



United Way of  
Westchester and Putnam

# UNITED WAY OF WESTCHESTER AND PUTNAM

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**

# THANK YOU

At the United Way, we believe **WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER**, and it is only by being **UNITED** that we can change the world for the better.

Our team was amazed by the support thousands of individuals, businesses, and government agencies provided in 2021.

Last year, we were privileged to work with **358 community partners**, nonprofit organizations, schools, and government agencies.

And our team continues to be resolute in our commitment to the 40 percent of Westchester and Putnam's families living in poverty or paycheck to paycheck (what we call ALICE – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). These are often hardworking families struggling to make ends meet and provide a better life for their children. But for these families, when funds run short, they are forced to make impossible choices between childcare or paying the rent... filling a prescription, or fixing a car. They are our preschool teachers, home health aides, security guards, and retail salespeople – workers essential to keeping our community and economy humming, yet who struggle to pay their basic bills.

Our United Way continues to be part of the vanguard supporting our neighbors in need, especially as the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic lingers. We help our community by mobilizing strategic partnerships and leveraging resources to create a more equitable society by advancing education, financial stability, and health initiatives.

Thanks to the generosity of so many of our friends last year, we were honored to:

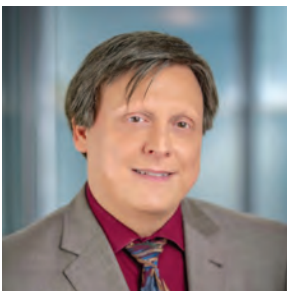
- Donate more than **\$6.2 million in essential goods** to meet the basic needs of the people we serve;
- Provide **270,000 referrals** around basic human needs through our 211 Helpline Contact Center;
- Deliver more than **790,000 lbs of groceries** for free to thousands of hungry families;
- Administer more than **\$700,000 in grants** to 68 local nonprofits;
- And so much more.

We invested and leveraged **\$24,444,787** in the Westchester and Putnam communities.

For whatever role you played in supporting our efforts to help our neighbors, **THANK YOU!**

So, as you read this Annual Report to the community, we encourage you to get more involved. Whether you contribute, volunteer, help us raise money at a future event, share our content on social media, or simply tell a friend or two about the important work that we're doing, you will be helping us to make a difference right here in the communities where we live and work.

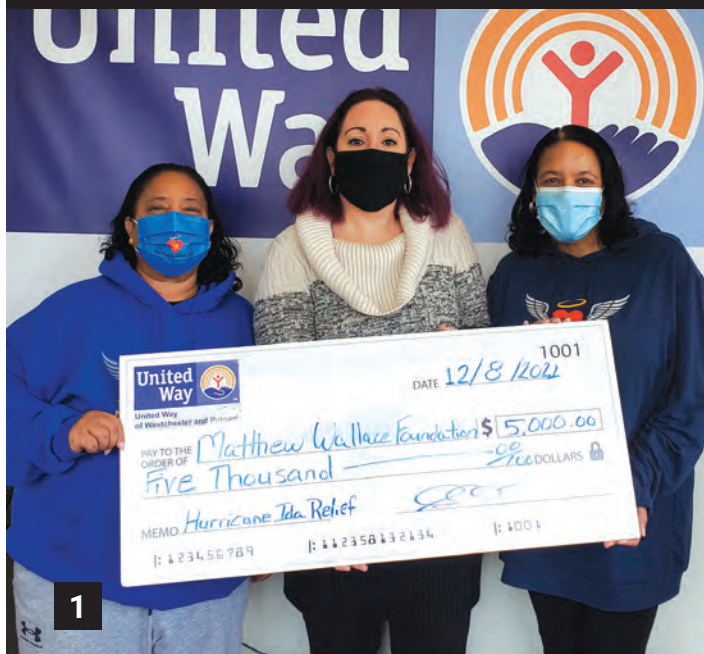
Sincerely,



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Tom Gabriel  
President and CEO

# UNITED WAY GRANTS \$6.9 MILLION IN FUNDS AND GOODS IN 2021



1. Chief Impact Officer Faith Ann Butcher (center) presents Jeni Wallace (left) and Hailey Wallace (right) with a grant to support the Michael Wallace Foundation's efforts to help flooding victims. 2. Director of Community Impact Avery Zuvic (left) organized a donation of bedding and linens from Brooklinen to go to domestic violence organizations, such as Hope's Door (Barbara Turk of Hope's Door pictured).

United Way of Westchester and Putnam (UWWP) collectively awarded **\$6.9 million in grants to 160 local nonprofits in 2021**. The grants awarded funds and essential goods to support the work of the purpose-driven organizations. United Way administered \$700,000 in funding through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program and grants for COVID-19 recovery, flooding response, and capacity building. It also distributed \$6.2 million worth of face masks, bedding, heaters, clothing, and more.

"The health and economic crises created by the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent flooding from Hurricane Ida disproportionately affected the marginalized members of our society," said Faith Ann Butcher, chief impact officer at UWWP. "The nonprofit sector works tirelessly to respond to community needs, and our United Way is committed to supporting their efforts."

In 2021, UWWP granted **Human Development Services of Westchester** of Mamaroneck \$15,000 in funds and \$48,560 worth of goods.

"United Way has been an incredible partner throughout the pandemic," said Kathy Pandekakes, CEO of Human Development Services of Westchester. "It has helped us cover the additional expenses for our food pantry and related pandemic supplies. Plus, United Way's Essential Goods program has also been an incredible resource, specifically the Bombas sock donation, and the blankets, pillows, and slippers we received."

The **Michael Wallace Foundation** in Yonkers received \$5,000 in funding and over \$20,000 in essential goods from UWWP in 2021. "The support from United Way of Westchester and Putnam has helped us provide aid to underserved populations," said Jeni Wallace, executive director of the Michael Wallace Foundation.

The **Emergency Food and Shelter Program** is a federally funded program administered by United Way that the government created in 1983 to supplement and expand local social service agencies, both nonprofit and governmental, to help people with economic emergencies.

United Way of Westchester and Putnam made the COVID-19 recovery and flooding response grants through its **Westchester and Putnam Community Disaster Recovery Fund**, a collection of different funds administered by United Way of Westchester and Putnam to provide direct disaster recovery assistance to local nonprofits affected by colossal natural and man-made disasters.

United Way's **Essential Goods for Basic Needs Program** increases community capacity by connecting its network of retail and manufacturing donors with its nonprofit partners to deliver essential goods to families in need.

United Way supports the capacity-building efforts of the nonprofit sector because we believe that together we can improve the lives of those in need more than any particular organization by itself.

# UWWP AND 211 PROVIDE SUPPORT, OUTREACH, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR COVID VACCINATIONS



*In 2021, United Way of Westchester and Putnam awarded Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center funds to provide gift card incentives to vaccine recipients after completing the necessary series of shots. Pictured: Judith Watson, CEO of Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center, and Tom Gabriel, president and CEO of UWWP.*

To support health equity in distributing COVID vaccinations, United Way of Westchester and Putnam gave grants, provided outreach, and organized free transportation to vaccination appointments.

UWWP awarded grants to **Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center** and **Open Door Family Medical Center** to promote and offer incentives to their patients to get vaccinated. Both organizations run multiple health centers that serve economically disadvantaged communities.

“Our partnership with United Way has been incredible,” said Judith Watson, Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center CEO. “We appreciate United Way helping us get people vaccinated by you offering rides and financially supporting our outreach efforts.”

Using **Lyft**, UWWP organized over 520 free rides to individuals needing transportation to vaccine appointments.

UWWP also teamed up with the **Westchester Medical Center Health Network** (WMCHealth) to use **United Way's 211 Helpline** to distribute information about the COVID-19 vaccine to residents in the Hudson Valley.

