

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

*Always Giving. Always Advocating. Always Volunteering.*



## COMMUNITY IMPACT BEHIND THE SCENES

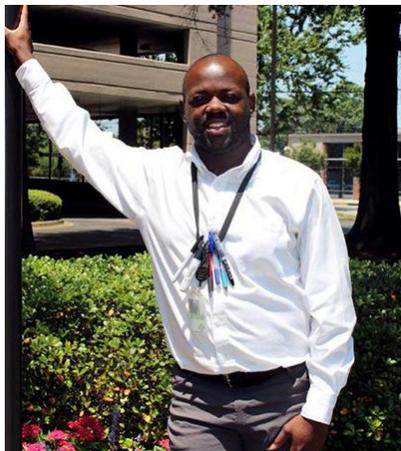
## YOUTH IN TRANSITION

On March 12, Always United members gathered at United Way to board Captain Telegram's Trolley for our Community Impact Behind the Scenes agency tour and discussion focused on Youth In Transition, those young adults, age 17 to 24, who are homeless or vulnerable to homelessness or are at risk for other poor outcomes due to a lack of social and financial support. Members had the opportunity to see first-hand how United Way and its partner agencies' youth housing centers operate, manage and sustain the services they provide.

The trolley's first stop was Palmetto Place Children & Youth Services, which offers homeless and unaccompanied youth a place to learn to live independently and reach self-sufficiency. This full-time home with house parents provides food, housing, clothing, transportation and wraparound services for up to 30 people ages 16-21 through its Unaccompanied Youth Program.

The second stop was MIRCI's Youth Drop-In Center. This facility offers a safe place for homeless youth to use during the day. Resources include a place to shower, wash clothes, use computers, learn about services for housing, jobs and other resources. The Drop-In Center also provides these young adults with a safe place to rest after spending the night outside.

After the agency tour, members returned to United Way for a discussion on current challenges they face and hope to turn into opportunities with the help of our Always United members. You can join the project to help our Youth in Transition, too. Email [AlwaysUnited@uway.org](mailto:AlwaysUnited@uway.org) and a team member will contact you.



### JaQuan Riley

**A successful participant in United Way's Youth Plan**, believes that everything happens for a reason, even if that means losing your home. Now JaQuan is working to help young adults experiencing homelessness get back on track to achieving their full potential. Take a look at his story at [uway.org/about-us/our-stories](http://uway.org/about-us/our-stories).

### Hop Aboard the Next Trolley

COMMUNITY IMPACT BEHIND THE SCENES | *Senior Services*

Thursday, May 9, 9:30-Noon

Meet at United Way of the Midlands, 1818 Blanding Street

Learn more and register at [uway.org/events](http://uway.org/events) or call Claudia Brooks at 733-5112.

# Always United | Upcoming Events

APRIL

## Always United Hosts Two Events Presented by AARP

During the development of Always United we had assistance from many people in this community including Patrick Cobb, AARP, Associate State Director, Communications. Patrick and many of our members are also members of AARP. We've appreciated hosting several AARP workshops, which have been of benefit to both memberships.



## Always United hosts AARP CAREversations: A Family Caregiving Event

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 11:30 a.m.

United Way of the Midlands | 1818 Blanding Street, Columbia

Join us for this facilitated conversation about family caregiving with light refreshments.

- Discover five key steps to aid you in your caregiving journey
- Connect and exchange tips and ideas with fellow caregivers
- Explore local caregiving resources available in your community

Visit [uway.org/events](http://uway.org/events) to reserve your seat. For questions about this workshop, call 1-866-740-6947.

## Always United hosts AARP's Ride@50+ Program Training

Tuesday, April 30 | 9:00 a.m - 10:30 .

United Way of the Midlands | 1818 Blanding Street

Register at [uway.org/events](http://uway.org/events) or call 1-888-851-2131



An innovative new program developed by AARP and powered by Feonix Mobility Rising that is a one-stop solution for access to local transportation options.

## Always United Identifying Needs and Finding Solutions

In early 2019 Always United's leadership identified transportation as a critical barrier for people in our community who need services from our Community Impact Partners and other service providers. Additionally, as we age, finding easy, convenient and affordable transportation becomes more difficult.

