



UNITED WAY
Westchester
and Putnam

UNITED WAY OF WESTCHESTER AND PUTNAM

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



THANK YOU

Author and inspirational speaker, Simon Sinek, once said, **“We all have a purpose, a why. Being in service to others is the greatest WHY.”**

Indeed, that philosophy runs through everything we do at the United Way of Westchester and Putnam. Our team prides itself on its purpose-driven culture, one that prioritizes the greater good and getting things done. And our **WHY** is, and has always been, our community– a community that continues to struggle.

Inflation is rising once again. While unemployment is only 4%, a full 24% of the workforce is “underemployed.” Poverty has grown 16% in our community since 2019, and 37% since 2010. Calls for help to our 211 Helpline have increased by more than 500% since 2010, with many of them being about hunger, housing, income support, and rental and utility assistance. And the “safety net” that has been helping single-parents, families, seniors, veterans, and so many others is fraying at every seam.

Since 1962, our United Way has served as a “safety-net” in our community, helping struggling residents get back on their feet with a “hand-up,” not a “hand-out.” Indeed, that’s why our vision has been to **provide help for today, hope for tomorrow, and the resources to build a better future for our local community.**

Your help last year enabled our United Way to:

- **Distribute \$5.7 million in essential goods**, such as bedding, clothing and toiletries;
- Make about **40,000 free home deliveries of fresh produce**;
- **Connect 700,000 individuals** to information and human services through our 211 Helpline;
- Educate and provide a safe and welcoming environment for almost **800 children in our Education United After-school Program**;
- Administer almost **\$600,000 in grants** to local nonprofits;
- And so much more...

These efforts, and countless others, empower families on the margins as they strive for a brighter future for themselves and their children. We deeply appreciate your partnership in our mission; because **UNITED**, we can change the world for the better!

As you read this Annual Report to the Community, we invite you to become even more involved. Whether you contribute financially, volunteer your time, support our fundraising efforts, share our story on social media, or simply tell others about our vital work, you will be making a difference right here in our community.

For whatever role you played in helping us to **be in service to others** last year, **THANK YOU!**



Sincerely,

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

Tom Gabriel
President and CEO

UNITED WAY GRANTS \$6.3 MILLION IN FUNDS AND GOODS IN 2024



Sister to Sister International (STSI) was awarded a \$20,000 Strength of a Woman grant to provide STEM education to female high school students. Pictured are STSI President and Founder Cheryl Brannan and UWWP Chief Impact Officer Faith Ann Butcher with girls enrolled in the program.

United Way of Westchester and Putnam (United Way) collectively administered **\$6.3 million** to more than 189 local nonprofit organizations in 2024. The grants awarded funds and essential goods to support the work of purpose-driven organizations. United Way provided **\$600,000 in funding** through the **Emergency Food and Shelter Program** and its **Community Impact Grants, Strength of a Woman, and Capacity Building Grants**. It also distributed **\$5.7 million** worth of diapers, bedding, clothing, toys, and more through the **Essential Goods for Basic Needs Program**.

“We are thrilled to support these outstanding organizations,” said Tom Gabriel, president and CEO of United Way. “Each one of them is doing critical work to address the pressing needs of our community, and we are proud to partner with them in their efforts.”

For the financial grants, the selected recipients represent a range of nonprofits, each with a unique mission and vision, but all sharing a commitment to improving the lives of individuals and families who are **ALICE** (asset-limited, income-constrained, employed) in our community.

Sister to Sister International (STSI) received a \$20,000 Strength of a Woman grant that was done in partnership with **PepsiCo**. The grant supported local organizations

whose work elevates and educates underserved women in Yonkers.

Cheryl Brannan, STSI’s President and Founder, said, “The funds from United Way were instrumental in supporting STSI’s STEAM Academy, which provides free educational enrichment and career exposure opportunities for Black and girls of color in grades 6-12. The funds allowed for additional academic support, college and career preparation, mentorship, and hands-on STEM experiences.