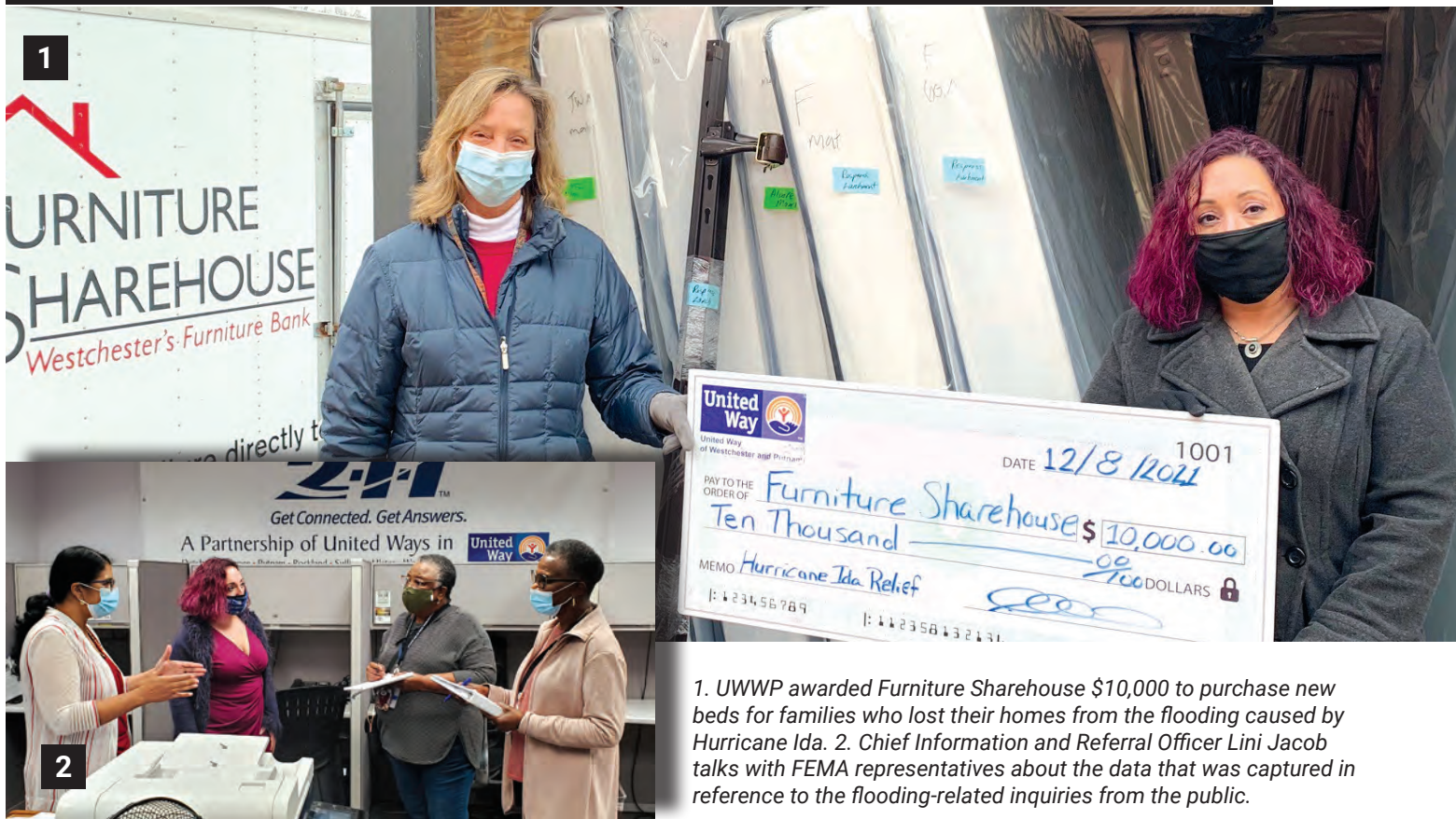
“WMCHealth and our Health Equity Task Force are committed to making sure that COVID-19 vaccine information is distributed equitably and inclusively,” said Michael D. Israel, president and CEO of WMCHealth. “Partnering with United Way's 211 Helpline allowed us to reach thousands of individuals in their primary language.”

Through this partnership, WMCHealth and the Health Equity Task Force provided the 211 community resource specialists with FAQs about vaccine basics and scripts to use when people ask about vaccinations, which were updated as the 211/United Way team gathered feedback and data. The resource center generated regular reports on metrics and the types of COVID-related questions it receives, which helped WMCHealth create new information and materials.

Our 211 Helpline received tens of thousands of COVID vaccine-related inquiries.

Additionally, 211 sent out text messages throughout the Hudson Valley about the COVID-19 vaccine, including a link to a directory of locations receiving vaccine supply, with information about who is eligible at these locations and how to register.

# UNITED WAY SUPPORTS HURRICANE IDA FLOODING VICTIMS



1. UWWP awarded Furniture Sharehouse \$10,000 to purchase new beds for families who lost their homes from the flooding caused by Hurricane Ida. 2. Chief Information and Referral Officer Lini Jacob talks with FEMA representatives about the data that was captured in reference to the flooding-related inquiries from the public.

Thousands of homes were damaged or destroyed by the flooding caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida in Westchester County on September 1. United Way of Westchester and Putnam (UWWP) supported the organizations which were helping survivors recover and, in many instances, restart their lives. It provided grants and essential goods, answered inquiries and gathered information through its [211 Helpline](#), and worked with the [Westchester COAD](#) (Community Organizations in Active Disaster) and [FEMA](#) representatives to ensure that the needs of those affected were being met.

UWWP awarded 10 nonprofits grants totaling \$50,000 collectively to aid in the crisis response efforts through the [United Way of Westchester and Putnam Community Disaster Recovery Fund](#). The grants were awarded to nonprofits providing emergency relief to underprivileged, marginalized, or ALICE (those who are employed but are living paycheck-to-paycheck) populations impacted or displaced by the flooding caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida in Westchester County.

"When thousands of families were displaced in communities such as Port Chester, Mamaroneck, Mt. Vernon, and Yonkers, several nonprofits rose to the challenge," said United Way of Westchester and Putnam President and CEO Tom Gabriel. "That's why we're honored to award these grants to

nonprofits that directly supported our neighbors impacted by this most recent crisis."

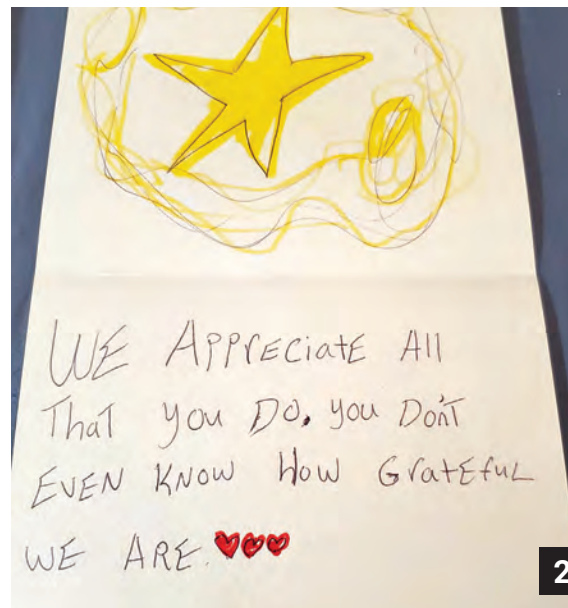
UWWP granted [Furniture Sharehouse](#) \$10,000, which was leveraged with other funds, to purchase 500 new beds for families who lost their belongings in the flooding. UWWP also arranged for Furniture Sharehouse to receive new pillows through [Afya Foundation](#) to go with some of the beds.

"We are so grateful for our partnership with UWWP, which gives us access to donations of large quantities of items that our clients need to furnish their apartments and add the comforts of home," said Kate Bialo, executive director of Furniture Sharehouse.

UWWP also secured electric fireplaces for families whose homes were without heat because the flooding had damaged the furnaces.

The United Way of Westchester and Putnam Community Disaster Recovery Fund, a collection of different funds administered by United Way of Westchester and Putnam, provides direct disaster recovery assistance to local nonprofits affected by colossal natural and man-made disasters. [Wells Fargo](#) and [Hudson Valley Credit Union](#) also provided funds toward the grants.

# 30,000 DELIVERIES COMPLETED IN 2021 USING RIDE UNITED LAST MILE DELIVERY PROGRAM



1. Anya Di Salvo, pantry manager at HOPE Community Services in New Rochelle, helps a DoorDash driver load his vehicle. 2. A handmade thank you note sent to UWWP by a Ride United Last Mile Delivery client.

