



**UNITED  
IS THE  
WAY.**

**2024**  
Annual Report



**UNITED WAY**  
West Alabama

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# LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

JACKIE WUSKA WEAR



Dear Friends and Partners,

As we reflect on 2024, we are filled with gratitude for the generosity and unwavering commitment you have once again shown our community.

Whether it was providing books to more than 8,800 children a month in West Alabama through our Dolly Parton Imagination Library or addressing emergency needs such as providing more than 50,000 water bottles to Bibb and Sumter Counties when these regions were on boil water alerts due to unsafe drinking water conditions, your United Way was here in 2024 as the friend you did not know you needed until you need us.

We are proud of how in addition to funding our 30 partner agencies, your support is enabling us to address our community's most critical issues. This year, your United Way helped individuals meet their basic needs by initiating a food insecurity program in partnership with Door Dash resulting in almost 2,500 meals delivered to families in West Alabama.

Your United Way also embarked upon a partnership with Shelton State and the West Alabama Works to invest in a groundbreaking and cost-effective program to train individuals to earn a livable income while providing much needed quality in-home childcare in West Alabama.

In an effort to help break the cycle of crime and address high school graduation, your United Way invested in a program with The City Schools called the Zone. Founded in Spokane, Washington, the Zone targets a high crime neighborhood where residing children's school attendance is low. A social worker works with individual families in this community to meet the gaps and obstacles in the household that are preventing children from going to school ready to learn. Outcomes should prove increased school attendance and graduation rates leading to grant support for expanding this program to other neighborhoods.

Thank you for believing in our mission and in the power of a community that looks out for one another. Your support continues to shape a stronger, safer and more compassionate West Alabama for all who call it home. I am honored to partner with you, and I look forward to what we will achieve together in the year ahead.

*Jackie Wuska Wear*

Jackie Wuska Wear  
President & CEO

## ABOUT UNITED WAY OF WEST ALABAMA

At United Way of West Alabama, our mission is to strengthen Health & Wellness, Financial Stability & Mobility, Education & Youth Opportunity, and Disaster Relief & Recovery in our community by developing resources and partnerships. For 78 years, we have been dedicated to fostering positive change and creating lasting impact in the West Alabama region. We do this in large part by raising money for our 30 local nonprofit partner agencies who directly tackle these pressing issues.

**Our Vision:** We envision a community where every individual has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their background, economic status, or circumstances. Our vision is one of inclusivity, collaboration, and a shared commitment to creating a brighter future for all residents of West Alabama.

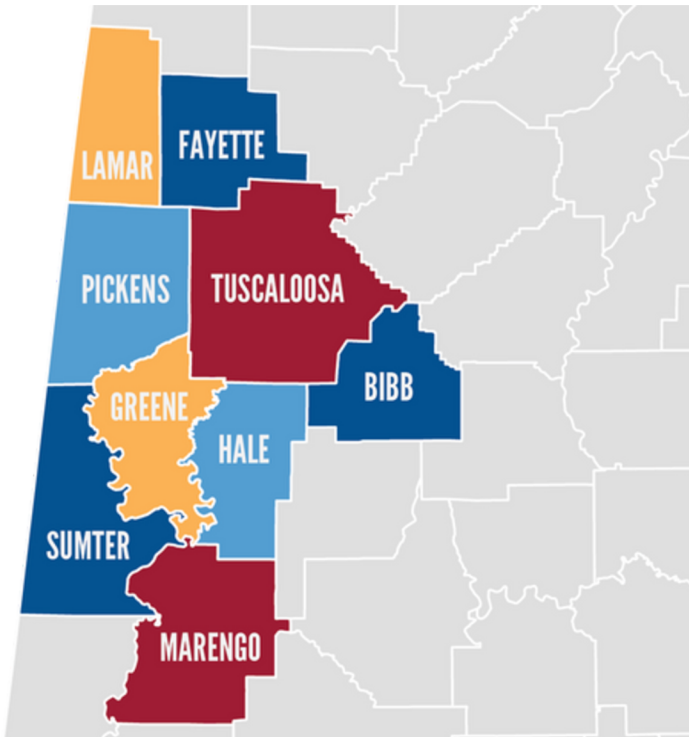
**Key Focus Areas:** United Way of West Alabama takes a comprehensive approach to community development, focusing on key areas that drive positive change:

- **Health & Wellness:** A healthy community is a thriving community. We support programs that strengthen physical, mental, and emotional well-being for individuals and families.
- **Financial Stability & Mobility:** We are committed to promoting economic self-sufficiency by offering resources that help individuals and families gain stability, build resilience, and move toward long-term financial independence.
- **Education & Youth Opportunity:** We believe that a strong educational foundation, paired with opportunities for learning and growth, is essential for personal and community success.
- **Disaster Relief & Recovery:** When crisis strikes, we are at the forefront of response and long-term recovery, ensuring that individuals and families receive the support they need to rebuild and regain stability.



# UWWA OVERVIEW

# 2024



## SERVING 9 COUNTIES

United Way of West Alabama serves nine counties: Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Marengo, Pickens, Sumter & Tuscaloosa.



One in four people in West Alabama was helped by the United Way or one of our partner agencies.

## WE ♥ OUR 30 PARTNER AGENCIES!

2-1-1 Information & Referral Services  
Alabama Head Injury Foundation  
American Red Cross  
The Arc of Tuscaloosa County  
Arts 'n Autism  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of West Alabama  
Black Warrior Council, Scouting America  
Boys & Girls Clubs Inc. of West Alabama  
Caring Days Adult Day Care  
Catholic Social Services of West Alabama  
Child Abuse Prevention Services  
Children of the Village Network, Inc.  
Easterseals of West Alabama  
Family Counseling Service  
Five Horizons Health Services  
FOCUS 50+  
Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama  
Good Samaritan Clinic  
Hospice of West Alabama  
Phoenix House of Tuscaloosa  
The Salvation Army  
Sickle Cell Disease Association of West Alabama  
Success By 6  
Temporary Emergency Services  
Theo Ratliff Activity Center  
Turning Point  
Tuscaloosa's One Place  
Tuscaloosa SAFE Center  
UCP United  
YMCA of Tuscaloosa County



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

# 2024

## **Our 30 Partner Agencies - 72%**

Agency Allocations  
Agency Emergency Grants  
Designations

## **Our Administrative Costs - 11%**

*\*The State of Alabama's Standard for  
Nonprofit Administrative Costs is 30% or less.*

## **UWWA Community Impact Programs - 17%**

Community Investment Grants  
Promotion of Community Programs & Services  
Young Leaders Society (YLS)  
ReUnited Retirees Affinity Group  
Community Education and Program Evaluation  
Tuscaloosa City Schools Zone Initiative Funding  
Temporary Employee Assistance (TEA)

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2024

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**CHAIRMAN**

**CHRIS GUNTER** / BUFFALO ROCK

**CAMPAIGN CHAIR**

**BROCK JONES** / THORNHILL CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

**PAST CHAIR**

**JHEOVANNY GOMEZ** / JALAPENOS RESTAURANTS

**VOLUNTEER ALLOCATION**

**TEAM CHAIR**

**SUSAN BELL** / UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

**VICE CHAIRMAN**

**NORMAN CROW** / TUSCALOOSA CITY COUNCIL

**TREASURER**

**WILL HEWSON** / HEWSON FAMILY FOUNDATION

**SECRETARY**

**DAVID COLEMAN** / HUNT REFINING COMPANY

**MEMBERS AT LARGE**

**JOHN ENGLAND, JR** / TUSCALOOSA CO CIRCUIT JUDGE

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**STEPHANIE KEMMER** / BIBB COUNTY PROBATE