Participating in the STEAM Academy transformed the trajectory of at least one student’s life. Amaya, a high school junior, struggled with math and was unsure of her future career path when she entered the STSI program. Through its math study groups, one-on-one tutoring, and mentorship, she not only improved her grades, but also discovered a passion for computer science. After attending a field trip to Google and participating in STSI’s resume-writing workshop, she applied for and secured an internship with a local tech firm. Amaya shared, “Before STSI, I never thought a career in technology was possible for me. This program

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EDUCATION UNITED SUCCESSFULLY COMBATS CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM



Students building robots during their STEM enrichment session.

As chronic absenteeism rates remain stubbornly high across New York State, one after-school program is making significant strides in getting students back in the classroom. The **Education United After-school Program**, run by the United Way of Westchester and Putnam (UWWP), has demonstrated remarkable success in improving attendance rates among participating students.

According to an independent evaluator who submitted the program's 2023-24 Annual Evaluation Report, 92% of Education United students who were chronically absent in the previous year improved their attendance. This is particularly noteworthy given that the **New York State Comptroller's Office** recently released a report that indicated that nearly one in three New York students were

chronically absent in the 2022-2023 school year.

The Education United Program operates in high-need elementary schools in Ossining, Greenburgh, and Tarrytown. It serves a diverse student population, with the make up being about 60% Hispanic, 20% Black, 10% Asian, and 10% White.

The program takes a comprehensive approach to supporting students and families. It provides academic enrichment, youth development activities, and family engagement resources. One of the key strategies employed by Education United is its diverse and engaging daily schedule. The program offers a healthy mix of fitness, academic, and enrichment activities, providing students with experiences they might not otherwise have access to, such as drumming, ballet, or robot building.

This variety not only encourages students to attend, but also motivates them to stay longer at the program.

"My son loves going to the after-school program so much, that he asked me to pick him up later. He likes being able to see his friends and have fun," shares Miriam a mother whose son attends the program at **Brookside Elementary**.

The impact of the Education United Program extends beyond just improving attendance. Key findings from the report include:

- 71% of students who needed to improve their classroom engagement did so over the course of the 2023-24 school year.
- 84% of parents surveyed thought their child was more likely to attend school to be able to go to the Education United Program.



Students getting their wiggles out during this brain break.



UWWP's Director of Educational Programs Dahmein McFadden (in orange) with a group of students from the program.

- Nearly 75% of responding parents reported that their children were better able to complete homework, and had greater self-confidence because of attending the program.

The program's success over the last academic year was further bolstered by partnerships with local organizations, including the **Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle**, **YMCA Tarrytown**, **Westchester Ballet Company**, **Gibbons Family Fitness**, and **Kool Nerd**. These collaborations enhanced the range of activities offered and contributed to the program's appeal.

As the program enters its third year, several exciting additions have been introduced. First, all sites will now offer free ballet instruction through a partnership with the Westchester Ballet Company. Additional new enrichment offerings include musical theater, art, drumming, and conversational Spanish.

Finally, to further the program's inclusivity and openness, the program has introduced self-contained classes for students with special needs and additional ENL (English as a New Language) support for Spanish-speaking students.

The Education United Program is made possible through three primary funding sources: the **21st Century Community Learning Centers** program, the **New York State Learning and Enrichment After-school Program Supports**, and the **Westchester County Invest in Kids** initiative. These grants enable Education United to offer its services free of charge, making it accessible to all families in the community.