United Way of Westchester and Putnam's **Ride United Last Mile Delivery** (RULMD) initiative completed more than 30,000 deliveries of meals, food boxes, and household supplies to vulnerable populations throughout Westchester and Putnam counties in 2021 using **DoorDash**. The RULMD program is part of United Way's national efforts to close the transportation gap for those in need. The program launched locally in July 2020 in response to the COVID-19 crisis to deliver food and essential goods to vulnerable populations across the U.S.

United Way Worldwide's partnership with DoorDash, and generous funding from donors including **The Rockefeller Foundation** and **Safeway Stores' Nourishing Neighbors** program enables the delivery services of food boxes from local food banks or food pantries and other items in need to older adults, low-income families, and those who can't or have challenges leaving home.

"The last mile represents the final hurdle in getting food or other needed items to people who lack transportation and are experiencing food insecurity, or lack access to other resources," said Tom Gabriel, CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam. "United Way convenes local agencies, food banks, and school districts to identify available food and other essential goods for people who can't travel, and arranges for deliveries by DoorDash 'Dashers.' Solving problems sustainably takes partnership,

and by working together, we can make sure every person gets the support they need in this challenging time."

In 2021, three school districts utilized the RULMD program to help reach students learning in a virtual classroom. The **Mahopac and Croton-Harmon School Districts** used DoorDash to deliver lunches to the students' homes to ensure that no child went hungry. The **Ossining School District** partnered with UWWP to provide schoolwork to the children's homes.

**HOPE Community Services** in New Rochelle and the **City of Mount Vernon** use the RULMD program to feed seniors.

UWWP partners with **Feeding Westchester** to organize the **Westchester Backpack Program**, which uses RULMD to deliver supplemental fresh produce and packaged food to 500 low-income families of school-aged children weekly. **The Boys and Girls Club of Mount Vernon**, the **Elmsford School District**, and the Ossining School District are distribution hubs where DoorDash picks up the food parcels provided by Feeding Westchester.

"Having the food delivered to my home is helpful because it is hard for me to get out," said Marilyn of Mount Vernon who has two school-aged children. "Thank you so much for providing this service."

# UWWP PROVIDES STUDENT SUPPORT AND SUMMER LEARNING



1. Peekskill's Parent, Family and Community Liaison Maria Olivier-Flores (far right) with a team of volunteers who assembled food and activity packages to be delivered to students' homes. 2. These children just received their new backpacks at the Ossining RISES event. 3. Ossining students pick out books to bring home for their summer reading.

Maria of Yonkers is a single mother with three school-aged children. She was not looking forward to the school summer break. Maria could not take time off from work, and she could not afford to send her children to summer camp. She knew her children would have to remain home all summer and that her food bill would increase because the children participate in the free lunch program during the school year.

United Way of Westchester and Putnam organized the **Summer Backpack Program** to aid families such as Maria's. The collaboration-styled program teamed the organization with **Feeding Westchester, the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, DoorDash**, and other local partners to deliver weekly parcels of food, books, and activities to their homes throughout Westchester and Putnam. The Summer Backpack Program allowed the families to have access to healthy foods and the children to receive new books and tangible crafts and games to engage with for free. On the final week of the program, **over 1,300 students received backpacks filled with school supplies**, to help them get ready to start the new school year.

"My family and I cannot thank you enough," said Maria. "In these hard times, this program came to our life as a blessing, not only for the food but also for the educational tools that will be useful for this upcoming school year."

Rosa of Peekskill agreed. "I loved the program because it made it possible to provide fresh fruit and vegetables to my household. Also, the books kept my son actively reading, and the crafts and activities kept him busy."

The Summer Backpack Program is a component of UWWP's **Education United** initiative, providing equity to students from disadvantaged communities by offering support services and resources to help them achieve academic success. Through Education United, UWWP provided **an additional 2,000 backpacks with school supplies to children and teens** in Westchester and Putnam. It also distributed **over 15,000 books to students in the Ossining and Yonkers School Districts**.

Funding for the program was provided by the **Louis D Srybnik Foundation**, the **FORE Foundation**, **Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts**, **MVP Health Care**, and the **Town of Philipstown**. **Feeding Westchester** and the **Food Bank of the Hudson Valley** provided the food. In addition, **Costco** and **Fidelis** supplied some of the backpacks.

Other partners in the Education United program are **Alexander Hamilton High School, The ARC Westchester, Boys and Girls Club of Mount Vernon, Lake Mahopac Rotary Club, Mount Vernon Public Library, the Nicholas Center, Ossining High School, Peekskill's Parent Resource Center, St. John the Evangelist Parish of Mahopac, and the 4H Club**.

# UWWP AND 211 HELP RESIDENTS SUBMIT APPLICATIONS FOR RENT & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Barbara, a Mount Vernon resident, has fallen behind on her rent because she was unemployed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although she began her new job, the back rent she owes is still hanging over her head.

Like Barbara, thousands of residents were financially impacted by the pandemic, and many tenants are at risk of being evicted. In 2021, **United Way's 211 Helpline** saw a 130% increase in housing insecurity calls compared to 2019.

New York State and local governments have partnered with the United Way of Westchester and Putnam to provide outreach about funds available through New York State's **Emergency Rental Assistance Program** (ERAP) and **Excluded Workers Fund** (EWF) to aid residents and help them complete the application process.

ERAP allowed eligible families to apply for rental assistance worth up to 12 months of unpaid rent, and an additional three months of future rent in certain circumstances. The program also covers up to 12 months of unpaid utilities.

EWF provided a critical lifeline for many of the state's most vulnerable workers during the pandemic. It aided individuals ineligible for regular unemployment benefits or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. Eligible applicants received a payment of either \$15,600 or \$3,200, depending on the criteria the individual satisfied.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many people lost their jobs and could not afford basic needs like food and rent. The government instituted a moratorium on evictions in recognition of these circumstances. Even though these people may be working again, many of them will not make up for the rent they have missed. The purpose of ERAP and EWF was to erase the past debt so that families can concentrate on the future.

Michael of Mahopac works in the entertainment industry. He lost his job during the COVID shutdown in March 2020. Michael did not qualify for unemployment because of the gig nature of his position. He got a job at a supermarket, but the pay did not cover his family's living expenses. As a result, Michael fell behind on his rent, and his landlord filed paperwork to have Michael and his family evicted. He called 211 for help. The 211 team aided Michael in applying for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. They also identified that he qualified for financial relief through the Excluded Workers Fund and helped him through that application too.



*UWWP Program Coordinator Sabrina Ponzini helped Mount Vernon residents to apply for aid through the NYS Emergency Rental Assistance Program.*

Michael was awarded maximum payments from both programs and got back on his feet again.

"I didn't know what to do or that there was anything available to help my situation. I am so grateful to everyone at 211," he said. "They truly gave me hope during one of the darkest periods of my life."

**NYS Department of Labor** named United Way's 211 Helpline as a community partner for the EWF. **Putnam County** and the **City of Mount Vernon** designated United Way of Westchester and Putnam to assist individuals in completing the ERAP applications. **Westchester County** used the 211 Helpline to help people connect to other agencies that assist residents in submitting completed applications.

"Without stable housing, individuals and families are put at risk, which impacts the larger community. We are proud to partner with our state and county governments and the City of Mount Vernon to ensure that those who were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic stay in their homes so they can thrive," said Tom Gabriel, president and CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam.

# UNITED WAY 211 HUDSON VALLEY EARNS AIRS ACCREDITATION



*Pictured: Members of the 211 Hudson Valley team with UWWP's Chief Information and Referral Officer Lini Jacob (center), who is holding the plaque citing the AIRS accreditation.*

**United Way's 211 Helpline of the Hudson Valley** completed the **Alliance of Information and Referral (AIRS)** Accreditation Program, which is specifically for programs engaged in the specialized field of Information and Referrals (I&R). The accreditation process measures an agency's organizational compliance with standard practices within the industry.

