

UNITE COMMUNITIES to CHANGE LIVES

2022 CASE FOR INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY



United Way of Western Connecticut

## **United in Our Love for Community.**

We're proud to be part of this community. We know you are too.

Whether you're in downtown Stamford, in the suburbs of Greater Danbury, or in the beautiful hills and farms of Greater New Milford — this region has a way of making you feel good.

- Top 300 Fastest Growing Economies (Stamford) WalletHub
- Top 100 Cities to Raise a Family in America (Stamford) Niche
- Top 100 Best Places to Live (Danbury) Livability
- Top 100 Safest Cities in U.S. (New Milford) Neighborhoodscout.com

We proudly serve the following 15 communities: Bethel • Bridgewater • Brookfield • Danbury • Kent • New Fairfield Newtown • New Milford • Redding • Ridgefield • Roxbury • Sherman • Stamford • Warren • Washington

## Caring people live here.

This community is full of people who give their time, talent, voice, and financial support to causes they're most passionate about.

### **\$101**

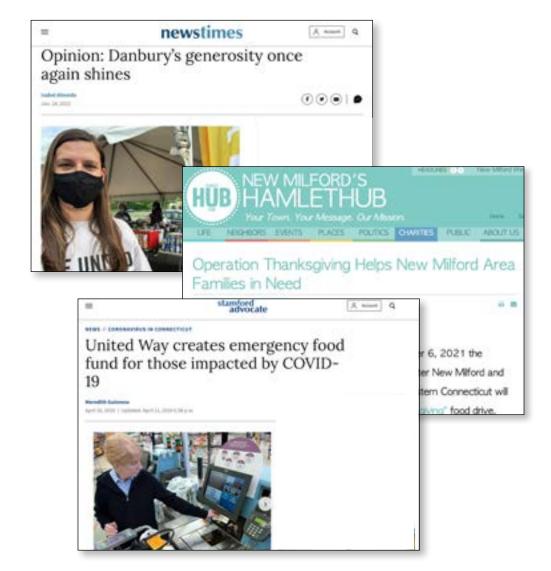
raised during last year's United Way community campaign

2,800

people donated to last year's United Way community campaign

815+

hours logged last year in the midst of COVID-19 by United Way volunteers in the community.



## We're Your Corporate Social Responsibility Partner.

We know that socially responsible and purpose driven companies attract better talent, yield higher revenue, improve employee engagement, and have more positive brand recognition. As a United Way corporate partner, your company and employees benefit from deep community engagement, broad visibility, and measurable impact. We can help you achieve your Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and employee satisfaction goals by working with you to customize a partnership that fits with your corporate culture and meets your needs.

#### **CSR Consultatation and Services**

Let United Way provide CSR support – to help you define and achieve your CSR and employee engagement goals. We can help develop your CSR vision, manage internal email marketing, develop custom campaigns tied to your CSR goals, launch disaster relief efforts with ease, execute custom volunteer opportunities for your employees, and report back on your progress.

#### Workplace Giving

Offer your employees meaningful and easy ways to donate to United Way and their preferred nonprofit organizations, either through a one-time gift or payroll giving.

#### Volunteerism

Through events—in-person and virtual—United Way makes it easy for company employees to volunteer and be vital contributors to the life of the community. See more on page 4.

#### Corporate Sponsorship

Gain visibility and reinforce your reputation as a purpose driven company through a United Way sponsorship. We can customize sponsorships to align with your marketing priorities and investment goals. See more on page 5.

#### Prosperi-Key Business Partnerships

Prosperi-Key is a national software platform that partners with local United Ways to connect hard working individuals with targeted support, services, and discounts from nonprofits, businesses, and government. Join a group of socially conscious brands making a difference for hard working households living paycheck to paycheck. See more on



## Community Investment is important to your employees.

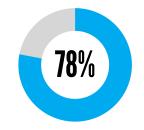
The last two years have reshaped employee expectations. Employees are keenly aware of how companies respond to global health crisis and the social justice movement. Moments like the pandemic have caused employees to care more about how their company acts. Companies that embrace and cultivate this desire see the benefits.



