

2022 Report to the Community

United
Way



United Way
of Southeastern Connecticut

Make
your **United Way
Moment**



From our President and CEO



How do you create a community where all people thrive and Live United? It starts with one moment, when you choose to help. What was your United Way moment this year?

I think about my first United Way moment. That was over 32 years ago. At that time, I didn't know anything about United Way, but I chose to help. I donated, I volunteered, I was one person united with others whose combined contributions were able to accomplish so much for the community, something that I could never achieve alone.

Looking back now, that one moment changed the course of my life. It set me on a path to join together with the community to make change. Who would have guessed then that I would be where I am today, honored to lead this great organization.

This past year, I have thought about everything we accomplished together. From our first full allocations process with over fifty volunteers since the pandemic, to the creation of Student United Way, to businesses and organizations running fundraising campaigns, to all the support at the Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center.

I am so proud of this community. We were able to do this because of the commitment of many. You made a decision to help and because of that generosity we were able to make a tremendous impact. That will become evident as you read through this report, but know none of this would have been possible without each and every one of you deciding to make your United Way moment.

I ask you again, did you make your United Way moment yet? We still have a lot to accomplish in New London County to provide opportunities for all individuals and families to achieve their full potential.

I'm excited to be part of even more good things we can create together in the year ahead. Thank you for all you do to Live United!

Dina J. Sears-Graves
President and CEO



OUR MISSION:

To inspire and coordinate the generosity and commitment that sustains a united, thriving community.



OUR VISION:

United Way envisions a community united in its efforts to ensure that individuals and families achieve their full potential.

Our partners in a caring community!

COMMUNITY WELLNESS



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Partner Programs

Alliance for Living, The Living Center
 Child and Family, Parent & Child Counseling
 Child and Family, School Based Health Care Centers
 Jewish Federation, Senior Isolation Relief
 Madonna Place, Great Beginnings
 Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, Human Services
 Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, Senior Activities
 Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, Senior Transportation
 Safe Futures, Counseling & Advocacy
 Safe Futures, Genesis House Emergency Shelter
 SCADD, Detoxification & Evaluation
 SCADD, Halfway Houses
 SCADD, Outpatient Services
 TVCCA, RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)
 UCFS, Adult Day Centers
 UCFS, Dental Health Care
 UCFS, Outpatient Behavioral Health Care
 UCFS, Primary Medical Care
 VNA, Home Health Care

COLLECTIVE IMPACT WORK

Eastern Connecticut Health Collaborative (EHC)

LEVERAGED GRANTS

Office of Minority Health - Reducing Health Disparities

Madonna Place, Great Beginnings
 Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Tribal Health Services

CDC Health Disparities

Access Agency
 Generations Family Health Center
 Health Education Center
 Madonna Place
 TVCCA

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES or PARTNERSHIPS

EHC Mobile Health Hub
 EHC Coordinated Outreach
 Single Care Prescription Drug Discount Cards

THRIVING CHILDREN & YOUTH

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Partner Programs

Child and Family, Early Childhood Services
 Higher Edge, College Access Program
 Madonna Place, Family Support Center
 NL Homeless Hospitality Center, Youth Shelter
 Riverfront Children's Center, Children's Center
 Safe Futures, Prevention Education
 The Drop-In Learning Center, Out of School Care
 The Drop-In Learning Center, Teen Life Skills
 The Light House, Afterschool Program
 TVCCA, Little Learners



Equitable Outcomes for Thriving Children Grant

S.T.E.P.S., Inc.

Your Voice Counts

New London Youth Affairs

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES or PARTNERSHIPS

Tommy Toy Fund
 New Capacities: SOAR Afterschool Program

BASIC NEEDS



GEMMA E. MORAN UNITED WAY/LABOR FOOD CENTER

Member Agencies

Food Bank for 68 Partner Agencies
 Mobile Food Pantry
 Community Resource Coordination

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Partner Programs

Covenant Shelter, Emergency Shelter
 Jewish Federation, Crisis Intervention

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES or PARTNERSHIPS

Project Warm-Up
 United Way 2-1-1

LEVERAGED GRANTS

Point-In-Time Count

Thames River Community Service
 Windham No Freeze
 New London Homeless Hospitality Center
 Reliance Health
 St. Vincent de Paul Place
 Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP)
 22 Partners

PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Partner Programs

Catholic Charities, Intensive Case Management
 Connecticut Legal Services, Legal Services
 Madonna Place, Fatherhood Initiative
 Martin House, Housing with Support Services
 Safe Futures, Phoenix House Transitional Shelter
 Thames River Community Service, Family Housing with Support Services
 The Arc Eastern Connecticut, Community Life & Advocacy
 UCP of Eastern CT, Disability Support

COLLECTIVE IMPACT WORK

New Capacities: Norwich

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES or PARTNERSHIPS

Union Counseling Program (UCAN)

Eastern Coordinated Access Network

Independent Development Accounts

Habitat for Humanity
 Liberty Bank
 TVCCA

LEVERAGED GRANTS

New London County Fund to End Homelessness

Always Home
 Covenant Shelter
 NL Homeless Hospitality Center
 Norwich Human Services
 TVCCA

Coordinated Access Network Operations Fund

Access Agency
 Always Home
 Covenant Shelter
 NL Homeless Hospitality Center
 Norwich Human Services
 St. Vincent de Paul Place
 Thames River Community Service
 TVCCA
 Windham No Freeze

Coordinated Access Network Housing Search

New London Homeless Hospitality Center
 Windham No Freeze
 Access Agency

CDBG Small Cities - Town of Stonington (Diversion)

Access Agency
 Always Home
 New London Homeless Hospitality Center
 Noank Communitie Support Services
 Thames River Community Service

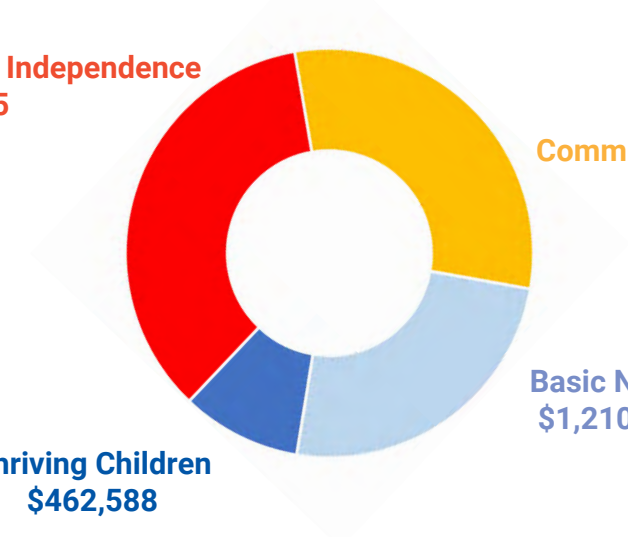
How your donation is invested

Promoting Independence
 \$1,720,855

Community Wellness
 \$1,490,477

Basic Needs
 \$1,210,010

Thriving Children
 \$462,588



ALICE in Focus Reports



Our Four Impact Areas



PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE

GOAL Individuals achieve financial stability	112 Partnering organizations
4,722 Individuals helped	\$1,720,855 Has been invested or leveraged to promote independence



COMMUNITY WELLNESS

GOAL Individuals improve their health and have access to healthcare	105 Partnering organizations
37,534 Individuals helped	\$1,490,477 Has been invested or leveraged for community wellness

THRIVING CHILDREN & YOUTH

GOALS Children enter school ready to learn and are successful in primary school.	49 Partnering organizations
Youth gain the knowledge, skills, to obtain family-sustaining employment.	5,702 Individuals helped
	\$462,588 Has been invested or leveraged to help children and youth thrive



BASIC NEEDS

GOAL People have their basic needs met	198 Partnering organizations
318,440 Individuals helped	\$1,210,010 Has been invested or leveraged to meet basic needs



In 2022, three reports were released with deeper research into three areas: children, people with disabilities, and veterans.

The reports shed light on these important topics and populations with unique challenges.

ALICE in Focus Reports contain Connecticut data from 2019 and can be found at: www.uwsect.org/meet-alice with some highlights in the areas of children and people with disabilities noted throughout this Annual Report.



