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The United Way Solution

The agencies that receive the most money from my local United Way is Community Based Organizations (CBO), the Black Church and to food pantries. Each of these agencies offer a plethora of services centered on family therapy, mentorship, employment, education, cognitive behavioral therapy. In addition, these partnerships helped to educate the community on preventative measures, and most importantly provide access to COVID-19 testing for high-risk communities. Moreover, these agencies work collaboratively with the health care to ensure access to much-needed health services.

Last year alone, the United Way awarded \$23 million to over five hundred food pantries and soup kitchens, providing million pounds of food. These services are the backbone to the community as they provide the people with the bare necessities which help them survive and maintain themselves. Without these services, the people would lack the basic means of survival. This could lead to conditions worsening and the quality-of-life depreciating at an exponential rate.

Personally, I do agree with the priorities that the allocation of funds seem to suggest because they address the fundamental needs that a significant percentage of people are currently deprived of. It is one thing to write about these conditions, but to be exposed to them daily can be traumatic in and of itself. Despite this, however, there are some in the community who may take offense that the Black Church is being supported by the United Way, it does give the impression that they are “playing the race card.” This is concerning Thus, the United Way’s strategy of curing these ills plaguing our communities, society, and the world at large is truly a remarkable task indeed.

