



1924 YEARS 2024



ONWARD860



1924 YEARS 2024



UNITED WAY
Central and Northeastern
Connecticut

ONWARD860

UNITED TO END POVERTY

2024 Community Impact Report
Celebrating a Century of Service

HOW UNITED WAY WORKS

ALIGN



Convene partners across sectors (donors, advocates, volunteers, community partners, municipalities, school systems and more) to end poverty.

LEVERAGE



Maximize our collective impact to close gaps in child literacy, housing, wages and life expectancy.

CONNECT



Offer people resources and opportunities to make a difference.

TRANSFORM

Together, we will co-create a brighter future for the 860 region where everyone succeeds.



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UNITED TO END POVERTY

It is well known that the only constant in life is change. As our realities change, we need to be flexible and sensitive to these changes in order to evolve and be effective in our approach. Since our foundation in 1924 as the Hartford Community Chest, United Way has proven its capacity to transform by aligning, responding and creating the changes that times require.

Our centennial provided us with an opportunity to reflect on our mission and how we could leverage this milestone to do the most good for the most people in our region. We spent 18 months reviewing data and listening to people in our community. This effort included donors, members of local government, volunteers, corporations and nonprofit partners.

This led us to our bold new path for the future: **United to End Poverty**.

United Way is respected across the region and is positioned to help increase community impact and equity. We know we cannot do this work alone, but we recognize our strength as a mobilizer, as an organization that not just convenes financial assets to create an impact, but provides social, intellectual, reputational and human capital for the common good.

Today, we aim to end poverty in all its forms by closing gaps in child literacy, housing, wages and life expectancy. These focus areas emerged from community conversations we had last year with nearly 400 stakeholders across our region. Since my arrival to the organization two-and-a-half years ago, we started a transformative process that began with this grassroots involvement. Now that the collaborative design sessions concluded last fall, we enter our next phase – producing tangible solutions to put into action. Tweaks are not enough. Communities want bold systems change to improve outcomes and reduce disparities. Our new approach includes:

- Aligning community, corporate, government and philanthropic partners to end poverty.
- Leveraging our 100 years of expertise, experience, data, community voice and resources to deepen impact.
- Connecting people with resources and opportunities to make a difference.
- Transforming the future with game-changing solutions and partnerships.

Our century of service to the 860 region provides us with the unique ability to convene and mobilize partners across sectors, amplifying the impact that we can make together.

Internally, we have evolved in alignment with our new strategic vision. We amplified those who we identified as strategic community partners. Our partnerships, including public-private collaborations, are broader and are better aligned to the specific goal of ending extreme and working poverty. Externally, we look different as we adopted a global brand refresh led by United Way Worldwide. This refresh includes new colors, graphics, fonts and a whole different way of talking about the work that we do. This rebranding came at an ideal time, aligning with our new strategic vision inspired by our future.

We have been here for the last 100 years, and our vision is to continue into our next chapter of service with an evolved perspective. My hope is that our initiatives can be more preventive instead of responsive to crises, inequities and systemic burdens faced by our communities. My dream is to live in a community where everyone has the opportunities needed to succeed and has the capacity to contribute to social good. We live in a resilient society; that’s why I know we are not alone in our goal to end poverty in all its forms in the 860 region.



In partnership,
Eric Harrison

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Harrison'.

President and CEO
United Way of Central and
Northeastern Connecticut

[Follow me on LinkedIn](#)

ONWARD860

When we reflect on the responsibilities of a Board of Directors, we consider strategic direction, legal compliance, resource allocations, financial oversight and various other accountabilities that support and affirm the work being done by an organization. Currently, I have the honor of leading the Board of Directors that is helping shape the next chapter of United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut.

As we approached our Centennial milestone, we rallied our Board of Directors for a series of retreats to usher our United Way into an evolution—a new direction aligned with the needs of the times. While we recognized the great work done by our predecessors, we knew this milestone required our deepest consideration.

United to End Poverty is what will spearhead all of our impact in the 860 region.

After listening tours and design sessions, the transformation is still in its early stages; and, the organization is working determinedly through different efforts to chart the path to end poverty in all its forms. The Board of Directors, its Committees, United Way's President and CEO, and staff are all committed to this goal.

I would like to recognize Travelers, the company that I've worked for the last decade and that has been a key stakeholder on my philanthropic journey. In addition to their support of my numerous leadership roles at United Way, Travelers has invested \$12.5 million in the last decade to United Way. Not to mention, more than 1,000 Travelers employees across the state – my colleagues – annually participate in giving campaigns and volunteer projects to accomplish this goal. Travelers has also helped optimize United Way 211 operations by leveraging our expertise to improve customer experience when calling the information and referral line.

The countless ways Travelers supports United Way and our community is the best example of how United Way leverages knowledge and expertise to provide companies and other stakeholders in meaningful ways to create lasting impact.

United, convening sectors and mobilizing people, is what United Way will continue to do for the next century.



Pete Collins

Senior Vice President for
Enterprise Operations, Travelers
Board Chair, United Way of Central
and Northeastern Connecticut



Thank you, Community Partners!

United Way appreciates the dozens of cross-sector partners and residents who joined United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut for its strategic design workshops! Together, we are United to End Poverty.



Special thanks

to Women's League,
United Way's longest-running community
partner, for your unwavering support!