"We appreciate the accreditation process as it allowed us to review and update our policies and procedures, and receive valuable feedback from the accreditation reviewer," said Chief Information and Referral Officer Lini Jacob. "It is the best way to demonstrate the overall aspect and efficacy of an I&R service."

AIRS accreditation provides objective evidence of achievement in service delivery, resource database, cooperative relationships, disaster preparedness, and organizational effectiveness. The certification lasts for five years. Having AIRS accreditation validates 211 Hudson Valley's efficiency and effectiveness as an organization.

"The 211 Hudson Valley team is proud to have earned AIRS accreditation. The quality of service we provide is evident not only from the awards we receive, but by the care, compassion, and support our community resource specialists demonstrate toward each person who reaches out to us for help," said Jacob.

The 211 helpline offers health and human services information, referral, assessment, and crisis support to help clients find the assistance they need to address the everyday challenges of living. Also, individuals can contact the helpline to be given guidance during times of disaster and any other community emergencies. The service is free, confidential, and available in 200 languages.

Recently, Ana, a Spanish-speaking caller who is a single mom with two children ages 11 and 6, said that she lost her job during COVID-19 and has been unemployed ever since. During the assessment done by a 211 community resource specialist, Ana shared that she is not receiving any assistance, SNAP benefits, or unemployment. She tried to contact the referrals for electricity and rent, but was told they couldn't help because she needed proof of her former employment. Ana was self-employed cleaning houses. She was having difficulty getting through to other referrals because the agencies didn't speak Spanish. The resource specialist arranged a conference call with some of the referrals and found staff members that could speak Spanish to assist Ana.

Get in touch with a community resource specialist at any time, 24/7, 365 days a year, by calling 2-1-1, texting your zip code to 898211, or visiting [211hudsonvalley.org](https://211hudsonvalley.org).

# UWWP PROMOTES SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS



1. Tirza Barnes-Griffith led a facilitated reflection as the concluding event of the 21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge. 2. UWWP granted the YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester funds for its Racial Equity Center. Pictured: Faith Ann Butcher, UWWP Chief Impact Officer, Maria Imperial, then CEO of YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester.

United Way of Westchester and Putnam (UWWP) views diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as integral to its mission and critical to ensuring the well-being of its communities. In addition to using a DEI lens when investing or leveraging its resources in Westchester and Putnam, the organization used its reach to create awareness about social justice and human rights issues.

Over 1,500 people participated in the **21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge** hosted by UWWP, **YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester**, and **YWCA Yonkers** for Westchester and the Lower Hudson Valley. The challenge was done as part of a national movement to engage communities in anti-racist work.

The 21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge is a 21-day learning and self-discovery journey that aims to help develop more effective social justice habits around issues of race, power, privilege, and leadership. Topics include racial identity, intersectionality, housing affordability and homelessness, legal system inequity, and allyship.

"Taking part in the 21-Day Equity Challenge helps participants discover how racial inequity and social injustice impact our community," said UWWP Chief Impact Officer Faith Ann Butcher. "We are proud to partner with the YWCAs in encouraging our community to examine how structural racism and bias impact each of our lives, especially in education, health, and financial stability."

At the end of the challenge, a virtual reflection event was held with facilitator Tirza Barnes-Griffith, bringing participants

together to share the knowledge gained from the experience.

"The challenge increased my awareness of the need for racial equity and social justice. It helped me understand the role of privilege in our society," said Patricia of Scarsdale, one of the 21-Day Challenge participants. "The challenge is knowledge-based and provided a positive solution and action plan to dealing with racial equality challenges."

With the participants eager to learn more, UWWP and the YWCAs offered quarterly 5-day social justice journeys that provided a deeper dive into public health, education, and criminal justice.

In addition to the Challenge, United Way of Westchester and Putnam awarded the YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester \$5,000 toward its Center for Racial Equity and anti-racism training. The Center for Racial Equity is a dedicated space for advancing racial equity in Westchester County, providing the vision, the place, and the community to sustain anti-racist work. UWWP also supported **Nonprofit Westchester's** Nonprofit Leadership and Racial Equity series.

In October, UWWP teamed up with **United Way Worldwide's Center to Combat Human Trafficking** to hold "**Understanding Human Trafficking: The Intersections & Complexities.**" It was a live-learning session co-facilitated by a team of survivor leaders who are experts in the anti-human trafficking movement. The session provided an overview of the issue of human trafficking and information on how we can strategically and collectively combat it in our community.

# 15 FAMILIES RECEIVE 'JOY' AND 'HOPE' DURING THE HOLIDAYS FROM UNITED WAY AND AMERICAN CHRISTMAS



1. Adriana of Yonkers decides where to put her red ornaments on her family's tree. 2. Alexander and Ajay of Yonkers decorate their new tree.

For the past couple of years, the holidays have been difficult for Quinn Jackson of Yonkers. Lupus and other medical issues have compromised her immune system, and the single mother of six has been unable to work.

Jackson and her children were one of 15 families chosen by United Way of Westchester and Putnam to receive artificial Christmas trees, complete with lights and ornaments, donated by [American Christmas](#). In addition, the families toured through American Christmas' spectacular Mount Vernon showroom. They also received complimentary tickets to Lumagica, an outdoor walkable light park produced by American Christmas, at Harvest Moon Orchard in North Salem. Local nonprofit organizations nominated the families.

American Christmas creates holiday displays for some of New York City's most iconic attractions, ranging from the heralding angels at Rockefeller Center to the 13-foot-tall nutcrackers posted outside the UBS building on 6th Avenue in Manhattan. Every holiday season, the company installs more than 525 holiday displays worldwide.

"These gifts bring me so much joy and hope," said Jackson. "Things have been difficult, but moments like these are such

a blessing. They remind you that people care and that all is not lost. I am so thankful for the support."

American Christmas' CEO Dan Casterella offered the trees and experiences to give back to the local community that helped grow his company.

"Mount Vernon and the surrounding communities have been through a lot in the last two years. I just wanted to be able to give back to a few families to spark some Christmas joy back into this season," said Casterella.

Impressed with all the work United Way does throughout Westchester, he partnered with the organization to identify and assist the families.

"United Way does incredible work and has a broad network," said Casterella.

Avery Zuvic, UWWP Director of Community Impact said, "We are so excited to be partnering with American Christmas on this initiative. With 40% of our neighbors living paycheck to paycheck or in poverty, we hope that by providing some extra Christmas spirit this year, we can give a little hope to those who may need it."

## 3 FORDHAM GRADUATE STUDENTS AWARDED RUTH TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIPS



*Mariam Abu of New Rochelle (left) and Tyrone Jones of Hartsdale (right) were both awarded Ruth Taylor Scholarships.*

United Way of Westchester and Putnam announced the awarding of \$3,000 scholarships from its Ruth Taylor Fund to three Westchester graduate students pursuing master's degrees at Fordham University's School of Social Work. The three recipients are **Mariam Abu** of New Rochelle, **Sandy Castillo Guiracocha** of Thornwood, and **Tyrone Jones** of Hartsdale. Castillo Guiracocha and Jones anticipate graduating in May 2022.

"We, at United Way of Westchester and Putnam, strongly believe in investing in the leaders of tomorrow, and these individuals demonstrate their commitment to the Westchester community by already working or volunteering for a local nonprofit," said Tom Gabriel, president and CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam. "We are impressed with these recipients' work and look forward to watching them grow."

Abu is a native of Ghana. She is a program supervisor at Taconic Innovations, which supports individuals with developmental disabilities to be more independent.

"I'm so honored to be recognized out of many qualified students who deserve this scholarship," said Abu. "This scholarship means a lot to me, as it has allowed me to study harder and stay focused on what I'm trying to achieve. Thank you to United Way."

Jones, a case manager for Strive, a job training and career development services agency, agrees.

"I am privileged to be recognized to receive the Ruth Taylor Scholarship from United Way," he said. "This scholarship is a blessing to support my educational journey through providing accessibility towards mental health. COVID has hindered many students and individuals, including me. With this scholarship, I can assert strength to assist individuals from diverse communities with a chance to overcome adversity. I want to combine my social work educational acumen with my stellar social services experience to provide a stake in working closely with individuals to assert autonomy, and not allow their circumstances to supersede their personal compass."

