



THE LOCAL LEADER – APRIL 2023 EDITION

"Service to others leads to greatness."

- Jim Rohn

United Way is "Spring-ing" forward to improve the well-being of children and family in our community. Thank you for your continued support which significantly helps us achieve our mission.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kim Reeves'.

Kim Reeves

Director, Leadership and Major Giving

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2021-2022 LEADERSHIP ROSTER

Generous contributions to the 2021 United Way Community Campaign helped us provide opportunities for every child to succeed in school and every family to achieve financial stability. Please [click here](#) for the 2021-2022 Leadership Roster, a publication recognizing those who donated \$1,000 or more.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

As we approach our 100th Anniversary in 2024, United Way and its supporters are preparing our organization for its next century of service to the community. Thanks to a core team of volunteers, we have officially kicked off our strategic planning process, which includes authentically engaging with people throughout our region through Community Conversations. These small group gatherings are taking place now through August and will be comprised of diverse voices that represent our community, including the voices of Tocqueville Society members.

If you'd like to learn more or join a Community Conversation, please reply to this e-newsletter to express your interest.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

Did you know April is recognized as National Volunteer Month and Global Month of

Service? Volunteerism is a significant way United Way and its supporters commit to building a community in which everyone has an equitable opportunity to succeed. This April we especially want to recognize the leadership volunteers who serve on United Way's Board of Directors, including the following Board Officers: Vittoria Pace, Chair; Peter Collins, Vice-Chair; Patrick Sampson, Successor Vice Chair; Richard Tavolieri, Treasurer; and, Donald Allan, Jr., Immediate Past Board Chair. Please join United Way in thanking these servant leaders who help United Way achieve its mission.

[Click here](#) for a full list of United Way's Board of Directors.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)

The 2022 personal income tax season has just come to an end! Since January, United Way and our partners have made VITA available to qualifying households across our region through in-person, drop-off and virtual appointments. The primary goal of the VITA campaign is to help as many families as possible claim every tax credit and refund they have earned so they can catch up financially. United Way is especially grateful for the hundreds of volunteers who earned IRS-certification and who volunteered for a minimum of four hours every week during tax season preparing and filing federal and state tax returns for local individuals and families.

On April 13, 2023, United Way raised awareness about available VITA appointments for those who still needed to file before the tax deadline by hosting a press conference with our partners at The Village and HRA of New Britain, Governor Ned Lamont, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Congressman John Larson and Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin. At the time of the press conference, we were thrilled to share we had already helped nearly 10,200 households prepare and file their taxes, returning nearly \$16.5 million in tax credits and refunds, including an average Earned Income Tax Credit claim of \$1,763 per eligible household. [Click here](#) for the news story. Stay tuned for our announcement of the final results of the 2023 VITA campaign in our region.

PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY AGENDA

Two items on Connecticut United Ways' (including our United Way) 2023 advocacy agenda are about expanding tax credits for hardworking ALICE families to help them catch up financially and provide the basics for their children.

The Connecticut Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable state income tax credit for lower-income working individuals and families that is benchmarked to the federal EITC. Connecticut United Ways are advocating to maintain the Connecticut EITC at 41.5 percent of the federal rate into future years.

On April 14, 2023, Connecticut United Ways attended a press conference, hosted by the Connecticut Nonprofit Child Tax Credit Coalition at the Legislative Office Building to advocate for a permanent, fully refundable Child Tax Credit. State of Connecticut Comptroller Sean Scanlon and two Connecticut residents spoke in support of what this credit means for Connecticut families who are struggling financially in the wake of inflation and the ongoing economic impacts from the pandemic. [Click here](#) for the news story.

[Click here](#) for the 2023 Connecticut United Ways Advocacy Agenda.

UNITED WAY WOMEN OF TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY UPDATE

On February 16, 2023, Women of Tocqueville hosted a reception at the Delamar West Hartford ahead of United Way Women United's 10th Anniversary *Red, White & Chocolate presented by Sun Life*. Founding Women of Tocqueville members mingled with local leaders and philanthropists who expressed an interest in learning more about how they can join. We appreciate the transformative commitments made in support of the well-being of local children and families by our founding members.

[Click here](#) to see photos from the Women of Tocqueville Reception.

ENDOW HARTFORD 21

Strong nonprofits help build strong communities. And strong nonprofits build endowments to secure their future. Endow Hartford 21 is a matching gift endowment program, initiated by the Zachs Family Foundation and supported by other lead donors who believe in the nonprofit community across Greater Hartford.

Endow Hartford 21 provides a standard 1:2 match on donations from \$250 to \$10,000 to an organization's endowment fund to inspire donors to give generously to support the long-term future of the organizations they love. This month only, Henry Zachs and the Zachs Family Foundation are offering a \$1,000 bonus gift to organizations that secure a minimum of \$5,000 in new gifts to their Endow Hartford 21 fund.

[Click here](#) to contribute to United Way's endowment fund and help United Way take advantage of the generous April bonus being offered.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE Commercial Real Estate and Building Industry's 3rd Annual Building Foundations Breakfast presented by Trammell Crow Residential

Thursday, May 4, 2023 | 7:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Hartford Marriott Downtown

Join us for the 3rd Annual *Building Foundations Breakfast* as we come together to raise resources to prevent children and families from experiencing homelessness and to secure stable housing for those living in shelters. We will be recognizing [Bill Farley](#) as the 2023 Jeffrey Digel Award honoree. [Learn more and sign up](#)

United Way's 3rd Annual *LIVE UNITED Golf Tournament* presented by Stanley Black & Decker

Monday, May 22, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. | Shuttle Meadow Country Club

The *LIVE UNITED Golf Tournament* is an opportunity to bring local companies, organizations and donors together on the golf course to raise funds to be invested in building toward a future with more equitable outcomes for all. Proceeds from this event benefit United Way-supported ALICE and basic needs initiatives. [Learn more and sign up](#)

United Way Women United's 12th Annual *Power of the Purse Luncheon and Silent Auction* presented by KeyBank Key4Women

Thursday, June 8, 2023 | 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Connecticut Convention Center

For more than 12 years, United Way Women United's *Power of the Purse Luncheon and Silent Auction* has raised critical resources to help women and families achieve financial security. Enjoy a robust silent auction, lively entertainment, high-quality networking with 1,000 of our area's business leaders and an inspirational program featuring keynote speaker Jessica Bruder, journalist and bestselling author of "Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century." [Learn more and sign up](#)

United Way Day of Action

Save the Date – June 21, 2023

On June 21, thousands of people across the globe will take action to improve their communities by volunteering with United Way. More information is forthcoming.



United Way of Central and
Northeastern Connecticut

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