Education United's approach aligns with recommendations from education experts for addressing chronic absenteeism. The program emphasizes family engagement, provides essential goods and services to families in

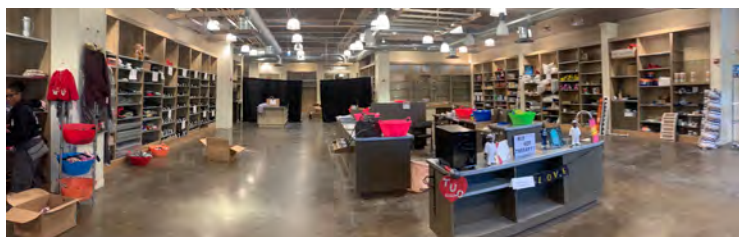
need, and offers a mix of academic support and enrichment activities that motivate students to attend school regularly.

"Our program demonstrates that with the right supports in place, we can make significant progress in getting students back to school and engaged in learning," said **Dahmein McFadden**, Director of Educational Programs at UWWP. "The key is taking a holistic approach that addresses the diverse needs of students and families."

As schools across New York continue to grapple with high rates of chronic absenteeism, the Education United Program offers a promising model for intervention. By combining targeted academic support with family engagement, essential services, and engaging activities, the program is helping to ensure that more students are present and ready to learn every day.



Left: UWWP donated items to Teens Under Construction's pop-up store. Above: UWWP CEO Tom Gabriel presents a Community Impact Grant to CHHOP's CEO Cynthia Knox, Esq. Below: Family Services Society of Yonkers receives hundreds of board games to distribute to their families.



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helped me believe in myself and gave me opportunities I never imagined. Now, I plan to major in computer science and give back to my community by mentoring younger girls just like me."

Caring for the Hungry and Homeless of Peekskill was awarded a Community Impact grant for \$7,500. "United Way continues to be a valued partner of the organization," said **CHHOP CEO Cynthia Knox, Esq.** "Clients tell us that rent, the cost of food, and cost of utilities are the primary reasons they cannot afford food, and 97% said they appreciate fresh food from Fred's Pantry. Grant funding such as this one enables us to continue sourcing healthier and fresher food items to distribute to our clients twice a week."

One of the goods grant recipients is **Teens Under Construction** that uses the items to create a pop-up store where people in need can pick out the items they need for free. **Yocasta Jimenez**, its executive director, said, "We are so grateful for the donated items by United Way; they make a difference in so many people's lives. For instance, a young woman came by and mentioned that the store arrived just in time, since she had recently lost her job and was struggling to afford essential items. Another family was overwhelmed with shock and relief when they realized they could get everything they needed. They had just moved into their apartment after being homeless for a year. We appreciate having United Way as a partner."



Another goods grant recipient, **Union Baptist Church of New Rochelle**, distributed the donated personal hygiene products to their senior clients.

"We have a heavy senior population," said **Phyllis Shelton**. "Most of our seniors need personal care products, but cannot afford the cost. It is often difficult to transport the products from store to home. United Way donations has made it easy for our seniors to maintain their dignity."

United Way of Westchester and Putnam is deeply committed to creating lasting change in our community. Through strategic investments in local nonprofits, United Way is helping to build a stronger, more inclusive Westchester and Putnam.

UWWP LAUNCHES TRANSFORMATIVE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

United Way of Westchester and Putnam (UWWP) has taken another step toward fulfilling its mission of supporting local communities by establishing a new social work department this past September. This groundbreaking initiative represents a pivotal moment in the organization's history, and promises to enhance and expand the services offered to families and individuals in need, directly improving the lives of those who rely on our United Way's support.

The creation of the social work department is a direct response to the growing needs observed within the Education United After-school Program and among users of the 211 Helpline. By integrating professional social work services, UWWP aims to provide more comprehensive support to families participating in these and other United Way programs.

Tom Gabriel, President and CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam, shared his enthusiasm for the new department. "The addition of our social work department is truly transformative for our United Way," he said. "It allows us to deepen our impact and provide more holistic support to the families we serve. By addressing not just immediate needs but also long-term social and emotional well-being, we're better equipped to create lasting change in our communities."