**SANDRA HALL RAY** / COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**CHAD TINDOL** / UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

## DIRECTORS

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**ELIZABETH MCGIFFERT** / COMM. INVOLVEMENT

**DEIDRA DIAZ** / UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

**ETIENNE LUDWIG** / BFGOODRICH

**ERWIN DUDLEY, SR** / UA MEN'S BASKETBALL

**JAMES MOWERY** / PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS

**KELLI GANT** / WARRIOR MET COAL

**YOLANDA PAGE** / STILLMAN COLLEGE

**SHAWN GILLIAM** / MERCEDES-BENZ US INTL

**BRIAN PHILLIPPI** / NUCOR STEEL TUSCALOOSA

**BRIAN GROESCHELL** / SMARTBANK

**PAM PRUITT** / COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**JOHN HUMBER** / COMM. INVOLVEMENT

**MISTY RENFROE** / PICKENS CO DHR

**AMY JONES** / UNIVERSITY OF WEST ALABAMA

**BRENDA RYAN** / HALE CO COMM INVOLVEMENT

**KATRINA KEEFER** / DCH HEALTH SYSTEM

**JUSTICE SMYTH, IV** / TUSCALOOSA CO. EDA

**JONATHAN KOH** / SHELTON STATE

**HARRISON TAYLOR** / COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**BARBARA KUCHARSKI** / COMM. INVOLVEMENT

**ELIZABETH WINTER** / REGIONS BANK

**CHELSEA WINTERS** / CAPITOL PARK TITLE LLC

# UWWA AGENCY SERVICES

# 2024



## SUCCESS BY 6

SB6 PROGRAMS	Number of Children Served
DPIL	9,988
JumpStart Kindergarten	243
Bright Minds	2,231
Read for the Record	25,337
Read Across America	568
Community Events & Fairs	7,226
Kindergarten Calendars	6,201
Wash, Read, Repeat!	315
Born Ready/Ready, Set, Grow	294

## MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT

A grant from the Children's Trust Fund made it possible to hire two bilingual family support specialists. Our specialists provide ongoing wrap-around services to our Ready Set GROW families with home visits, providing additional resources and facilitating Cafecitos and Tea Times.

## 2-1-1 INFORMATION & REFERRAL SERVICES

2-1-1 specialists connected **7,404** callers to vital resources and needed services in West Alabama.

Through Project Dash, the 2-1-1 team assisted with the delivery of **more than 1,000 meals.**





# DAY OF ACTION

# 2024



We had a record **581 volunteers** participate in Day of Action!

## PARTICIPATING TEAMS

AAF Tuscaloosa  
Alabama ONE  
Alabama Power Company  
BFGoodrich  
Bryant Bank  
City of Tuscaloosa  
Epsilon Kappa Sorority  
Exchange Club  
Fitts Agency  
Hunt Refining Company  
JamisonMoneyFarmer  
J.M Smucker  
Junior League of Tuscaloosa  
Mercedes-Benz U.S. International  
Morgan Stanley The Warr Group  
Morrow Realty  
Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa  
Prystup Packaging  
ReUnited

SmartBank  
Spire  
Synovus Bank  
The Chamber of Commerce of West AL  
The Radiology Clinic  
The Westervelt Company  
TMS Counseling LLC  
Tuscaloosa County PARA  
Tuscaloosa Latino Coalition  
UA Capstone International  
UA School of Social Work  
UA Strat Comm  
Visit Tuscaloosa  
VitAL/ UA College of Arts & Sciences  
Warrior Met Coal  
West Alabama Bank  
Young Leaders Society  
Young Tuscaloosa

# CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

# 2024



## **CAMPAIGN CHAIR BROCK JONES**

**2024-2025 Campaign Goal**  
**\$4,650,000**

**2024-2025 Campaign Total**  
**\$4,658,023**

## **TOP 12 OVERALL CAMPAIGNS**

1. Hunt Refining Company
2. The University of Alabama
3. Mercedes-Benz US International
4. Publix Super Markets
5. Phifer Incorporated
6. The Westervelt Company
7. Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa
8. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of AL
9. Alabama Power Foundation
10. BFGoodrich Tire Company
11. Prystup Packaging
12. Parker Towing Company



# CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

# 2024



## TOP 10 CORPORATE DONATIONS

1. Hunt Refining Company
2. Publix Super Markets
3. Mercedes-Benz U.S. International
4. Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa
5. Phifer Incorporated
6. The Westervelt Company
7. Prystup Packaging
8. BFGoodrich Tire Company
9. Alabama Power Foundation
10. Regions Bank



# CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

2024

## TOP 25 EMPLOYEE GIVING CAMPAIGNS

1. Hunt Refining Company
2. The University of Alabama
3. Mercedes-Benz U.S. International
4. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of AL
5. Publix Super Markets
6. Phifer Incorporated
7. The Westervelt Company
8. Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa
9. Alabama Power Foundation
10. BFGoodrich Tire Company
11. Bryant Bank
12. Parker Towing Company
13. Prystup Packaging
14. Tuscaloosa County Schools
15. Tuscaloosa City Schools
16. Randall-Reilly
17. City of Tuscaloosa
18. Alabama ONE Credit Union
19. DCH Health System
20. Thompson Tractor Company
21. Warrior Met Coal Mining
22. Regions Bank
23. JamisonMoneyFarmer
24. Lear Corporation
25. United Way of West Alabama

## TOP 25 EMPLOYEE PER CAPITA CAMPAIGNS

1. United Way of West Alabama
2. Thornhill Capital Management
3. Hunt Refining Company
4. Duncan Coker Associates
5. Hudson-Poole Jewelers
6. Bryant Bank
7. H. A. Edwards
8. Prince Glover Hayes
9. Ward Scott Morris Architecture
10. The Warr Group at Morgan Stanley
11. Raymond James & Associates
12. Cadence Bank
13. Way, Ray, Shelton & Co.
14. TUSCOM
15. SmartBank
16. Keller Williams Realty Company
17. JamisonMoneyFarmer
18. Prystup Packaging
19. Parker Towing Company
20. Thompson Tractor Company
21. PELA GeoEnvironmental
22. Townsend Honda
23. Lush MedSpa
24. Regions Bank
25. Synovus Bank

# 100% EMPLOYEE GIVING

# 2024

Alabama Head Injury Foundation  
American Red Cross  
Arcadia Elementary School  
Arts 'n Autism  
Bank of Moundville  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of West AL  
Black Warrior Council Boy Scouts  
Bryant Bank  
Cadence Bank  
Caring Days Adult Day Care  
Catholic Social Services of West AL  
Child Abuse Prevention Services  
Children of the Village Network  
Easterseals of West Alabama  
Family Counseling Service  
Five Horizons Health Services  
Flatwoods Elementary School  
FOCUS 50+  
Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama  
Good Samaritan Clinic  
H.A. Edwards, Inc.  
Hamner Real Estate, LLC  
Hospice of West Alabama  
Hudson-Poole Jewelers  
Lush MedSpa

Michele Coley Allstate  
Parker Towing Company  
Pathway Financial Resources  
PELA GeoEnvironmental  
Phoenix House  
SmartBank  
Southland Benefit Solutions  
Spire Alabama Corporation  
STARS Academy & Success Prep  
Synovus Bank  
Temporary Emergency Services  
The Arc of Tuscaloosa County  
The Salvation Army  
Tuscaloosa SAFE Center, Inc.  
TUSCOM  
United Community Bank  
United Way of West Alabama  
Verner Elementary School  
Visit Tuscaloosa  
Warrior Investment Group  
Way, Ray, Shelton & Co.  
West Alabama Sickle Cell Association  
YMCA Barnes Branch  
YMCA Downtown Tuscaloosa

# CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

# 2024



## 2024 CAMPAIGN CABINET **BROCK JONES,** **CHAIR**

**Brock Jones** / Thornhill Capital Management  
**Bert Sims** / Way, Ray, Shelton & Co.  
**Brian Groeschell** / SmartBank  
**Dr. Brian Wilhite** / North River Internal Medicine  
**Caroline Strawbridge** / University of Alabama  
**Chad Tindol** / University of Alabama  
**Chris Gunter** / Buffalo Rock  
**Deidra Diaz** / University of Alabama  
**Jack Partlow** / Partlow Geological  
**Jenny Rob Hayes** / Community Volunteer  
**Jheovanny Gomez** / Jalapenos Restaurants  
**Jonathan Koh** / Shelton State Comm. College  
**Josh Hayes** / Prince Glover Hayes  
**Justice Smyth** / Economic Dev. Authority  
**Dr. Karen Braxton** / University of West Alabama  
**Kelsey Rush** / Visit Tuscaloosa

**Dr. Kristin Reed** / University General Dentistry  
**Lin Moore** / Pritchett-Moore  
**Lydia Avant** / Tuscaloosa City Schools  
**Mark Nelson** / County of Tuscaloosa  
**Martin Colvin** / BankFirst  
**Mary Harmon Young** / Mary Harmon & Co.  
**Mollie Rowe** / Eutaw Housing Authority  
**Nicki May** / Bibb Medical Center  
**Dr. Paul Diaz** / Riverview Dental Designs  
**Quin Kelly** / Stillman College  
**Richard Rush** / City of Tuscaloosa  
**Ryan Stallings** / SmartBank  
**Sandra Hall Ray** / Community Volunteer  
**Stacey Ashe** / Robertson Bank  
**Stephanie Kemmer** / Bibb County Probate  
**Tanya Winstead** / The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama  
**Terri Brewer** / Tuscaloosa County Schools  
**Thornton Jones** / Pritchett-Moore  
**Wade Drinkard** / Community Volunteer  
**Whitney Rose Dubose** / City of Northport  
**Zach Wolfe** / County of Tuscaloosa



# CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

# 2024



## LOANED EXECUTIVES

**ASHANTI RYALS** / DCH HEALTH SYSTEM  
**CALLIE ATKINSON** / WAY, RAY, SHELTON & CO.  
**CARLOS BARRENTINE** / CADENCE BANK  
**EMILY OATES** / PARKER TOWING COMPANY  
**ERICA NUNN** / RAYMOND JAMES & ASSOC.  
**HARRISON FREEMAN** / HUNT REFINING  
COMPANY  
**HOLLY CARR** / NUCOR STEEL TUSCALOOSA  
**JENIFER PHUNG** / JAMISONMONEYFARMER  
**LABRISCA BLAKNEY** / BRYANT BANK

**LEAH BANKS** / ALABAMA POWER  
FOUNDATION  
**LILLIE MCINTYRE** / CITY OF TUSCALOOSA  
**MEGAN ROAKES** / ALABAMA ONE  
**MELISSA PERRY** / NUCOR STEEL TUSCALOOSA  
**SAM BLUMENFELD** / THE WESTERVELT CO.  
**TY MILLER** / SMARTBANK  
**WALKER WING** / BFGOODRICH TIRE CO.  
**WILL FOSTER** / BANKFIRST

# DONORS

# 2024



## Contributions between \$10,000-\$1,000,000

Bill Adams, Sr.  
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# DONORS

# 2024



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## Contributions between \$10,000-\$1,000,000

Mandy & Ryan Stallings  
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Sandee & Bob Witt  
Jackie Wuska Wear & Jason Wear  
\*3 anonymous members



### Jenny & Jordan Plaster

ADT FAMILY OF THE YEAR





# DONORS

# 2024

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**Contributions between  
\$5,000-\$9,999**