ALICE in Focus: People with Disabilities



- Nearly half (48%) of people with disabilities in Connecticut lived in households experiencing financial hardship in 2019.
- 16% were below the Federal Poverty Level and an additional 32% were ALICE.
- People with disabilities were more than three times as likely to be out of the labor force as people without disabilities (50% vs. 15%).
- Even for people with disabilities working full-time, 20% were below the ALICE threshold.
- 22% of people with disabilities under age 65 living below the ALICE threshold were not enrolled in Medicaid or Medicare in Connecticut.

ALICE in Focus: Children



- 42% of children in Connecticut lived in households experiencing financial hardship in 2019 – 13% were below the Federal Poverty Level and 29% were ALICE.
- 72% of Black children and 67% of Hispanic children live in households with income below the ALICE threshold compared to 26% of White children.
- 21% of children in households with two adults working in the labor force were still below the ALICE threshold.
- More than 192,000 children below the ALICE threshold in Connecticut did not participate in SNAP and nearly 71,000 had no high-speed internet access at home.

Good things don't just happen.



They're created together.



Norwich Public Utilities partners with United Way of Southeastern Connecticut and the entire community, giving and volunteering to help those in need. In the photo above at right, General Manager Christopher LaRose presents a check to United Way, with numerous United Way awards and accolades from over the years on the wall behind.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) ran a food-based event for their ten-week campaign. Pancake breakfasts, biscuits and gravy, grilled cheese and soup, and lasagna with garlic bread were all part of the mix.

They introduce new employees to United Way at their workplace orientation to share the company's commitment to United Way, including that of General Manager Christopher LaRose, who is also on United Way's Board of Directors.

Aggie Grant was the new Employee Campaign Coordinator, with help from Amanda Gregoire and Marc Rabideau. They had an outstanding campaign that included a corporate gift, employee giving, and special events totalling over \$30,000.

VOLUNTEERING

Five volunteers help at United Way's Mobile Pantry in Norwich each month, and they also volunteer on Reading Days, Young Leaders United, and the Tommy Toy Fund. The company encourages volunteerism, and they assign a special parking spot for their volunteer of the month. Last year they volunteered a total of 77 hours!

Norwich Public Utilities employees are engaged with United Way Allocations. Customer Service Manager Ruth Swift says, "In my position, I see a lot of people in need. We can only do so much within the utility organization, so I find it rewarding to assist our customers in other ways, such as ensuring the money donated by NPU staff is being allocated in a manner that helps our community."



Above, the check presentation at Holdridge Home & Garden. Right, the Rows City Knitters with the items they knit for the drive.

Keeping our community warm

In the fall we held Comfort from the Cold to collect funding for United Way's Project Warm-up, our emergency, one-time heating assistance program. Special thanks to Holdridge Home & Garden, neighbors up the road from us, who had a one-day event to raise funds and awareness, they held a "round-up at the register," and chicken poop bingo, and they made an additional contribution.

More than \$7,000 was contributed to keep families from freezing, and several groups also ran winter clothing drives.



Basic Needs



THANK YOU

- Holdridge Home & Garden
- MDA-UAW 571
- Pfizer Inc.
- Rows City Knitters
- Foxwoods Call Center
- Montville Schools
- Valentino's Restaurant

MORE THAN FOOD, WE HELP MAKE A HOME

Last year, the Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center (Food Center) began hosting "non-food giveaways." Most items are donated by our retail partners, while some come from vendor food shows held at local casinos. Items can include cleaning products, small appliances, decorative accessories, wrapping paper, furniture, clothing, and toiletries.

"It helps out so much for the parents and with their kids," says Uduak Enyiema, Executive Director at Thames River Community Service, a United Way Partner Agency. "Many times they arrive with just a grocery cart of belongings."

"Families get a basic needs kit when they first arrive," she says, "with toiletries and cleaning supplies. There are a lot of tears when they walk into their apartment for the first time."

In 2022, the Food Center held eight non-food giveaways and distributed 114,967 pounds of items to local nonprofit organizations, both Partner Programs and Food Center members.

Enyiema notes, "Many of the families are coming from a domestic violence situation or were homeless, so they are safe here. It's home, it's safe, serene, and quiet. It's a piece of humanity."



Uduak Enyiema, Executive Director of Thames River Community Service, stands in one of the residences at the agency's apartment building. Families greatly benefit from receiving items collected at the non-food giveaways.



