

UNITED WAY OF SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

United Way requesting donations to support storm relief, recovery efforts as Francine approaches

NEW ORLEANS – <u>United Way of Southeast Louisiana</u> is encouraging public donations to its Francine Relief Fund to support households affected by the storm.

All proceeds will support immediate relief efforts, long-term rebuilding and partner organizations providing direct services to assist with recovery.

"In Louisiana, we all know the devastation a storm can bring, whether it's preparing for the unknown or rebuilding after the worst has happened. That's why we're launching the Francine Relief Fund, to help <u>ALICE families</u> who are already stretched thin find the support they need in the face of disaster. These families work hard but often live paycheck to paycheck, unable to afford the extra costs of preparing for or recovering from a storm. Now, more than ever, we're calling on our community to lend a helping hand."

Visit <u>UnitedWaySELA.org/FrancineRelief</u> to contribute.

The public can access resources from parish governments and other community partners at <u>UnitedWaySELA.org/Disaster</u>.

UWSELA'S DISASTER RESPONSE

In the wake of Hurricane Ida, UWSELA team members were on the ground within a week coordinating with local officials to identify and respond to needs throughout the region. UWSELA raised over \$3.5 million to support immediate needs and helped deliver \$2 million in supply donations and mitigation materials.

Staff and volunteers hosted 21 regional pop-up relief events – which provided food, supplies, and financial and legal assistance to impacted families – served 12,400 meals from local restaurants to support storm-related lost revenue, distributed \$300,000 in gift cards to affected households, and invested \$1 million in long-term recovery groups designed to fill unmet needs and foster equitable recovery for all.

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About United Way of Southeast Louisiana

For 100 years, <u>United Way of Southeast Louisiana</u> (UWSELA) has been a leader and trusted partner in improving lives and making a lasting difference. We fight to eradicate poverty by preparing people for quality jobs, growing incomes, and affording better health and education opportunities throughout Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington parishes. We have a bold vision of equitable communities where all individuals are healthy, educated, and financially stable – and we have a plan. United Way of Southeast Louisiana's <u>Blueprint for</u> <u>Prosperity</u> guides all strategic investments in programs, initiatives, collaborations, volunteerism, and advocacy aimed at tackling poverty. For more information, please visit <u>UnitedWaySELA.org</u>. Find us on social: @UnitedWaySELA.

Join United Way. GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. CONNECT.