



**THE LOCAL LEADER – JULY 2023 EDITION**

*"Living is the art of loving. Loving is the art of caring. Caring is the art of sharing. Sharing is the art of living. If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else."*

Booker T. Washington

Summertime is a critical season of impact in our community, and I personally want to thank you for your unwavering support of United Way's mission. As you will read below, we have made significant strides in program investments, advocacy and volunteerism that provide a hand-up to hardworking ALICE families. We do not do this work alone and we cannot do it without you!

In gratitude,



Kim Reeves

Director, Leadership and Major Giving

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## COMMUNITY IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

### United Way Invests More than \$1 Million to Advance Childhood Literacy Outcomes

United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut recently announced investments of \$1,008,400 across 29 community programs committed to advancing childhood literacy outcomes in central and northeastern Connecticut. These investments were made possible by your donations to United Way. [\[Read More\]](#)

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### As Pandemic Ends, Free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Soars

More than 13,500 tax filers—a 26-percent increase over last year—received free tax preparation and filing services from hundreds of IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers, resulting in nearly \$20 million in refunds and credits being returned to Connecticut communities thanks to the 2022 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) campaign. [\[Read More\]](#)

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## Advocacy and Legislation Advance ALICE Families

United Way's mission is to engage and bring together people and resources committed to the well-being of children and families in our community. One way we do this is by providing opportunities for people to advocate for public policy that creates systemic change to improve outcomes for local ALICE households. Connecticut United Ways and their supporters raised their voices during the recent State legislative session.

Together, we:

- Helped increase the Connecticut Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from 30.5 percent to 40.0 percent of the federal credit
- Expanded no-cost school meals for the next academic year
- Gained traction for a permanent, fully-refundable Connecticut Child Tax Credit

[\[Read More\]](#)

## COMMUNITY FIRST CONVERSATIONS



Please join fellow members of United Way's Tocqueville and Constitution Societies at a virtual Community FIRST Conversation hosted by Mike Auseré, Vice President, Renewable Energy Business Development, Eversource; and, Member, United Way Board of Directors.

# COMMUNITY FIRST CONVERSATION

Thursday, August 3, 2023 | 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

RSVP by July 28, 2023 to Kim Reeves

We will meet virtually via Zoom.  
The Zoom link will be sent to all who RSVP before the event.



In 2024, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut will be celebrating its centennial anniversary. As the organization looks to the next 100 years, we are in the process of conducting a series of Community FIRST Conversations with stakeholders from throughout our region. These conversations will help inform United Way's strategic planning process and guide our work going forward in conjunction with our centennial.

Help United Way answer the question: "What does the best version of our community look like?" **Your voice matters!**

Please RSVP to [Kim Reeves](#).

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***BUILDING FOUNDATIONS AND***

## POWER OF THE PURSE RESULTS



Bill Farley (center), 2023 Jeffrey Digel Award honoree poses with the *Building Foundations* Steering Committee; Vicky Pace, Chair, United Way Board of Directors; and, Eric Harrison, President and CEO, United Way.



Building Foundations Co-Chairs: (L to R) Mark Duclos, Edmund S. Kindelan, Brian Zelman and Michael J. Riccio.

On May 4, 2023, more than 400 commercial real estate and building industry professionals joined us at the third annual *Building Foundations Breakfast presented by Trammell Crow Residential* which raised more than \$450,000 to prevent and reduce homelessness in our region. Bill Farley, Founder of The Farley Company and Journey Home, was recognized with the 2023 Jeffrey Digel Award. Special guests included Seila Mosquera-Bruno, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Housing and Alexandra Daum, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development. Thank you to Mark Duclos, Edmund Kindelan, Michael J. Riccio and Brian Zelman for co-chairing this event.



Taylor Kinzler from NBC Connecticut (left) interviews Jessica Bruder, author of *Nomadland* and keynote speaker.



*Power of the Purse* Co-Chairs: Stephanie Polzella (left) and Jan Turner.