The new department will initially focus on several key areas: positive youth development activities, social-emotional learning, family and community



Fordham University alum Latasha Griffith is the new Director of Social Work for United Way of Westchester and Putnam. She will be overseeing a team of social workers and interns that will be enhancing the organization's programs, especially in 211 and education.

engagement opportunities, and basic wraparound support. These services will be primarily directed toward families in the Education United After-school Program. The wraparound support includes providing nutritious food parcels, clothing, and informational and referral services for housing, healthcare, and transportation.

Leading this new initiative are two experienced social workers, Latasha Griffith, Director of Social Work, and Tyler Schultz, Social Worker. Both Griffith and Schultz bring valuable expertise to their roles, having worked for other organizations in Westchester County and earning their master's degrees in social work from Fordham University. Their leadership will be crucial in shaping the department's approach and ensuring high-quality services. While the department is starting with two social workers, there are plans for growth. UWWP has expressed

interest in bringing on social work interns, providing valuable experience to future professionals while expanding the department's capacity to serve.

The social work department's mission extends beyond addressing immediate needs. By focusing on both youth development and family support, UWWP is taking a holistic approach to community well-being. This strategy recognizes that strong families are the foundation of thriving communities. As the social work department integrates with existing UWWP programs, it is expected to enhance the organization's ability to create positive change. By providing more comprehensive, professional support, United Way of Westchester and Putnam is reaffirming its commitment to building stronger, more resilient communities.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH HELP FROM OUR PARTNERS

United Way of Westchester and Putnam (UWWP) stands as a powerful force for positive change, weaving together a network of over 300 partners from nonprofit, government, and private sectors to create a lasting impact in our communities. Through innovative programs like **Essential Goods for Basic Needs**, UWWP works with manufacturers and retailers to organize community drives to ensure local families have access to fundamental necessities that many take for granted.

The organization's strength lies in its ability to forge meaningful partnerships that amplify impact. A prime example is the **Feeding United** program, where UWWP collaborates with **Feeding Westchester** and **DoorDash** to address food insecurity through innovative delivery solutions. Last year alone, dedicated volunteers contributed nearly 3,500 hours to support vital initiatives including **Born Learning Trails**, the **Summer Feeding United Program**, and the **Summer Backpack Program**.

What sets UWWP apart is its comprehensive approach to community support – from organizing community drives to implementing educational programs that help build stronger futures. By connecting resources, volunteers, and partners, UWWP creates a multiplier effect that transforms individual contributions into community-wide impact, ensuring that help reaches those who need it most in Westchester and Putnam counties.

Check out the photos of some of the groups, volunteers, and partners who help make our programs successful.



The **Sharing Self and Junior League of Westchester** partnered with UWWP on a diaper drive that collected more than 2,000 diapers.



LeChase Construction organized a food drive on behalf of United Way of Westchester and Putnam.



United Way worked with the **Westchester Library System** to collect canned food to support **Feeding Westchester**.



Assemblywoman Amy Paulin donated new backpacks to support the school supply drive.



Fifth Third Wealth Advisors sorted and organized the book donations into age-appropriate categories.



State Senator Shelley Mayer partnered with UWWP to collect school supplies for students in Port Chester.



New York Power Authority volunteers worked on getting backpacks ready for the students.



Toys for Tots and **Good360** teamed up with UWWP to distribute toys to students to encourage less screen time.



American Christmas brought joy to others by providing 12 decorated Christmas trees to families and senior living facilities.



For the second consecutive year, **Dr. Bruce Pinker** and his team at **Progressive Foot Care** chose UWWP as the beneficiary of their 17th annual shoe drive.

RIDE UNITED RIDES & DELIVERIES HELPS THOUSANDS



Feeding Westchester, DoorDash, and the Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon team up with United Way to deliver 500 parcels of produce to families biweekly.

United Way of Westchester and Putnam addresses the transportation gap that challenges vulnerable community members from receiving necessary services and resources. It does so through two programs: its Ride United Last-Mile Delivery program and Ride United Transportation Access initiative.

