

2025 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

United to End Poverty



FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IS SURGING

581,000 ALICE HOUSEHOLDS



UNITED WAY

Central and Northeastern
Connecticut

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UNITED WAY
Central and Northeastern
Connecticut

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TOGETHER, WE ARE UNITED TO END POVERTY

It has been a true honor to have led United Way's Board of Directors for the past two years. As my term comes to an end, I am proud of what we have accomplished together. If there's one thing I can confidently say after this experience, it's that progress and achievements are not the result of individual effort alone. While each of us can spark change individually, it is the force of the collective that drives the level of transformation our region truly needs.

My fellow Board Members and I take pride in having led the organization to accomplish the following outcomes.

Centennial Milestone

During our centennial year, we received four of the largest gifts in our organization's history, including a \$500,000 anonymous donation and three gifts of \$100,000 made by long-time Tocqueville Society members.

These gifts, coupled with increases from 27 major donors and 13 new Constitution Society donors, resulted in \$1 million raised, which unlocked a \$1 million match from United Way's Board of Directors.

Strategic Alliance with United Way of West Central Connecticut

We proudly entered a strategic alliance with United Way of West Central Connecticut, which has presented opportunities to increase impact and operational efficiencies in the 860 region.

Sale of United Way's building on Laurel Street

This project was a top priority for our United Way, aimed at increasing impact through greater efficiency. The move to a new 10,000-square-foot space provides an opportunity to focus more deeply on our mission to end poverty and to streamline services across our 56-town region. This new space enhances the hybrid model adopted by the organization after the pandemic, offering employees the flexibility they need to thrive in today's evolving work environment.

My term may be coming to an end, but the work continues. I am deeply honored and thrilled to pass the torch to Irene Bassock – a remarkable woman who leads by example and has her heart in United Way's vision, a united 860 region that provides opportunities for everyone to succeed. I'll continue to support United Way from other fronts, as I have been doing for more than 10 years now. The changes we're championing together are bold, and bringing them to life will continue to require our full effort and ongoing involvement.



Pete Collins

Senior Vice President,
Enterprise Operations, Travelers

Board Chair, United Way of Central
and Northeastern Connecticut



UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL AND NORTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT

This past year, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut celebrated a Centennial milestone, launched a new strategic plan, opened its new downtown office and entered a strategic alliance with United Way of West Central Connecticut. President and CEO, Eric Harrison, shares more about the organization's accomplishments and what's next.

You started this year by launching a new strategic plan for United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut. Tell us more about what you're working on?

Celebrating our Centennial milestone gave us a great opportunity to increase our impact while also reversing some of the revenue declines we and United Ways across the globe have seen for the last several years.

Our answer to that was to identify a signature platform, which is Onward860: United to End Poverty. Since arriving in Connecticut in 2022, I have done a lot of listening. I've met with our partners, and I held community conversations and interviewed our donors and corporate partners in an effort to truly understand community conditions and what resonates with people. What I've learned in those conversations is that there is a huge sense of town pride in Connecticut but also a strong desire to reduce the disparities that we see town by town. The fact that your life expectancy in the North End of Hartford is 10 years shorter than three miles down the road in West Hartford is unacceptable. So Onward860 is about uniting our region, to create opportunities for success regardless of your zip code. And, United to End Poverty is really about addressing the fact that 40 percent of people in our region live in extreme and working poverty, and we need to mobilize efforts to reduce that number.

What is different about this strategic plan?

What I'm really proud of is the fact that this plan really looks at every aspect of our organization from our community impact goals to the ways that we are creating operational efficiencies. We are also doing our work differently. We have named 40 strategic partners. These partners receive funding, but they also have committed to being a part of working groups that come together quarterly to co-design initiatives that will impact systems-level change. Through these working groups we also have opportunities to maximize efficiency in our strong nonprofit sector, bring our voices together to advocate for policies that affect the people we serve and our organizations, and most importantly, increase our impact. We have also established a Data Advisory Council which is working on identifying community-level shared outcomes for each working group, which is very exciting.

We have heard a lot about revenue declines impacting United Ways but also nonprofits in general. What are you seeing in your work?

For several years, United Ways have been experiencing declines in revenue in large part due to evolution and changes in workplace giving globally. As a result, revenue diversification has been a top priority for us, and we are beginning to see success in this area. We continue to work with our corporate partners on employee giving campaigns and we appreciate the generosity and the spirit that workplaces in our region give to the campaign. At the same time, we have increased our focus on grants and philanthropy outside of the workplace to allow us to continue to grow. Over the last three years, we have received four of the largest individual gifts in our organization's history. We have also had opportunities to embark on public-private partnerships to mobilize resources for workforce development, child literacy and emergency response. While times are challenging, people continue to be extremely generous, and we are fortunate to live in a state that is innovative in thinking about how we can affect community conditions.

Things seem to be particularly challenging this year. We have seen headlines about heightened food insecurity and an increase in homelessness. How is United Way responding?

Being responsive to pressing community needs is a part of our DNA at United Way. For the third year in a row, we activated the United Way Rapid Response Fund to help keep people in stable housing throughout the winter months. The goal of this fund is shelter diversion, so we work with local municipalities to identify individuals and families who are at risk of becoming homeless. Through a referral system, we provide direct financial assistance to people so that they can make rent, mortgage and utility payments while ensuring their basic needs were met.

This year for the first time, we were also pleased to partner with Representative Jaime Foster, Representative Jennifer Leeper and Connecticut United Ways on an Emergency Grocery Assistance Fund. Through this effort we were able to provide grocery store gift cards to people experiencing food insecurity statewide.

You entered into a strategic alliance with United Way of West Central Connecticut earlier this year. Tell us more about that?