"My United Way moment occurred the first time I volunteered at the Mobile Food Pantry and saw the needs of our community being met in real time."

Seeing the staff and volunteers providing fresh food to families in need opened my eyes to the critical role this organization plays in the lives of so many. And as I have become more engaged with United Way, I am inspired by the range of essential services that are offered to our community every day.

Norwich Public Utilities is committed to making Norwich a better place to live, work, and do business, and our employees are proud to work alongside United Way year after year."

– Christopher LaRose, General Manager, Norwich Public Utilities

One action United with another multiplies.



“It is such an inspiring collection drive and creative way to send off donated items. The kids were loud and proud about the dominos of 306 cereal boxes. It brought the whole school together.”

– Jessica Boucher, Preston Schools



Accepting the Challenge!

The Cereal Box Domino Challenge, that is.

It started with a teacher at Preston Schools who saw a video on social media and thought it would be a great idea to collect boxes of cereal and then donate them back to the community in need.

Jessica Boucher, School Social Worker, heard the idea and ran with it. “We invited United Way to participate since we are great partners and want to give back. We wanted the students to understand that there are services that can help our neighbors and that they were able to be a part of giving.”

This inspired other schools and organizations to do the same, fun activity. Collect donated boxes of cereal. Line them up. Watch them fall. Donate to United Way! More than 1,700 boxes of cereal were donated and more than \$9,000.

We combined the Challenge with a Healthy Start food drive to collect healthy breakfast items so kids start their day on the right foot.

We believe that no child should be hungry. It’s critical for students to have enough fuel for healthy growth and development, and to be able to perform well in school.

THANK YOU

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
 Jewett City Savings Bank
 Kelly Middle School
 Liberty Bank
 Mahan Elementary School
 Norwich Public Utilities
 Pfizer
 Preston Public Schools
 Riverfront Children’s Center



Basic Needs

Next generation philanthropy, empowering students to make impactful change

United Way launched a new initiative, Student United Way (SUW), to give young adults the power to make a difference and have an influence on their community.

The goal is to teach responsible philanthropy and the needs of New London County. The program creates an environment for all of the students to thrive, grow, and learn.

The 2022-23 curriculum focused on visits to non-profits; volunteering to experience first-hand what it feels like to contribute to their community; building social capital by meeting with community leaders and exploring roles at non-profits; learning about philanthropy; and awarding a local organization with a grant.

One participant noted, “I believe it is a wonderful and efficient way to get to know so many different aids provided for the community and be able to personally identify what is important to you and the impact you can make.”

At right, Student United Way participants volunteer sorting donated clothing at the Food Center and help distribute toys at the Tommy Toy Fund.



Bridging differences & inspiring young adults to create sustainable change

United Way launched Your Voice Counts (YVC) to promote trust and civility in our community. The initiative improves communication, critical thinking, and understanding among high school students.

Your Voice Counts bridges differences and inspires young adults to create sustainable change in societal dialogue. The goal is to provide youth with the skills needed to navigate conversations that often result in divisiveness to help make the world a kinder place, one which will contribute to a more positive community.

The 2022-23 curriculum was implemented in partnership with New London Youth Affairs. The first year program included fifteen students from five different area high schools.

During the program a participant reflected on a conflict they experienced and, with the support of the facilitator and peers, made a plan for managing future conflict.

This student had experienced a physical conflict and shared the situation with the YVC group. The student expressed that in the moments following the conflict, while awaiting their consequence, they thought about the skills that were introduced in a previous YVC session.

Although the student did not put these skills into practice in the moment, they were able to reflect, process, and make a plan for managing future conflict. This is a prime example of YVC in action. Critical thinking and reflecting are key skills focused on in the program to enhance the teens’ ability to manage their emotions and difficult interactions beyond the program.



Made in a moment when we choose to help.



“There are kids who don’t have anything. They can’t even eat.”

– Cami Sturgas, student



Cami began organizing drives in the second grade when she asked each grade in her school to collect a certain item, all toiletries, as a sort of competition.

She is now in eighth grade and still runs an annual drive of some kind. She has done winter clothing drives, toiletries, and birthday parties in a bag. Her schools have rallied around her by helping to make announcements and promote the drives. She says that teachers have been very helpful.

For Cami, her United Way moment is when she decided she wanted to find a way to help people in need.