The **Ride United Last-Mile Delivery Program** tackles food insecurity by bringing nutritious food directly to those who need it most: seniors, individuals with disabilities, and families with school-aged children who qualify for free or reduced lunch. Working in partnership with **DoorDash**, **Feeding Westchester**, and many others, United Way delivered 34,200 food parcels to households throughout the region in 2024.

Michelle, a Yonkers resident whose family participates in the

food delivery program, said, “There have been many times this program supplemented my food stamps. The fresh fruit and vegetables are a welcome addition to our table.”

For many families, the program provides access to nutrition they might otherwise go without. “If it wasn’t for this program, I wouldn’t be able to have fresh fruits and vegetables available to my kids, as the cost of groceries has skyrocketed,” said **Kiara of Ossining**.

The impact extends beyond nutrition to financial stability. “This program has helped me and my family a lot financially because of the vegetables I receive every 14 days,” said **Enilda of Sleepy Hollow**.

In 2024, the **Ride United Transportation Access** initiative provided 1,000 free **Lyft** rides to individuals accessing employment opportunities, medical appointments, and critical human

services. This program has become a lifeline for many, including those seeking employment. “This service helped me a lot with transportation getting to and from places like job fairs and home from my program that is helping me get a career,” shared **Carissa of New Rochelle**.

For those lacking reliable transportation options, the program bridges a crucial gap. As **Mary of Mount Kisco** explained, “The program enabled me to be able to get to and from school so I could further my education, and therefore employment opportunities.”

Through these complementary initiatives, the United Way of Westchester and Putnam continues to demonstrate its commitment to removing barriers and creating pathways to self-sufficiency for all community members.

THREE AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS



UWWP President and CEO Tom Gabriel with Social Justice Award recipient **Chase Gray**.

United Way of Westchester and Putnam awarded three scholarships in 2024—one to a high school senior, and two to graduate-level social work students.

First, it joined the **African American Men of Westchester** (AAMW) in honoring seven exceptional students at their 24th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Youth Awards luncheon. The event, held at the Sleepy Hollow Conference Center, celebrated young leaders from across Westchester who embody Dr. King's principles of service, justice, and community.

Tom Gabriel, President and CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam, presented the **Social Justice Award** and \$2,500 scholarship to **Chase Gray**, a 12th-grade student at Harrison High School. The Social Justice Award is presented each year to a student who upholds a standard of integrity and focuses on the pursuit of fairness, justice, and the equitable distribution of resources for all.

Gray was awarded the scholarship for his work in creating a short documentary, titled "Journey to Justice," where he explored the motivations of servant leaders and their dedication to creating social change, while reflecting on his own dedication to unity and justice through impactful service across diverse communities.

"This young leader's dedication to amplifying community voices and addressing critical needs exemplifies the spirit of Dr. King's legacy," said Gabriel. "His documentary not only showcases the power of

service, but also inspires others to take action in their own communities."

In addition, United Way of Westchester and Putnam gifted scholarships collectively totaling \$10,000 from its **Ruth Taylor Scholarship Fund** to two Westchester graduate students pursuing master's degrees in social work.

The two recipients are **Melissa Rosado** of New Rochelle, and **Stephanie Lopez** of Mamaroneck.

"Receiving the Ruth Taylor Scholarship is an honor," said Rosado. "It acknowledges my hard work and dedication, and provides the financial support I need to fully focus on my studies. I am very grateful to the UWWP."

Rosado and Lopez are earning their master's degrees in social work from Columbia University and Boston College, respectively.

"These individuals are excellent choices for this scholarship," United Way Chief Impact Officer Faith Ann Butcher said. "It truly benefits everyone to have people as dedicated as they are to reach their full potential, and if we can help along the way with a scholarship, we are happy to do it. We can't wait to see each of them continue to thrive."