We had a great opportunity to join forces with United Way of West Central Connecticut. The goal of this partnership was to increase impact and maximize operational efficiencies in the 860 region. We are proud to now serve 56 towns in central and northeastern Connecticut, representing one-third of the state.

Earlier this year, you sold your long-time building at 30 Laurel Street and recently moved downtown. What went into your decision to move?

30 Laurel was a great home for many years. After the pandemic, I think everyone took a look at their spaces with fresh eyes and for us, we really found that being a landlord and maintaining a building of that size was taking away from our primary mission. By selling the building, we have the opportunity to invest more time and resources back into our community at a time when that is really needed. The building at 30 Laurel Street will become housing, which is great for that neighborhood. We feel so fortunate that with the sale of our building we had the opportunity to truly “come home” and move into a space that is owned by one of our original founding companies, HSB. It is great to be a part of the downtown community.

What’s next for United Way?

There are so many great opportunities ahead and ways for people to get involved in 2026.

We are very excited to launch a new initiative called 860Gives. On April 1, we will mobilize the philanthropic community in the 860 region to support nonprofits that are delivering critical services. Over 36 hours, people will have the opportunity to give to the causes they care about most, and nonprofits will have an opportunity to raise additional funds to support their programs, which we know are in very high demand. 860Gives is modeled after a very successful fundraiser managed by United Way of Rhode Island called 401Gives. There is nothing like it in our region, and we are excited to bring this opportunity to our communities this spring.

Looking back, our strategic alliance with West Central Connecticut was one of the highlights of this year and I am hopeful that we can take what we have learned and continue to increase our ability to be of service to others in the nonprofit community, with a focus on maximizing efficiency and scaling effective programs and initiatives for greater impact.

As always, we will keep monitoring the increased challenges we have been seeing with respect to financial hardship, food insecurity and housing stability, and we will continue to be responsive to emerging needs.

We have so many exciting opportunities ahead of us, including a full slate of spring fundraising events and volunteer opportunities that you don’t want to miss.

To stay up to date on everything we are doing and find ways to get involved, visit our website at unitedwayinc.org.



Eric Harrison

President and CEO
United Way of Central and
Northeastern Connecticut



GET READY TO GIVE

When we all give a little, it adds up to a lot! **860Gives**, our region's largest Day of Giving, makes it easy to support the causes you care about.

860 GIVES

Powered by United Way Central and Northeastern Connecticut

APRIL 1-2, 2026

    | @860Gives | 860gives.org

READ WITH LOCAL K-5 STUDENTS! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

BECOME A UNITED WAY READER

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

Questions?

Learn more and sign up for training at unitedwayinc.org/readers.

   
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with support from the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford



REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

October 2025 - May 2026

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.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

30 years ago, Women's League became the first inner-city early childhood education program to be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The organization is the largest single-site early childhood education program in the City of Hartford.



INAUGURAL ONWARD860 CHAMPION AWARD

A century of strategic partnership

United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut is pleased to honor Women's League Child Development Center with its inaugural Onward860 Champion Award.

When you walk down the hallways of Women's League Child Development Center in the North End of Hartford, you are greeted by the smiles and energy of the many happy young children that walk through the doors each day. It is a place built on learning and exploration, where our city's youngest learners can thrive.

Women's League was established in 1917 by African-American ministers' wives to meet the needs of migrant and immigrant families in Hartford. Today, the organization is an integral part of the capital city's social and educational infrastructure, providing 17 classrooms that serve more than 200 infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children.

Women's League is United Way's first community partner. Together, the organizations share more than a century of partnership dedicated to providing

quality, affordable child care to local families struggling to make ends meet.

Today, Women's League remains a trusted community partner of United Way. The organization participates in United Way's strategic workgroup that explores disparities in child care and child literacy in our community, helping identify short- and long-term solutions to break cycles of poverty.

"Women's League is a true partner in every way. They have been with us since our very beginning and continue to walk side-by-side with us through all of our transformations," shares Eric Harrison, President and CEO, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut. "All children deserve access to high-quality, early childhood learning experiences and by addressing affordability,

we can reduce disparities in education. Women's League is a leader in this space," added Harrison.

Women's League's mission is to nurture the holistic development of young children and prepare them to enter kindergarten as curious, creative, confident students who love learning and are equipped to succeed. The organization takes a whole-child, family-centered approach to promote healthy physical, emotional, and social development.

What happens in the classrooms at the Women's League is foundational, and their mission goes far beyond providing safe and affordable care for children while parents are at work.

Continued on next page >



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“After years of working in the public schools and seeing the challenges that students have reaching proficiency in reading math, I realized that for me, being part of the solution meant reaching children earlier,” said Karen Lott, Executive Director of Women’s League.

Under Lott’s leadership, Women’s League has focused on introducing preschool children to science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) as a key strategy to provide a head start on developing skills for 21st century careers.

“When we focus on teaching our youngest learners in a variety of areas, we are creating the building blocks for their future success. Children’s brains develop most rapidly between ages zero and five and that is why providing these high-quality learning experiences early is so critical,” continued Lott.

ONWARD860 CHAMPION AWARD CRITERIA

The Onward860 Champion Award was designed to recognize an organization in our community that is a leader in helping end poverty by closing gaps in child literacy, housing, wages and/or life expectancy. The organization is a partner with United Way and its activities, in addition to being involved with other community initiatives. The recognition is determined by an impartial volunteer committee annually comprised of past Community Service Award and Onward860 Champion Award honorees.



REMEMBERING DR. FREDERICK G. ADAMS

United Way’s Community Service Award has been presented every year since 1951 and is the highest honor given to a volunteer.

