



# UNITED WAY: YOUR PARTNER IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

GET INVOLVED. JOIN OUR LIVE UNITED MOVEMENT.

United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut mobilizes the community to make a difference in the lives of children and families. We are your local United Way and focus on connecting people in our community to causes they care about and helping businesses reach their goals around philanthropic giving, employee engagement and community involvement.

## Why United Way?

We are experts in creating unique and meaningful volunteer opportunities that encourage team building and collaboration, while helping employees connect to the communities in which they work. While we may be a local organization invested in central and northeastern Connecticut, we have access to a powerful global network, making it easy to create consistency across your markets. **Join us today!**

## The Power of Partnerships

United Way *Year of Caring* projects connect people and workplaces from all over the region that care about creating opportunities for children and families to succeed in school, work and life. Get involved in helping some of the most important issues facing our community today by organizing a volunteer event for you or your team.

## COVID-19 Response

United Way is committed to addressing immediate needs and finding long-term solutions to challenges facing our community. We do this by investing in programs and services, leading community change initiatives and mobilizing resources and volunteers. We know that for many children, adults and families, recovery from the economic, health and learning loss impacts of COVID-19 will not be immediate. The pandemic has taught us the value and importance of taking care of one another. The goal is not to get back to where we were, it is to build back better, to a future with more equitable outcomes for all. That is what it means to LIVE UNITED.

All in-person volunteer projects will be carefully planned to follow current CDC health and safety guidelines.

LIVE UNITED

VOLUNTEER  
AS A GROUP  
OR INDIVIDUAL.

     
@unitedwayinc

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Hartford, CT 06106  
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United Way of Central and  
Northeastern Connecticut

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



# 2022 - 2023

## UNITED WAY YEAR OF CARING

### ONGOING

United Way's *Year of Caring* projects offer many virtual, DIY and in-person opportunities to make a difference in the communities where you live and work.

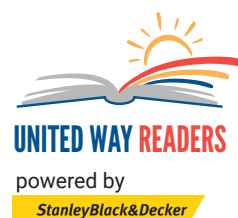
*We hope to be able to offer small, in-person volunteer projects this Spring.*  
[unitedwayinc.org/year-of-caring/](https://unitedwayinc.org/year-of-caring/)



## UNITED WAY READERS

### ONGOING

United Way Readers matches a caring volunteer with a student who is behind in reading. United Way Readers understand the importance of investing in a student's future; as the relationship develops we see volunteers starting to read more books connected to the interests of students and students develop a love of reading.



## MISSION UNITED

### MAY AND NOV

The focus will be on supporting local veterans and active-duty service members and their families. A fund will be created to purchase supplies of need and we are hoping to offer in-person volunteer opportunities.



## RUN UNITED

### OCTOBER 8

United Way is proud to be a Charity Partner of the 2022 Eversource Hartford Marathon! Join us at the 2022 Eversource Hartford Marathon and fulfill a volunteer role.



## JUMPSTART'S READ FOR THE RECORD

### LATE OCTOBER

Every year, United Way joins in this global movement and mobilizes volunteers to read the same book on the same day to students. We're committed to helping children develop a lifelong love of reading through the power of volunteerism.



## 9/11 DAYS OF SERVICE

### SEPTEMBER 7 - 11

**9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance** – September 7th - September 11th, 2022  
Recognizing that 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance takes place during National Preparedness Month, we will be building United Way Family Emergency Preparedness Kits. Our goal is to recruit to volunteers to illustrate the importance of planning for emergencies and invite them to participate and deepen their understanding of what happened on September 11, 2001.

**SEASON OF GIVING  
WINTER DRIVE**

**NOV - JAN**

Help collect new winter clothing and healthy food for local children and families. Collected supplies will be delivered to children and families in the greater Hartford area. Mid-November 2021 through end of January 2022. Items collected include: winter clothing, food gift cards, toys, etc.



**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR  
DAY OF SERVICE**

**JANUARY 17**

January 17 is a National Day of Service, when millions of volunteers across the country will come together to honor Dr. King's legacy and ensure that his work continues in the 21st Century. We invite you to join us by committing on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to volunteer this year with United Way.

**VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX  
ASSISTANCE (VITA)**

**JANUARY - APRIL**

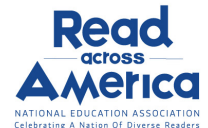
The VITA campaign offers free tax filing help to ALICE families. We're looking for volunteers who will help adults and families file their household income tax returns across our region.



**READ ACROSS  
AMERICA DAY**

**MARCH 2**

Get involved in the great work happening in our community by joining us on *Read Across America Day*. During the event, volunteers will read aloud to a classroom of students. Join us as we celebrate diversity while helping local children develop a love of reading.



**NATIONAL  
VOLUNTEER MONTH**

**APRIL**

April is National Volunteer Month and United Way is dedicated to honoring all the volunteers in our communities as well as encouraging volunteerism throughout the month. We want to invite you to join us by investing in your community through volunteering with your workplace, a group or individually. With longer days and warmer weather ahead, let's channel that energy to meaningful service to the community in April.



**UNITED WAY STUFF THE BUS  
LATE JUNE - AUGUST**

Help students in our community enter the school year ready to learn. Collected supplies will be delivered to classrooms in central and Northeastern Connecticut. Get involved by hosting a school supply drive, donating to the United Way *Stuff the Bus* Fund or ordering from our Amazon Wishlist. **Items include: school supplies, toiletries for teachers, etc.**



**UNITED WAY  
DAY OF ACTION**

**JUNE 21**

Each year on and around June 21, United Way joins a worldwide movement to engage groups and individuals to make a community a better place through service, collaboration and impact. By taking action, you are ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed in school and every family gets on the pathway to financial security.