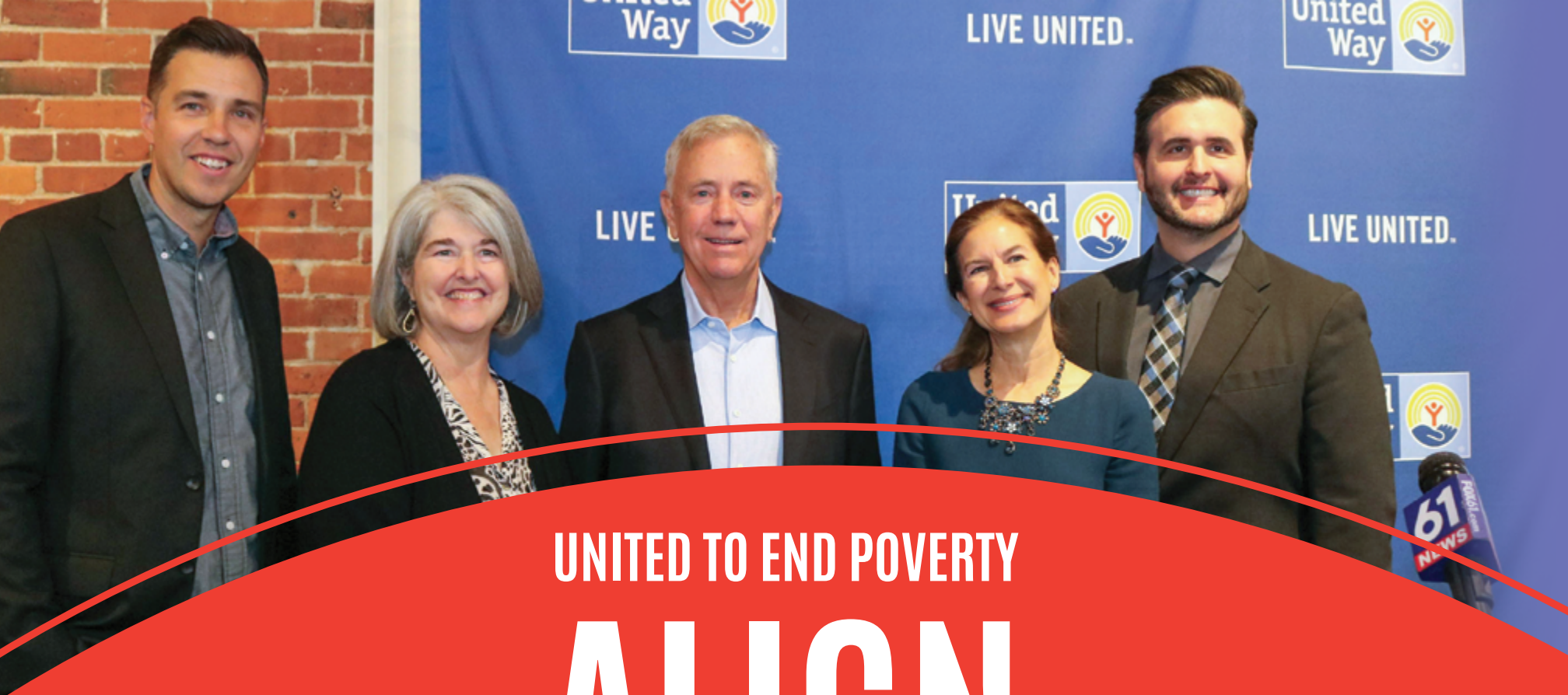
Congratulations to The United Way on your Centennial!

Your support of the
Women's League
since 1926 has
empowered
generations.

*Here's to continued
partnership!*



WOMEN'S LEAGUE
Child
Development
Center



UNITED TO END POVERTY ALIGN

United Way aligns community, corporate, government
and philanthropic partners to end poverty.

When community leaders raised the flag that homelessness was spiking by 13 percent last winter, United Way swiftly stepped up to respond. Our neighbors sleeping outdoors in freezing weather conditions was – and always will be – unacceptable to United Way and its partners.

We activated **United Way’s Rapid Response Fund: Housing and Homelessness**. We partnered with the Coordinated Access Network, emergency shelters and municipalities to prevent more people from losing their homes; and, to quickly move those living in shelters into safe and stable housing.

We did this because United Way is designed to work nimbly and efficiently. We can quickly mobilize when concerning community conditions emerge. And, we heard from hundreds of diverse stakeholders through community conversations that they want to see United Way close gaps in housing.

You can expect to see more strategic partnerships and rapid response from United Way as we narrow our focus and deepen our next phase of impact.

We will continue to do this work for families like **Cassandra’s**.

United Way reactivated its Rapid Response Fund: Housing and Homelessness in November 2024, which marked the third consecutive year of homelessness rising across our community.



[Click here and select “Housing” when making your gift to help keep families stable this winter.](#)

Last winter, when Cassandra experienced her second house fire in a seven-month time span, her family lost everything. The back-to-back tragedies weighed heavily on her son.

When they had nothing and had nowhere to turn, they got connected to United Way’s Rapid Response Fund. The emergency, direct financial assistance bridged a gap her family was experiencing, having lost their home and belongings.

These resources helped Cassandra’s family stay in stable housing while they recovered from devastation. They also helped offer Cassandra capacity to provide critical emotional support to her son who was struggling with his mental health.

Today, Cassandra’s family is grateful to be living safely in a new apartment. Her son is thriving. And, she was so moved by United Way’s support that she made a career path change to pay it forward. She now offers resources to people experiencing housing crises and can relate to what they are going through. Cassandra feels empowered to use her experience to help others.



[Click here to hear Cassandra’s story in her own words.](#)

Thanks to the commercial real estate and building industry, United Way is also able to proactively help prevent and reduce homelessness in our community.

Since 2021, a diverse group of commercial real estate and building industry professionals come together annually to raise awareness and resources to prevent children and families from becoming homeless and to secure stable housing for those living in shelters.

THE Commercial Real Estate and Building Industry Breakfast: Building Foundations has raised nearly \$2 million cumulatively since its inception. Last year alone, their support proactively ensured more than 1,500 people across the 860 region secured or retained safe housing and shelter accommodations.

Sponsorships are available for the 5th Annual Building Foundations Breakfast, taking place April 23, 2025 at the Connecticut Convention Center.

[Click here to learn more and join us.](#)

2024
JEFFREY DIGEL
AWARD RECIPIENT:
MARTIN J. KENNY

Last year, Building Foundations honored the incredible legacy of the late Martin J. Kenny of Lexington Partners for his lasting contributions to the industry and our community.