Castillo Guiracocha is interning at The Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry and works as a Vibrant Living Assistant at Brightwaters Senior Living in Tarrytown.

The Ruth Taylor Scholarship Fund was established in tribute to Ruth Taylor upon her retirement as the county's Commissioner of Public Welfare and in recognition of her nearly four decades of outstanding service. The annual awards are sponsored by United Way of Westchester and Putnam, the Westchester County Government, and the Urban League of Westchester County.

**Since the 2008-2009 academic year, 67 students from Westchester received a collective \$184,000 in Ruth Taylor Fund scholarships.**

# UNITED IN VOLUNTEERING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Thank you to the individuals, organizations, and corporations that gave their time and talents to help the United Way of Westchester and Putnam make more of an impact in our local communities.

1. Students at Ossining High School help distribute the Westchester Backpack food parcels to DoorDash drivers.
2. Carolyn Raguzin of PepsiCo helps sort the toys before they are given out as holiday gifts.
3. Mary Woods helped collect hundreds of books through ThistleWaithe Learning Center in South Salem to support UWWP's United2Read initiative.
4. Ellen Recher and Christine Cord assemble food parcels for the Summer Backpack program in Putnam County.
5. Volunteers and staff aid in shredding 400 boxes of documents from United Way's Nonprofit Community Shred Day.
6. Elijah Hunter (far right) and other members of Mercy College's Prestigious Divas hosted a holiday gift drive.
7. Santiago Diaz of TD Bank helped Mount Vernon residents apply for NYS Emergency Rental Assistance.
8. Christian Capobianco of Rye organized book drives at schools in the Blind Brook School District to aid UWWP's Education United Program.

## UNITED, WE TRANSFORMED LIVES IN 2021\*

# \$24,444,787

invested and leveraged in Westchester  
and Putnam communities\*\*



# 435,746

individuals and families  
benefited\*\*

# 358

 community  
partners

# \$700,000

administered in grants to  
**68 local nonprofits**

# \$6.2 mil\*\*\*

worth of essential goods  
distributed to **104 schools**  
and **nonprofit partners** to  
meet the basic needs of  
the people we serve



# 790,000 lbs

of groceries distributed for  
free to **1,580 households**  
in Westchester and Putnam counties

# \$13.7 mil

to **5,616 residents** from  
EITC-eligible tax refunds  
processed by VITA and the  
Hudson CASH Coalition

# 279,000



interactions with the  
211 Helpline Call Center

# 30,290

DoorDash deliveries of  
food and other essential  
goods through the Ride  
United Last Miles  
Delivery Program.

# \$255,870

saved by **3,351 families**  
using the Rx Discount  
Card by SingleCare



# 2,882



people attended job training or professional development workshops

# 750

students used A2i to read on grade level

# 44,483

books and activities were distributed to families to encourage at-home learning



# 1,587



people participated in the 21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge

# \$10,000

in scholarships awarded to 4 students

# 3,000

backpacks with school supplies given out

# \$1.95 mil

to 276 households from NYS Emergency Rental Assistance or NYS Excluded Workers Fund applications completed with help from UWWP and 211

# 520

Lyft rides given for vaccine appointments to individuals with limited or no transportation access

# 50,000



diapers were provided to Westchester and Putnam families in need

# 2,944

hours of volunteering were completed collectively by 204 individuals to support United Way's work.



# 15

families that have overcome unbelievable hardships were given Christmas trees through United Way by American Christmas.

# UNITED WAY OF WESTCHESTER AND PUTNAM

## LEADERS IN GIVING REPORT 2021 ANNUAL FUND

### GIFTS MADE JANUARY 1, 2021 – DECEMBER 31, 2021

Thanks to the unwavering support of the donors listed below, United Way is changing lives, strengthening communities, and advancing the common good throughout Westchester and Putnam. We celebrate their commitment and their vision.

#### LEVELS OF GIVING

##### **Tocqueville Society** (\$10,000 or more)

##### **Platinum Quill • Signature Club** (\$7,500 – \$9,999)

##### **Gold Quill • Signature Club** (\$5,000 – \$7,449)

##### **Silver Quill • Signature Club** (\$2,500 – \$4,999)

##### **Bronze Quill • Signature Club** (\$1,500 – \$2,499)

##### **Local Leadership** (\$500 – \$1,499)

#### **UNITED WAY TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY OF WESTCHESTER AND PUTNAM**

The United Way Tocqueville Society honors the spirit of selflessness and cooperation that a Frenchman, Alexis Charles-Henri Clerel de Tocqueville, observed during his travels through America in the 1830s. Today, this spirit of voluntary action remains alive through United Way and members of this giving society who donate \$10,000 or more annually.

##### **Ordre d'Egalité** (\$50,000 – \$74,999)

John Ciulla and Erin Fuller  
Barbara and H. Rodgin Cohen LC  
Nancy and Frank Pierson LC

##### **Ordre de Liberté** (\$25,000 – \$49,999)

Mrs. Henry Froehlich LC  
The Jerome Levy Foundation LC  
Briar Foundation LC  
Eric and Laurie Roth LC  
Sy and Laurie Sternberg LC  
*One member wishes to remain anonymous*

##### **Ordre de Consul** (\$15,000 – \$24,999)

Walter and Lori Hosp LC  
Nancy and Paul Ross LC  
Jill and Michael Weinstein LC

##### **Membres de la Société** (\$10,000 – \$14,999)

Leslie Williams and Jim Attwood LC  
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Jacqueline and David Irwin LC  
Peter and Robin Matt LC  
Jeffrey and Francesca Paraschac  
Amy and John Peckham LC

Sharon and Irving Picard LC  
Laurie and Thomas Saylak LC  
Betsy and Walter\* Stern LC  
Ben and Charlotte Sullivan LC  
Jeannette Sloan Warner, Esq. LC  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Whitney LC  
David and Margaret Yawman LC

#### **SIGNATURE CLUB**

##### **Platinum Quill** (\$7,500 – \$9,999)

June and Roger Blanc  
Daniel and Paula Reingold LC  
Jane and James Stern LC

##### **Gold Quill** (\$5,000 – \$7,499)

David Bleich and Laura Winston LC  
Anne and Jonathan Boucher LC  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Connor LC  
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*One member wishes to remain anonymous*

##### **Silver Quill** (\$2,500 – \$4,999)

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*Two members wish to remain anonymous*

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 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Zuch LC  
*Two members wish to remain anonymous*

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 Susan Witter  
*Ten members wish to remain anonymous*

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**LC** Loyal Contributor giving to United Way for 10 years or more  
**L** Members of the Tocqueville Legacy Circle  
**\*** Deceased

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## TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

Many friends of United Way of Westchester and Putnam remember special people in their lives by making gifts in their memory or honor.

### *In honor of Carlene Gentilesco*

Sarah Moore

### *In memory of Bert and Mimi Askwith*

Patti Askwith Kenner

### *In memory of Robert N. Bischoff*

Marian Barron  
 Mary Clyne  
 Frederic Withington  
 Mr. and Mrs. John F. Ormsbee

### *In memory of Violet "Vi" Sundin*

Roseanne Amoils  
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 Elizabeth Gebbia  
 Amy J. Johannesen  
 Maureen LeBlanc  
 Mr. and Mrs. William F. McMahon, Jr.  
 Don and Ayzsa Moss

### *In memory of Rocco Anthony DelGrosso*

Brian Evans

Recognition levels can include corporate matching gifts when known. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information listed in this publication. Please note that this list does not account for all donors who have given through the workplace, as many of these details are still being processed. If we have omitted or improperly listed your name, please accept our apologies. Please call (914) 997-6700 ext. 737 so that we may correct our records.