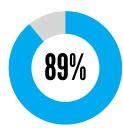
of employees who work at companies with a strong sense of purpose say they're more inspired, motivated, and loyal.



of employees say companysponsored volunteer activities are essential to employee well-being.



of employees say it's important to work for a company that gives back to the community.



of employees believe that companies who sponsor volunteer activities offer a better overall working environment than those who do not.

Sources: Doing Good is Good for You United Healthcare & Volunteer Match Study, Porter Novelli Employee Perspectives on Responsible Leadership During Crisis; 2017 Deloitte Volunteer IMPACT Survey

## **Volunteer Opportunities in 2022**

We provide your employees with opportunities to volunteer in the community so that they can stay connected to the area where they live, work, and play. To ensure that volunteers can continue to support our communities, **United Way of Western Connecticut** is providing in-person and virtual volunteer opportunities throughout the upcoming year. Below are examples of opportunities we have offered in years prior. A full calendar of 2022-2023 opportunities is available upon request.

#### **Food Distribution**

Help distribute food and meals to families in Danbury and New Milford at the holidays.

#### **Virtual Community Baby Shower**

Organize a drive and help collect goods to provide essential baby items to expecting mothers. Items include diapers, wipes, formula, onesies, and more.

#### **Day of Action**

Participate in our largest single day of volunteerism by forming a team and completing a service project to help our neighbors and strengthen our nonprofit community.

#### **Read Aloud**

Foster a child's love of reading and promote child literacy to encourage life-long learning by reading a book to a child – in-person or from the comfort of your home, depending on school rules and your preference.

#### **Outdoor Volunteering**

Stay safe and participate in outdoor volunteer opportunities like community gardening, park cleanups, literacy kit assembly, and more. We know that COVID-19 and social distancing requirements have made on-site volunteering challenging, but we've still been able to develop COVID safe opportunities for volunteers and will continue to do so as long as necessary.







## Become a Sponsor. Be Visible in the Community Year Round.

#### **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP**

We are proud to partner with more than two dozen businesses committed to our Western CT community. Our corporate partners contribute more than money—they contribute volunteer power, in-kind support, and a deep commitment to building a stronger, more vibrant community. Through a single annual donation, sponsors gain valuable advertisement, custom employee volunteer opportunities and events.

#### THE ADVANTAGES

**BENEFIT** from year-round local visibility.

**INCREASE** your brand exposure and elevate your corporate identity in the community by linking your brand with United Way, one of the most recognized and respected non-profit brands in the country.

**REINFORCE** your company's reputation as a good corporate citizen to your customers, employees and residents.

**EXPERIENCE** the guaranteed reach of local marketing exposure and benefit from the positive image of supporting United Way.

#### **RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT** as

tangible impressions and measured media value far exceed the cost of sponsorship.

	CHARTER OAK \$20,000	NUTMEG \$15,000	DIAMOND \$10,000	PLATINUM \$7,500	GOLD \$5,000	SILVER \$3,500	BRONZE \$1,500
DAY OF ACTION* (TEAM & LOGO)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
ACCESS TO QUARTERLY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES *	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
KING OF THE HILL 5K* (RUNNERS & LOGO)	6	6	4	4	2	2	
RECOGNITION AT EVENTS* (LOGO)	•	•	•	•			
RECOGNITION AT EVENTS* (NAME ONLY)					•	•	•
ANNUAL REPORT (LOGO)	•	•	•	•			
ANNUAL REPORT (NAME ONLY)					•	•	•
WEBSITE (LOGO)	•	•	•	•			
WEBSITE (NAME ONLY)					•	•	•
E-NEWSLETTERS ** (LOGO)	•	•	•	•			
E-NEWSLETTERS ** (NAME ONLY)					•	•	•
SOCIAL MEDIA RECOGNITION	•	•	•	•	•	•	•



SCALE THE IMPACT OF YOUR UNITED WAY SPONSORSHIP AND GAIN ADDITIONAL VISIBILITY ON PROSPERI-KEY. LEARN MORE ON PAGE 6.

