



CHANGING THE WORLD, ONE DONATION AT A TIME

BY CHALISA MADSEN

THE HOLIDAYS are the perfect time to focus on the good deeds going on in the community. When you want to look at the positive changes happening around Henderson County, almost all roads lead back to The United Way.

This beacon of hope in our community helps countless local organizations, including the East Texas Crisis Center, CASA, the Disciple's Clinic, the East Texas Arboretum, 4-H, several Boy Scout troupes, Meals On Wheels, the Family Peace Project, and many, many more.

At the helm of Henderson County United Way is director Mary Waddell. Nothing in this area happens without Waddell knowing. She is one of those ladies whom you see helping out everywhere, at all hours of the day. She works tirelessly to help all of these programs succeed and make the biggest impact for the most people.

The United Way program is based on the concept that the community and its residents have a

responsibility and a desire to take care of each other as well as themselves. It is a unified effort between those who give and those who are served, working hand in hand for a single end goal; to make the community a better place for us all.

The way it works is simple. All donations made are collected and then distributed to the organizations in their service area. Every single dollar counts and stays in our communities, at home, to serve the needs of Henderson County residents.

Their 2016-2017 campaign is well underway. Help them reach their goal of \$175,000 by donating online at www.unitedwayhc.org. There is even an option on their website to select the specific program for your money. For instance, if the Disciple's Clinic and their work speaks to you, then you can control how much of your contributions go directly to them. Otherwise, all donated funds are divided among all of the programs and charities.



It is through their concern for people and local agencies that they fulfill the United Way vision. This includes arming our children and youth with character and tools for success; working to improve the health and human services infrastructure; fostering economic self-sufficiency in both younger and older adults; assisting the elderly and disabled with medication, guidance, therapy, service animals, and transportation; and by restoring the lives of those who are vulnerable and have nowhere else to turn. The Henderson County United Way does all of that and more.

Mahatma Gandhi said that the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. United Way, its volunteers, and director Mary Waddell are all treasures to Henderson County. Grateful citizens, such as myself, are thankful for their tireless service and dedication.

If you are interested in how you can invest in your community, contact the Henderson

County United Way. Your support, whether it is money, time, or expertise, will produce real and meaningful change in the lives of thousands of men, women, and children right here at home.

Become an advocate and be the change you wish to see in the world. Because, after all, change starts right in our backyards.



CASA AND MORE!

