

# UNITED NEWS



SUMMER 2023 EDITION

UNITED WE READ.

Summertime is a critical season to keep children learning when school is out of session. Here are some ways United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut and its network are working together to close gaps and create opportunities for local children to be successful in the upcoming academic year.

## SUMMER READING IN THE NORTH HARTFORD PROMISE ZONE.



United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, Hartford Public Library, Hartford Public Schools and Connecticut Children's are working together to help keep North Hartford children on track academically through North Hartford Ascend Pipeline summer literacy initiatives.

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)

UNITED WAY INVESTS MORE THAN \$1 MILLION TO  
ADVANCE CHILDHOOD LITERACY OUTCOMES.



United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut announced its investment of \$1,008,400 across 29 community programs committed to advancing childhood literacy outcomes in our region.

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)

## AMERICORPS VISTAS JOIN UNITED WAY'S STAFF TO EXPAND LITERACY INITIATIVES.

For many years, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut has been enriched by talented AmeriCorps VISTAs who dedicate a full year of service to advancing our mission. This summer, United Way welcomes four new VISTAs who are focused on expanding its literacy initiatives.

**Kishanna Sealey** and **Alexander Chiu** will serve as our new VISTA Volunteer Reader Coordinators, leading our efforts to mobilize volunteers and support literacy interventions for K-3 students through *United Way Readers*.

**Sally Ngoh** will serve as our new VISTA Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Coordinator, with a focus on improving access to early literacy resources for North Hartford children ages birth to 5 years old.

**Chessed Leon** will join as our new VISTA Family Engagement Early Literacy Ambassador, actively engaging in community outreach to promote early literacy messaging and raise awareness of available supports and services.

## "COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS."

On June's edition, Maura Cook, Vice President, Marketing and Development at United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut and special guest, Luis Rivera, Community Relations Manager at Connecticut Children's, discussed how important it is to make sure kids keep reading even when school is out of session.



In addition, on July's radio show Maura Cook reminds us that food insecurity is not just a problem that families face during the holidays. Julieth Callejas, the Executive Director of End Hunger CT!, joins Cook to speak about how she's working on the frontlines of the Connecticut Summer Meals program and how it's helping school age children get the healthy meals they need to help them start the next school year right.

Tune in to "Community Connections" on WTIC 1080 AM at 7:30 a.m. the last Saturday of every month; or, [click here](#) to listen to these episodes and others!

## UNITED WAY IN THE NEWS.

Recently, Eric Harrison, United Way's President and CEO, was invited by Hartford Business Journal to share his perspective and elaborate on what he has been hearing from our vast network of partners on the implications the minimum wage increase is having on the local nonprofit community.

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)

## EMERGING LEADERS UNVEIL COMMUNITY MURAL IN HARTFORD.



**United Way** and **HSB** unveiled a mural that highlights Barry Square's community values around family and food. The initiative is part of the 2021 *ELS Case Competition's* winning campaign to raise awareness of local resources that address food insecurity in the Greater Hartford region. [\[Read more\]](#)



The *ELS Case Competition* offers a unique eight-week opportunity for young leaders and executives to work together to solve a community issue. This is a “Shark Tank” style competition to allow for innovative thinking, problem-solving and professional development, all while offering up ideas that may have a long-term impact on our community. If this experience interests you, the next *ELS Case Competition* kicks off this September! Contact Caitlin Briody today at [cbriody@unitedwayinc.org](mailto:cbriody@unitedwayinc.org) to learn more and register.

## SUMMER OF ACTION.

Thank you to all of the individuals and workplaces who put our mission into action through volunteer opportunities! Your hard work directly supports the well-being of local children and families through United Way’s network of partners across our region.



Global Atlantic Financial Group Interns installed hydroponic garden structures at Levo International.



Cigna team members prepared organic meals for people experiencing health crises at Healing Meals.



Otis Elevator Co. beautified Keney Park.



Webster Bank team members assembled 45 literacy kits for children enrolled in United Way-supported enrichment initiatives.



Interns at Aetna, a CVS Health Company completed 300 literacy kits to foster a love of reading for children.



Commercial Engines employees from Pratt & Whitney recently volunteered at Levo

## UNITED WAY LAUNCHES COMMUNITY FIRST CONVERSATIONS AHEAD OF ITS CENTENNIAL YEAR OF SERVICE.

United Way has launched Community FIRST Conversations as the organization approaches its 100th anniversary in 2024. Dozens of Community FIRST Conversations are taking place through the end of August to seek input from a diverse pool of stakeholders who will help inform United Way's strategic plan as it looks forward to the next century of impact.

Do you want to participate in a Community FIRST Conversation? Please contact Jen Gifford, Senior Vice President at United Way, at [jgifford@unitedwayinc.org](mailto:jgifford@unitedwayinc.org).

United Way is passionate about mobilizing people and resources to effectively address immediate and long-term issues that impact people across our region. Community FIRST Conversations are just one way the organization is building momentum to close gaps and create opportunities for generations to come.

Stay tuned for more announcements connected to United Way's centennial and strategic plan over the next several months!

UPCOMING EVENTS

GIVE TODAY



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