UNITED TO END POVERTY

LEVERAGE

United Way leverages 100 years of expertise, experience, data, community voice and resources to deepen impact.

“How can you be for us without us?” poses **Tania Banks**, a member of Hartford’s Young Legends, a group of young adults actively engaging and committing to the development of leadership skills in order to strengthen career pathways. “Being a part of Young Legends, we can finally find that framework and I can be a part of cultivating that framework that addresses the issues that young people are facing,” added **Khamari Thornton**, a fellow Young Legend.

CLICK HERE to hear more from Tania and Khamari about the value of young adults’ perspectives being included in United Way’s strategic planning process.

Equity is at the core of United Way’s Onward860 strategic vision to end poverty in all its forms. **Leveraging** feedback and lived experience from a diverse cross-section of stakeholders – including residents experiencing working and extreme poverty – keeps community members’ perspectives elevated throughout our strategic planning process.

Using our centennial milestone to develop a new strategic plan meant:

- Inviting partner, community and staff experts to the conversation;
- Building upon a century of United Way’s service to the 860 region; and,

- Investing in data research to earn a clear understanding of community conditions.

United Way started by convening two dozen community champions to serve on our strategic planning committee, helping shape the framework and act as a sounding board as we progressed through this exploratory process.

Next, United Way hosted 41 community conversations throughout the summer of 2023, deeply listening to nearly 400 community, corporate, municipal and philanthropic participants. We heard consistently from people that they wanted United Way to unite the 860 region so your zip code does not determine your life expectancy; that United Way’s role in our community is to convene and advocate for policy change; and, United Way needs to narrow its focus to deepen its impact.

No one person or organization alone can tackle the toughest issues facing our community. That’s why United Way is uniquely positioned to bring together partners across sectors to collaborate on solutions that close gaps and create opportunities so everyone succeeds.

When examining the feedback, data (including the Connecticut United Ways ALICE Report and DataHaven’s Greater Hartford Community Well-Being Index) and advice from subject matter experts, the strategic planning committee and United Way staff distilled a signature, unifying cause: **United to End Poverty**.

The Young Legends work to connect youth and young adults, ages 16-29, to quality employment opportunities and resources. They connect young adults to programs and trainings that aim to equip them with the skills needed to become successful in and out of the workplace. The Young Legends creates and sustains a peer outreach network of trusted community messengers. And, this initiative provides various opportunities for young adults to share their perspectives with leaders in the workforce system to influence policies and practices.



The 2024 Connecticut United Ways ALICE Report revealed there are 13 percent more families experiencing working or extreme poverty than before the COVID-19 pandemic. In our region alone, 38 percent of families live below the ALICE Household Survival Budget threshold; meaning, more than one in three residents cannot afford the basics. The 2024 ALICE Report also revealed:

- Half of the most common occupations in Connecticut paid less than \$20 per hour;
- Wages are rising, yet the cost of basics vastly outpace these growing wages;
- Those living below the ALICE threshold struggle to save money, impeding their ability to afford an emergency bill (such as a car repair or medical bill) or plan for retirement; and,
- Financial hardship is taking a toll on mental health – those living below the ALICE Threshold are twice as likely to feel nervous, anxious or on edge daily compared to those living above the ALICE Threshold.

[CLICK HERE](#) for
ALICE Report PDF

LET'S DO IT TOGETHER! UNITED TO END POVERTY.

United Way's next step was to continue to bring together residents, partners, philanthropists and advocates for strategic design sessions to go deeper into each of these focus areas, co-creating transformational solutions that will help end poverty. This process was rooted in empathy and focusing on the lived experience of those with the greatest need.

Design sessions were held bi-weekly over the course of three months. Moderated by consultants who specialize in community-centric strategic planning, each of the four design workgroups – one focused on child literacy and child care, one focused on housing and homelessness, one focused on wages and young adult transportation, and one focused on life expectancy and quality food access – were tasked with co-creating solutions to design challenges that relate to ending poverty.

"I sat on the team looking at health issues and represented the North Hartford Triple Aim Collaborative and the community. It was an intense experience; it took a couple of months of meeting periodically. The unique part was to look at it from a point of view from someone who we are actually serving in the community—that really allowed us to zoom in on some critical needs and things not to forget when we're looking at the broader community. That was very productive. [From] all the different groups that brought ideas [to the table], when we came back together, we actually were in alignment... It was amazing how it all fit together and we have, what I think, is a pretty good game plan for moving forward collectively," comments **Angela Harris**, North Hartford Promise Zone Appointed Resident Liaison; and Chair, Phillips Health Ministry, Phillips Metropolitan CME Church, on her experience participating in the life expectancy and quality food access design workgroup.

CLICK HERE to hear more from Angela about the challenges people experiencing poverty in our region are facing.



“United Way has done a good job at looking at nonprofits that actually build character, actually prepare the future workforce, actually involve the clients and the nonprofits in the ‘Where do we go from here?’ We did that collectively through the strategic planning [work groups]. Every voice was heard. I think that if we are going to make this work, United Way gave every nonprofit in that room an opportunity to have a voice to share their experience,” reflects **Paulette Fox**, Executive Director, Opportunities Industrialization Center of New Britain, Inc., on her experience participating in the young adult employment transportation design workgroup.

CLICK HERE to hear more from Paulette about partnering with United Way on our Onward860 strategic plan.

Together, we can close gaps in child literacy, housing, wages and life expectancy to create opportunities so everyone succeeds. By focusing on these issues important to community stakeholders, we can create the biggest impact to best support everyone in the 860 region.

United Way is committed to keeping local experts and residents engaged in our strategic plan by implementing collaborative, transformational solutions.

STAY INFORMED – sign up for United Way’s newsletter as we continue to innovate.



