

Three Things You Should Know About the University of Nevada, the United Way and Community Health Charities

1. **The United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra, and the Community Health Charities serve as an important community resource for faculty, staff and students of the University of Nevada, Reno.**

For example, the United Way augments University services provided to students, including counseling and professional referrals by organizations such as:

Family Counseling Services, which provides:

- Sexual assault and substance abuse counseling for about a dozen students a year;
- Approximately three faculty/staff members for substance abuse counseling provided via the University's Employee Assistance Program;
- Information in past years about making good decisions on credit card use for 25-50 students (usually freshmen) each semester;
- Student internships which support academic field placement requirements. This organization also hosts a large volunteer base of students for its summer camps that serve at-risk and foster kids.

Committee to Aid Abused Women, which provides:

- Up to 10 presentations each semester to raise student awareness of domestic violence;
- Approximately 100 students every year with a variety of services, including support groups, shelter, 24-hour crisis line, temporary protective orders, housing, food, clothing and hygiene supplies.

Crisis Call:

- The University's Health Center phone line refers students in crisis to this call center, which operates 24/7;
- Hosts a "Sexual Assault Prevention" program every year for students;
- Provides a number of internship opportunities for students in the University's social work curriculum; and
- Offers part-time employment for undergraduate and graduate students. A number of these students have achieved leadership positions in major area nonprofit organizations.

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, which annually provides:

- Several hundred students with reproductive health care consultation and birth control;
- A handful of clinical internships for students in the College of Health and Human Sciences, including the Orvis School of Nursing;
- Several students with volunteer opportunities in its education department, which reaches out to teens and college students to increase awareness of pregnancy prevention measures and other reproductive health issues;
- Nearly a dozen student internships in its public affairs department, enabling students to gain valuable experience in public relations, advocacy and community relations; and
- Part-time employment for students pursuing master's degrees in social work.

The HAWC (Health Access Washoe County) Community Health Clinic, which provides reduced-cost dental, mental health and medical care for uninsured or under-insured patients. About 3,300 patients between 18 and 24—some of whom are University students—are treated annually.

2. *These agencies have been key partners in the University’s historic land-grant mission of community outreach. They enable the University to expand its community outreach capabilities in a number of ways:*

For example, nearly 100 University organizations—from Cooperative Extension and the College of Health and Human Sciences, to the psychology department, the Sanford Center on Aging and the School of Medicine—are linked in with the new United Way-managed “Nevada 2-1-1” service.

Nevada 2-1-1 connects callers across the state—including faculty, staff and family members of the University community—to free information about critical health and human services available in their community. Members of the University community also provide subject matter expertise and assistance to Nevadans who call 2-1-1.

3. *These agencies help faculty and students pursue important research that benefits the community.*

University faculty and graduate students—particularly those in the behavioral sciences and health fields, have participated in discussions about the importance of the United Way’s “integrated case management” approach to individuals and families.

This systematic approach is considered “best practice” by state and federal funding organizations and has resulted in a growing number of successful University grant applications that have enabled faculty and students to pursue community-based research and/or projects that benefit area children, youths and seniors.

In addition, there are some 50 national organizations supported by the Community Health Charities that provide information and support for Nevadans on a wide range of diseases and related research. The University has direct partnerships with such CHC agencies as: AMC Cancer Research Center, the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation.