She says it’s easy to organize and set up a drive. “I ask for donations,” Cami says. “I collect the items, put bins around school, then drop everything off at United Way. It’s definitely worth doing”

Her engagement extends beyond the drives. Cami has volunteered at the Coogan Farm Giving Garden, United Way’s Mobile Pantry, and the Food Center warehouse. It may be that volunteering is in the family genes – one of Cami’s great grandfathers once served as this United Way’s Campaign Chair more than sixty years ago when he went door-to-door to solicit donations.



Cami Sturgas (top) volunteers and organizes numerous drives. In the bottom photo, she pulled together her fellow Student Council members to assemble birthday party kits to donate.

“We moved to Connecticut in 2018 and have always been looking to get more involved in the community through volunteer work. United Way seemed like a fun way to do that and very easy to join.

We joined United Way because we recognize how lucky we have been the past few years despite all the challenges our community has faced, and wanted to give back. We want our community to thrive – Southeastern Connecticut has so much to offer.

The United Way Reading Day was our favorite event! It was so fun to go to elementary school classes and connect with the children.”

– Grisham and Samantha Bryan



Young Leaders Grisham and Samantha Bryan say their favorite United Way moment was volunteering on a Reading Day.



Dime Bank and its employees received our Chairman’s Award of Excellence in 2022. It’s the highest honor an organization can receive for their United Way engagement activities. Above left, President and CEO Nick Caplanson accepts the honor.



My United Way moment happens each year reviewing the financials of each LOCAL community organization supported by United Way. United Way is my “go to” place for donating time and money because it is all about giving and living locally.

– Johnna Taylor from Dime Bank, Chair, United Way Allocations Financial Review Panel

OUR LONG-TIME PARTNERSHIP WITH ORGANIZED LABOR



Machinists Union member Mike Shell at UCAN Union Counseling graduation.

Mike is one of the graduates of UCAN Union Counseling training which provides information about local programs and services that can help the counselors direct a coworker in need.

“I referred several coworkers to United Way over the last year since my UCAN training last summer, including one person who lost their job and was struggling to buy food for his family,” says Mike Shell from General Dynamics-Elctric Boat/Machinists Union - IAM Local Lodge 1871.

“Because of the training, I’ve also helped coworkers who were out on medical leave and were struggling to pay their household bills.”

Our other partnerships with Labor include the annual AFL-CIO Golf Tournament, Workers’ Memorial Service, and Stamp Out Hunger food drive.

Created from a deep well of compassion and generosity.



Three examples of how your United Way donation is working on Promoting Independence at Partner Programs from left to right: Donald from Martin House; Regina and her kids from Thames River Community Service; and Neil from TVCCA.



On Giving Tuesday in 2022, United Way focused fundraising efforts to benefit our Promoting Independence impact area.

Through direct mail, social media, email, and online giving, over \$30,000 was donated! Thank you to our generous community for stepping up to help individuals achieve financial stability.



#GIVINGTUESDAY

THE EYES AND EARS OF UNITED WAY DONORS



United Way Allocations Volunteers are the “eyes and ears” of United Way donors, ensuring that your contribution is wisely invested.

Volunteers review United Way Partner Programs, reading through funding applications, making site visits, asking pointed questions of agency staff, and engaging in discussions before making funding decisions.

Two of those Allocations Volunteers work at Pfizer. They share a desire to get better acquainted with their community and chose United Way Allocations as a means to do that.

“When I heard about this opportunity, I thought it was the perfect way to get a sense of what work’s being done in southeastern Connecticut,” says Aysha Afzal (top left). “I think the surprising part for me,” she continues, “Was seeing the Excel sheet [listing United Way Partner Programs and funding levels] and coming to the realization of just how much United Way feeds into the local non profit ecosystem.”



Kristin Rockwell (bottom left) agrees. “I was surprised by the level of detail and thought that goes into the Allocations process,” she notes. “Organizations being considered must present a strong case for where the money is going and show how they have used past funds. As a scientist, I appreciate data being used as part of the decision making.”

“I realized that to have greater impact I needed to better understand the needs of the agencies in my local community and have a better grasp of how the agencies are run,” Kristin says. “I had the chance to meet a lot of amazing people who do so much for the community!.”