UNITED TO END POVERTY CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SERVICE

HARTFORD COMMUNITY CHEST IS FOUNDED

Hartford Community Chest is founded by William R.C. Corson, Vice President of Hartford Steam Boiler; Arthur Collens, Vice President of Phoenix Mutual; and, William S. Conning, Stockbroker at Conning. The first Community Campaign takes place at the Old State House where 450 volunteers “Fill the Chest” and raise \$381,732 (equivalent to \$6.8 million in 2024).

HARTFORD’S FLOOD OF 1936

During the Great Depression, as banks fold and businesses crumble, thousands lose their jobs—and their hope. Hartford’s Flood of 1936 exacerbates a community deep in economic despair. United Way is actively supporting programs that help people preserve their dignity and confidence, offering families warm meals and shelter.

WORLD WAR II

From the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific, to the Pratt & Whitney factories at home, our community answers the call to duty. United Way actively partners with groups to support our soldiers abroad and sets up the Red Feather Information Services to help those who bravely serve the home front.

THE FLOOD OF 1955

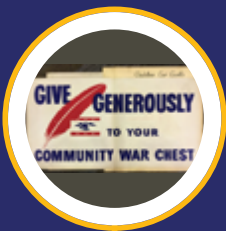
Greater Hartford Community Chest mobilizes to help victims of the flood.



1928



1943



1949



1962

1924



1936



1945



1955



LEROY A. RAMSDELL NAMED DIRECTOR

Hartford Community Chest hires its first full-time Director, Leroy A. Ramsdell. The Great Depression begins and the Community Chest mobilizes to fight hunger.

RENAMED GREATER HARTFORD COMMUNITY CHEST

As the region grows into the suburbs, the organization changes to Greater Hartford Community Chest serving Hartford, East Hartford, West Hartford, Bloomfield, Newington, Wethersfield and Windsor.

JAMES TURNER NAMED PRESIDENT

The campaign goal reaches \$1,228,629.08. Katharine Hepburn appears at the kickoff to Greater Hartford Community Chest Fund Drive at the Bushnell Memorial. Leroy A. Ramsdell retires and James Turner becomes President.

LOFTY GOALS

Greater Hartford Community Chest leaders display sign which indicates \$1,943,988 raised for their Fall Campaign—the most to date. From left are Wilson C. Jansen, Chest President; W. Howard Spencer, Chairman of Budget Committee; and George F. Gershel, General Chairman.

United Way connects people with resources and opportunities to make a difference.

United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut's rich history of over one century of service to our community provides a solid foundation – and reputation – for strong connections to help people throughout the 860 region thrive. For 100 years and beyond, United Way has proudly connected partners across sectors together to tackle tough issues and create transformational change, so everyone succeeds.

UNITED WAY OF GREATER HARTFORD

Following a national movement to use a consistent name, the Greater Hartford Community Chest becomes United Way of Greater Hartford.

UNITED WAY OF THE CAPITAL AREA

United Ways in the 40 town region enter into affiliate agreements.

UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

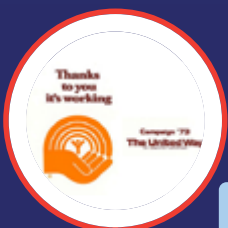
United Way Day of Caring is established, offering corporate and community groups opportunities to volunteer where they live and work.

NEW STRATEGIES AND INITIATIVES

United Way moves to outcome-based grant-making, introducing logic models and tracking program outcomes. We shift to a collective impact framework and launch initiatives, such as Every Child Succeeds, which introduces a new classroom management model to schools in Hartford, New Britain and Windham. This work increases academic engagement and helps children do better in school.

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

Workforce Solutions Collaborative of Metro Hartford is founded. This funders collaborative, managed by United Way, addresses the talent needs of regional employers and career prospects of job seekers. This innovative approach to workforce development receives national attention and helps thousands of people access job training and obtain quality jobs with opportunities for advancement.



1977



1982



1994



2006



1973



1979



1991



1999



2008

DALE GRAY NAMED PRESIDENT

Dale Gray becomes the third President in United Way's history.

UNITED WAY MONTH

Governor William O'Neill declares October United Way Month, citing United Way as "the largest voluntary human service effort in Connecticut".

GEORGE BAHAMONDE NAMED PRESIDENT

Dale Gray retires and George Bahamonde becomes the fourth president in United Way's history.

SUSAN B. DUNN NAMED PRESIDENT AND CEO

George Bahamonde, President of United Way, passes away. Susan B. Dunn is named the first female President and CEO.

UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL AND NORTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT

United Way of New Britain and Berlin, Windham Region United Way and United Way of North Central Connecticut officially merge, and United Way of the Capital Area becomes United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut. Regional Advisory Boards of local volunteers form.

COMMUNITY VOICE

The organization participates in United Way Worldwide's Income Mobilization Group with the Harwood Institute's Public Innovators Lab and launches Community Conversations to better understand community needs. Community voice continues to be a crucial part of how we do our work.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

United Way forms its Community Engagement Department to intentionally mobilize volunteers to create community impact through initiatives such as United Way Readers, VITA, Volunteer Budget Coaching, one-time reading events and after school program experiences.

PAULA S. GILBERTO NAMED PRESIDENT AND CEO

Susan B. Dunn retires and Paula S. Gilberto is named President and CEO.

HURRICANE MARIA: NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Hurricane Maria ravages the Caribbean, displacing thousands of families and directly impacting the large Puerto Rican community in our state, particularly in Hartford and New Britain. United Way responds by providing support to those who relocate, along with the families and friends who welcome them.



WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Women's Leadership Initiative, now Women United, is founded with a focus on closing financial gaps for local women and families. The first Power of the Purse event debuts the following year. Since its inception, the event has cumulatively raised nearly \$2.5 million (and counting). In 2021, Women of Tocqueville is established, with a focus on advocacy and transformational philanthropy.

