Panel could go either way with the funding – some suggested only funding half of the request. Panel decided to stick with the continued funding and let the allocation committee or full board decide in the end.

**Original - \$36,000 - Request - \$ 39,200 – Recommend - \$36,000**

#### **Moultrie YMCA – Rich Gallagher, CEO**

Rich mentioned the Y was short staffed. Y is working on addition – Doerun Y to open soon next to police dept/city hall with a 1,800 to 2,000 sq ft. building. The future is looking at Y's that are struggling and taking on a regional approach with several branches in Bainbridge and Tifton, etc. Board is looking at a regional name change. Because of UW the downtown Y has been able to stay open during pandemic and is one of the only ones to stay open during 2020 Covid. Main branch is getting new equipment, sending old equipment to downtown and downtown's equipment to Doerun. Plans are to open one in Norman Park in 6months. They will give Doerun citizens some sort of discount. There are 72 members in Doerun zip code with an 18+population. Programming – mentoring program hopes to return but wants to support Education Foundation's new program. SPLASH program will use rollover funds to add on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders that missed last year's program during the fall – September. There are 150 teens that utilize the teen area at the Y after school which is more than before Covid. Page 20 – homework help – Lisa inquired about the same staff watching all the kids and assisting with homework? Is that double dipping and are they actually assisting with homework? Rich will ask and get back to the panel via email. New Partnership with BGClub to offer 30 summer jobs paying minimum wage (\$7.25) for 14/15-year-olds to stop gangs from forming and get these kids interested in early workforce. This is still in the planning phase, but Caroline suggested looking into a Community Impact Grant for Job Readiness. Panel recommends continued funding.

**Original - \$55,000 - Request - \$55,000 – Recommend - \$55,000**

#### **Special Olympics – PJ Jones and Mitchell McKinney, James and Deon (athletes)**

The panel met James and Deon, which both work at the hospital and are both SO athletes. There are many options and types of sports that are available to this group including snow skiing. SO have submitted a team for the US Games next summer in Orlando. They are continuing with their Covid-style Olympics where they meet virtually. They hope to start back to normal in the fall. They've requested to get the fundraiser approved for the fall from Mr. Wiggins, superintendent. They have submitted a request for the games in Valdosta this fall, which will be individuals and not teams. CC has a big SO program, bigger than compared to the region. Panel enjoyed meeting the players and recommends continuing funding.

**Original - \$5,000 – Request - \$5,000 – Recommend - \$5000**

## **Panel #4**

*Barbara Grogan, Tori Murray, Judd Lasseter, Josh Lovett, Joanne Jones, Steve Yearta*

### **Boys & Girls Club – Joseph Matchett**

Joseph explained all four sites are afterschool programs providing activities for students from homework help and character development to health relationships and recreational growth/experience. During the school year, they provide a snack and supper and during summer months they provide breakfast, lunch, snack, or dinner. Through COVID-19, BGC served up to 3,900 meals a day, whereas during a normal school year they would serve around 500 meals per day. They currently have 92 students throughout all sites with the capacity of 325 kids. Feeding program through USDA – a reimbursement system so the feeding program is self-sustainable. They have a surplus of funds that are restricted for the feeding program from paying the Nutrition Director to buying food or supplies for feeding. Need more full-time support staff. Joseph looking to hire an HR Manager. Excess funds throughout COVID were spent to upgrade kitchen, bought new vehicles, and Joseph says excess money will level out. Because of number of meals and money received they must be audited on the feeding program twice this year and last. Increase request is for the Teen Center – to add 150 kids at \$150 year for TC and supplies. As ratio numbers grow, they will need more staff.

Panel was concerned with the completion of the BGC application. It was inaccurate and did not reflect that the surplus funding was specifically for food purchase/supplies. It, also, does not reflect food purchases. The panel recommends funding the same as prior year, with no increase and, also, requested a quarterly report from BGC throughout the 2022 year.

**Original - \$58,160 – Request - \$70,000 - Recommend - \$58,160**  
**Moultrie Unit \$45,000 / RD Smith Teen Center \$13,160**

### **Colquitt 4-H – Savannah Carter**

4-H enables students to become better public speakers and contributing citizens. Zona retired in February. UW funds provide contract labor part-time staff position covering in school programming in the school system and supplies for the educational activities. Savannah Carter is the 4-H Agent as of September 2019. Jessica Anaya was the Program Assistant that went into the schools to provide the programming up until August 2020 when she began as a teacher in the school system. They were trying to work with the school system to create new/more integrative curriculum based on school testing needs up until COVID when schools shut down. These hands-on lessons were going to be in all 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms, adding on Stringfellow. Also, supposed to move to include all 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms in the county. COVID has put 4H on hold other than virtual programming and they are currently in two schools – RBWright and Doerun with some virtual at Okapilco. Savannah will be leaving as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. The 4-H Agent and Program Assistant positions will be vacant. Two college students have applied for the PA position, but no updates. Savannah's plans for rollover funds not used during 2020: Supplies for Classroom Club Meetings, Support of Livestock Supplies, Support of Livestock building for BB, and Technology support for virtual 4H programs. Caroline inquired about the rollover funds spent toward the Livestock Program – not for human service program but could argue that it helps teach young ones the importance of livestock but does not line up with UW missions/vision. Panel recommends holding allocation funds to see a report of how the rollover funds were used and where money is being spent while not in classrooms. Panel suggested using rollover funds to cover the program for a year.