Check presentations to our Partner Programs

United Way staff and volunteers took Allocations on the road in 2022 to make check presentations at all of our 22 Partner Agencies. Below from left to right are all programs in our impact area, Promoting Independence: The Arc Eastern Connecticut; Connecticut Legal Services; and Martin House.



“My United Way moment was definitely when we pulled up the Excel sheet that I finally started to grasp just how much of an impact United Way has in the area. That was the moment where I was like, ‘Oh, I should probably donate money to United Way as well.’” – Aysha Afzal

“I understand now how United Way does so much with so little! Allocations opened my eyes to all the unmet need in the community – it was a wonderful way to meet great people doing impactful work.” – Kristin Rockwell

To make it possible for individuals and families to achieve their full potential.



“Circle of Security groups helped me gain confidence as a parent. I never feel that I am good enough, but now I am starting to see that I can be exactly what my kids need.”

– A Circle of Security Participant

When parenting challenges become “shark music”

In Circle of Security–Parenting (COSP), parents learn to recognize when their responses to their children are being driven by “shark music” rather than their child’s behavior. The training provides a comprehensive curriculum to new parents to bring best practices and enriching bonding, safety, and development for the parents and newborns through eight-year-olds.

The goal is to make it easier to live with the discomfort and respond to a child’s needs in spite of it hearing that haunting music. Parents can provide comfort, validating the child’s feelings even though it may feel uncomfortable to do so.

United Way secured a grant through the Department of Children & Families to train 67 new instructors at thirteen organizations in COSP.

Safe Futures’ Katie Blair House, a United Way Partner Program, was one of the organizations. During groups led by the trained instructors, participants were able to reminisce on positive memories with their children, and be seen as valid caregivers, reigniting their sense of hope to build stronger relationships with their children.

“The training helped me provide a nonjudgmental space for parents to build their confidence in their ability to recognize and meet their children’s emotional needs. Circle of Security is structured in a way that allows the parent to express their journeys and learn from others,” says Tiffany Johnson, a Child and Family Advocate at Safe Futures.

“Circle of Security was really hard at times, especially when we talked about shark music,” noted another participant. “I grew up in a really unhealthy environment and I always thought that I would be a better parent. I felt like a failure, but now I’m really grateful to them [Safe Futures] for their support and seeing the program through.”



Safe Futures’ Tiffany Johnson, a trained Circle of Security instructor.



Community Wellness

We stand with our neighbors, especially those who are most vulnerable.

We are a resilient and equitable community that offers opportunities for everyone.

Increasing financial stability

Though many senior students have post-secondary plans upon graduation, many are at risk of being chronically unemployed or under-employed. These students often do not have the resources or support needed.

To ensure they are identified and have assistance, United Way hired a Job Developer to work with students at Norwich Free Academy (NFA) to fill a critical gap between graduation and employment. It is part of New Capacities: Norwich, an initiative aiming to increase the number of financially stable households to 66%.

The Job Developer, Johanna Irizarry (right), helps students understand the importance of graduating on time and staying on track. She identifies job opportunities that are full-time with a livable wage and career potential. Without this dedicated Job Developer, graduates could fall into ALICE or below the poverty line.

Here is a quick Q&A with Johanna about this exciting effort, the first of its kind for our United Way.

Why do you think this new role at NFA is so important?

The school has more than 2,000 students and with great diversity. My role not only supports students, but also supports counselors, multi-language teachers, and special education teachers. Having someone here at NFA help students identify their career goals is imperative to ensuring their success in gainful employment after high school.

What have you seen so far?

During my one-on-one or group meetings with students, I noticed that many of them are not aware of all the options available. I have seen frustrations regarding decision-making and lack of support at home. We have students, especially those involved in the Pipelines, who have a plan for after high school and know exactly what they want to do. However, we have many students who are undecided about their futures and need additional support.

What do you hope to accomplish this year and with the students?

My main goal is to help students identify their career goals and be able to place them in competitive employment. I would also like to continue supporting students with basic needs by referring them to different organizations. I will also continue supporting NFA with the different Pipeline programs they offer and the different events they have throughout the year such as College and Career Fairs and Dress for Success.