The Community Service Award is also given in memory of Dr. Frederick G. Adams who was a leader in health care. Dr. Adams, a prominent dentist, was known not only for his expertise in the field but for his commitment to the community. He became the first Black Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Health in 1991 and also served as Chair of the State Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

Dr. Adams also was a leadership volunteer with several community-based organizations, including serving on the board of United Way.

Dr. Adams was always on the forefront of public health policy, advocating for health care for people of color and those living in poverty. He was known for reaching out to people and meeting them where they were to provide resources and information.

We thank Dr. Adams for his commitment and honor his legacy of improving community conditions in Connecticut.

INTRODUCING THE 2025 UNITED WAY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD HONOREE: DONALD ALLAN, JR.

FROM GLOBAL VISION TO LOCAL IMPACT: HOW ONE LEADER BRIDGES THE GAP

In 2022, Donald Allan, Jr. was named President and CEO of Stanley Black & Decker, the worldwide leader in tools, headquartered in New Britain Connecticut. Beginning his career with financial companies such as Loctite Corp. and EY, Allan joined Stanley in 1999, working his way up to the executive team.

Allan leads a global team of more than 50,000 employees but his strong Connecticut roots drive him to continue to make a lasting impact in his home state. Allan's commitment to community is a driving force in the Greater Hartford region.

Allan began his involvement with United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut while working for EY. After donating regularly to the United Way campaign through his workplace and volunteering with several other organizations, one of the leaders in his company recommended he get more involved with the organization.

"Howard Carver, a leader I greatly respect, recommended that I get more involved with our local United Way and that I meet with their CEO. After one meeting, I began my United Way service, joining the organization's finance committee and went on to later serve as Treasurer and then Chair of the Board of Directors," said Allan.

Allan's leadership at United Way came at a critical time. During his first year of leadership,



Allan focused on developing strategies for revenue diversification and increased brand awareness, to help the organization adapt to changes in workplace giving that were impacting United Ways across the globe. During his second year of leadership, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Allan worked closely with the board and United Way leadership during this time to ensure efforts were mobilized to meet community need, while also weathering the immense challenges that the pandemic brought.

In what was to be his last year as Chair, United Way's President and CEO, Paula S. Gilberto, announced her retirement. Despite Allan's own increasing leadership responsibilities at Stanley Black & Decker, he agreed to extend his term as Board Chair to ensure stability while finding the organization's next leader.

"I have been so fortunate during my time with United Way to work with tremendous CEOs in Susan Dunn and Paula Gilberto. And, I'm pleased to say that we found an exceptional CEO in Eric Harrison," said Allan

Allan's commitment to United Way and his community did not end with his board service. He stepped up to serve as one of the organization's Centennial Supporters as United Way reached its 100th year of service to the community last year. In addition, he continues to give and lend his time to organizations such as his alma mater, University of Hartford; Junior Achievement; Hartford Hospital; Boy Scouts; and, many more.

"Don Allan is a leader that I deeply respect. His strategic vision, commitment to community and his dedication to so many organizations that are critical to our region make him the perfect recipient for this year's Community Service Award," said Eric Harrison, President and CEO of United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut. "Don is always there for United Way; he is a leader you can truly count on," concluded Harrison.

As Allan moves on from his role as CEO to Executive Chairman of the Board of Stanley Black & Decker, he hopes that his passion for giving back will inspire others. "Give back generously to your community and get involved. We have so many great organizations in our area that you can lend your time and skills to and it's important that we all do," said Allan.



POVERTY ENDS WITH STABLE HOUSING



For many who are unhoused – or are at risk of losing their home – it is challenging to feel safe or secure. United Way’s Onward860 strategic vision helps close gaps in housing as a key strategy to end poverty, as it directly impacts the overall stability and upward mobility of local children, adults and families.

United Way works year-round to reduce and prevent homelessness across the 860 region:

- Together with strategic community partners across sectors, United Way leads a workgroup that both explores disparities in housing in our region and identifies collective action to address immediate needs and identify long-term systemic solutions
 - Annually, United Way activates its **Rapid Response Fund** to provide direct cash assistance, through municipal partners, to people in the 860 region at risk of losing their stable housing during the cold winter months
 - The commercial real estate and building industry comes together each spring for its Building Foundations Breakfast to raise awareness and resources to help people avoid experiencing homelessness and to secure stable housing for those living in shelters. Since its inception, the industry has cumulatively raised more than \$2.5 million, which has helped United Way implement new, innovative initiatives such as its Rapid Response Fund

Connecticut United Ways Respond

When changes in SNAP benefits and eligibility went into effect as a result of the federal H.R. 1 legislation signed into law July 4, 2025, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut helped spearhead a statewide Connecticut United Ways Emergency Grocery Assistance Fund in partnership with Representatives Foster and Leeper. As of November 30, 2025, more than \$50,000 has been raised to provide grocery store gift cards to families experiencing food insecurity across Connecticut.

Last year, thanks to the generous support from our donors, volunteers and advocates, United Way:

- Helped more than 900 people access emergency shelter accommodations
- Offered more than 2,000 people connections to emergency resources in times of great need
 - Provided direct cash assistance to 353 people to help them stabilize their housing

[CLICK HERE to donate](#)

MEET CASSANDRA GATES

“United Way was there for me.”

In 2023, Cassandra experienced her second house fire in seven months. She and her son were distraught, and had nothing but the clothes on their backs. They turned to their municipality’s Human Services Department, which made a referral for United Way Rapid Response Funds. This direct cash assistance helped Cassandra and her son secure a new apartment so they could focus on rebuilding their lives.