United Way Corporate Sponsorships run from June 1, 2022-May 31, 2023. To learn more about becoming a corporate partner, contact Tessa Coyne at tessa.coyne@uwwesternct.org or 203-883-6712.

\*Note: Due to COVID-19, 2022-2023 volunteer events may be in-person or virtual.

\*\*Email newsletters are sent at minimum of 12x per year.

4

## 2022-2023 Community Engagement Calendar





#### **JUNE**

#### **Day of Action**

#### Wednesday, June 8 | Northern Fairfield & Southern Litchfield County

#### Tuesday, June 14 | Stamford

United Way's Day of Action is an annual event that mobilizes thousands of volunteers to make a meaningful impact in more than 400 communities around the world. Day of Action volunteers from area companies are engaged in outdoor projects with community-based non-profits which touch and add value to lives of ALICE households.



#### **AUGUST**

#### **Back to School**

Rally together to donate backpacks filled with school supplies and toiletries, allowing children to be fully prepared with all the materials they need to start the school year with confidence. The program addresses a real financial concern for ALICE families and provides a little extra breathing room in their household budgets at the start of the school year.



#### **SEPTEMBER 8, 2022**

#### King of the Hill 5K Road Race (Danbury)

Join us in-person for our annual 5K race—a local favorite with corporate teams and individual runners. Run, walk, or stroll in this certified 5K course throughout the scenic Berkshire Corporate Park in Danbury. Enjoy a post-race celebration of food, music, and awards.



#### **LUNCH & LEARN SERIES**

Make the most of your lunch break with our quarterly Lunch & Learn series. In less than an hour, become more familiar with an array of topics geared towards corporate social responsibility, volunteerism, employee benefits, and United Way's programs.



#### **NOVEMBER**

#### **Veterans Day of Service**

Organizations and homeless shelters in our community work to rapidly re-house low-income veterans and their families, but often they move into their new homes without personal belongings and supplies. Help us collect and sort the most needed items for these families to ensure a comfortable transition into their new homes.



#### **Operation Thanksgiving** (New Milford)

Collect non-perishable food and monetary donations so that families in need of extra support can have all the ingredients for a complete Thanksgiving meal. Volunteer on the New Milford Bandstand for this event in partnership with the New Milford Women's Club.

#### **Pay It Forward Thanksgiving Meal Distribution**

Distribute Thanksgiving meals to families in need through partnerships with some of our favorite local restaurants.



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#### **DECEMBER**

#### **Holiday Winter Clothing Drive**

Collect winter clothing like hats, gloves, socks, and coats to help keep children and families warm during the coldest months.

#### Pay It Forward Holiday Meal & Toy Distribution

Help to distribute Holiday meals and toys to families in need through partnerships with some of our favorite local restaurants.



#### JANUARY/FEBRUARY

#### **MLK Day Literacy Kits**

Assemble literacy kits to benefit elementary aged students and help instill a love of reading in children across Western Connecticut. The literacy kits will include an age-appropriate Martin Luther King, Jr. book and activities with a focus on Black History Month designed to make reading interactive and enjoyable for young readers.



#### **MARCH**

#### **Read Across America**

Celebrate Read Across America Day by reading (in person or virtual) to elementary-aged children across Western Connecticut.



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#### **MAY**

#### **Community Baby Shower**

Support our youngest community members through a Community Baby Shower. Help provide essential baby items—diapers, wipes, lotion, shampoo, onesies, socks, etc.—to families at risk.



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## A New Opportunity to Do Well While Doing Good.



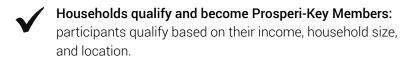


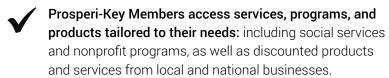
United Way of Western Connecticut

Prosperi-Key is a national software platform that partners with local United Ways to connect hard working individuals called **ALICE®** (**A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed) with targeted support, services, and discounts from nonprofits, businesses, and government. **Join a group of socially conscious brands making a difference for hard working households living paycheck to paycheck.** 

#### We're changing the way we help ALICE.

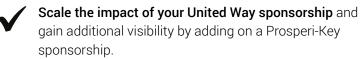
#### How it Works:





#### What This Means for

Sponsors are visible to Prosperi-Key Members, participating businesses and nonprofits, donors, investors, and more.





