



United Way of the Laurel Highlands

COLLABORATIVE FAQ

Why did the 1889 Foundation choose to collaborate with the United Way?

The Board of the 1889 Foundation believes that the United Way of the Laurel Highlands has a well-developed grant-making process which is providing funding for programs and initiatives, many of which are evidence-based, and are having a positive impact in the areas of health and human services in our community. With their established Community Impact Committee, made up of over 30 community volunteers, they are making grants based on the needs identified through the Community Needs Assessment. This best practice community impact process provides important evaluation and reporting components to their grant-making process. By collaborating with the United Way, the 1889 Foundation avoids duplicating this effort - instead, additional funds are able to support the local agencies, programs, and people who need it, thus maximizing the impact of the gift.

How is the 1889 Foundation collaborating with the United Way of the Laurel Highlands (UWLH)?

The 1889 Foundation is providing a \$500,000 challenge grant to UWLH to increase the reach and impact of the United Way's Community Impact grants. The 1889 Foundation will match dollar-for-dollar any future contribution given to the United Way's campaign, up to a total of \$500,000.

What are Community Impact grants?

Community Impact grants are distributed annually to high-performing non-profit organizations in Cambria and Somerset Counties, and are awarded by a volunteer-driven committee and review panels. The application process requires recipients to explain programs, methods, desired outcomes, and how results will be measured. Site visits are a requirement as well. Currently, 30 programs delivered by 25 partner agencies are supported through United Way.

Does this gift change the United Way's mission or focus?

No. The United Way will expand its reach to more people in need and focus on their key social change initiatives to bring funding them to scale. The need is very large. For example, an important area of focus for the United Way is early childhood development. It would take \$5 million annually to reach 65 percent of the eligible population - we reach just 10 percent of the eligible population currently.

Will the number of funded agencies and programs increase as a result of the 1889 Foundation matching gift?

Not in 2016. Instead, many of the existing funded Partner Agencies and programs will receive larger grants, enabling them to reach more people. At the end of the first year, the United Way will evaluate the potential need to expand the number of funded Partner Agencies and/or programs. For more information on Partner Agencies, visit the UWLH's website at www.uwlaurel.org.

How does the matching grant influence the United Way's annual fundraising goal?

For every future donation to the United Way campaign from the community, the 1889 Foundation will match it dollar-for-dollar up to \$500,000. Because of this challenge grant, the United Way's original goal of \$1.1 million has been revised to \$1.6 million.

Is this a one-time gift?

No, the 1889 Foundation has made a 3-year commitment to the UWLH to provide this annual challenge grant. The 1889 Foundation made this a matching gift challenge to encourage the community to support the critical programs and services provided to the community.

Is this the only disbursement forthcoming from the 1889 Foundation?

No. This is the first grant distribution from the 1889 Foundation and enables the foundation to provide support for successful health and wellness programs that are already making a difference in the community. The foundation will be focusing additional major funding in 2016 on specific innovative health and wellness initiatives that would have an even greater impact on our region.

How has the 1889 Foundation changed in 2015?

The foundation, formerly the Conemaugh Health Foundation, had to restructure completely when Conemaugh Health System, which was a non-profit entity, was sold to a for-profit healthcare system, Duke LifePoint Healthcare. The foundation chose a new name, the 1889 Foundation, and a new mission: "To support innovative programs and initiatives that improve and transform the overall health and wellness of our region." In its new mission, the 1889 Foundation can support health and wellness programs and initiatives, but not Conemaugh/Duke LifePoint facilities, such as the hospitals themselves.

Where does 1889 Foundation funding come from?

A major portion of the 1889 Foundation's funds came from the sale of Conemaugh Health System. In addition, the foundation continues to manage funds that were raised as part of the former Conemaugh Health Foundation. It is the intent of the foundation to distribute those funds within our community and if designated, in accordance with the donor's wishes.

Does the additional funding from the sale of Conemaugh mean the 1889 Foundation doesn't need public support?

No! The 1889 Foundation remains a fundraising charitable entity, and will continue to accept donations that will allow the Foundation to continue to grow. This will enable the foundation to distribute even more funding to support the community in the future. For example, fundraising continues through the Laurel Highlands Health & Wellness Auxiliary, which was formerly the Auxiliary of Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center. More information on the Foundation may be found at www.1889foundation.org.