

Hope & Healing Fund Frequently Asked Questions

November 27, 2022

Why was the fund created?

As always, United Way of South Hampton Roads stands at the ready to offer support and assistance when crisis strikes our community. Following the tragic shooting at a Walmart in Chesapeake, the City of Chesapeake asked United Way to act as their partner in launching a fund to foster hope and healing for the broader community impacted by this tragedy, which we were honored to do. All parties recognized that having one place to direct the outpouring of concern would reduce confusion and ensure proper accounting. As a trusted community organization, we were tasked with doing what we do best, taking care of needs through the thoughtful collection, management and distribution of funds.

How are donations accounted for?

All donations through United Way of South Hampton Roads are going to a dedicated account specifically set up for the Hope & Healing Fund. Each donation is entered into our software system so we will have records that track when, where and from whom donations are received. It will show all dollars in and all dollars dispersed with supporting documentation audited by Wall, Einhorn & Chernitzer. 100% of the donations received will go into the Hope & Healing Fund and United Way will not take a percentage for administration or processing.

How will the funds be used?

This is not a victims' fund as those needs are being met by other parties. The funds will be used to foster hope and healing for the broader community of families and individuals impacted by this tragedy. Solutions will center on mental health and violence prevention, though specifics are still being determined in collaboration with our partners. Funds may be used for both direct service and grants to partner agencies.

Who is helping determine the need?

United Way has convened a wide variety of community leaders and partners to discuss the current response, identify unmet needs and work toward a collaborative action plan. Together we will determine the need based on feedback from the community.

How long will the fund stay open?

The fund will remain open as long as it is actively receiving donations.

Is a donation to the Hope & Healing Fund tax deductible?

Yes, donations to United Way's Hope & Healing Fund are considered tax deductible under our 501(c)3 nonprofit status. As always, we recommend that you consult a tax professional if you have any concerns or questions.