In 2025, Cassandra’s son, Decovin, overcame the distress that accompanied losing his home twice in one

year. Today, he is a top-ranked high school football player who is exploring scholarships to become the first in his family to attend college. Cassandra herself started her own business that offers her family financial stability while also providing her with a flexible schedule to best support her son and continue volunteering to help people experiencing homelessness. Their future is incredibly bright, and they owe it to the direct cash assistance received from United Way’s Rapid Response Fund.

[CLICK HERE](#)
for Cassandra’s
story.





INTERVAL HOUSE

working to end domestic violence

is proud to

LIVE UNITED.





Last year, thanks to the generous support from our donors, volunteers and advocates, United Way:

- Helped nearly 450 people earn job-relevant licenses, certificates, and/or credentials
- Assisted more than 600 adults gain employment after completing their United Way-supported initiative
- Worked with nearly 16,000 tax filers to prepare and file their income tax returns at no cost, resulting in \$18 million in refunds and credits returned to local taxpayers thanks to more than 225 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteers

POVERTY ENDS WITH SUSTAINABLE WAGES

[CLICK HERE to see the ALICE Report](#)

The 2025 Connecticut United Ways ALICE* Report, a study of financial hardship, reveals the cost-of-living crisis in Connecticut. Though wages have increased in recent years, the cost of living has skyrocketed, rendering nearly 40 percent of households in the 860 region to live in working or extreme poverty. United Way's Onward860 strategic vision addresses closing gaps in wages as a key strategy to help people lift themselves out of the cycle of poverty.

United Way works collaboratively on workforce development and financial stability initiatives so everyone has equal opportunities to succeed:

- Together with strategic community partners across sectors, United Way leads a workgroup that both explores disparities in wages in our region and identifies collective action to address immediate and long-term systemic solutions
- United Way supports regional sector partnerships of employers by supporting their needs of finding and retaining talent, while creating opportunities for job seekers to enter rewarding and meaningful employment and accomplish their goals

- Through our advocacy efforts, United Way secured \$230,000 of state funding to maintain its Hartford Working Cities initiative, which is focused on increasing employment rates of young adults, particularly opportunity youth (those who are not currently in school nor the workforce), in targeted neighborhoods in Hartford

*ALICE is a United Way-coined acronym that stands for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed



In October, Leah Fuhs of United Way presented at the 2025 Capital Area Health Care Partnership Unconference 2.0 on the topic: "Designing Good Jobs: How Human-Centered Leadership and Culture Shape Care Quality."

MEET VICTOR SOSA

“United Way has empowered me.”

In 2018, Victor was identified as a high performer when in high school. Growing up, he lived in a single female-headed household that struggled to make ends meet. Educators saw his potential and helped connect him with a United Way-supported workforce development initiative. He went through no-cost training and earned a union career at Pratt & Whitney.

In 2025, Victor and his high school sweetheart remain employed at Pratt & Whitney, recently purchased a house complete with a new puppy, and welcomed their first child in November. Victor is utilizing a tuition reimbursement program his employer provides to attend law school, with his sights set on working as in-house counsel.

[CLICK HERE](#)
for Victor's
story.



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Hartford Region

WHERE EMPOWERMENT MEETS IMPACT

Dedicated to strengthening our community through programs in economic mobility, early learning, childcare, housing and leadership development.

We are proud to be a United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut partner agency, working together to create lasting opportunities for the people we serve.

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CONNECTIONS



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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Would you like to have the pulse of what is happening in our community? **Join us on the last Saturday of every month at 7:30 a.m. for our radio show, Community Connections, on WTIC 1080AM, or listen to our podcast at unitedwayinc.org.**

Learn how United Way is mobilizing people and resources to end poverty in the 860 region by closing gaps in child literacy, wages, housing and life expectancy.



POVERTY ENDS BY ADDRESSING THE CHILD LITERACY GAP

Research shows that, in their later years, children from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to repeat grades and drop out of high school—contributing to the cycle of poverty. As part of our new Onward860 strategic vision, closing gaps in child literacy is one of the key ways United Way aims to help end poverty, as it has a direct influence on the academic achievement of young children and on their future overall. Currently, about 53.2 percent of all 3rd grade students enrolled in public schools in our region were not reading at grade level as shown in the 2024 - 2025 Smarter Balanced Assessments.

We approach closing child literacy gaps in multiple ways; first, by addressing the immediate needs of local children to achieve academic success; and, simultaneously working collaboratively to drive systemic change through advocacy and collective impact efforts.

Through our advocacy efforts and working hand-in-hand with strategic partners, we achieved an important gain in early childhood literacy in 2025: during the most recent legislative session,



Local dignitaries and leaders pose at the 2025 Read Across America Day Volunteer Kickoff.

Connecticut's General Assembly appropriated \$500,000 to sustain and expand upon early childhood literacy initiatives – including our partnership between United Way's Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program, Reach Out and Read, and Read to Grow. Together, we are ensuring children across our state receive free books, fostering a love of reading and helping them achieve developmental and academic milestones.


In addition, United Way is leveraging data and input from our working groups centered in community perspective to reduce disparities and increase access to high-quality and affordable child care services, and ensuring resources are available so children read proficiently by the start of fourth grade.

Through United Way's support, 2,205 children ages birth to five were enrolled in quality early childhood education programs in 2025.

Last year alone, more than 53,000 books were distributed to 5,600 children in Hartford and New Britain.

[CLICK HERE](#)
to see how you can help.





Last year, United Way Readers served 14 locations in Hartford with 86 volunteers reading to 138 students who have seen a 98% increase in their reading proficiency after completing their reading sessions.

MEET JULIA BRINSON

“To whom much is given, much is required.”

More than a decade ago, Julia Brinson, a Women United member, started her volunteer journey as a United Way Reader, a program that matches volunteers with elementary school students to support them with reading skills.

