





### THANK YOU

In fiscal year 2024, charitable donations from UAB employees have enabled the UAB Benevolent Fund to support over \$1.45 million in community initiatives. These contributions have been instrumental in helping UAB staff experiencing financial hardships when other resources fall short of meeting basic needs. Because of your generosity,

we have provided nutritious food equivalent to 145,000 meals for our UAB family, including students, employees, and referred patients. In addition, more than 100 community-based nonprofits have received financial support to address basic needs, promote physical and mental health, extend mentorship to youth, and offer companionship to those in need. Thank you for making this possible!

#### UAB BENEVOLENT FUND

DOLLARS RAISED FOR FY24:

\$1,499,248

The charitable offerings of the UAB Benevolent Fund have been shaped and inspired by UAB employees like you. By donating and encouraging others to contribute, you are directing vital resources to nonprofits that foster mutually beneficial community partnerships and enabling us to support members of our UAB family in their moments of need. For additional details about our programs, please visit uab.edu/benfund.

We take great pride in our accomplishments, yet the need for support continues to grow. UAB employees continue to forge productive partnerships throughout our community and address unmet needs. This critical effort is achievable only when UAB employees come together and give collectively. Together, we are making a real difference!

Lisa Higginbotham

Live Higginbotham

BENEVOLENT FUND MANAGER



## **BLAZER KITCHEN**

In 2024, Blazer Kitchen served 3,068 students, employees, and referred patients. Nearly 80 percent of shoppers are students. This translated to 11,825 shopping visits and 148,942 meals. In

addition to food, Blazer Kitchen also distributed 7,299 pounds of hygiene and school supplies. In addition to our philanthropic donors, this impact was made possible through the efforts of 971 volunteers donating 2,282 hours of work.

The 2024-2025 academic year has been a year of revolutionizing our services and procedures. Blazer Kitchen has transitioned to our most efficient shopping model yet where shoppers select food from an order form at the front desk

80%

OF SHOPPERS ARE STUDENTS

and volunteers pack the items in grocery bags. We have also found that requiring appointments reduces the strain of more walk-in shoppers arriving than we have space or volunteers to accommodate.

The current model is doing well, but there is always room for improvement. UAB IT is working to create a custom program just for Blazer Kitchen to offset our limitations and maximize our impact on shoppers. Beyond providing food, Blazer Kitchen also shared 7,299 pounds of hygiene products and school supplies. This remarkable impact was made possible not only by generous philanthropic donors but also by 971 volunteers, who collectively contributed 2,282 hours of service.

"I'M A STUDENT **AS WELL AS A PAID** INTERN. WEEKS **BEFORE MY LIVING** STIPEND BEGAN, OUR **MONEY WAS TIGHT, BUT BECAUSE OF** BLAZER KITCHEN. WE MADE A WEEK'S **WORTH OF DELICIOUS MEALS FROM WHAT** I BROUGHT HOME ... (BLAZER KITCHEN) **ALLOWED ME AND** MY FAMILY TO GET THROUGH A ROUGH PATCH."

> Jesse, U.S. Navy veteran and UAB student

# EMPLOYEE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND

In 2024, 126 employees received emergency financial assistance through the Benevolent Fund. The Employee Emergency Assistance Fund program coordinator meets with each employee applying for help to determine if their situation meets program guidelines.

Regardless of the outcome, everyone inquiring about assistance is referred to internal supports, such as the UAB Employee Assistance and Counseling Center and the Sick Leave Pool, and external resources, which include help with medical copayments and caregiver support. If an employee's circumstances appear to qualify for the fund, they provide documentation outlining

their hardship, family income, expenses, and existing resources. This information is then consolidated and presented anonymously to the Benevolent Fund Council, which determines eligibility for a financial award of up to \$1,500.

The fund typically assists employees facing income loss due to extended medical leave, burdensome medical treatments and prescriptions, domestic violence situations and recovery from natural disasters, as well as permanent housing for employees who are experiencing homelessness. Your contribution is a vital lifeline to these employees when they need it the most.

"INITIALLY, I WAS **EMBARRASSED TO EVEN** ADMIT THAT I NEEDED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. **BUT MY BENEVOLENT FUND COUNSELOR WAS** SO UNDERSTANDING ... THIS PROGRAM HAS TRULY **BEEN LIFE CHANGING FOR** ME. NOT ONLY WAS I ABLE TO GET MY FINANCES **UNDER CONTROL, BUT** THE COUNSELING HAS INSPIRED ME TO RETURN TO SCHOOL TO OBTAIN MY MASTER'S DEGREE IN **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION** AS WELL. PLEASE KEEP THIS PROGRAM ALIVE! YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOUR FELLOW COLLEAGUE MAY BE GOING THROUGH."

