



**United Way of Central and
Northeastern Connecticut**

Paula S. Gilberto

President and Chief Executive Officer

March 13, 2020

Dear Friends:

COVID-19 is top of mind for all of us. As your local United Way, we want to share with you what we're doing, the status of our events and volunteer programs, and how you can help. Above all, please take all necessary precautions to ensure you, your family and co-workers are well. Anyone experiencing symptoms is strongly urged to contact their medical provider to seek treatment.

What is United Way doing?

United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut is taking measures to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. We are in regular communication with our workplace, community, school and municipal partners for updates on recommended precautions and are currently following the guidance of the [CDC](#); government; and, United Way Worldwide.

We have developed a COVID-19 response landing page and will provide updates on this developing situation.

Here's what you need to know:

Events

March 19 – United Way Women United's Member Breakfast is postponed.

March 31 – The Parkville Market "Sneak Peek" is postponed. We are working with our partners to determine next steps and will be in touch with updates next week.

April 2 – Our Virtual Annual Meeting will be held for the election of board members. Our 95th anniversary celebration and presentation of the Community Service Award will be postponed to a later date.

Volunteers

United Way Readers: All volunteer reading sessions are suspended until further notice in light of school closures. Our website will be updated frequently with updates and our team will be in touch with all volunteers in the coming weeks. Please contact Phil Blonski at pblonski@unitedwayinc.org with any questions.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA): Some tax sites remain open and volunteers should plan to report to sites as scheduled. We will notify volunteers of closings when we learn of them and you can regularly check our website for daily updates and changes. We, along with our partners at The Village for Families & Children, have worked to increase measures around disinfecting tax sites. Volunteers who are feeling unwell should stay home and anyone who has the need to practice social distancing at this time should feel free to do so. We ask that absences be communicated directly to site coordinators.

For those who are still hoping to file their taxes, but do not wish to visit a site at this time, please visit www.myfreetaxes.com, to file online at no cost.

Please contact Phil Blonski at pblonski@unitedwayinc.org with any questions.

Beyond the Bell: Monthly *Beyond the Bell* sessions are suspended until further notice. Our website will be updated frequently. Should you have questions please contact Rebekah Castagno at rcastagno@unitedwayinc.org.

Impact Teams: The start of Impact Team visits has been delayed to late April. Please contact Diana Desnoyers at ddesnoyers@unitedwayinc.org with any questions.

Kit Projects: All kit projects are currently on as scheduled, pending confirmation from workplace hosts. United Way staff will connect with team leads to discuss any changes if necessary.

Business Operations and Workplace Campaigns

United Way is always here for the community when times are tough, and we will continue to be. Our teams are fully positioned to work remotely with secure, encrypted, portable technology. We also have the capability to meet via video and/or conference calls and continue to be fully accessible to each other and the community every day.

Workplace Campaigns: If you were planning to hold a spring campaign, please contact us so that we can best support you. We have great virtual experiences available that will keep your teams engaged and connected. Please contact your United Way liaison with any questions or concerns.

What can you do?

Stay tuned to our website. United Way is in touch with community partners, assessing emerging needs of people in the communities we serve. The [United Way ALICE Fund](#) provides donors with an opportunity to make an immediate contribution to ensure that basic needs are met year-round and in times of emergency. Our team is also exploring how we might mobilize volunteers and resources to support community needs.

What resources are available through United Way?

The State of Connecticut is partnering with United Way 2-1-1 on an information hotline for questions from the public regarding issues related to the spread of COVID-19. People who have questions can call 2-1-1 or text "CTCOVID" to 898211. Anyone experiencing symptoms is strongly urged to contact their medical provider to seek treatment.

As news develops, we will provide further updates to ensure that we do everything possible to protect individual health and well-being.

Please utilize the following links for additional information and guidelines:

- [Guidance and updates on Connecticut's coronavirus preparedness efforts](#)
- [Guidance from the Centers for Disease and Prevention](#)
- [United Way 2-1-1 eLibrary paper](#)

Sincerely,