On June 8, 2023, nearly 800 local professionals joined us at Women United's 12th Annual *Power of the Purse Luncheon and Silent Auction presented by KeyBank Key4Women* which raised nearly \$345,000 to financially empower local women and their families. Highlights included: Jessica Bruder, best-selling author of *Nomadland* was interviewed by NBC Connecticut's Taylor Kinzler during the keynote; Melissa O'Hara was recognized with the 2023 Women United LeadHER Award; and, Loosey LaDuca, Season 15 Finalist on RuPaul's Drag Race, entertained the crowd. Luke Bronin, Mayor, City of Hartford provided a special message. Thank you to Stephanie Polzella and Jan Turner for co-chairing this event.

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## 1924 LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - HOWARD CARVER



United Way's 1924 Legacy Society recognizes those individuals who have made a bequest or planned gift to United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut. Members demonstrate their commitment to real, lasting change in our community and their gifts allow their legacy to live on while ensuring our region continues to grow and prosper as we meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Howard and Sue Carver are members of the Society, and we recently had the opportunity to interview Howard.

**Q:** Please tell us about yourself.

**A:** My wife and I are natives of Illinois and graduates of Bradley University. I earned an MBA from the University of Wisconsin. I was a partner with EY and retired as the Hartford Office Managing Partner in 2002. Since retiring, I have served on public company boards and boards and committees of nonprofits in Connecticut, Colorado and several other states. I currently serve on the board of the Keystone Science School, Family Intercultural Resource Center, Breck Create and Pinnacle Assurance. I recently completed terms on the Audit Committees of United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut and the Wadsworth Atheneum.

My wife, Sue, is a retired high school math teacher and has spent the last several years serving nonprofits. In the Fall of 2022, Sue received the Mile High United Way's (Denver, Colorado) highest Community Service Award.



We have lived in Illinois, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut and Colorado. We enjoy golfing, skiing, rafting and the company of our two children, grandchild and five great-grandchildren.

**Q:** Tell us about your past and current involvement with United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut. Why United Way?

**A:** I became involved with United Way in 1999 when I became the Managing Partner for EY in Hartford. My wife and I had been Tocqueville Society members for several years and were looking for ways to become involved in the greater Hartford community. My predecessor at EY introduced me to George Bahamonde and Susan Dunn, the President and CEO and Senior Vice President at United Way at that time, and shortly thereafter I joined the Board of Directors and became the Board Treasurer. I served on several campaign cabinets and worked on strategic planning from 2004-2010.

Having lived in a number of communities, my wife and I have seen the power of United Way in each community and have marveled at how United Way has always welcomed us as new members of the community. Every time we moved, we relied on the local United Way to help us identify good organizations to sponsor and community activities to participate in.

**Q:** Why did you decide to leave a legacy gift to United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut and become a member of the organization's 1924 Legacy Society? Why do you believe it is important to leave a legacy gift to United Way?

**A:** My wife and I are strong believers in legacy giving programs and believe that such programs, when properly designed and implemented, help ensure the sustainability of organizations. I have helped a number of organizations design or redesign legacy giving programs, including a very successful one for Mile High United Way in Denver.

My wife and I see United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut as integral to the long-term success and growth of the greater Hartford region and believe that it is important that the sustainability of United Way be ensured to the greatest extent possible. Providing a legacy gift to United Way was a very easy decision to make.

**Q:** What else would you like to share with your fellow United Way leadership supporters?

**A:** Though we now live in Colorado, my wife and I continue to believe that United

Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut is a significant player in the greater Hartford region. We have been good friends with United Way's leadership since 1999 and are excited by the quality and experience of the new leadership team. We hope this team can take the 1924 Legacy Society to new levels that will ensure United Way's long-term sustainability.

To learn more about the 1924 Legacy Society please contact [Kim Reeves](#).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



United Way of Central and  
Northeastern Connecticut

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