

(251) 432.1638 office
(251) 432.1644 fax

8 St. Joseph St.
Mobile, AL 36602

P.O. Box 1243
Mobile, AL 36633

www.MobileUnited.org



Mobile United

Empowering change. Improving tomorrow.

In July of 1972 a cross-section of men and women came together at the Municipal Auditorium to seek “an organized way to deal with and to resolve community issues, and a means of focusing citizen’s efforts to make Mobile a better place to live”. In the words of Paul Cherney and Jack Friend the original group was a powerhouse, representative of all sectors of the community. Forty four years later it still operates as a membership organization that creatively addresses the issues that face the Mobile community in an effort to improve the quality of life for all citizens. Through our committee structure we bring all voices to the table and hold quality discussions and take action when needed on the topics of civic engagement, public safety, diversity and inclusion, natural resources, community health and education. Mobile United is the home of Leadership Mobile, Connect Mobile and Youth Leadership Mobile programs.

MOBILE UNITED COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Diversity & Inclusion: This committee is made up of an eager and diverse group of Mobile citizens who share ideas as summarily described below, for the expressed purpose of advancing significant discourse directed toward effective shifts in the paradigm of thinking impacting outcomes in our community. The group has partnered with other organizations and events to reach out to the community and explore the diverse makeup of our city in tandem with our commonalities – unity. We created the “Unity Rope” which became a long colorful “scarf or rope once each person tied an individual ribbon “for unity in Mobile”.



Health Services Task Force: Mobile United will, through its Health Services Task Force, continue to seek ways to improve health in our community in 2017. As we continue to learn from the Robert Woods Johnson annual health grades, Alabama and in particular Mobile suffers from very poor health statistics. The group has been focusing on the 36605 zip code to educate the community and find out through community meetings what they need and what will work best for their citizens to move the needle into a healthier position. We now have a regular monthly “First Saturday” walk at Doyle Park. The MUHTF committee organizations “sponsor” the walk to educate the citizens on healthy lifestyles and resources available to the citizens of the 36605 community. We have worked with the City of Mobile Parks department to hang a semi-permanent banner to promote the walks throughout the year. Emily Blejwas of the Gulf States Health Policy Center/Bayou Clinic chairs this committee.

Government Committee: The Government Committee of Mobile United continued to engage young adults through processes and programs designed to enlist the younger generation to serve on community boards, volunteer, and develop as community stakeholders through Engaging the Next Generation. The April 7, 2017 event featured over 43 non-profit agencies who in turn provided volunteer opportunities to over 300 young professionals. The event was Dauphin Street between Conception and Joachim Streets with live music, thanks to our collaboration with SouthSounds Music Festival.



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Education Committee: The Education Committee will continue to work on an initiative to engage our youth in service to the Mobile community. The research indicates there are numerous benefits to youth being involved and serving their community. This past year, the Education Committee partnered with HandsOn which has an electronic system South Alabama and their Volunteer Connect program that is capable of pairing volunteers and opportunities in our community. This spring we successfully piloted the initiative with a group of students from Mary G. Montgomery high school. In the very short period between March 17 and May 18 eighty-seven students volunteered 1051 hours of their time to twenty-seven agencies in Mobile County. This committee plans to continue the collaboration with HandsOn, MGM and to reach out to other schools in the Mobile County School system.

Natural Resources Committee: The Natural Resources Committee will continue to work with a network of environmental professionals and continue promoting ways to ensure a safe and healthy environment. The NRC is responsible for the four successful Crepe Myrtle Trail Rides – one of the legs to the Mobile Greenway Initiative. This year's April 1, 2017 ride boasted nearly 370 riders who enjoyed the 10.3 mile ride along the western shore of Mobile Bay. Not only does this ride provide a great venue for family exercise and beautiful scenery, but it also brings awareness that Mobile can have trails to promote connections to our natural resources giving our community an even stronger reason to protect those resources. The NRC has worked many long and hard hours to improve this ride each year and has increased the ridership well over three times above our first year number.

Another ongoing project of this group is to plan and host the monthly gathering, Mobile Bay Green Drinks. It is the local chapter of an international organization that meets informally on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Alchemy Tavern Mobile to discuss, promote and network about local and global environmental issues.

2017 has been a great year for Mobile United's Natural Resources Committee sub group - recycling team. One of our members was elected to the Keep Mobile Beautiful Commission and another is slated to be elected later in 2017. The team also created a resource guide that lists the contact information for all of the organizations working on sustainability issues in Mobile.