EMERGING LEADERS SOCIETY

Emerging Leaders Society is established in Greater Hartford focusing on education initiatives. ELS transitions its support to food insecurity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

FIRST ALICE REPORT

Connecticut United Ways join forces with United Way Worldwide's United for ALICE research team to publish the first Connecticut ALICE Report. The ALICE Report offers research that determines the true cost of living for adults and families in our state.

NORTH HARTFORD TRIPLE AIM COLLABORATIVE

Thanks to initial funding from Trinity Health Of New England/Saint Francis Hospital, the NHTAC launches to improve health in Hartford with a specific focus on the North Hartford Promise Zone.

FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER

United Way and The Village celebrate the official grand opening of The Financial Center in Hartford after years of program development and research. The full-service center is the first of its kind in central and northeastern Connecticut, offering career counseling, financial education, benefits screening and matched savings opportunities in one convenient location.

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY (DPIL)

United Way brings DPIL, a free book subscription program for children birth to age five, to Hartford thanks to the support of Connecticut Children's, Trinity Health Of New England/Saint Francis Hospital and Hartford HealthCare/Hartford Hospital. The program later expands to New Britain in 2023, thanks to a Federal appropriation from Congresswoman Jahana Hayes. Since inception, 173,000 books have been delivered to the homes of 10,000 local children (and counting).

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS

THE Commercial Real Estate and Building Industry holds its inaugural Building Foundations fundraiser virtually, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since inception, the event has cumulatively raised nearly \$2 million (and counting) to prevent and reduce homelessness.

RAPID RESPONSE FUND: HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

Homelessness increases in Connecticut for two years in a row. United Way responds by activating its Rapid Response Fund providing direct financial assistance to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

United Way announces its new signature issue, United to End Poverty, focusing on eliminating poverty in all its forms by reducing disparities and closing gaps in child literacy, wages, life expectancy and housing.



2018



2020



2022



2024

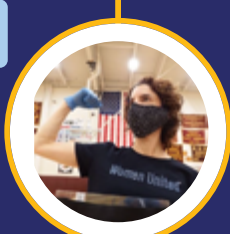


2024

2018



2020



2021



2023



2024

WORKING CITIES

The Working Cities Challenge is started by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston to improve the lives in small- and mid-size cities through cross-sector collaboration and leadership. Five cities across Connecticut are selected to participate through a competitive process. United Way is selected as the managing partner of Hartford Working Cities.

COVID-19 RAPID RESPONSE FUND

COVID-19 creates widespread closures and financial challenges for families already struggling to make ends meet. Connecticut United Ways come together to provide direct financial assistance to people through a mobile cash card program, which later becomes a model used for similar initiatives across Connecticut. United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut plays a leadership role in this effort, helping more than 15,000 people.

ERIC HARRISON NAMED PRESIDENT AND CEO

Paula S. Gilberto retires and Eric Harrison is named President and CEO.

DESIGN WORKSHOPS

United Way launches its strategic planning process in preparation for its Centennial year by holding 40 community conversations with nearly 400 participants from across central and northeastern Connecticut. Design workgroups are held with strategic partners focused on systems change efforts.



Thank you

- ADP Automatic Data Processing
- Aetna—a CVS Health Company
- AFT Connecticut
- Allan S. Goodman, Inc.
- American Eagle Financial Credit Union
- American Nuclear Insurers
- American Savings Foundation
- AT&T Business Solutions Customer Care
- AVNA, Inc.
- Baldwin Risk Partners
- Bank of America
- Boys & Girls Club of Hartford, Inc.
- C & S Wholesale Grocers, Inc.
- Capitol Region Council of Governments
- Caterpillar
- Catholic Charities Inc., Archdiocese of Hartford
- Centene
- Central National Gottesman Inc.
- Centreville Bank*
- Chase Enterprises
- Cigna Corporation
- CohnReznick LLP
- Collins Aerospace*
- Comcast Corporation
- Connecticut Children's
- Connecticut Public
- Connecticut Wealth Management, LLC*



United Way is grateful to have the support of 200 companies across our region, United for the well-being of local children and families.

- Conning
- Costco Wholesale, Inc.
- CREC
- Cronin, LLC
- Cumberland Farms/EG America
- Day Pitney LLP
- Delta Dental of Connecticut
- Deloitte LLP
- Edwards Lifesciences LLC
- Elevance Health (Anthem)
- Eli Lilly & Company
- Enbridge US
- Enterprise Holdings
- Eversource Energy
- Farmington Public Schools
- Fine Fettle
- Gannett Fleming Affiliates, Inc.
- GE Power
- Gilbane Building Company
- Glastonbury Public Schools
- Global Atlantic Financial Group
- Hallmark Cards, Inc
- Hanover Insurance Group
- Hinckley Allen LLP
- HSB*
- Imagineers, LLC
- Indus Realty Trust
- Ion Bank Foundation
- ITW
- Jackson Laboratory-Jax Genomic Medicine
- Jacobs Vehicle Systems
- JC Penney
- KeyBank
- KPMG LLP
- Liberty Bank
- LIMRA
- Lincoln Financial Group
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- M&T Bank
- Macy's
- Mass Mutual Financial Group
- Milliman
- Nationwide Insurance
- Navigate Affordable Housing Partners
- NelNet-Great Lakes
- New England Combined Federal Campaign
- One America
- Novanta IMS
- Opportunities Industrialization Center of New Britain Inc.
- Otis*
- Our Piece of the Pie
- Parker Hannifin Corporation
- Paychex, Inc.
- Peoples Bank/First Suffield Bank
- Pfizer Corporation
- Pitney Bowes, Inc.
- PNC Financial Services
- Pratt & Whitney*
- PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
- ProPark Mobility
- Prudential Financial
- Raymond James & Associates, Inc.
- RTX*
- Robinson+Cole LLP
- Sentry Insurance
- Shipman & Goodwin LLP
- Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.
- Sun Life
- Target Stores
- TD Bank
- The Hartford*
- The Village for Families & Children, Inc.
- The Walker Group
- Thomaston Savings Bank
- Town Fair Tire Foundation Inc.
- Town of Bloomfield
- Travelers*
- Triumph Group Integrated Systems
- U.S. Bank
- United Performance Metals
- United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut
- United Way of Connecticut, Inc. 211
- United Way of Greater New Haven
- UnitedHealth Group
- UPS
- Vesta Corporation
- Virtus Investment Partners
- Vistra Energy
- Voya Financial
- Webster Bank*
- Wells Fargo Bank
- Westfield Insurance Company
- Westinghouse Electric Company-International Dr
- WEX Health, Inc.
- Whittlesey
- Willis Towers Watson
- Windham Public Schools
- Women's League, Inc. Child Development Center
- WTIC FOX61
- YMCA of Greater Hartford
- YWCA Hartford Region
- YWCA New Britain
- Zurich US