#### Sponsorship

#### **HOME PAGE**

#### Local United Way Hub Sponsorship

Offers a partnership with your local United Way. Be visible to everyone from your local United Way footprint who visits Prosperi-Key.

#### **CATEGORY PAGE**

#### Local United Way Hub Sponsorship

Be visible to everyone from your local United Way footprint who looks at offers on a category page, including Health, Finance, Food Careers, Employment, and more.



Learn more at www.prosperikey.org
For more information, contact Tessa Coyne at tessa.coyne@uwwesternct.org or 203-883-6712.

## **2021 Corporate Sponsors**

#### **CHARTER OAK SPONSORS**





**NUTMEG SPONSORS** 

#### **DIAMOND SPONSORS**





**PLATINUM SPONSORS** 







**GOLD SPONSORS:** Fairfield County Bank

Linde

Wofsey, Rosen, Kweskin & Kuriansky

**SILVER SPONSORS:** Belimo

Branson Eversource

uBreakiFix by Asurion

**BRONZE SPONSORS:** Bailey & Beatty Financial Services

Franklin Templeton

Kimberly-Clark Corporation

Rain Carbon Inc.

TastyBite



"Union Savings Bank's unwavering passion is to give back to the communities we serve. The commitment and dedication the Bank and our employees provide through volunteerism and charitable contributions truly makes a difference in the neighborhoods where we live, work and play. We are proud to partner with United Way on many of our commitments to the local community."

Cynthia Merkle President and CEO, Union Savings Bank Former Board Chair, United Way of Western Connecticut



## **Too Many People Are Struggling.**

While we are a strong and prosperous area, we are also home to great need.

United Way is committed to making a difference in the lives of households that live paycheck-to-paycheck and struggle to make ends meet, a group that we call **ALICE®** (**A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed). These households earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for our area. Combined, the number of ALICE and poverty-level households in our region is nearly 52,000. That's 38% of our local population in Western Connecticut.

A recent analysis of national COVID-19 surveys by United For ALICE\* confirmed what we already suspected. Hardworking, lower-income ALICE families fared significantly worse during the pandemic than higher income households—financially, physically, and emotionally.

#### Consider this:

- 41% reported that "sometimes" or "often" their children were not eating enough because the household couldn't afford food.
- 71% reported that they were concerned about paying housing expenses.
- 50% were concerned about paying off debts.
- 41% were concerned about losing their job.

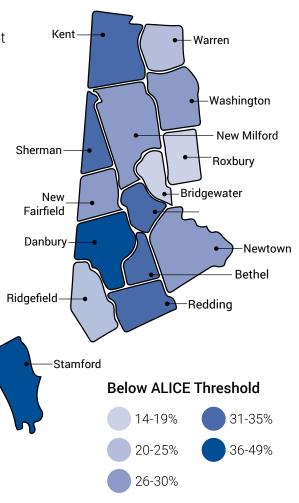
## Together, we can do what no one person or one organization can do alone.

As great as this region is, we will never be our very best as long as so many around us struggle daily. We have to do something. We have to find solutions together and scale them.



"We all have people in our lives that we love and care about who fit the ALICE profile. That's why we fight so hard, because they matter."

Kim Morgan CEO United Way of Western Connecticut



## **United in a Shared Purpose - Helping ALICE Prosper.**

### By Leading

#### **Ensure Children Have An Opportunity to Succeed**

- More than **1,200** children received more affordable child care and after-school care, helping to put them on a path to success.
- More than 1,300 children received scholarships to participate in activities like sports, arts, music, and STEM programs through the ALICE Enrichment Fund.
- More than 5,000 Stamford children benefit from Stamford Cradle to Career early childhood development, early literacy, and food security initiatives since the launch of the initiative in 2016.

#### **Reduce Food Insecurity**

- Since its launch in 2019, more than **860** families have received free, fresh produce by enrolling in Healthy Savings. A total of **\$148,000** in free produce has been distributed.
- More than 244,000 pounds of food was distributed to 12,000 individuals in greater Danbury from August-October 2021.