Avis, a current UAB employee





## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The partnership between the UAB Benevolent Fund and Habitat for Humanity Greater Birmingham Chapter completed its eighth home in 2024. Philanthropic donors and 217 volunteers partnered to make a beautiful and energy efficient home for Mykallah Coach and her son a reality.

"We are proud to partner with the Habitat for Humanity Greater Birmingham Chapter to build safe, affordable housing in our community. Over 60 UAB employees, students and their families are proud Habitat owners. Affordable homeownership offers stability to families, which positively impacts many aspect of a family's life, especially finances and education. The benefits of homeownership lift up our entire community."

Lisa Higginbotham, UAB Benevolent Fund Manager



# COMMUNITY EFFORT

UAB employees support more than 100 community nonprofits each year through designated giving to the Benevolent Fund. Nonprofits supported by gifts through the Benevolent Fund recognize that UAB employees truly value these mutually beneficial community programs.

### **UAB BENEVOLENT FUND NONPROFITS**

A.G. Gaston Boys and Girls Club	\$6,791.63 *	Boys & Girls Club of Central Alabama	\$1,949.85*
AIDS Alabama	\$2,321.64*	Breakthrough T1D - AL Chapter	\$3,729.74
Alabama Goodwill Industries	\$57.68*	Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama	\$12,499.69
Alabama Head Injury Foundation	\$5,351.93*	Bridgeways (formerly Camp Fire Boys & Girls - Bham Area)	\$807.09 *
Alabama Kidney Foundation	\$11,691.84*	Bundles of Hope	\$944.75
Alethia House	\$4,871.69*	Cahaba Riverkeeper	\$1,271.49
ALS Association Alabama Chapter	\$1,626.59	Cahaba Valley Health Care	\$1,744.12*
Alzheimer's of Central Alabama	\$17,174.16	Camp Seale Harris-SE Diabetes Education Svcs	\$1,358.38
Amelia Center	\$1,496.13*	CASA of Shelby County	\$1,123.26*
American Cancer Society	\$22,283.56*	Catholic Family Services	\$8,756.05*
American Diabetes Association - AL Chapter	\$8,473.31	Central AL Children's Fund	\$121.19*
American Fdtn for Suicide Prevention - AL Chapter	\$2,061.03	Childcare Resources	\$1,711.12*
American Heart Association	\$11,961.49*	Children's Aid Society	\$3,731.67*
American Red Cross - Mid-Alabama Region	\$7,069.53*	Children's of Alabama	\$14,627.94*
ARC of Central Alabama	\$1,321.56*	Christ Health Center	\$12,454.28
ARC of Shelby County	\$188.94*	Christian Love Pantry	\$1,415.35*
ARC of St. Clair County	\$43.20*	Collat Jewish Family Services	\$4,073.10*
ARC of Walker County	\$948.76*	Community Food Bank of Central Alabama	\$9,300.65*
Arthritis Foundation - Southeast Region	\$5,406.17	Coosa Riverkeeper	\$380.02
aTeam Ministries	\$982.23	Crisis Center	\$3,459.13*
Autism Society of Alabama	\$5,644.87	Crohn's and Colitis Fdtn - AL/ NW FL Chapter	\$2,773.13
Bell Center for Early Intervention	\$5,049.21	Cystic Fibrosis Foundation - Alabama Chapter	\$9,099.29
Better Basics	\$2,046.60*	Developing Alabama Youth (DAY) Foundation	\$4.50*
Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$6,686.34*	Disability Rights and Resources	\$1,232.72*
Birmingham AIDS Outreach	\$6,937.38	Easter Seals of the Birmingham Area	\$1,192.26*
Birmingham Education Foundation	\$2,048.50	Epilepsy Foundation of Alabama	\$1,514.66
Birmingham Jewish Federation	\$2,589.95*	Family Connection	\$4,196.34*
Birmingham Urban League	\$2,318.81*	Family Resource Center of NW Alabama (Daybreak)	\$996.43*
Blazer Kitchen Food Bank	\$107,359.67	Fellowship House	\$2,835.95*
Blount County Aid to Homeless Children	\$2,141.41*	Freshwater Land Trust	\$2,950.73
Blount County Central Alabama Children's Fund	\$869.11*	Gateway	\$1,376.51*
Blount County Children's Center	\$1,362.29*	Girl Scouts of North Central Alabama	\$3,159.63 *
Boy Scouts of America - Black Warrior Council	\$206.94*	Girls Inc. of Central Alabama	\$3,272.19*
Boy Scouts of America - Greater Alabama Council	\$3,816.86*	Glenwood Autism and Behavioral Health Center	\$2,100.96*

#### NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

In 2024, Bundles of Hope partnered with UAB Pediatric Primary Care, Nurse Family Partnership, Alabama Care Network/VIVA Health, and Blazer Kitchen to distribute more than 1.1 million diapers across the UAB enterprise. The diapers and wipes received from Bundles of Hope help parents stay on track—enabling them to work, study, and care for their families—by alleviating the financial strain of affording diapers. Babies typically require 8 to 10 diapers per day, which can amount to over \$100 each month—a steep expense for many families. Inadequate diaper supplies can further complicate childcare arrangements, as many facilities require an adequate supply of disposable diapers for the day. Without this support, parents might be forced to remain at home, limiting their access to work and educational opportunities, and further straining their resources.



Positive Maturity

Priority Veteran

"Support from UAB employees through the Benevolent Fund is essential for Bundles of Hope to continue addressing the pressing issue of diaper need in our community. Your contributions ensure that this vital resource remains available to parents in need."

Lindsay Gray, Founder & Executive Director, Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank

**TOTAL COMMITMENT: \$1,445,650.06** 

Greater Birmingham Humane Society	\$14,342.70	Railroad Park	\$1,576.22
Habitat for Humanity - Greater Birmingham	\$10,462.23*	Red Mountain Grace	\$4,818.76
Habitat House - UAB Sponsored	\$13.172.84	Red Mountain Park	\$6.746.99
Hand in Paw	\$21.055.05	Ronald McDonald House Charities of Alabama	\$24,064.84*
Heart Gallery Alabama	\$951.30	Ruffner Mountain	\$2.335.55
Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama	\$1,614.53*	Safehouse of Shelby County	\$4,986.03*
Impact Family Counseling	\$875.20*	Salvation Army - Greater Birmingham Area	\$4,180.34*
Jefferson County Central Alabama Children's Fund	\$1,410.81*	Salvation Army - Walker County	\$454.90*
Kid One Transport	\$4.065.81	Sav-A-Life	\$9.689.02
Lakeshore Foundation	\$1,122.09	Shelby Co Children's Advocacy Center/ Owens House	\$5,863.62 \$578.73*
Lakeside Hospice	\$241.41*	Shelby County Central Alabama Children's Fund	\$1,272.67*
Laura Crandall Brown Foundation	\$2,116.35	Shelby Emergency Assistance	\$645.49*
Legacy YMCA - Bessemer	\$2,341.55*	Sickle Cell Disease Assoc of America-Central AL	\$4,754.65*
Legal Aid Society of Birmingham Alabama	\$1,840.45*	Sight Savers	\$3,532.68
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society	\$5,418.95	Smile-A-Mile	\$3.292.35
Levite Jewish Community Center	\$3,625.30*	Spina Bifida Association of Alabama	\$99.00
Literary Council	\$1,990.75*	St. Clair Children's Advocacy Center	\$1,395.10*
Lupus Foundation of America	\$3,041.12	St. Clair County - Central AL Children's Fund	\$124.60*
Magic City Harvest	\$342.15	St. Clair County Day Program	\$351.44*
March of Dimes - Alabama Chapter	\$12,599.29	St. Clair County DHR	\$173.70*
Meals on Wheels	\$4,498.77*	Susan G. Komen for the Cure - N Central AL	\$7,451.20
Mitchell's Place	\$2,651.57	Travelers Aid Society	\$301.53*
M-Power Ministries	\$6,939.01	Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance	\$1,112.58
Multiple Sclerosis Society - Alabama Chapter	\$7,108.19	United Ability (formerly United Cerebral Palsy)	\$3,718.26*
Muscular Dystrophy Association of Alabama	\$1,262.41	United Community Centers, Inc.	\$141.40*
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)	\$5,871.43	United Way Hands On	\$770.65*
Nature Conservancy in Alabama	\$603.00	United Way of Central Alabama General Fund Giving	\$795,923.30*
Norma Livingston Ovarian Cancer Foundation	\$3,076.88	Walker County Central Alabama Children's Fund	\$1,418.34*
Oasis, A Women's Counseling Center	\$1,321.11*	Workshops Empowerment, Inc	\$871.41*
Parkinson Association of Alabama	\$3,450.17	YMCA of Birmingham	\$4,659.26*
Pathways	\$6,671.71*	YWCA of Central Alabama	\$3,011.47*
Planned Parenthood of Alabama	\$19,066.14		

\$153.08\*

\$2,172,64\*