Lastly, this active group has been working on and plans to make an annual event on Martin Luther King Day. The 2017 NRC had an incredible Day of Service during Martin Luther King weekend on January 16, 2017. With expectations of 150 volunteers, our numbers were two times that amount with 355 volunteers for across the city. The committee included many partners working together which made this year's inaugural event a great success. The team is actively planning the Saturday January 13, 2018 MLK city wide cleanup. New this year, we are collaborating with all the other MLK events to coordinate all activities from Thursday through Monday so to be inclusive community wide.

Public Safety Committee:

In early March this committee and its community partners launched the inaugural Student Voices Contest in collaboration with the City of Mobile Police Department to promote youth safety through the arts. The contest awarded prizes to students hailing from public, private and parochial high schools from across Mobile County. This event encouraged students to think critically and express themselves on issues related to safety, particularly youth violence in the community, begins the start to safer outcomes. Students bring personal perspective and insight to the issue of violence, often not seen or heard by adults. The entries and winning



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artwork was on display at The Shoppes at Bel Air from May 12, 2017 - June 12, 2017. Winners in each category received a new iPad Mini 2 with Wi-Fi. In addition, the sponsoring teacher received a \$100 gift card to use at the store of their choice. The funding for the event prizes was made possible by a grant from the Mobile Bar Association.

Social Services and Housing: Mobile United serves as the fiscal agent for the South Alabama Coalition of Non-Profits, SACNP. Mobile United is an active participant in the coalition which is a group of local nonprofits that share a common purpose based on increasing effectiveness in nonprofit organizations; increasing advocacy for those who receive our services and for the nonprofit sector; and increasing public awareness and support of the nonprofit sector in our community. A committee of members is working with the state level organization and USA's Melton Center for Entrepreneur and Leadership Center on a one day Non Profit Summit on June 9 in Mobile. Additionally, plans are underway for the November 2017 reception for elected officials from Mobile and Baldwin counties to educate them about the impact of non-profits in our community. Throughout the remainder of 2017 the coalition plans to continue to work with our state organization Alabama Association of Non Profits and advocate for non-profits in the Mobile and Baldwin area.

General Membership Meetings: *Mobile United convenes general membership meetings for the education of our membership and their guests. Our goal is to raise awareness of the needs of our community and to be a leadership source available to those needs. Some, but not all of the members join us after graduation from the Leadership Mobile and Connect Mobile programs.*

January 18	Mayor Stimpson @ The Junior League of Mobile
February 22	Predatory Lending with Pres Harris of Arise Citizen's Policy Project
March 22	AL History/ Bicentennial with Cart Blackwell
April 26	Understanding Environmental & Economic Impacts to Coastal Alabama
May 24	Mental Health Awareness - The Stigma of Mental Health with Altapointe Health Systems
June 28	How Do Communities of Faith Fit into Society
August 23	Education - Martha Peek
September 27	Mobile County Youth Programs - tbd
October 25	Health - Physical - tbd
November 15	Public Safety
December 7	Annual Meeting

MOBILE UNITED PROGRAMS

Leadership Mobile: Under the direction of Chris Barraza, Administrator and Class Dean Casi Callaway this year's class theme is "Diversity" in all aspects, but focusing ultimately on diversity of thought. At present, both Leadership Mobile and Youth Leadership Mobile are in a state of transition. Leadership Mobile just this month moved from monthly education seminars to their project phase, whereby the class of 49 has broken into smaller groups and is actively working on projects in the following areas to help move the needle on issues pertinent to each: arts & culture, diversity, public health, education, environment, economic development and community development. The groups will present before their graduation from the



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program on September 7th, 2017. Selection for the Class of 2018 has been made and the new class will begin in September 2017 with an overnight Opening Retreat at Beckwith Camp and Conference.

The Youth Leadership Mobile Class of 2017 graduated 31 students from this year's program. Projects ranged from raising money for the Alzheimer's Foundation to creating a community garden and holding a Girls Who Code event in collaboration with Hargrove Engineering.

Recruitment for next year's class has resulted in close to 50 applications submitted. Due to limited space, we have offered 34 spots for the Class of 2018 to a variety of students from all over the county. The three day Summer Intensive took place from July 19th-21st and was based at the Alabama School of Mathematics and Science. The young leaders were immersed into the community to learn about arts, the environment, government, careers in STEAM, health & human services as well as develop soft skills through talks and mock interviews. Once all schools are in session the YLM class will meet each month to volunteer at a variety of different service opportunities and find out about ways each can give back as they develop their individual community service projects.

The Connect Mobile Class of 2017 is in the seminars & networking phase and looking forward to selecting their large group project, which they will present on September 28. Thus far, they have studied both the non-profit and for-profit world of Mobile- learning from leaders in the community who are taking innovative approaches to their work. Once they decide democratically on a project, they will proceed until graduation on September 28th where they will present the results of said project.

For More Information go to www.mobileunited.org