Some of Johanna's efforts include:

- Bringing employers to NFA's annual Career & College Expo. This has traditionally only been a college fair.
- Working with forty students across three pipeline programs to navigate the gap between graduation and employment.
- Working with sixty students referred by guidance counselors if they are not in a pipeline program and do not have a post-graduation plan.
- Arranging for employers to conduct informational sessions about job opportunities and conducting on-site interviews.



Promoting Independence

OUR STATEMENT ON EQUITY

UNITED WAY OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT REJECTS RACISM AND ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION

United Way of Southeastern Connecticut recognizes structural racism, ethnic discrimination and other forms of oppression have contributed to racial disparities that have existed in the past and persist in the present.

We unequivocally denounce racism and ethnic discrimination in all forms, and we remain committed to building a future of greater opportunity and true equity for all people living in New London County. We act by tackling the structural barriers to equity from past and present systemic racism that have impeded the health, safety, and wellbeing of traditionally marginalized people.

We commit to taking positive action to fight structural racism and ethnic discrimination by: eliminating structural barriers; holding ourselves and our community partners accountable; elevating community voices; engaging in further training to address our biases; and, practicing the change we seek to realize with a vision of a more equitable future for all.

United Way of Southeastern Connecticut will continue to work with residents across all communities to co-create solutions that ensure everyone has the resources, supports, opportunities and networks they need to thrive.

Specifically, UWSECT commits to the following actions:

- Elevate community voices by increasing the representation of all groups throughout all UWSECT activities and processes. This includes a commitment to recruit both board and staff that are representative of the community.
- Hold ourselves and UWSECT accountable by ensuring equitable outreach and representation throughout New London County.
- Ensure investments are with partners that meet the same standards and demonstrate they are performing to that standard through data collection.

Improving access to care

As part of our work in Community Wellness and the Eastern CT Health Collaborative, Mobile Health Hubs are an example of providing our community with more access by going to underserved areas. We are bringing much-needed health services, information, screenings, and resources directly to those who lack access to care.

"The Mobile Health Hub allowed TVCCA to partner with local agencies and interact with community members that did not know about the myriad of services we offer. Having the opportunity to work with healthcare agencies allowed us greater access to underserved populations and the ability to provide housing, basic needs, employment, and food – furthering our mission to serve and stabilize low-income and vulnerable households."

– Barbara Crouch, Senior Director Marketing & Development, TVCCA



Community Wellness

We can make it happen, together.

Local Giving Gardens bring fresh, nutritious produce to those in need

United Way is a beneficiary of Giving Gardens located throughout New London County. Three of them are: Coogan Farm at the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center; East Lyme Giving Garden; and Lyme/Old Lyme Food Share Garden. All of the farms are committed to organic, eco-friendly methods of growing, rely on the assistance of lots of volunteers, and provide educational programs throughout the year.

Coogan Farm is the longest-operating garden, and they have donated 124,432 pounds of produce to United Way since 2014. In East Lyme's inaugural season in 2021 (below, second from left), they donated more than 4,000 pounds and then doubled their garden's size in 2022. At Lyme/Old Lyme, the Food Share Garden 2,500 pounds was harvested.

All together, it means that delicious and nutritious produce is donated to the Food Center. Thanks to our Mobile Pantry program, we can quickly clean and package up the produce and distribute vegetables directly to those in need.

The farmers and volunteers, both at the gardens and in our warehouse and Mobile Pantry help make it all possible. Thank you for being part of the fight against hunger!



Basic Needs



"Our founding farmer, Craig Floyd (top right), long believed that the Giving Garden was capable of producing over 20,000 pounds of produce in one year by using regenerative gardening techniques. This past season, Craig and his incredibly dedicated team of volunteers not only reached, but exceeded that goal by several thousand pounds. [Nearly 9,000 pounds, in fact!]

We are so grateful for our volunteers and supporters who enabled us to serve the community with compassion through our Giving Garden. Acts such as these give us hope that we can have a positive impact on the Earth."

– Davnet Conway, Executive Director, Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center which oversees the Coogan Farm Giving Garden



But it takes intention and action.

Good things don't just happen. They're created together.

One action United with another multiplies.

Made in a moment when we choose to help.

Created from a deep well of compassion and generosity

To make it possible for individuals and families to achieve their full potential.

We stand with our neighbors, especially those who are most vulnerable.