**DAY  
-OF-  
ACTION**

## AT THE WORKPLACE PROJECTS AND TEAM BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

United Way partners with workplaces to offer employees the opportunity to make a difference without leaving the office by bringing projects to you. These projects offer a valuable team building opportunity while making an impact for local individuals, children and families. The kits listed below can be done from the safety of a volunteer's home or workplace. Costs are associated with these projects and average pricing is included below. Select from any of the following project offerings and team building enhancements:

### United Way Literacy Kits

Description: Volunteers create props, games and/or activities to accompany books that help to deepen reading experiences for local children and build home libraries. Completed kits are donated to children enrolled in United Way-supported education programs.

Time commitment: Volunteers assemble two kits per hour on average.

### United Way Toiletry Kits

Description: Volunteers assemble toiletry kits including items like shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and socks and write a note to the recipient of the kit. Completed kits are donated to people in United Way-supported emergency shelter programs.

Time commitment: Volunteers assemble eight to ten kits per hour on average.

### Emergency Preparedness Kits

Volunteers will build Family Emergency Preparedness Kits with supplies (e.g., non-perishable snacks, flashlight, whistle, first-aid kit, wipes) and learn how to create and practice a disaster preparedness plan. The kits will focus on risk prevention and awareness. Volunteers assemble 8-10 kits per hour on average.

### STEM Kits

Volunteers will build or assemble kits that focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Kits will include a NEW STEM-themed book, experiment supplies and instructions, as well as other resources.

### United Way Interview Success Kits

Description: Volunteers assemble kits that include a quality notebook and pen. Volunteers write inspirational notes to potential job seekers that include tips for interview success. Completed kits are donated to people in United Way-supported job training programs.

Time commitment: Volunteers assemble eight to ten kits per hour on average.

### United Way Homeless Outreach Kits

Description: Volunteers assemble kits used by shelter partners to help with homeless outreach. Kits include items like healthy snacks, socks, gloves and hats. Completed kits are donated to people in United Way-supported emergency shelter programs.

Time commitment: Volunteers assemble eight to ten kits per hour on average.

## SEASONAL OFFERINGS

### United Way Back to School Kits

Description: Volunteers assemble kits that include a backpack, school supplies, information on the importance of regular school attendance and free enrichment programs and an inspirational note or bookmark made by the volunteer. Completed kits benefit children enrolled in United Way-supported school programs.

Time commitment: Volunteers assemble five to eight kits per hour on average.

### United Way Summer Supply Kits

Description: Volunteers assemble kits that help children stay healthy and on track academically over the summer. Kits include healthy snacks and meal options, books and summer learning activities. Completed kits are donated to children in United Way-supported school programs.

Time commitment: Volunteers assemble eight to ten kits per hour on average.



*Price is customizable based on Sponsor requests or needs. Price is subject to change to reflect added supplies. Remote employees are invited to give to kits monetarily. Contact United Way to discuss and set up your site.*

**KITS CAN BE  
FULFILLED  
REMOTELY!**

\*ALICE is a United Way-coined acronym that stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.

**LIVE UNITED**

Contact Phil Blonski at [pblonski@unitedwayinc.org](mailto:pblonski@unitedwayinc.org) to learn more about how United Way can partner with you to meet your employee engagement goals.



United Way of Central and  
Northeastern Connecticut





## TEAM BUILDING ENHANCEMENTS AND ONE-TIME VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### TEAM BUILDING ENHANCEMENTS

In addition to facilitating a kit project on-site at your workplace, United Way can add team building enhancements that provide employees with a deeper opportunity to connect with one another while making an impact. Team building enhancements includes:

- **Educational Awareness Activities** related to financial stability, education and food insecurity;
- **Team Building Activities** that encourage communication and collaboration;
- **Making Choices** this activity prompts participants to make tough choices on childcare, housing, transportation and career based on the monthly budget of an ALICE family.
- **Food for Thought** A remote challenge that offers a real-life, week-long food budget that demonstrates the importance of access to affordable and healthy food.
- **Competition** to help spark group engagement; and,
- an **Impact Speaker**, where United Way staff arranges for a speaker to come on-site to your project and explain the impact of the activity

### VIRTUAL/ REMOTE VOLUNTEER OPTIONS

Want to make a difference in the community? United Way is proud to offer both in-person and virtual volunteer opportunities. We have a variety of ways to contribute to our focus areas of youth success, family financial stability, health and basic needs.

### READ ALOUD TO A CLASSROOM

A group of volunteers are assigned one book to read aloud virtually to classrooms at a local elementary school. Each volunteer will Zoom live with the students.

### LETTER WRITING

Write handwritten letters to the elderly and to veterans to provide a feeling of connectedness while we continue to social distance due to the pandemic.

### HOST A BOOK DRIVE

Host a Book Drive for United Way! We are looking for NEW children's books for students ages 5-10. All collections can be dropped off at United Way, 30 Laurel Street, Hartford, CT.

PREVIEW THESE  
OPPORTUNITIES  
AND MORE AT

[volunteer.unitedwayinc.org](https://volunteer.unitedwayinc.org)

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