**Original - \$13,000 – Request - \$13,000 - Recommend – HOLD \$13,000**

### **Boy Scouts – Terry Whitaker & David Mwamba**

Terry explained that CC was underserved while under Bob's direction. Bob was covering several counties. Boy Scouts is planning a relaunch to partner with local organization such as the BGClub and school system, as well as religious organizations. David has set up meetings with BGC and Ben Wiggins, Superintendent. Request is for program aid/scholarships for 40 kids within 4 units, totaling in 120 kids. BS plan to hire a part-time employee to cover Colquitt County only for recruiting scouts, volunteers and soliciting funds. Panel was interested in the membership growth initiative but thought that recruiting 120 in that amount of time was not attainable. The panel recommended funding \$5,000 to aid in 40 kids/1 unit to start. If scouting fee is \$10/month then the \$5,000 will cover the \$4,800 it would take to serve the 40 kids, plus extra for programming expenses, camp, uniforms, etc.

**Original - \$0 – Request - \$20,000 - Recommend - \$ 5,000**

## **Panel #5**

*Kevin Bautista, Bradley Grantham, Summer Richmond, Drew Davis, Jim Matney, Danielle Mobley*

### **Easter Seals**– Ebony Miles (covers CC) and Cathy Jenkins

There are currently 18 individuals on the waitlist for services. The request is for Family Support Services (FSS) to aid in supplies for clients, from specialized medical supplies and nutrition supplies to travel reimbursements, respite care and incontinence supplies. FSS serves ages 3+ with disabilities to help families with basic needs that insurance does not cover. DBHDD contract helps with FSS funding. Ebony assists between 350-400 clients on a daily basis. FSS, also, provides day programs such as YMCA memberships, Wild Adventure trips and fun daily activities to provide socialization. Most needed medical supplies are for incontinence. Costs about \$600-900 a month for these type supplies. The \$2,000 request would cover about 3 to 4 individuals with incontinence issues. They received a good amount of funds from other UW's that stay within their specific requested counties. Panel suggested that next year's application be more detailed with the specific needs and include unit pricing for supplies. Panel recommends funding the \$2,000 and bringing Easter Seals back as an allocation under new leadership efforts.

**Original - \$0 - Request - \$2,000 - Recommends - \$2,000**

### **Hero House** – Regina Dismuke

Program going strong. Regina has increased awareness in the community through marketing efforts like Pinwheels and Capes. SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Exam) Center renovations complete! The increase request is for a Child Advocate (CA) staff person. Currently they are using one from the state but needs one specifically for C.C.. VOCA grant covers Regina's increased salary to full time. They currently have a volunteer CA but one is needed full time in order to supervise medical exams and to apply for certain grant opportunities. This CA would, also, help in follow up and make sure that no child falls through the cracks once HH has expended its help. Teen Maze rollover funds from 2020 were spent on the Forensic Observation Room to purchase 6 headsets and to purchase and install sound panels, which ensures better recording of interviews. Panel suggests funding the \$7,000 increase for the Child Advocate needed which pay \$10/hr for a full time employee and helps to obtain new grant opportunities thus saving us from future increase requests. Panel recommends holding the Teen Maze funds until we know if it will happen for 2021. Caroline reached out to Katrina Bivins about TM and it will be held starting spring of 2022. So, we will not hold funds for TM.

**Original - \$17,000 includes \$3000 TM. Request - \$24,000 - Recommend - \$24,000**

### **Green Oaks** – Russ Joiner

Funding of \$13,500 for Gap Funding – individuals who have needs but funding is not available yet. Sometimes it takes up to a year or two before individual receive Medicaid, if severe need it is a lot faster. Russ discussed several success stories of individuals who were served this past year. GO exhausts all options before touching UW funds. All questions were covered at the on site meeting. Panel recommends continued funding for GO.

**Original - \$13,500 - Request - \$13,500 - Recommend - \$13,500**

### **CASA Kids** – Never Lost – Wendy Greene and Tina McKinney

Wendy explained what the CASA Kids program does. Volunteers are trained and assigned to specific cases for children as officers of the court to inform judge about recommendations in the child's best interest. Children with CASA volunteer statistically have better numbers than the average. 3 years of CASA in CC has decreased the number of kids in foster care and duration. Less time in foster care, better resources, etc. Budget reflected is 50% of entire agency in order to report of CC budget. Currently served 49 in CC in 2020 and YTD 2021 served 75 in CC. They have two advocacy coordinators and one specifically covers CC and travels from Thomasville. Request is for assistance to individuals, training to CASA volunteers, travel for coordinator, and supplies. Panel recommended continued funding.