*860CARES SPONSORS



UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL AND NORTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT'S

Centennial Gala

On December 14, 2024, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut celebrated its Centennial milestone with hundreds of philanthropists, community leaders, corporate leaders and dignitaries. As we reflected on 100 years of service and the remarkable impact we have made together, we also looked forward toward a brighter future for the 860 region. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, together we raised \$500,000 for bold initiatives that will help close gaps in child literacy, wages, housing and life expectancy so everyone succeeds. Together, we are **United to End Poverty**.





PRESENTED BY:



TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY

Tocqueville Society members are philanthropic leaders who, through generous gifts of treasure, demonstrate their commitment to tackling our community’s most pressing problems and creating sustainable positive change. The Society is named after the 19th century French political thinker and historian Alexis de Tocqueville who, in his writings, recognized the importance of voluntary action on behalf of the common good.

The Society is dedicated to developing a stronger sense of community and connection among local philanthropists through engagement opportunities that grow awareness of issues and solutions affecting the well-being of children and families in our community and networking with like-minded individuals.

Follow us on social media to learn more about membership levels and benefits, our impact and how to get involved.

CLICK
HERE

   
@unitedwayinc
unitedwayinc.org/tocqueville
#UnitedToEndPoverty



WOMEN OF TOCQUEVILLE

Women of Tocqueville is more than a giving circle. In addition to providing critical financial resources to support programs and priority projects to improve the well-being of children and families in central and northeastern Connecticut, members have the opportunity to create sustainable positive change and impact in the lives of households experiencing extreme or working poverty through engagement opportunities to address the root causes of issues and ignite systemic change.

The first 50 women to become a Women of Tocqueville member will be recognized as Founding Members into perpetuity. We would like to recognize the first eleven Founding Members:

Follow us on social media to learn more about membership levels and benefits, our impact and how to get involved.

CLICK
HERE



Elizabeth Alquist



Irene Bassock



Susan Dunn**



Melissa Ferrucci



Paula S. Gilberto**



Lorraine Hritcko



Mary Ellen Jones



Natalie Morris



Vittoria Pace



Vi R. Smalley, Esq.



Jan Turner

   
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unitedwayinc.org/wot
#UnitedToEndPoverty



2023-2024 UNITED WAY LEADERSHIP ROSTER

WOT - Women of Tocqueville
WU - Women United
ELS - Emerging Leaders Society
100 - Centennial Fund Leadership Supporter

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United Way Tocqueville Society members are recognized for their leadership and commitment at the following levels during the period July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024:

La Société Nationale Annual gifts of \$100,000 to \$249,999
Ordre de Fraternité Annual gifts of \$75,000 to \$99,999
Ordre d'Egalité Annual gifts of \$50,000 to \$74,999
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CONSTITUTION SOCIETY

Constitution Society members are leading the way in making real, measurable impact on issues facing people locally. Members of this exclusive United Way Society come from diverse backgrounds and careers, using their generosity, time and talent to create real, lasting change in the lives of local adults, children and families. The Society connects people, along with their passions, to collectively co-create a brighter future for the 860 region.



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Follow us on social media to learn more about membership levels and benefits, our impact and how to get involved.

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The 1924 Legacy Society honors donors whose gifts support United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut through a will, trust, retirement plan or life insurance designation, or life-income gift such as a charitable gift annuity or remainder trust. By committing a gift to United Way in one's estate plans, a donor will enjoy membership in United Way's prestigious 1924 Legacy Society today and their legacy will live on for generations to come.

We are grateful to our current 1924 Legacy Society members and appreciate their commitment to the future well-being of our 52-town region:

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There are many ways to leave your legacy — including in your will, a retirement plan or life insurance policy. To begin planning your legacy gift, please contact Sam Goemans sgoemans@unitedwayinc.org or visit unitedwayinc.org/donate/planned-and-estate-giving.



THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING WITH UNITED WAY THROUGH 860CARES!

Your commitment to our community helps close gaps and create opportunities so everyone in the 860 region succeeds.

United Way is proud to partner with 200 corporations and businesses committed to the 860 region. Our partners contribute ideas, volunteers, support and are helping us co-create a bold new vision for our future.



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Retired

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Baldwin Risk Partners

Brenda Jones
Otis

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Prati Kaufman
Coaching, LLC

Heather Krisolofsky
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O'Hara Solutions Group

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Conning

Jan Turner
Travelers

WOMEN UNITED

WE ARE WOMEN UNITED

We are a diverse, vibrant community, bound together by a powerful sense of belonging – to each other, to United Way’s mission and to the communities we call home. Women United is a global, growing force of 70,000+ women dedicated to creating a world of opportunity– for everyone.

WE IGNITE CHANGE

Financial struggles affect families’ health and children’s education. Women United members empower each other to use our passions, ideas, expertise and resources to help women and families in our community achieve financial security.



@unitedwayinc
unitedwayinc.org/women
#WomenUnited
#UnitedToEndPoverty

LEADING THE CHARGE. INSPIRING THE CHANGE.

Follow us on social media to learn more about membership levels and benefits, our impact and how to get involved.