The fund was established in tribute to Ruth Taylor upon her retirement as Westchester County's Commissioner of Public Welfare, recognizing her nearly four decades of outstanding service. United Way of Westchester and Putnam, **Westchester County Government**, and the **Urban League of Westchester County** sponsor the annual awards. Applicants must be residents of Westchester County and enrolled in graduate studies in Social Work or Public Health on a full-time basis.

Since 2008, United Way has awarded a collective total of \$226,000 to 79 graduate students through the Ruth Taylor Scholarship Fund.



Ruth Taylor Scholarship Awardee **Stephanie Lopez**

211 HELPLINE SEES 10% INCREASE IN CALLS, REFLECTING GROWING COMMUNITY NEEDS

Elizabeth of New Rochelle is a single mother. She called 211 because she lost her job and was having trouble keeping up with her bills, including her rent, which had fallen into arrears. The 211 staff connected Elizabeth to resources that could help. They included information to assist with issues that she did not even mention, such as childcare assistance programs to ensure that she could have appropriate support to aid with life's challenges.

Elizabeth is one of thousands of individuals who called **United Way's 211 Helpline** in 2024. The White Plains Community Resource Center for the 211 Helpline, which serves the Hudson Valley, Long Island, and Adirondack regions, has reported a remarkable 10% surge in call volume from January to September

2024, compared to the same period in 2023. This upswing in calls underscores the critical role that 211 plays as a lifeline for community members seeking essential support and resources.

The 211 Helpline is a crucial hub for connecting individuals and families in need with vital social services and resources, serving as a one-stop destination for information on housing, healthcare, food assistance, employment opportunities, and more. The notable increase in call volume reflects the evolving and pressing needs of communities across the region, especially amid ongoing challenges.

For instance, **Mary from Brewster** called 211 through the **Putnam County Crisis Hotline**. She called because she needed to get out of a

domestic violence situation, but could not find local shelter placement. By asking probing questions to get more information on the situation, including performing a risk assessment, our 211 staff was able to find resources in the area that the caller had not yet tried. By using a slow and patient tone with Mary, the community resource specialist was able to assist her and keep her calm in a difficult situation. "Having someone help me through what felt like one of my darkest times means the world to me. Thank you," said Mary.

Of the call increase, there is a rise in calls related to income support (up 16%), clothing and household needs (up 55%), utilities (up 33%), and employment (up 95%). These increases continue the unprecedented increase in call volume, which began during the pandemic, and continued. As the economic landscape shifts, more individuals and families are contacting 211 to access information and assistance in these critical areas. The dedicated team of community resource specialists at the White Plains Community Resource Center has worked tirelessly to address each caller's needs with empathy, professionalism, and a commitment to finding the best possible solutions.

"We are seeing a clear reflection of the dynamic nature of community needs through the rise in calls to our 211 Helpline call center," said Lini Jacob, United Way's Chief Information and Referral Officer who manages the White Plains

UWWP's Chief Information and Referral Officer Lini Jacob





From left to right: Cassandra Rajcumar, 211 Director of Programs and Services; UWWP President and CEO Tom Gabriel; State Senator Peter Harckham; and former UWWP Board Chairman, William M. Mooney III, Esq.

211 Helpline community resource center. “This increase is a testament to the essential role that 211 plays in connecting individuals with the resources they require to overcome challenges and improve their quality of life.”

The White Plains community resource center’s ability to efficiently handle the increased call volume can be attributed to its dedicated staff, robust technology infrastructure, and strong partnerships with local organizations, government agencies, and service providers. Together, they form a united front in the fight against food insecurity, financial instability, and other pressing issues facing our communities.

The 211 Helpline in New York State is a public-private partnership. It is funded by **New York State**, local

municipalities, and a third by local United Ways. This year, the NYS Legislature awarded \$2.4 million to the state’s 211 Helpline network to ensure that these community resource centers continue to connect individuals with health and human service needs to the right resources. **Senator Peter Harckham** (District 40), representing communities in Westchester, Putnam, and Dutchess counties, sponsored the bill into the budget.