# UNITED WAY OF WESTCHESTER AND PUTNAM

## 2021 CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION SUPPORT (\$1,000+)

### \$100,000 AND ABOVE



United Way Worldwide

### \$50,000 AND ABOVE



### \$25,000 AND ABOVE



**PEPSICO**



**Wells Fargo**  
Foundation

#### \$20,000 and above

The Louis D. Srybnik Foundation, Inc.  
United Way of New York State

#### \$10,000 and above

Con Edison  
Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts  
Entergy  
Hudson Valley Credit Union  
KeyBank  
M&T Bank  
MVP Health Care  
PURE Insurance  
TD Bank  
The Field Hall Foundation  
United Parcel Service  
Webster Bank

#### \$5,000 and above

American Express  
Atlantic Westchester, Inc.  
Costco  
Cuddy & Feder, LLP  
Enterprise Rent-A-Car  
The IBM Corporation, Inc.  
Nationwide Insurance

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
Transamerica Retirement Solutions

#### \$2,500 and above

Apple Bank  
Bluefin Partners LLC  
BNY Mellon  
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#### \$1,000 and above

Association of Development Officers  
Atlantic Contracting and Specialties, LLC  
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Fordham Westchester  
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Marist College  
Nonprofit Westchester  
Pace University  
People's United Bank  
Pitney Bowes  
Principal Financial Group  
Pro Bono Partnership  
The Arc Westchester  
Thompson & Bender  
Walmart  
Westchester County Local Development Corporation  
Westchester Independent Living Center, Inc.

# WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL HOSTS ANNUAL "TAKE A WALK IN HER SHOES" EVENT



1. 2021 Woman of Distinction honoree Taryn Duffy, Vice President of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs at Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts 2. Dr. Sherlita Amler, Westchester County's Commissioner of Health 3. Stacey Petrower, President of New York Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital

United Way of Westchester and Putnam hosted its annual and virtual Women's Leadership Council "Take a Walk in Her Shoes" event on December 7. **Taryn Duffy**, Vice President of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs at **Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts**, was recognized as its 2021 "Woman of Distinction" for her commitment to and strong advocacy for women's empowerment.

In addition to her role at Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, Duffy serves as Chair of the New York Gaming Association, the trade organization for racing and gaming venues throughout New York State. She has a long history in the public relations and political arenas. Duffy is also a member of multiple boards, including ArtsWestchester, The Business Council of Westchester, and the Yonkers Workforce Development Board.

Duffy is a strong proponent of the importance of volunteer service and mentoring women in their careers, having shared her perspective as a panelist, speaking on nonprofit advocacy and development, women in business, and career development.

"We applaud Taryn's tenacity and passionate voice. She continues to promote gender equality for women and use their voices to make a change," United Way's

Chief Development Officer Margaret Tramontine says of United Way's 2021 Woman of Distinction awardee. "We also know how very committed Taryn is to the hundreds of employees at Empire City through these challenging times. We are proud to honor her!"

At this virtual event, United Way presented a panel of distinguished women leaders in the healthcare sector who have been leading the charge in the community's ongoing battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. The panel included **Dr. Sherlita Amler**, Westchester County's Commissioner of Health, **Judith Watson**, CEO of Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center, **Stacey Petrower**, President of NYP Hudson Valley Hospital, and **Dr. Laurie Ann Walsh**, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at NYP Lawrence Hospital. Each panelist shared their personal journeys as public health leaders and how they worked amid the crisis.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has been the greatest crisis I've ever been confronted with, both as a physician and a public health leader," Dr. Amler said. "In dealing with the pandemic, the most difficult aspect has been uncertainty; not knowing what to expect tomorrow really impedes and robs us of our ability to plan. I think placing one foot in front of the other and working on getting to a place where we can start planning again is what I would suggest to people."



1. Dr. Laurie Ann Walsh, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at NYP Lawrence Hospital. 2. Judith Watson, CEO of Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center

The funds raised support United Way's mission of helping the 40% of households in the Westchester and Putnam communities defined as at poverty or ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed), including 71% of single, female-headed households considered most likely to be ALICE. Pre-pandemic, this hardworking demographic struggled daily with financial hardship.

"People become a member of the ALICE population without even really knowing how they got there. Too often, it's a result of trauma, pain, and struggle," awardee Duffy states of her United Way's work with the ALICE population. "United Way provides hope and light to so many people. I want to thank the entire team at United Way for this recognition, but more importantly, for their unending selflessness and the work they do day in and day out to help so many and change lives for the better."

The WLC Committee members included **Leslie Lampert**, owner of Ladle of Love, and **Bernadette Schopfer** of Maier, Markey & Justic, LLP. The event was generously sponsored by **Con Edison; Transamerica; IBM; M&T Bank; NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley and Lawrence Hospitals; PURE Insurance; Maier Markey & Justic; and Thompson & Bender**. Food and wine were provided by **Ladle of Love, Leonard Park Wines & Spirits, and il Forno Bakery**.



## WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP Council

## Women Empowering Women ... Strengthening Our Community United Way of Westchester and Putnam

The Women's Leadership Council is a unique community of women in Westchester and Putnam who share a common sense of purpose and a shared belief in strengthening our community.

We raise awareness and revenue to support children succeeding in school and families becoming financially secure. We know that when families are financially secure, health outcomes improve, children do better in school, and our community is strong.

Beyond an annual financial contribution, we invest our time, professional expertise, and unique strengths to drive positive impact in our community, while at the same time connecting with other passionate and equally committed women.

### 2021 Members

June Blanc*	Denise Rempe*
Faith Ann Butcher	Martelia Sakakenny
Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson*	Susan Salice
Marjorie A. Ciucci	Bernadette H. Schopfer*
Betty Cotton	Veronica H. Shipp
Dr. Marsha Gordon	Laurie Sturz
Nan Hayworth*	Alana Sweeny
Patti Askwith Kenner	Margaret A. Tramontine
Leslie Lampert*	Laurie A. Walsh
Ann Loughran	Jeannette S. Warner*
Nina Marraccini	Sidney Witter
Kate McDonough*	Joanne Wright
Mecca Mitchell	
Tanya Moximchalk	

\*WLC Founding Member

Find our more at <https://www.uwwp.org/wlc>.

# MOONEY RECOGNIZED AT UNITED WAY OF WESTCHESTER AND PUTNAM'S SOLD-OUT DAY OF GOLF



United Way's 2021 Day of Golf Honoree William "Bill" Mooney, Jr (center) with his sons Tom (left) and Bill Mooney, III (right); his wife Joan, and friend Kevin J. Plunkett, Esq. (far right).

United Way of Westchester and Putnam (UWWP) hosted its annual Day of Golf event at Scarsdale Golf Club on September 27. **William "Bill" M. Mooney, Jr.** was the event's honoree where he was recognized for his leadership, excellence, and commitment to the community.

Mooney is the current Director of Community and Institutional Relationships at Simone Healthcare Development and is the former President and CEO of the Westchester County Association.

A well-known and respected business and community leader for decades, Mooney served on the United Way Board of Directors and as its Chair from 1990-1992. A member of United Way of Westchester and Putnam's 50th Anniversary Committee, he was the sponsoring member of its celebration at Westchester Country Club in 2012. Mooney has dedicated his ample talent, skills, and energy to wide-ranging community service for many years.

Players hit the sold-out course and enjoyed a shotgun start, a round of golf with contests and prizes, silent auctions, cocktails, and culinary delights.

Funds from the event support United Way's continuing pandemic response and economic recovery efforts, the local nonprofit community, and hundreds of thousands of our neighbors living in poverty or paycheck-to-paycheck.

The Day of Golf Committee included John M. Flannery, Esq. of **Wilson Elser**, Bud Hammer and Cathy Hoffman of **Atlantic Westchester Inc.**, Tom and Bill Mooney, III from **Signature Bank**, Kevin J. Plunkett, Esq. of **Simone Development Companies**, and Matt Saidman of **Mutual of America Financial Group**.

The Day of Golf event was generously sponsored by **Apple Bank, Atlantic Westchester, Bluefin Partners LLC, Cuddy & Feder, Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, Empress EMS, Levitt-Furst Insurance, Lyons McGovern LLP, M&T Bank, Matthew Lyness, Mutual of America Financial Group, NuEnergy, PCSB Bank, PepsiCo, Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 21, Regeneron, Sidney Witter, Signature Bank, Simone Development Companies, Sterling National Bank, Tompkins Mahopac Bank, Wilson Elser, and Westchester & Fairfield County Business Journals.**



Angela Brock-Kyle gets it in.