CLICK HERE



YOUNG LEGENDS
CONSULTANTS

Tania Banks
Shena Burch
Jimilette Centeno
Marcel Hodge
The Light LLC
Amani Shirley
Ah'Lexus Teal
Khamari Thornton

STAFF AS OF
OCTOBER 31, 2024

Jennifer Bengtson
Chief Financial Officer

Helen M. Bergin
Human Resources Director

Katelyn Blackburn
Marketing and Communications
Director

Philip Blonski
Major Accounts and Corporate
Engagement Director

Kimmy L. Boulter
Administrative Assistant
Finance

Rebekah Castagno
Health Initiatives Director

Anyeline Céspedes López
Digital Marketing Manager

Alexander Chiu
Impact and Engagement,
Education Manager

Rosemarie Church
Data Processor

Amanda Cohen
Graphic Designer and
Production Manager

Joanne Cohen
Executive Assistant to the
Office of the President

Kenniece Coker
Impact and Engagement,
Community Engagement
Manager

Emily Collins
Affinity Groups And
Corporate Engagement
Senior Manager

Maura Cook
Senior Vice President,
Marketing and Development

Diana Desnoyers
Business Data Analyst

Kimberly Evans
Administrative Assistant
Development

Melina Floyd
Corporate Engagement
Manager

Leah Fuhs
Workforce Solutions Manager

Jennifer Gifford
Senior Vice President,
Impact and Engagement

Samantha Goemans
Leadership Giving Director

Russell Hansen
Impact and Engagement
Operations Director

Eric Harrison
President and CEO

Kayla Hernandez
Senior Staff Accountant

Isaiah Hope
Staff Accountant

Taniqua Huguley
Economic Mobility Director

Shania Hunt
Administrative Assistant Impact
and Engagement

Enrique Juncadella
Workforce Solutions Director

Elizabeth Lambert
Marketing Manager

Alyson McGinty
Strategic Partnerships Director

Karen Moran
Administrative Coordinator
Marketing

Shivonne Morgan
Corporate Engagement
Manager

Amy Nguyen-Le
Database Manager

Coral Ortiz
Finance Coordinator

John Prescod
Impact and Engagement
Education Initiatives Director

Anthony Reid
Economic Mobility Manager

Elena Vrublevski
Staff Accountant

J. Robert Williamson
Fundraising Operations and
Digital Solutions Director





GET YOUR
REFUND IN
7-10 DAYS!

FREE PROFESSIONAL TAX HELP

Get help from an IRS-certified volunteer:

If your household income is up to \$68,000,
dial 2-1-1, press 3 then 6

OR:

File on your own online:

Prepare and file your taxes at [MyFreeTaxes.com](https://www.myfreetaxes.com).
Online help is available.



CONSULTANTS

- Advocacy to Legacy**
Community Impact and Engagement
- B. Weyland Smith Consulting**
Community Impact and Engagement
- Capitol Consulting**
Community Impact and Engagement
- DataHaven**
Community Impact and Engagement
- Donna Taglianetti**
Community Impact and Engagement
- Gail Millerick**
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- Janel Parker**
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- KJR Consulting**
Community Impact and Engagement
- Kristen Cooksey Stowers, MPP, PHD**
Community Impact and Engagement
- Leadership Greater Hartford**
Community Impact and Engagement
- Market Lab / Annual Fund Toolkit**
Philanthropy
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- Root Cause**
Community Impact and Engagement
- Self Care Network**
Community Impact and Engagement
- The Light LLC**
Community Impact and Engagement
- Wellville**
Community Impact and Engagement

UNITED WAY VISTAS AND INTERNS

- | | |
|--|--|
| Alexander Chiu
AmeriCorps VISTA
Readers Coordinator | Kishanna Sealey
AmeriCorps VISTA
Readers Coordinator |
| Eliza Frazer
Community Impact and
Engagement | Julia Simpson
AmeriCorps VISTA DPIL
Community Coordinator |
| Cindy Pan
AmeriCorps VISTA DPIL
Family Coordinator | |

EVENT SPONSORS

2024 POWER OF THE PURSE

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|--|--|
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2024 RED, WHITE & CHOCOLATE

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Putnam Plaza Super Liquors
The Sinha Group
The Village for Families & Children
Westbrook Oil Company

DEDICATIONS

Susan Barthel
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Susan Bieda
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Debra Bowen
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Ryan Brunell
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Liz Buczynski
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Joe Butkus
In Memory of Thomas
Eastwood

Lisa Caputo
In Honor of Greg Toczydlowski

Catherine Conlin
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Ellen Cook
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Darrell Cookman
In Honor of Max Cookman

Lisa and Bob Cornell
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Kathleen Deasy
In Honor of Alyce Rawlins

Susan Dunn
In Honor of Donna Holmes

Teresa Dugan
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Rena Epstein
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Melanie Frank
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Claudia Franklin
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Paula S. Gilberto
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Emily Goodman
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

William Heyman
In Honor of Greg &
Mary-Jo Toczydlowski

Lori Kasowitz
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Avvrohom Kess
In Honor of Greg &
Mary-Jo Toczydlowski

Deana Leikin
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Jacqueline Lillo
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Gail Millerick
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Mary Mills
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

William Murphy
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

M.J. Neiditz & Company, Inc.
In Honor of Jeffrey Digel

John Nylen
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Anna Paladino
In Honor of Marty Kenny

Bernadette Patton
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Amanda Quatrocelli
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Kim and Scott Schemmel
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Eugene and Barbara Schramka
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Kimberly Stein
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

**Urban League of
Greater Hartford**
In Honor of Paula S. Gilberto

Matthew Weinreb
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Jessica Winn
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

Mary Woods
In Honor of Greg Toczydlowski

Linda Youmatz
In Honor of Kathleen
Simmons Cook

READ WITH LOCAL K-5 STUDENTS! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

BECOME A UNITED WAY READER

Read one-on-one to students in kindergarten to fifth grade who are behind in their reading skills. Share your passion for learning and make a difference in the lives of young students.