“211 is the ultimate example of shared services and public-private partnerships,” said Sen. Harckham. “It is a good investment of public dollars to make sure that someone is there to assist those in need to find the government services and nonprofit assistance available. COVID and other recent natural disasters, such as the flooding

caused by Hurricane Ida, also showed how important 211 is to local and state governments for responding to disasters and emergencies.”

As the 211 Helpline continues to be a beacon of hope for those seeking assistance, it stands as a reminder that we are stronger when we come together to support one another. The White Plains community resource center remains committed to serving as a dependable resource, guiding callers toward the help they need during times of uncertainty.

The 211 Helpline is available 24/7 by dialing 211 or visiting 211hudsonvalley.org. You can also text your zip code to 898211 to connect with a community specialist between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

BOOSTING NONPROFIT CAPACITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



Nonprofits dropped off more than 400 devices during UWWP's E-Waste Recycling Event.

United Way of Westchester and Putnam empowered local nonprofits to maximize their operational capacity in 2024 through two strategic waste reduction initiatives that freed up valuable office space while promoting environmental responsibility. In October, United Way's **E-Waste Recycling Event** provided a practical solution for organizations drowning in outdated technology. Eight participating organizations cleared their offices of 430 electronic items, including desktop computers, monitors, tablets, smartphones, and office equipment. Hosted in partnership with Veolia North America and Atlantic Tomorrow at United Way's White Plains headquarters, the event specifically targeted nonprofits, schools, and government agencies struggling with limited disposal options.

"The cost of disposing of old electronic equipment is burdensome for many of our partners," explained United Way CEO Tom Gabriel. "By offering this service to the community for free, we are ensuring that the agencies can increase their capacities while also arranging for a secure and environmentally safe way of discarding the broken or antiquated equipment."

Earlier in June, United Way's **Shred Day** addressed another common challenge: accumulated paperwork. Twelve nonprofit organizations cleared over 4 tons of sensitive documents—more than 250 banker's boxes—from their facilities. Sponsored by **Veolia North America** with volunteer support from **M&T Bank**,

the event transformed cluttered office space into functional work environments.

"We love partnering with the United Way, especially on this day. We have so many boxes and papers in our office, and having a day like this just helps us put more money towards wishes. We're so grateful for the United Way," said Denise D'Amico, Chief Mission Officer at Make-A-Wish Hudson Valley.

Both initiatives delivered substantial environmental benefits while addressing a critical operational need. By eliminating storage bottlenecks, participating organizations could redirect their focus and resources toward their core missions, rather than managing accumulated waste—demonstrating United Way's practical approach to nonprofit capacity building.



Volunteers from M&T Bank assisted with Shred Day.

SUMMIT PREPARES LEADERS AND PREVENTS BURNOUT



The 2024 Nonprofit Leadership Summit's keynote speakers were Hamza Khan (left) and Dr. Lynn Perry Wooten (right).

The **2024 Nonprofit Leadership Summit**, hosted by United Way of Westchester and Putnam, brought together hundreds of nonprofit professionals for a day of learning and networking at the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College. The hybrid event featured two dynamic keynote speakers who delivered powerful messages about leadership resilience and innovation in the nonprofit sector.

Dr. Lynn Perry Wooten, president of Simmons University and co-author of "The Prepared Leader," kicked off the morning with insights on emerging from crises stronger than before. Her presentation resonated with attendees who have navigated significant challenges in recent years.

The afternoon keynote address by multi-award-winning entrepreneur **Hamza Khan** built on these themes with his presentation drawn from his viral

TEDx talk "Stop Managing, Start Leading." Khan also led a popular breakout session on beating burnout and building resilience, which was livestreamed for virtual participants.