Ms. Fleta Edwards  
Dr. Robert O. Mellown  
John A. Owens  
Mr. Davis E. Richards

## UNITED SOCIETY

**Contributions between  
\$3,500-\$4,999**

Mr. Joel Byram  
Mr. Thomas Dedrick  
Claude Edwards  
Mr. & Mrs. James Emory  
Mr. Ray F. Robbins III

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**Contributions between  
\$2,500-\$3,499**

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Mr. Shane Lyons

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Mr. Ronn Patterson  
Tao-Chen Yeh & Paul Pecorino  
Mark Richardson  
Alisa Robertson  
Ms. Maria Short  
Wynand C. Stapelberg  
Dan Sullivan  
Mr. Rolf K. Wrona  
\*1 anonymous member

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\$1,000-\$2,499**

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# HOMER BUTLER JR. AGENCY OF THE YEAR



Charles Nash presents the award to Delshonda Thomas, Executive Director of The Arc, at the 2024 Campaign Kickoff luncheon at Bryant Conference Center.

## **HOMER S. BUTLER, JR.** **AGENCY OF THE YEAR AWARD** **IS AWARDED TO THE ARC OF** **TUSCALOOSA COUNTY**



The Arc of Tuscaloosa was honored as the 2024 Homer Butler Jr. Agency of the Year for its exceptional service to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Chartered in 1957 and evolving alongside changing educational laws, The Arc has remained steadfast in its mission to support those who were historically excluded from traditional systems of care. Today, the organization operates four locations and three training programs that help adults develop employment skills, build independence, and experience meaningful community inclusion. From job coaching and grooming skills to respite care and creative enrichment activities, The Arc continues to advocate for dignity, respect, and choice for every individual it serves.

The Homer Butler Jr. Agency of the Year Award recognizes a United Way agency that exemplifies extraordinary mission delivery, operational excellence, and partnership. Named for United Way's longtime CEO Homer Butler, who served the organization for 20 years, the award has become one of the community's most respected nonprofit honors. The Arc of Tuscaloosa stood out this year not only for its impactful programming, but also for its transparency, strong financial stewardship, and deep engagement with United Way initiatives—from welcoming volunteers on the Day of Action to hosting Young Leaders Society events and sharing the joyful talents of their Sounds of Joy performers. Their compassion-driven leadership, staff, board, and volunteers embody the spirit of this award, and United Way is proud to celebrate their continued dedication to our community.

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# 2024



youngleaderssociety  
of WEST ALABAMA

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# 2024



## WEST ALABAMA YOUNG LEADERS AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### David Reynolds Spirit Award

Charlie Bailey

### United in Spirit Award

Estella Hare

Will Hewson

Danielle Kimbrough Spikes

Joseph Marchant

Lesley Powell

## PROGRAMS

January	Annual Planning Session
February	Bracketology Fundraiser
March	West Alabama Young Leaders Awards
April	Lunch & Learn with Tommy Cobb
May	Day of Action / Family Fish Fry
June	Serve Lunch at Caring Days
July	Tequila & Tacos Tasting at Jalapenos
August	UWWA Campaign Kickoff Lunch
September	Annual Pie Eating Contest
October	Board Training with Jackie Wuska
November	Tinsel Trail decorating
December	Holiday Social



# AFFINITY GROUPS

# 2024



**PRESIDENT** PAM PRUITT

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Evelyn England  
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# AFFINITY GROUPS

# 2024

## PROGRAMS

January	Annual Planning Session
February	Pickleball Lessons at FOCUS 50+
March	Volunteer at Table of Grace
April	Volunteer at Table of Grace
May	Day of Action
June	Pop-Up Pickleball at FOCUS 50+
July	Planning Session II & Lunch
August	Brockstars at UWWA Campaign Kickoff Lunch
September	Back to School Roundup
October	Dogtoberfest Pet Blessing & Parade
December	Holiday Social at Sanctuary on 25th