From an early age in life, Julia’s dad and grandmother demonstrated the value of giving back, and that became an important value to her. In addition, she recognized the importance of people from marginalized communities seeing someone who looks and sounds like them doing impactful community work, and the responsibility of serving as a role model for others who dream of having similar opportunities.

CLICK HERE
for Julia’s story.

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

CLICK HERE
to sign up.

Stay informed about how together we are eliminating poverty in the 860 region by closing gaps in child literacy, housing, wages and life expectancy. Scan to sign-up for our newsletter.

HOW UNITED WAY WORKS



United, we can strengthen the 860 region. With our deep insights into our communities - their challenges, aspirations and visions - we can collaborate efficiently and effectively to create positive systemic changes.

We cannot do this work without you. Now is the time to come together and take bold action.

Will you join us? Together, we will close gaps and create opportunities so everyone succeeds.

ONWARD860 
United to End Poverty

   
@unitedwayinc
unitedwayinc.org



UNITED WAY
Central and Northeastern
Connecticut



ENDING POVERTY BY ADDRESSING SOCIAL DRIVERS OF HEALTH

Food insecurity, housing instability, transportation needs, difficulty paying utilities and interpersonal safety are factors that directly impact the health of people. Research shows that an estimated 20 percent of health outcomes are linked to medical care; the remaining 80 percent rely on socioeconomic, environmental and behavioral factors - identified as social drivers of health*.

The 2025 Connecticut United Ways ALICE Report indicates that two out of five households in Connecticut are forced to make impossible choices as they struggle to afford health care in addition to the rising costs of rent, food, utilities, child care and transportation. We know that when people are hungry or lack stable housing, their health is negatively impacted - these are non-medical factors that largely influence outcomes such as life expectancy and chronic disease rates.

As a part of United Way's strategic plan, the organization has mobilized strategic working groups comprised of nonprofit partners, community members with lived experience, health care institutions and other local leaders, all who are committed to taking collective action on reducing disparities in key areas related to ending poverty. One of these working groups is dedicated to exploring disparities in life expectancy.

Currently, our health and well-being working group is evaluating the state of social drivers of health in Hartford. As a first step, they created a landscape of existing hubs in Hartford and identified seven critical gaps that, if addressed, "we will be able to see real systemic change within community services

coordination" - as expressed by one of the working group participants.

The seven gaps identified are:

- Consistent Sustainable Funding
- Clear Role Definitions and Accountability
- Resident Awareness and Rights Education
- Service Integration Across Systems
- Balanced Partnership Ecosystem
- Infrastructure for Shared Services
- Culturally Competent and Community Specific Services

Now, this working group is evaluating and prioritizing these gaps, and next will work on developing strategies to address them.

In addition, United Way is convening the three major hospital systems in Hartford to collaborate on collecting and sharing data, and developing plans that will increase their impact on the communities they serve.

As a mobilizer in the 860 region, United Way remains focused on examining the systemic inequities and policy changes which are affecting the health and well-being of our communities. We are determined to make communities healthier regardless of their zip-code.

Life expectancy can vary by 20 years between North Hartford and parts of West Hartford.

*Source - Let's Get It Right: Consistent Measurement of the Drivers of Health

PRUDENCE CRANDALL CENTER

50 Years Empowering Healing & Hope



“

The first day I moved into the apartment in transitional housing, it was such a great feeling – that finally I have a place, finally, I’m not homeless. I really don’t have family here, but they are my family.

– PCC Housing Client

”

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Carolyn Jasper, Chief Development Officer

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UNITED WAY'S 52ND ANNIVERSARY GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE!

May 12, 2026
8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
TUNXIS COUNTRY CLUB
FARMINGTON, CT

United Way is hosting the 52nd Anniversary Golf Tournament, with proceeds benefitting United Way-supported initiatives that help end poverty across the 860 region.

CLICK HERE
for tickets and
sponsorships.



STRONGER TOGETHER: STRATEGIC ALLIANCE EXPANDS COMMUNITY IMPACT ACROSS CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

Last year, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut and United Way of West Central Connecticut jointly announced a new strategic alliance designed to enhance community impact, streamline operations, and expand services across the region. The collaboration marked a significant step forward in aligning resources and expertise to unite the 860 region and create a greater impact for individuals and families, while preserving the unique strengths and community connections of each organization.

With this new alliance, United Way continues to build on its community engagement model which now includes a newly formed United Way of West Central Regional Advisory Board, along with the Windham Region United Way Regional Advisory Board, United Way of New Britain and Berlin Regional Advisory Board and the United Way of North Central

[CLICK HERE to learn more.](#)

The staff also grew, as all team members from United Way of West Central Connecticut were offered positions contributing to community impact across the entire service area.

“We are thrilled to form this alliance built on a foundation of shared purpose, complementary strengths, and a strong

history of collaboration,” said Eric Harrison, President and CEO of United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut. “By aligning operations and combining resources, we will be better positioned to increase our impact in early childhood education, financial stability and homelessness while creating operational efficiencies and strengthening our collective voice across the 860 region. This is a win for the communities we serve and our entire United Way network,” added Harrison.

United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut now serves one-third of the state’s population across 56 cities and towns.





THE IMPACT AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 3RD ANNUAL IMPACT AWARD WINNERS!



UNsung HERO AWARD

A person giving their all to their community in quiet and often thankless ways who may not be known outside of their community.

Samantha Merwin,
ElbowbumpKid, Inc.

IMPACTFUL WOMAN AWARD

A female leader whose mission is to help and empower other women, a true mentor and has dynamic energy and drive.

