

**United Way
of Mesa County**



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

◆ **How is United Way of Mesa County connected to United Way of America?**

United Way of Mesa County is a local, independent organization. United Way of America is a separate national service and training center which supports local United Ways with advertising, training, corporate and government relations, and research.

◆ **If I feel like I'm being pressured into giving to United Way. . . I'd rather not give at all.**

United Way of Mesa County strongly opposes any pressure to give. Our most responsive contributors are those who've had an opportunity to become informed and made a choice they feel good about.

◆ **My employees don't make a lot of money . . . I don't want to ask them to contribute.**

How much a person makes in wages often isn't the best guide for whether they would want to contribute and feel that they can. A \$5 donation combined with thousands of other \$5 donations adds up and can make a significant difference. ***Research shows that offering payroll deduction allows people to contribute four times more to charity than they can without payroll deduction.***

You don't have to personally ask them to give - just set up the opportunity. United Way staff and people from the funded agencies will come and make a brief presentation to your employees.

◆ **My employees are very busy and I'm worried about the time a United Way campaign would take.**

We encourage you to include United Way in a meeting that is already taking place such as a staff meeting, training, or an annual benefits meeting. United Way volunteers can complete a presentation in as little as 10 minutes and everyone can get back to work. After the presentation, pledge cards can be distributed with a deadline to return them to supervisors. The entire campaign can be wrapped up in a week.

◆ **I already give to my favorite charity.**

That's great! United Way doesn't want to take contributions away from other organizations. Once people learn about United Way and the many ways we help the community, many choose to include it in their giving plans.

◆ **Who decides how much money is allocated (or given away) to each program?**

Citizen volunteers—people like you—are part of the decision making in the annual allocations process. Agencies apply for program funding to United Way of Mesa County in December. In February and March, citizen panels review these applications and visit the agencies and their programs. They make recommendations to the United Way of Mesa County Board of Directors about each program and how much funding should be given. Final funding decisions are confirmed by the Board. These volunteers, representing all segments of the local population, strive to allocate every dollar wisely and in an accountable manner. Through their work, you as a donor have assurance that your dollars support quality programs that are making a difference.

◆ **Can I claim a tax deduction for my United Way contribution and is it deducted from my pre-tax or after-tax pay?**

Yes, you can. It is deducted from your after-tax pay.