As Always United member Phil Waddell started to research opportunities to help address this situation, we learned that AARP was beginning a pilot program in Richland and Lexington counties that could become a key component. Members of Always United and United Way were invited to join their **Mobility Leadership Council**, a task force of concerned ride providers, nonprofits, medical care providers and government agencies to provide input and recommendations for this service.

*"Ride@50+SM is an exciting, carefully developed program to provide transportation options that will allow us to leave our cars at home. This program has built-in opportunities to support those who can't get the help they need because they have no way to get to service providers. We appreciate that AARP has chosen to pilot this program in Richland and Lexington counties and hope that this will lead to success across South Carolina and the nation. I encourage Always United members to learn more at [AARP.com/RideCola](http://AARP.com/RideCola)."*

Phil Waddell,  
Always United Steering Committee Member

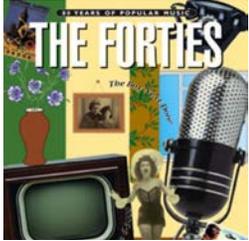
# Always United | Upcoming Events

MAY

Calling All Event Planners, Marketing and Creative Members. We Need YOU!

Wednesday, May 1 | Noon-1:30 PM | United Way of the Midlands, 1818 Blanding Street  
Help create an Always United "Homecoming" event for October 2019

Contact Claudia Brooks at 733-5112 for information and to RSVP for this working lunch.



## Community Impact Behind the Scenes | *Senior Assistance*

Thursday, May 9 | 9:30-Noon  
Meet at United Way of the Midlands, 1818 Blanding Street

Learn more and register at [uway.org/events](http://uway.org/events) or call Claudia Brooks at 803-733-5112.

Do you wonder what services are available if you should need help? Do you have questions about how you can help seniors in need? Do you know that there are programs that keep you sharp and socially connected regardless of your circumstances? Hop on the trolley to visit Community Impact Partners Senior Resources and The Lourie Center.



## Always United Member Enrichment | *How to Downsize and Feel Good About It*

Thursday, May 23 | 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
United Way of the Midlands, 1818 Blanding Street

RSVP by May 20 at [uway.org/events](http://uway.org/events) or call Claudia Brooks at 803-733-5112

Join us for a fun conversation with Candy Waites of [Seniors on the Move](#). Candy will share tips on how to organize and declutter your possessions, the positives in downsizing and what to do with all your "stuff."

Lunch will be served.



## Your Invitation to Get Involved

Always United committees are being formed for the 2019-2020 year. We are looking for Steering Committee members plus members for sub-committees. So if you would to have fun, meet other members and create worthwhile activities for membership while supporting the work of United Way of the Midlands please email [AlwaysUnited@uway.org](mailto:AlwaysUnited@uway.org). Your participation is welcomed and needed.

# Always United Kicks Off | Evening with an Author

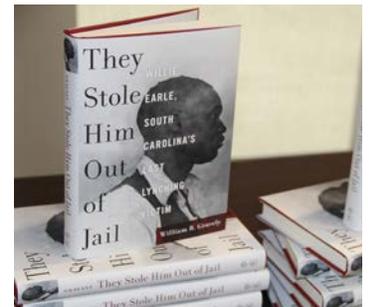
2019 saw the inauguration of a new activity - Evening with an Author.

Two events have been held and were very well attended by both Always United members and friends. The events provided an opportunity for attendees to mix and mingle, hear from guest authors and have lively, thoughtful discussions. We thank University of South Carolina Press for helping us arrange these events.



Our first event in February featured ***Places in the Heart***, a three-volume series of short essays, and the editor Aida Rogers with authors Margaret O'Shea, Dianne Johnson and Ron Aiken, who helped make the event so wonderful. Their stories both written and spoken touched our hearts and reminded us of the good and difficult times we've had in this place we call home, South Carolina.

In March, author William Gravelly joined us to discuss his book ***They Stole Him Out of Jail: Willie Earl, South Carolina's Last Lynching Victim***. William Gravelly, a native South Carolina, worked on this book for more than 30 years. His presentation moderated by Always United member Hayes Mizell was followed by nearly an hour of audience questions and further discussion. When asked how he chose the title for the book Gravelly explained it came from his mother, stating, "It's how she described Willie Earl's abduction and murder."



Plans are to hold additional Evenings with an Author. We welcome suggestions for topics or specific authors. Please email your suggestions to [AlwaysUnited@uway.org](mailto:AlwaysUnited@uway.org).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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