Patricia E. Kelly,
Ebony Horsewomen

IMPACTFUL EMERGING LEADER AWARD

An up-and-coming changemaker on the fast track to leadership with a proven record of giving back

Kristina Walton,
Seymour Oxford Food Bank

IMPACTFUL EDUCATOR AWARD

A teacher, professor, coach or tutor who has dedicated themselves to molding young minds.

Dr. Robert Polselli, Jr.,
Killingly High School

IMPACTFUL DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION AWARD

An individual or a company that has a demonstrated track record of helping or working with minority communities here in Connecticut.

Horizons at Westminster

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION MAKING AN IMPACT AWARD

A grassroots community group that goes above and beyond to improve their surroundings and help others.

Malta House of Care,
Greater Hartford.

SMALL BUSINESS MAKING AN IMPACT AWARD

A small business that makes giving back to Connecticut part of its culture. This small business, with fewer than 100 employees, is innovative and helps create a better Connecticut.

Bob's Jerky for A Cause

COMPANY MAKING AN IMPACT AWARD

A company that makes giving back to Connecticut part of its culture that invests resources into volunteerism and philanthropy, creating a place to work that allows employees a chance to do good along the way.

Bank of America

2025 GEORGE BAHAMONDE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HONOREE

An individual who has dedicated their life to service with the goal of making futures brighter for generations to come. The award is named in honor of the late George Bahamonde, who served as the President and CEO of United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut for 12 years and was passionate about educational outcomes and opportunities for local children.

BARBARA DALIO
Dalio Education

SAVE THE DATE!

THE 4TH ANNUAL IMPACT AWARDS WILL BE RETURNING OCTOBER 2026!

NOMINATIONS OPEN SPRING 2026.

visit ctimpactawards.org for more information

POVERTY ENDS WITH US

ALICE—many in Connecticut have begun to recognize this United Way-coined acronym that stands for **A**sset Limited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed.

With the purpose of discovering the struggles of families in one New Jersey county, United Way of Northern New Jersey started this study of financial hardship that today includes several United Ways, corporations, nonprofits, and foundations in 38 states across the nation, including Connecticut. Connecticut United Ways were an early adopter of this study and have been participating for more than 11 years. Harnessing this data and research on the mismatch between low-paying jobs and the cost of survival, this study is changing the national dialogue about financial hardship.

Locally, the 2025 Connecticut United Ways ALICE Report reveals the growing number of people in our state who are unable to make ends meet. These numbers include:

- 11 percent of people who are actively working but still unable to cover essentials like housing, food and health care; and,
- 29 percent living below the Federal Poverty Level.

Together, these figures represent 40 percent of households in our state - nearly half of residents - underscoring the urgent need for action and support.

While locally there have been significant efforts to elevate the minimum wage, households haven't seen significant improvements as the cost of living continues to rise.

United Way is focused on mobilizing people and resources to end poverty in the 860 region. We recognize that this is a complex and dynamic issue that requires bold actions and decisions, and we are committed to closing gaps and creating a united region where there are equal opportunities for everyone to succeed.

In 2025 our advocacy efforts accomplished significant gains to support our communities:

- During the most recent legislative session, Connecticut's General Assembly appropriated \$500,000 to sustain and expand upon early childhood literacy initiatives - including our

partnership between United Way's Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program, Reach Out and Read, and Read to Grow. Together, we are ensuring children across our state receive free books so they foster a love of reading and achieve developmental and academic milestones.

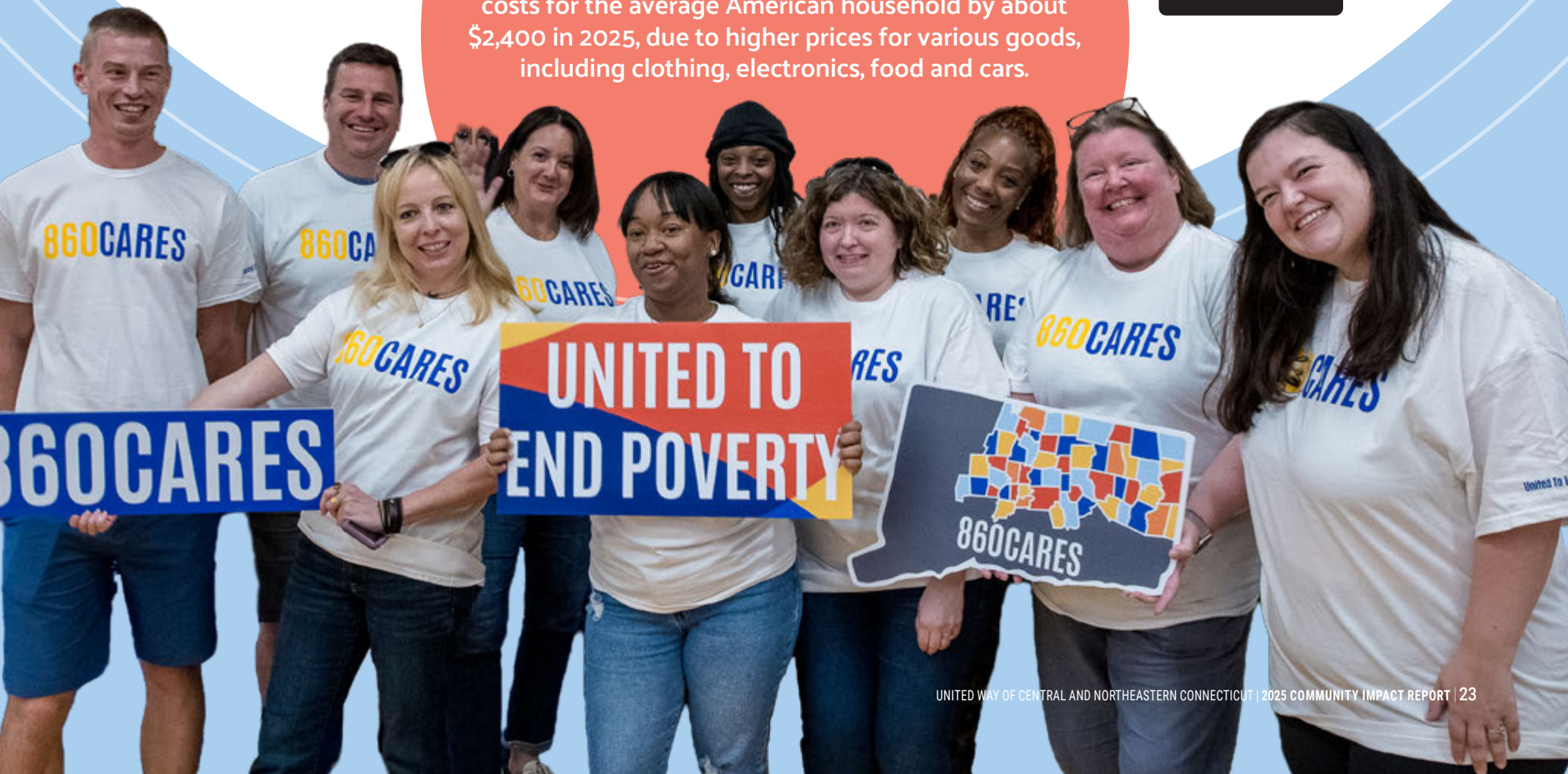
- Separately, and in support of our efforts to connect young adults with good-paying jobs through Hartford Working Cities, the Connecticut General Assembly allocated an award of \$230,000 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. This amount reflects \$30,000 more than what has been appropriated in the past, validating the effectiveness and efficiency of United Way's work in this area.