# IMAGINE GALA HONORS ENTERGY, HOSP, AND WARNER



1. Walter D. Hosp, CEO of ZenRE Holdings LLC, received United Way's Chairman's Award. 2. Jeannette S. Warner, Esq., was awarded the Community Philanthropy Award.

United Way of Westchester and Putnam (UWWP) held its annual Imagine Gala, presented by PepsiCo, virtually on Thursday, March 25. It celebrated the community contributions and generosity of its 2021 "Spirit of Caring" honorees: **Entergy – Indian Point Energy Center; Walter D. Hosp;** and **Jeannette S. Warner, Esq.**

Every donation to the Imagine Gala helps United Way continue to provide critical services to the community's most vulnerable residents. They are affected by the ongoing COVID-19 public health and economic crises.

Entergy was presented with the Corporate Citizenship Award for its support of underprivileged communities in the county, as well as schools and nonprofit health and human services organizations, including United Way, Family Services of Westchester, and Friends of Karen.

"For 20 years, Entergy has forged strong partnerships with many important nonprofits and other charitable organizations, including United Way, which do amazing work to support underprivileged communities throughout the county," said Entergy's Assessor for Nuclear Independent Oversight Dan Cooke. "We at Entergy would like to thank United Way for the many great things you do for our community."

Walter D. Hosp, a resident of Edgemont and the CEO of ZenRE Holdings LLC, received the United Way's Chairman's Award. United Way recognized his longstanding service, significant charitable support of the organization, and his service as Chairman of its Board of Directors, notably guiding the organization in the aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy.

Speaking of his support of United Way, Hosp said, "What strikes me to the core is that the United Way has always, and

still is, about a diverse group of people working together to help anyone in need of a temporary 'hand up.' Indeed, the largest part of the joy in supporting the United Way is working with people who simply want to help others and seeing extremely thankful people for the assistance. I want to thank the organization, the Board, and the professional staff for this wonderful recognition."

Longtime Scarsdale resident Jeannette S. Warner, Esq., attorney and United Way's Vice Chair of Advocacy, received the Community Philanthropy Award for her longtime advocacy and fundraising efforts supporting the needs of people struggling in the community.

"Thank you to United Way for the honor of the Community Philanthropy Award for 2021," Warner said. "From tangible, front-line aid such as distributing food to the hungry, delivering backpacks full of books for children who never owned a book, and providing goods of all sorts to the needy, the United Way is working in our community to improve the lives of those who need it most."

"I want to congratulate our three honorees Entergy, Walter Hosp, and Jeannette Warner," said United Way President and CEO Tom Gabriel. "You have all been amazing sustainers of our work, and we can't thank you enough for your faith in us."

United Way's Imagine Gala was generously supported by Gold Sponsor – **PepsiCo**, Silver Sponsor – **M&T Bank**, Bronze Sponsors – **PURE Insurance, Webster Bank**, and **Wegmans**, and Event Sponsors – **Brae Burn Country Club, Cuddy & Feder LLP, Scott and the Hon. Nan Hayworth, M.D.s, IBM, Paraco Gas, Thompson & Bender**, and **United Way's Women's Leadership Council**.

# SUPPORT FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY



United Way of Westchester and Putnam partners with companies of all sizes to work hand in hand building, executing, and fulfilling corporate social responsibility goals. Simultaneously, corporate partners' financial and volunteer support helps fuel the work of United Way of Westchester and Putnam—critically supporting our most-vulnerable neighbors as they move along the path to self-sufficiency.

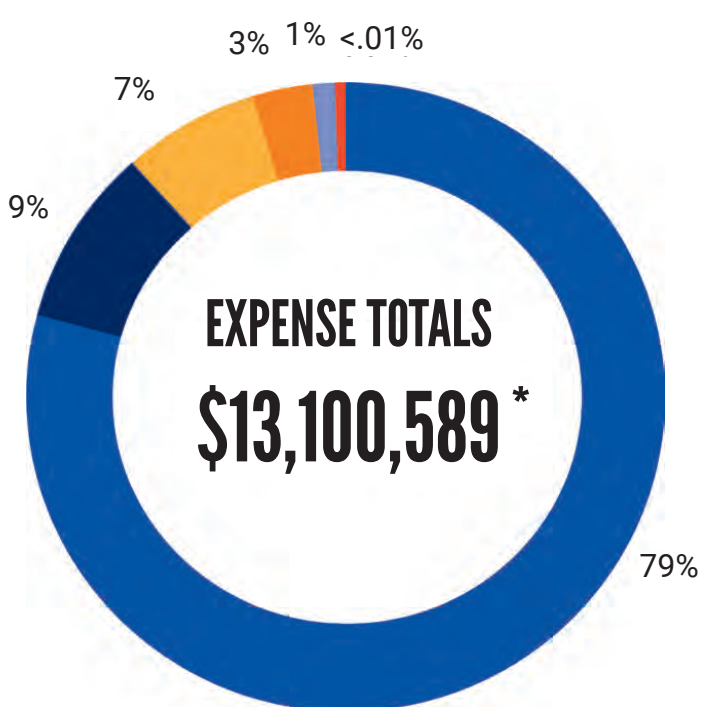
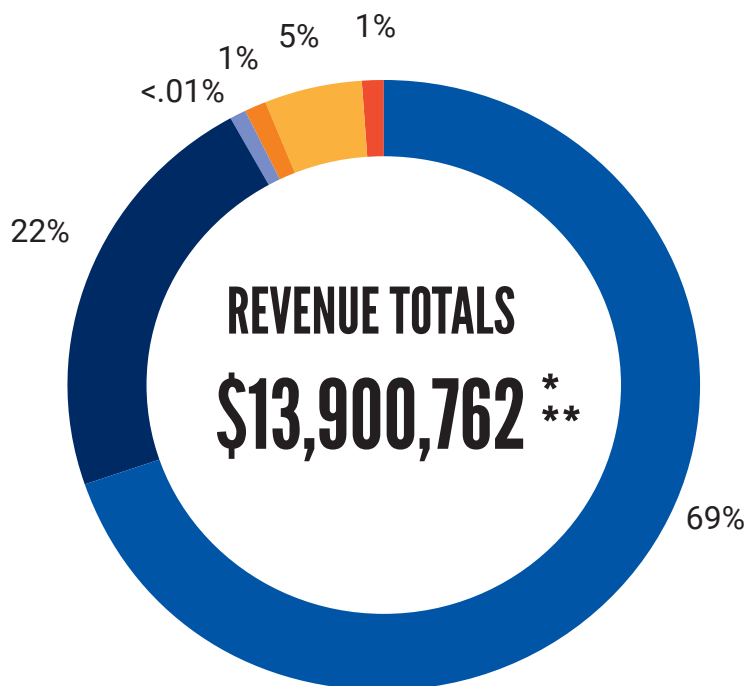
1. Patricia Horvath (center) of Field Hall Foundation awards UWWP a \$10,000 grant.
2. Trena McNeal of Webster Bank led the "Making Sense of Credit" webinar.
3. Afya Foundation team helps UWWP distribute \$1 million worth of face masks from Home Depot.
4. Darren Delaney, lead decorator at American Christmas, shows families how to set up their Christmas trees like a professional.
5. Brooklinen donates new bedding and linens that UWWP gave to domestic violence shelters.
6. A team from MVP Health Care volunteered to stuff backpacks with school supplies going to Putnam County students in need.
7. The Falafel Taco in Pleasantville donates Thanksgiving meals to UWWP clients.
8. Ceceila Williams of PepsiCo helps organize the holiday gift toy distribution.
9. Zack Bell presents a donation to UWWP CEO Tom Gabriel from the grocer's bag fees on behalf of Wegmans.

# FINANCIALS\*

United Way of Westchester and Putnam is committed to full transparency in our work. We want our donors to have confidence that their dollars are wisely invested, and our organization is financially sound. If you ever have a question about our work in basic needs, education, financial stability, and health or where we invest your donations, please contact us at **914.997.6700**.

Our most current financial statements can be found online at [uwwp.org/about-us/financial-info](http://uwwp.org/about-us/financial-info).