#### Strengthen Financial Stability

- More than 1,300 individuals have increased their financial stability through one-on-one budget coaching and financial workshops.
- More than 1,800 individuals were able to get their taxes done for free, obtaining more than \$2M in tax refunds.
- More than **500** people enrolled in ALICE Saves to help build their personal savings.

#### **Connect People with Urgently Needed Services**

• **52,000** calls were made from Western CT residents to 2-1-1, United Way's 24/7 help line.

## **By Partnering**

#### **To Improve Our Communities**

We partner with companies, government, nonprofits, and school systems, serving as a community catalyst, objective convener, strategic investor, and champion for many projects and initiatives. We also serve as the backbone organization for several large-scale collective impact and collaborative initiatives in our region, including:

#### **Stamford Cradle to Career**

United Way is the backbone organization for Stamford Cradle to Career (SC2C), a collective impact initiative which aligns more than 60 partners around the goal of ensuring equity and excellence in education for every child in Stamford.

#### Stamford and Danbury Food Collaboratives

These collaboratives bring together food pantries, nonprofits, and grocery stores to increase their capacity to provide healthy food to residents in need. During the pandemic, our coordination of these groups made it easier for food pantries to respond to the overwhelming demand they faced by families that found themselves suddenly without jobs or that lost wages.





# Kathryn and Her Son Lead a Fulfilling Life With Support from United Way of Western Connecticut



Kathryn, a Bethel resident, lives with her nine-year-old son, Don, who is diagnosed with autism and ADHD. For their family, everyday life can be a challenge, but with the help of a fully trained Autism service dog and community support, Kathryn and Don lead a fulfilling life.

With the help of United Way of Western Connecticut's ALICE Enrichment Fund, Don participated in special needs Tae Kwon Do and took swimming lessons, through a program called Angelfish. Thanks to Angelfish, he now knows how to be safe in and around the pool and can even swim independently in the deep end.

#### "These programs have really enriched his life in a big way," Kathryn said.

During the pandemic, the family was under immense stress. As Kathryn says, "panic was times 10." She made the conscious decision to keep Don at home for his safety and the safety of school staff. She knew he would not be able to wear a mask successfully. She was working at home as an editor for three scientific journals, but "when you have a special needs child, how do you do a zoom meeting?" Their routine was completely upended—and as anyone who has a child with special needs knows, routines are essential.

Last year, Don inexplicably and abruptly lost his health insurance, and Kathryn was faced with the impossible task of having to pay out of pocket for his Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapist. With the help of the United Way's 2020 Giving Fund, she could continue these services until the insurance was reinstated. Last Thanksgiving and Christmas, she and Don also enjoyed delicious holiday meals through the Amber Room / United Way Holiday Pay It Forward Campaign.

Today, Don attends a school in Trumbull operated by Cooperative Educational Services, and Kathryn has a new job as a church secretary. After a difficult year, things are looking up for the Kathryn and her family.

"Thank you to United Way for creating wholesome and full memories for our family, during an otherwise difficult time."



## LIVE UNITED

#### **Greater Danbury**

301 Main Street, Suite 2-5 Danbury, CT 06810 203.792.5330

#### Stamford

1150 Summer Street Stamford, CT 06905 203.348.7711

#### **Greater New Milford**

24 Bank Street, PO Box 29 New Milford, CT 06776 860.354.8800

#### INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED or LEARNING MORE?

Contact Ashley Gaudiano at ashley.gaudiano@uwwesternct.org 203-297-6726

#### Get or Give Help with United Way 2-1-1

Need help or know someone who does? Dial 2-1-1 to speak to a trained professional who can connect you to essential community services Or visit 211ct.org.

#### www.uwwesternct.org













#### **Charity Navigator**

United Way of Western Connecticut has achieved the top 4-star charity rating by Charity Navigator indicating that we adhere to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently execute our mission in a fiscally responsible way.



#### **GuideStar**

United Way of Western Connecticut is committed to transparency and consistently receives the highest Platinum Level Seal of Transparency from GuideStar.



**United Way** of Western Connecticut