We are a resilient, equitable community that offers opportunities for everyone.

We can make it happen, together. But it takes intention, and action.



And that's how a single moment creates a community where all people thrive and Live United.



Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,178,872
Investments	5,555,227
Pledges receivable	1,769,645
Land, building and equipment	1,889,362
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trust	143,461
Beneficial Interest in assets held by Community Foundation	168,638
TOTAL ASSETS	\$10,705,205

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	\$267,175
Donor directed allocations payable	171,468
TOTAL LIABILITIES	438,643
TOTAL NET ASSET	10,266,562
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$10,705,205

Condensed Combined Statement of Activities

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Public Support:

Annual United Way Campaign results	\$4,020,713
Amounts designated by donors for specific organizations	(187,707)
Allowance for uncollectibles	(123,000)
NET FROM ANNUAL CAMPAIGN	3,710,006

Other Public Support:

Contributions received for special fund raising & food donations	3,512,023
Grants	783,572
TOTAL OTHER PUBLIC SUPPORT	4,295,575

Other Revenue:

Interest & Investment income, administration fees and other revenue	(82,157)
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	(82,157)
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND OTHER REVENUE	\$7,923,444

DISTRIBUTIONS, ALLOCATIONS, AND EXPENSES

Program Services:

Allocations to agencies	2,035,837
Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center *	4,466,379
Other program services	1,121,060
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	7,623,276

Support Services:

Management and general	544,410
Fundraising	717,167
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	1,261,577

TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS, ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENSES

Change in net assets	(961,410)
Net assets, beginning of year	11,227,972
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$10,266,562

United Way's Finance Committee and Board of Directors regularly review financial policies and procedures. The Board and staff work to assure that administrative and fund-raising costs remain low and that maximum funds are provided to meet health and human service needs. United Way of Southeastern Connecticut is recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) to which donations qualify as tax deductible for income tax purposes. The information was derived from United Way's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2022. To request a complete copy of our audited financial statements, contact United Way's Finance Department at (860) 464-7281 or online at www.uwsect.org/financial-reports.

* The estimated value of food donated is derived from Feeding America's price per pound.

Our Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Board Chair

Marie-Claire Peakman, Pfizer Ventures

Immediate Past Chair

William Louis, MDA-UAW Local 571

Secretary

Nikki Gullickson, Community Volunteer

Treasurer

Ken Ewell, Community Volunteer

DIRECTORS

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Megan Gilbert, Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut

Jeff Hamilton, Mohegan Sun

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Christopher LaRose, Norwich Public Utilities

Melihna Marshall, Southeastern CT AFL-CIO

Anthony Mastroianni, Hartford Healthcare/Backus Hospital

Christine Meola, Yale New Haven Health/L+M Hospital

James Newman, General Dynamics-Electric Boat

Brian Orenstein, Charter Oak Federal Credit Union

Megan Roberts, General Dynamics-Electric Boat

Michele Scott, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

Susan Sedensky, Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center

Matthew Teicholz, Pratt & Whitney

Karen Walters, Pfizer Inc

Thank you to our Corporate Campaign Sponsors

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Doherty, Beals & Banks, PC
Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc.
Electric Boat
Faulkner & Graves, P.C.
Liberty Bank
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation/
Foxwoods Resort & Casino
Mohegan Sun
M&T Bank
Norwich Public Utilities
Pfizer Inc.
Raytheon Technologies
UAW Local 571 - Marine Draftsmen's Association
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Thank you to our other Corporate Supporters

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The Day
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First United Methodist Church
Holdridge Home & Garden
Marilyn J. Vache MC, LLC
Mystic Congregational Church
New London Rotary Club
Niantic Rotary Club
Reardon Agency, Inc.
TCORS Law Firm
Town Fair Tire
Wimpfheimer Foundation
Wireless Zone

Both lists are accurate as of the printing of this Annual Report.



**Thank you to ALL
of our Volunteers**

**In 2022, 650 volunteers provided 7,355
volunteer hours worked, an average of
about eleven hours per person.**



Ready to join others and make your moment?



**United Way of Southeastern Connecticut
283 Stoddards Wharf Road • Gales Ferry, CT 06335**

www.uwsect.org



**United Way
of Southeastern Connecticut**