\*Below are the revenue and expense charts from the audited financial statement of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.



**Campaign Results**  
\$3,003,081

**Gifts-in-Kind**  
\$9,621,502

**Bequests and Other Public Support**  
\$40,100

**Investment Return**  
\$634,644

**Other Income**  
\$257,590

**COVID Grant Income**  
\$343,845

**UWWP Programs and Initiatives**  
\$10,470,502

**United Way's 211 Helpline**  
\$1,231,451

**Funds Raised on Behalf of Other Nonprofits**  
\$128,989

**Fundraising Costs**  
\$387,893

**Administrative Costs**  
\$873,254

**Uncollectible Pledges to UWWP**  
\$8,500

## PROGRAM



**CORE MISSION SUPPORT**

\* Does not include the \$618,100 administered through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

\*\* Second PPP loan is classified as a liability for fiscal year 2020-21.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021–2022

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

### Chair

#### **Bud Hammer**

General Manager, Atlantic Westchester, Inc.

### Vice Chair of Finance and Treasurer

#### **Eric D. Eller**

President, African American Men of Westchester, Inc.

### Vice Chairs of Community Impact and Communications

#### **Tiffany Zezula, Esq.**

Deputy Director Land Use Law Center at Pace University School of Law

#### **Joshua Kimerling, Esq.**

Partner and Chair of Litigation, Cuddy & Feder LLP

### Vice Chairs of Resource Development

#### **William Mooney III, Esq.**

Senior Vice President, Group Director, Signature Bank

#### **Bernadette Schopfer, CPA**

Partner and Director of Taxation, Maier Markey & Justic LLP

### Vice Chair for 211

#### **Michael J. Piazza, Jr.**

Commissioner, Putnam County Departments of Mental Health, Social Services and Youth Bureau

### Vice Chair of Administration

#### **Kenneth J. Gould, Esq.**

Partner, Marcus, Gould & Sussman

#### **Marj Ciucci, CLTTC**

Partner, Lawley Insurance

### Past Chair of the Board and Nominating Committee Chair

#### **June K. Blanc**

Community Leader

### Vice Chair of Audit

#### **Walter Hosp**

Chief Executive Officer, ZenRE Holdings LLC

### Past Chair of the Board

#### **David M. Yawman, Esq.**

Partner, Cresco Partners, Inc. and Former Executive VP, Government Affairs, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, PepsiCo

### Secretary and Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

#### **Aleida M. Frederico**

Former Senior Relationship Manager, VP Commercial Lending, TD Bank

## BOARD MEMBERS

#### **Christina Armentano**

Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Paraco Gas

#### **Dr. Marc P. Baiocco**

Superintendent of the Elmsford Union Free School District

#### **Jonathan M. Cocchiola, CPA**

Executive Director of Finance at Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts

#### **Marjorie De La Cruz, Esq.**

SVP, Global Chief Compliance Officer, PepsiCo

#### **John M. Flannery, Esq.**

Managing Partner of the White Plains office, Wilson Elser

#### **Swati Goel-Patel**

Vice President Human Resources, PURE Insurance

#### **Nan Hayworth, M.D.**

Former U.S. Representative

#### **Najla T. Hussein**

Senior Manager, Social Impact, Regeneron

#### **Kevin Kubicki**

Vice President, Human Resources, IBM Technology Sales

#### **Leslie Lampert**

Executive Chef and Proprietor, Ladle of Love and Love Hospitality

#### **Michelle A. Nicholas**

SVP, Chief Diversity Officer and Director of Community Development, PCSB Bank

#### **Maria M. Trusa**

CEO, Formé Medical Center & Urgent Care

#### **Kevin Watsey**

Communications and Community Affairs Manager, Veolia North America

#### **Bo Zhang**

Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

#### **Tom Gabriel**

President and Chief Executive Officer

#### **Margaret Tramontine**

Chief Development Officer

#### **Richard Moore**

Chief Financial Officer

#### **Faith Ann Butcher**

Chief Impact Officer

#### **Lini Jacob**

Chief Information and Referral Officer

# SIX NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE UNITED WAY BOARD

United Way of Westchester and Putnam's Board of Directors appointed six community-minded professionals to its roster in 2021. Joining the 21 sitting board members are Christina Armentano, Marjorie De La Cruz, Najla T. Hussein, Michelle A. Nicholas, Kevin Watsey, and Bo Zhang. Their term is for three years.



**Christina Armentano** is the executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of **Paraco Gas Corporation**. Armentano received the 2018 LP Gas Rising Leader Award and was named a Business Council of Westchester's Rising Star in 2016. She earned a bachelor's degree from James Madison University and a master's degree from Babson College F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business. Armentano lives in Connecticut with her husband Sam and their children.



**Marjorie De La Cruz** resides in Bedford with her husband and twin boys. She is the Senior Vice President, Global Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer of **PepsiCo**. De La Cruz was awarded the Fordham School of Law 25th Annual Corporate Counsel Award, the Latino Justice 2019 Lucero Award and was featured in Hispanic Executive in March 2019. De La Cruz earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree from New York University, and a Juris Doctor from Fordham University School of Law.



**Najla T. Hussein** is the Senior Manager of Social Impact of **Regeneron**. She has proven success leading teams in fast-paced settings to solve complex problems, achieving record results in brand visibility, revenue generation, and program delivery. Hussein was awarded the Phyllis Campbell Newsome Public Policy Leadership Award in 2018 and was a Cross-Sector Fellow through the Presidio Institute Fellows Program in 2017. She earned her bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and her master's degree from American University. She lives in Connecticut with her husband and son.



"We are very fortunate to have a group of highly respected and well-connected individuals who want to give back to their communities through the United Way of Westchester and Putnam. Christina, Marjorie, Najla, Michelle, Kevin, and Bo bring valued skillsets to the organization, and we look forward to working with them as new additions to the Board of Directors."

— Bud Hammer, UWWP Board Chairman



**Michelle A. Nicholas** is Senior Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer, and Director of Community Development at **PCSB Bank**. Previously, she served as executive director of Girls Inc. of Westchester County. Nicholas holds multiple degrees from the University of Guyana. She has been recognized as one of Westchester Magazine's 12 Black Leaders Changing Westchester, Business Council of Westchester's 40 Under 40 Rising Stars, United Way of Westchester and Putnam's Emerging Leader Rock Star, and many more. Nicholas lives in Mount Vernon with her son.



**Kevin Watsey** is the Communications and Community Affairs Manager for **Veolia North America**. Previously, he served as a director of external relations and opportunity development for J. Fletcher Creamer & Sons, a national utility contractor. Prior to this, Watsey spent 13 years with New Jersey American Water in roles of increasing responsibility, which included director of government affairs from 2016 to 2019. He earned his bachelor's degree from Rowan University. Watsey lives with his family in Orange County, NY.



**Bo Zhang** is a financial advisor with **Morgan Stanley Wealth Management** in Stamford, Conn. Previously, he was a project manager and resource development associate at the United Way of Westchester and Putnam for seven years. He earned his bachelor's degree from Tianjin University of Science and Technology and a master's degree from Pace University. In addition to his active participation with United Way, Zhang is also on the board of Greyston Foundation and the Organization of Chinese Americans. He lives in Connecticut with his wife.



United Way  
of Westchester and Putnam

[www.uwwp.org](http://www.uwwp.org)

336 Central Park Ave  
White Plains, New York 10606  
914.997.6700

## WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US



### GIVE

Become a monthly supporter, make a single gift or leave a legacy gift. Learn more at [uwwp.org/donate](http://uwwp.org/donate)



### STAY IN TOUCH

Keep up to date on issues affecting Westchester's struggling families, plus be alerted to actions you can take to help. Subscribe at [uwwp.org](http://uwwp.org)



### SPREAD THE WORD

When you share social media posts, forward a petition to friends, or invite someone to a UWWP event, you're helping us make sure that our families' needs are met. Tag us @unitedwaywp



### CORPORATE SUPPORT

Would you like your business to support the struggling families living in Westchester and Putnam? Find out more at [uwwp.org/in-the-workplace/](http://uwwp.org/in-the-workplace/)