We must recognize that stable households can offer us stronger communities. If all households in Connecticut had enough income to meet their basic needs, not only would households' hardship be eased, but there would also be a positive economic impact on the wider community through increased consumer spending and contributions to the tax base.

That is why United Way's work is important, and that is why we all care and get involved. Join us!

A report from the Senate Joint Economic Committee in June 2025 indicated that the average cost for families with new infants increased by approximately \$400 for a basket of 11 essential baby items, between March 10 and June 3, 2025. In addition, a study by Yale's Budget Lab estimates that new tariffs could increase costs for the average American household by about \$2,400 in 2025, due to higher prices for various goods, including clothing, electronics, food and cars.

[CLICK HERE](#)
to see the
ALICE Report.



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO

YWCA New Britain extends our sincere gratitude to **United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut** for their ongoing partnership and steadfast support. Through your continued commitment, we are able to advance our mission and **provide critical programs and services that empower women, children, and families in our community.**

Your partnership plays an essential role in creating lasting, positive change, and we are deeply thankful for your dedication to **our shared goals.**

Let's continue to work together to keep our missions in motion in 2026!

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
New Britain

ywcanb.org
860-225-4681



Thank you

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

AAA Allied Group	CREC	Liberty Bank	South Park Inn, Inc.
Accenture	Cronin, LLC	Lincoln Financial Group	Spring Brook Service Inc
ADP Automatic Data Processing	Cummins Engine Braking and Valvetrain	Local Initiatives Support Corporation	Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.
Advance Auto Parts	Day Pitney LLP	M&T Bank	Stop & Shop
Aetna-a CVS Health Company	Deloitte LLP	Macy's	Stryker Corporation
AFT Connecticut	Delta Airlines	Manchester Board of Education	Sun Life
Allan S. Goodman, Inc.	Delta Dental of Connecticut	Mass Mutual Financial Group	Target Stores
Allstate Insurance Company	Dimeo Construction	MEMIC Indemnity Company	TD Bank
American Nuclear Insurers	Edwards Lifesciences, LLC	Microchip Technology - Microsemi	The Hartford
American Red Cross	Elevance Health	Microsoft Corporation	The Hershey Company
Andersen Corporation	Eli Lilly & Company	Milliman	The Principal Financial Group
Andersen Tax	Emhart Glass, Inc.	MorningStar	The Village for Families & Children, Inc.
AON	Empower	Mutual of Omaha	The Walton Company
AT&T Business Solutions Customer Care	Enbridge US	Nationwide Insurance	Thomaston Savings Bank
Atlantic Community Bankers Bank	Enterprise Holdings	Navigate Affordable Housing Partners	Tilcon Connecticut, Inc.
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Bank of America	Exelon Corporation	New England Combined Federal Campaign	Town of Coventry
Berlin Board of Education	Farmington Public Schools	Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company	Travelers
Berlin Town Departments	Fifth Third Bank	Opportunities Industrialization Center of New Britain, Inc. (OIC)	Triumph Group Integrated Systems
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Bloomfield Town Departments	GE Vernova	Our Piece of the Pie	U.S. Bank
C & S Wholesale Grocers, Inc.	General Dynamics Corporation	Paychex, Inc.	UBS Financial Services
Capitol Region Council of Governments	Gilbane Building Company	Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company	United Performance Metals
Carmon Community Funeral Homes	Glastonbury Public Schools	Peoples Bank/First Suffield Bank	United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut
Caterpillar	Global Atlantic	Pfizer Corporation	United Way of Connecticut, Inc. 2-1-1
Catholic Charities Inc., Archdiocese of Hartford	Grow Green Girls, Inc.	Pitney Bowes, Inc.	UnitedHealthcare
Centene	Hanover Insurance Group	PNC Financial Services	UPS
Centreville Bank	Hartford Public Schools	Point32Health	Virtus Investment Partners
Chase Enterprises	Hinckley Allen LLP	Pratt & Whitney	Vishay Intertechnology Inc
Cigna Corporation	Home Depot	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	Vistra Energy
City of Hartford	HSB	Propark Mobility	Voya Financial
CohnReznick LLP	Hypertherm, Inc.	Protective Life Corporation	Webster Bank
Collins Aerospace	IBM Corporation	Prudential Financial	Western & Southern Financial Group, Inc.
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ConAgra	Indus Realty Trust, Inc.	Raytheon Technologies	WEX Health, Inc.
Connecticut AFL-CIO	International Union UAW	Robinson+Cole	Whittlesey
Connecticut Children's	Intuitive Foundation	Rockwell Sales Office	Windham Public Schools
Connecticut Lighting Center	Ion Bank Foundation	Saint Francis Hospital	Windham Town Employees
Conning	ITW Permatex	Sentry Insurance	Women's League, Inc.
CopperPoint Mutual Insurance Company	JC Penney	Shipman & Goodwin LLP	YMCA of Greater Hartford
Costco Wholesale, Inc.	KeyBank		YWCA New Britain
Coventry Public Schools	KPMG LLP		
	LL. Bean		
	LaBella Associates		