Questions? Contact the Readers Team at readers@unitedwayinc.org or 860.493.6832.



UNITED WAY READERS
with support from the Jewish
Federation of Greater Hartford



REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

November 2024–May 2025

TIME COMMITMENT:

30-90 minutes, one day per week.
School day or after-school slots,
Monday-Friday.

IN-PERSON LOCATIONS:

Hartford, New Britain, East Hartford,
Bloomfield, and West Hartford.

VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERS AVAILABLE.

All training provided.

2025 EVENTS

United Way’s New Office Ribbon-Cutting

Spring 2025 • unitedwayinc.org/events

For more than 100 years, United Way has served the 860 region by helping close gaps in child literacy, housing, wages and life expectancy so everyone succeeds. We are thrilled to unveil our new office location. This move offers United Way the opportunity to invest more deeply and strategically in our communities to end poverty in all its forms. Date, time and location of our ribbon-cutting is forthcoming.

Contact Kate Blackburn kblackburn@unitedwayinc.org to learn more.

THE Commercial Real Estate and Building Industry’s 5th Annual Breakfast: Building Foundations

April 23, 2025 7:30 – 10:00 a.m.

unitedwayinc.org/building-foundations

Building Foundations is the event of the year for the commercial real estate and building industry and offers attendees the opportunity to build strong relationships and connections through networking. This year, X is being honored with the 2025 Jeffrey Digel Award.

Building Foundations Breakfast raises awareness and funds to close gaps and create opportunities for children, adults and families to achieve and retain safe and stable housing. Sponsorships are available now.

Contact Maura Cook mcook@unitedwayinc.org to learn more and sign up.

Women United’s 14th Annual Power of the Purse Luncheon and Silent Auction

June 12, 2025 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

unitedwayinc.org/power-of-the-purse

Power of the Purse brings hundreds of area professionals together for philanthropy, networking and inspiration. This is the premier women’s event of the year in our region and you will not want to miss a dynamic keynote presentation by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Andra Elliott and Dasani Coates.

Women United raises awareness and funds to close gaps and create opportunities for local women to achieve financial stability. Sponsorships, tables and tickets are available now.

Contact Ellie Lambert elambert@unitedwayinc.org to learn more and sign up.

FOX61 and United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut’s 3rd Annual Impact Awards

Fall 2025 • unitedwayinc.org/events

FOX61 and United Way join forces to recognize and honor individuals, groups and organizations who make a significant contribution to health care, housing, financial empowerment and/or education in Connecticut. Nominations open up in the Spring. Date, time and location of the awards ceremony is forthcoming.

Contact Ellie Lambert elambert@unitedwayinc.org to learn more.

Women United’s Red, White and Celebrate: A Wine Tasting Kick-Off to Power of the Purse

Fall 2025 • unitedwayinc.org/women

Lead the charge. Inspire the change.

You can help make Power of the Purse a success by signing up as a Table Captain! Red, White and Celebrate offers robust networking, door prizes and the best Power of the Purse promotions of the year. Date, time and location is forthcoming.

Women United raises awareness and funds to close gaps and create opportunities for local women to achieve financial stability.

Contact Ellie Lambert elambert@unitedwayinc.org to learn more and sign up.

860Cares Volunteer Opportunities

Ongoing • unitedwayinc.org/860cares

United Way’s 860Cares initiative mobilizes our community to take action for causes they care about and helps businesses reach their goals around philanthropic giving, employee engagement and community involvement. These engagement opportunities include both one-day and ongoing volunteer engagement activities, including: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), United Way Readers, Read Across America Day, National Volunteer Month, United Way Day of Caring, a school supply drive, signature workplace engagement projects and a holiday drive.

Contact Phil Blonski pblonski@unitedwayinc.org to learn more and sign up.

**UNITED WAY, INC. D/B/A
UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL AND NORTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
June 30, 2024**



Assets

Current Assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,812,255
Contributions and grants receivable, net	1,931,005
Accounts receivable	406,694
Prepaid expenses and other assets	286,643
Total current assets	5,436,597

Property and Equipment, net	161,977
Investments	16,267,152

Total Assets	\$ 21,865,726
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Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 622,371
Agency program support payable	202,243
Campaign designations payable	254,332
Deferred revenue	1,430,492
Total liabilities	2,509,438

Net Assets:

Without donor restrictions	17,458,168
With donor restrictions	1,898,120
Total Net Assets	19,356,288

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 21,865,726
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**UNITED WAY, INC. D/B/A
UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL AND NORTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Year Ended June 30, 2024**



Change in Net Assets without Donor Restrictions:

Support and revenue:

Campaign revenue:

Campaign pledges generated	\$ 6,931,251
United Way campaigns, net of donor designations	15,042
Less provision for uncollectible contributions	(94,102)
Less amounts designated by donors	(931,658)
Campaign revenue, net	5,920,533

Contributions and grant income	2,486,781
Other income	603,339
Gain on pension termination	652,423
Gain on sale of property	1,171,000
Investment return, net	1,723,958
Net assets released from restrictions	253,479
Total support and revenue without donor restrictions	12,811,513

Expenses:

Program services	7,248,716
Management and general	1,622,262
Fundraising	2,276,647
Total expenses	11,147,625

Change in net assets without donor restrictions 1,663,888

Change in Net Assets with Donor Restrictions:

Campaign and contribution income	125,804
Investment return, net	156,636
Net assets released from restrictions	(253,479)
Change in net assets with donor restrictions	28,961

Change in Net Assets 1,692,849

Net Assets, beginning of year 17,663,439

Net Assets, end of year \$ 19,356,288

TOGETHER, WE ARE UNITED TO END POVERTY

A bold vision requires big action. Join United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut for a series of impactful events that bring our community together for positive change. From volunteer opportunities to fundraising activities, our events offer a chance for people to make a real difference. Come be a part of the solution and help us close gaps and create opportunities for our community!

