

YOUNG LEADERS UNITED

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



UNITED WAY
Southeastern
Connecticut

VOL.
4

Welcome to the fourth edition of the YLU newsletter, highlighting the people, partnerships, and progress making a difference in our community.

Member Highlights



Congratulations to Ashley, Ed, Erica, and Evan on graduating the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT's [Leadership ECT Program](#).



A job well done to Geena and Aaron for being the emcees at this year's Community Celebration.

[View Awardees](#)

OCTOBER 2026

Young Leaders United is a network of people aged 21-40 in New London County who support United Way of Southeastern Connecticut's mission through fundraising, volunteering, and community leadership.

CHAIR MESSAGE:

We continue to see strong momentum within Young Leaders United. This quarter, we welcomed six new members, bringing our total membership to **71**. Thank you for your ongoing support. As we move into the fall and winter months, I encourage you to stay engaged and continue helping us strengthen our impact across Southeastern Connecticut.

With gratitude,
Aaron Austin
Steering Committee Chair

Volunteer Highlights



This summer and fall, Young Leaders United rolled up our sleeves to nourish our community and make a tangible difference across the region.

In July, **12 volunteers**, including family, familiar faces, and new Young Leaders, sorted frozen meats at the **Gemma E Moran United Way/Labor Food Center** for local distribution.

In August, **seven Young Leaders** joined **80 volunteers from General Dynamics Electric Boat** following the **C&S Food Show at Mohegan Sun Expo Center**, collecting an incredible **60,569 pounds of food** for the Food Center. That's the equivalent of 50,474 meals for the community!

Then in September, **seven Young Leaders** once again volunteered at the **Food Center**, sorting two pallets of donations from local retail stores. Together, these efforts turned a few hours of service into thousands of meals and meaningful community support.





COMMUNITY POLL



FOLLOW UNITED WAY'S SOCIAL MEDIA:

What Makes Southeastern Connecticut Feel Most Like Home?

THE PEOPLE

SCENERY

LOCAL BUSINESS

Your Camo profile name won't be shared



KEEP UP WITH ALL THINGS YOUNG LEADERS:



JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MEET JULIA



Julia Sanborn is the General Manager of Beauty & Essex at Mohegan Sun and joined Young Leaders United in March 2026. Looking to connect with other community-minded professionals, she was encouraged by peers who spoke highly of the group and its impact throughout the region. She believes United is the Way because it reminds us that **everyone deserves compassion and support**, including hardworking families facing financial challenges. Julia believes in **helping your neighbors without judgment** and **understanding that you never know what someone may be going through**.

This year, she helped bring a new fundraiser to the affinity group: the **Young Leaders United Softball Tournament** benefiting Project Warm-Up. She enjoyed introducing a different kind of **community-driven event**, one that encouraged participation beyond monetary donations. Seeing sponsors, volunteers, and community partners quickly rally around the cause was especially rewarding, and she looks forward to building on those new and strengthened relationships in the future.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Raising the bar on success!



The head start on our new fundraising tally was kicked off thanks to a Dine & Donate hosted at **Taquerio** and Community Cuts at **Adrian Vega Hair Co.** This work wouldn't be possible without our generous partners!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **YLU Softball Tournament**
 - 10/4 (Rain Date: 10/18)
 - Various Volunteer Shifts Available
 - Supports Project Warm-Up
- **Little Caesars Pizza Kit Fundraiser**
 - Now through 10/9
 - \$7 Per Kit Benefits Youth Opportunity Impact Area
- **YLU Food Sort at Food Center**
 - 12/3 @ 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
- **CLICK HERE** for other volunteer opportunities with United Way

Email **Elke** for event flyers or questions!



SEE THE LATEST NEWS FROM UWSECT