860CARES SPONSORS

Central Connecticut State University	Otis
Collins Aerospace	Pratt & Whitney
Connecticut Wealth Management	RTX
Global Atlantic	The Hartford
HSB	Webster Bank
	WordCom, Inc.

UNITED WAY AFFINITY GROUPS

Through United Way's Affinity Groups, we connect you with a vibrant community of change-makers in our region. Based on your interests and stage of life, we'll help you find the right fit to deepen your involvement and create meaningful change in the communities where you live and work.

[CLICK HERE
to join us!](#)

EMERGING LEADERS SOCIETY (ELS)

ELS members represent a new generation of leaders committed to making a difference in the community by leveraging the power of United Way to connect, serve and grow – both personally and professionally.

As an ELS member, you'll have regular opportunities to volunteer, take part in United Way's impactful work, and network with some of the most influential business leaders in the area.



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 55,000+ women dedicated to creating a world of opportunity– for everyone.

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.



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.



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. Members of our local Tocqueville Society automatically become members of United Way Worldwide's Tocqueville United, a society comprised of philanthropic leaders from throughout the United Way Worldwide global network.



WOMEN OF TOCQUEVILLE

Women of Tocqueville is so much more than a giving circle. We don't just fund programs—we fuel change. Our members provide critical resources to improve the lives of children, families and adults across central and northeastern Connecticut. But that's only the beginning. Together, we create lasting impact for households facing extreme or working poverty. Through hands-on engagement, we tackle root causes and spark systemic change. Join us, and be part of something transformative.



2024-2025 UNITED WAY LEADERSHIP ROSTER

WOT Women of Tocqueville
 WU Women United
 ELS Emerging Leaders Society

TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY

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
- Ordre de Liberté Annual gifts of \$25,000 to \$49,999
- Membres de la Société Annual gifts of \$10,000 to \$24,999

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Day Pitney LLP

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Whittlesey

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Mary Ellen and Steve Jones WOT WU
RTX - Retiree

Michael and Cindy Klein
Travelers

The Elizabeth M. Landon and Harriett M. Landon Charitable Foundation
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Community

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Community

The Zachs Family Foundation
Community

One member wishes to remain anonymous.



CONSTITUTION SOCIETY

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

Founder Annual gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999
Framer Annual gifts of \$2,500 to \$4,999
Colleague Annual gifts of \$1,000 to \$2,499

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One member wishes to remain
anonymous.

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Jimilette Centeno

Amani Shirley

Jacqueline Swagerty

DEDICATIONS

Lewis Robinson
In Memory of Amy B. Robinson

Rabbi Jeff and Mindy Glickman
In Honor of Mike Moreno

Karen Doyon
In Honor of Dustin Doyon

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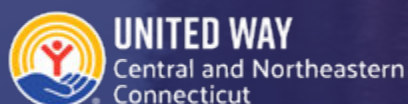
A strategic vision requires big action. Join United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut for a series of impactful events that bring our community together to end poverty in the 860 region. From volunteer opportunities to fundraising activities, these philanthropic events offer you a way to help us close gaps in child literacy, housing, wages and life expectancy so everyone succeeds.

[CLICK HERE](#)
to view
upcoming events.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH 860CARES

At United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, we have a bold vision for the future – Onward860: United to End Poverty – uniting the 860 region and forging a new path. We will end poverty by deepening our impact in child literacy, housing, wages and life expectancy. We will not do this alone and cannot do it without the significant support of corporate volunteers!

[CLICK HERE](#)
to view volunteer
opportunities.



READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

5
MAR

Read Across America Day is one way that United Way, along with our partners, highlights the importance of building early literacy and language skills for every child, so that all children read proficiently by the start of fourth grade.

THE COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE AND BUILDING INDUSTRY BREAKFAST: BUILDING FOUNDATIONS

Presented by Liberty Bank and Trammell Crow Residential

30
APR

Join us for the 6th Annual Building Foundations Breakfast as we come together to raise resources to prevent children and families from becoming homeless and to secure stable housing for those living in shelters.

UNITED WAY'S 52ND ANNIVERSARY GOLF TOURNAMENT

12
MAY

United Way is hosting the 52nd Anniversary Golf Tournament, with proceeds benefitting United Way-supported initiatives that help end poverty across the 860 region.

WOMEN UNITED'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY POWER OF THE PURSE

Presented by Hartford HealthCare

11
JUN

Women United's 15th Anniversary Power of the Purse helps end poverty by closing financial gaps and creating opportunities for local women and families to succeed.