**Original - \$7,500 - Request - \$7,500 - Recommends - \$7,500.**

## Panel #6

*Marci Meadows, Sheree Hamilton, Leigh Wallace, Freddie Williams, Jr., Austin Hamilton, Donna Suber*

### **SOWEGA Council on Aging - Leslie Jones**

Home Delivered Meals Program formerly known as Meals on Wheels serves 14 counties/includes CC. FY 2020 served 39 individuals in Colquitt County – 11 of those are covered with United Way funds. 250 days of the year are considered service days serving 1 meal per day but if greater need there is an option for 2 meals a day and spouses can also receive meals in the same location. Serving homebound seniors. There is a twostep screening process once before client is added to waitlist and once after. Individuals are based on a tier system on waitlist with tier 1 for severe / greater need. Clients are reevaluated after the first quarter and then once a year. COVID-19 increased calls for HDMs. The average call ins about 200/month and during this time it is around 500 to 700/month. Gets referrals from individuals, neighbors, and community. They have a call system “hotline”. Delivery employees are required to visit with the clients when meals are dropped off in hopes of conversing and checking out the home. Cost per unit/meal is around \$5.37. Senior Center changed to center without walls – which means they are trying to decipher next steps and working with city/county on revamping the program and the building. Currently working with Fullers for curbside delivery for congregate clients. They do use a system that checks to make sure there are no overlap in services with out organizations. They continue to use the Triage Assessment to help them determine whether referral clients should be congregate or HDM program recipients. No individuals on waitlist due to CARES Act funding! Clients only roll off if they go into a nursing home or if they pass. Panel recommends continued funding.

**Original - \$16,000 – Request \$16,000 – Recommend - \$16,000**

### **SW GA CAC – Randy Weldon, Ann Hires and Bernette Sweet**

Emergency Relief – this is a unique program that they call a “safety net” program. Funded by UW, county and city. 100% goes to direct services, no admin fees or salaries. Has a local board specifically for emergency relief that meets every other month. Additional expenses during COVID-19 are primarily for rent/utilities sometimes food. The foresee an increase in calls for deferred but not waived rent. Eviction Moratorium ends June. They are still assisting individuals with the DCA Rental Assistance Portal. Always try to use other funding sources before using UW funds/considered last resort funding.

**Original - \$45,000 - Request - \$45,000 - Recommend - \$45,000**

Senior Nutrition – Congregate and delivered. Cost is usually between \$4 to \$5 per meal, but currently at \$3.50/meal. Drivers are trained to assess the person while they are there. No income or age requirement with UW funds. Community Service Block Grant has 60+ age requirement. All these meals are for people in Colquitt County. During COVID-19 transitioned congregate clients to home delivered. Also sending goodie bags on the weekends. Comparable to Meals on Wheels but not income based and targeted for homebound seniors. No overlapping in coverage with SOWEGA. Currently serving 85 on Tuesday – Congregate setting just opened back up prior week and they served 8 to 9 because they were bused in via van to facility.

**Original - \$27,500 - Request - \$27,500 - Recommend - \$27,500**

Youth Enrichment Summer Program. YES! – Have 5 different camps in 5 locations. Rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. We are in a 3-year grant with YES – the different in funds are - \$3000 allocation is for new kids and the CI money is the additional cost to return kids each year. There is pre and post testing on topics that are covered during camp. Camp uses STEAM curriculum – Science, technology, engineering, ag and art, and math. Curriculum prepares students for high school and gives them life skills/experience. They give college tours and have fun projects based on money management. Retired teachers teach camp. Brenda Arnold, teacher, works with teachers to decipher which students could benefit from the program. Fundraisers for camp include Golf tournament and raffle, letter writing campaign, and applying for any available grants. COVID-19 has put a hold on funding and resulted in camp being cancelled for 2020 but they are to resume 2021 with virtual programming. 2020 rollover funding will take the place of all fundraising efforts that were put on hold during 2020 and 2021.

**Request - \$3,000 – Request \$3,000 - Recommend - \$3,000**

**Total Original - \$75,500 – Total Recommend - \$75,500**

**Salvation Army** – Stephanie Strenth and Jim Morrow (Salvation Army Regional Director)  
Currently has noticed a lull in calls but could be because DFCS isn't open. Stephanie has been working with Caroline on some cases that utilize both funding options. Any money not spent during these months will rollover to the next month to provide assistance. Salaries include Green Oaks workers during the Christmas Kettles fundraiser. Kettles fundraiser was down 20% over the entire organization. Fiscal year for SA is Sept – Oct. Served 44 individuals YTD 2021 with a majority needing utility assistance. SA assists individuals with utilities, rent, medical, transportation, clothing, food, and much more. Advertisement expense increase due to mailings. Were not charged last year for printing, but printing/mailings are a requirement. Only made \$840 on mailings. SA will develop a conflict of interest policy and a vetting system for repeat clients. Panel recommends continued funding current request and working with Caroline and SWGACAC to make sure clients are not receiving overlapping services.

**Original - \$10,000 - Request- \$10,000 – Recommend - \$10,000**