

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)

Together, we can help families achieve financial stability.

United Way has been involved in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) campaign for nearly two decades. Through VITA, United Way mobilizes IRS-certified volunteers to help families prepare and electronically file their state and federal tax returns at no cost. This work is done in partnership with Human Resources Agency (HRA) of New Britain and The Village for Families & Children.

Over the last two years, we have expanded our efforts to include virtual and drop-off services to help people continue to access services while safely navigating the pandemic. VITA partners and volunteers have also worked together to connect filers with savings and financial education opportunities to help maximize refunds and save for the future.

During the 2022 tax season, more than **10,000 families** in our region had their taxes prepared at no cost through VITA, with **\$27.5 million** in refunds and credits returned to hardworking, struggling households. VITA works as an incredible economic stimulus initiative that helps families pay for education, better housing, reliable transportation and more.

In the spring of 2022, United Way and our network of partners successfully advocated for the permanent expansion of the Connecticut Earned Income Tax Credit from 23.0 percent to 41.5 percent of the federal credit. Additionally, in the summer of 2022, Connecticut United Ways and our partners worked together to help families apply for the Connecticut Tax Rebate.

Through our collective advocacy efforts, we are connecting hardworking families with critical financial supports.

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EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM (EFSP)

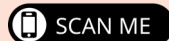
Together, we can ensure people have their most basic needs met.

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) was created in 1983 by Congress to help meet the needs of hungry and homeless people throughout the United States and its territories by allocating federal funds for the provision of food and shelter. Our United Way is proud to have been the administrator of EFSP funding on behalf of the local Board in Hartford County since 1990.

EFSP funds help to supplement the work of nearly 30 nonprofit and municipal social service organizations to provide shelter, food and homeless prevention services including rent/mortgage and utility assistance.

In the past few years, Hartford County was awarded **\$3.2 million** through EFSP Phases 37, 38, and 39, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and the American Rescue Plan Act – Regular.

More than **10,000 people** have been provided emergency assistance through the EFSP and funds will continue to provide resources through April 2023.



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ACCESS TO HEALTH

Together, we can provide local children and families with services to keep them healthy and well.

United Way is uniquely positioned to connect, convene and provide resources for implementing fast-paced, ever-evolving health initiatives. We provide organization and support to turn ideas into action, especially in challenging times.

The pandemic further emphasized the deep inequities that already exist in health. The challenges of COVID-19 required United Way and our network of partners to work together in innovative ways to create new strategies rooted in a community approach. A silver lining is that these synergies have allowed United Way to expand our work in health improvement across more of our region.

COVID-19 education, testing and vaccine work that started with the North Hartford Triple Aim Collaborative expanded first to the entire City of Hartford, then into East Hartford, and now is launching in northeastern Connecticut with help from the State of Connecticut and the CDC. Thanks to the generous support of our funders and partners,

Last year alone, more than **270,000 people** in our region gained access to health services and emergency basic needs.



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UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUITY

Together, we can build a more equitable future for all.

Advancing equitable outcomes is, and always has been, core to United Way's values. While Connecticut is widely recognized as one of the top states in the country for the quality of our public education system, we also are ranked in the top five for the greatest racial disparities in both student achievement and income and wealth inequity. Additionally, the pandemic shined a spotlight on these and other longstanding inequities that exist in our region due to systemic racism and discrimination.

In 2021, United Way worked to advance equity for children and families most impacted by systemic racism by establishing our *United for Racial Equity* initiative. In January 2022, United Way awarded more than **\$1 million** to advance equity in education, financial stability and health. Of that, **\$435,000** was invested to support our network of community partners working to address racial inequity through enhanced organizational practices and training, community organizing and/or policy and advocacy approaches.

In May 2022, United Way's 2nd Annual LIVE UNITED Golf Tournament raised an additional **\$68,000** for our *United for Racial Equity* initiative.

United Way appreciates the phenomenal volunteers who serve on Impact Teams to review dozens of applications to help make funding recommendations in support of this important work.



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