Between keynotes, attendees chose from specialized breakout sessions including "Culture Toolkit: Shaping a Purposeful and Inclusive Nonprofit Culture," "The Power of Data: Transforming Outcomes, Advocating for Change," and "Bridging the Gaps: Nonprofits, Schools, and Government Working Together."

"The Summit continues to be our cornerstone capacity-building program," said Tom Gabriel, President and CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam. "Providing this professional development opportunity helps strengthen the entire nonprofit ecosystem in our region."



School district and government officials discuss ways that nonprofits could consider collaborating with them during one of the breakout sessions at the 2024 Summit.

Use the QR code to see more photos of this event.



UNITED, WE TRANSFORMED LIVES IN 2024

\$35,621,109

invested and leveraged in Westchester and Putnam communities.**

821,756

individuals and families benefitted**

316

 community partners

\$600,000

administered in grants to **79 local nonprofits.**



\$5.7 mil

worth of essential goods distributed to **110 schools and nonprofit partners** to meet the basic needs of the people we serve.***



410,400 lbs

of groceries distributed for free to **2,176 households** in Westchester and Putnam counties.

\$18.4 mil

to **7,488 residents** from EITC-eligible tax refunds processed by VITA and the Hudson CASH Coalition

680,000



interactions with the 211 Helpline Call Center through calls, texts, and its website.

34,200

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

\$100,337

saved by **1,150 families** using the Rx Discount Card by SingleCare.

\$2,301,000

saved collectively by **767 families** who did not need to pay for after-school care for their children.**

4,700

pounds of canned food collected.

3,560

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



8,000

pounds of paper were shredded and recycled for free to help nonprofits increase their capacity.

\$12,500

in scholarships awarded to **3 students**.

14,000

toys distributed to families.

902

Lyft rides given to individuals with limited or no transportation access.

2,882

people attended job training or professional development workshops.

10,000

pairs of Bombas socks distributed to those in need.



767

students attended the Education United After-school Program.

UNITED WAY OF WESTCHESTER AND PUTNAM LEADERS IN GIVING REPORT 2024

GIFTS MADE JANUARY 1, 2024 – DECEMBER 31, 2024

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 - \$7,499

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.

LA SOCIÉTÉ NATIONALE

(\$100,000 - \$249,999)

Anonymous

John Ciulla and Erin Fuller LC

ORDRE D'ÉGALITÉ

(\$50,000 - \$74,999)

Barbara and H. Rodgin Cohen LC

Nancy and Frank Pierson LC

ORDRE DE LIBERTÉ

(\$25,000 - \$49,999)

Jerome Levy Foundation LC

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One member wishes to remain anonymous.

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Ten members wish to remain anonymous.

LC Loyal Contributor giving to United Way for 10 years or more

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 Joshua E. Kimmerling
Noah Kimmerling

In memory of Tia Tagliaferro
Loretta Illustrato and Linda Greco

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.

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New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity



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\$100,000 AND ABOVE



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\$25,000 AND ABOVE



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Triton International
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* Partnership is through Good360

CORPORATE & FOUNDATION PARTNERS HELP CREATE AN IMPACT



Regeneron staff helped students make slime during the Education United After-school Program.



Field Hall Foundation supported the Ride United Last-Mile Delivery Program for seniors in Putnam and Mount Vernon.



United Way secured 500 cases of water through **PepsiCo** and **Wegmans** to help the **Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority** after 385 apartments were without drinkable water.



MVP Health Care employees organized the family welcome packets for the Summer Feeding United and Summer Backpack Programs.



Webster Bank team members packed hundreds of backpacks with school supplies for the Summer Feeding United Program.



Wegmans contributed 1000 lbs of canned food to the canned food drive.

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



This year's Women of Distinction Karen C. Erren (left) and Leslie Lampert (far right) with UWWP President and CEO Tom Gabriel and past honoree Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson. Use the QR code to see more photos from the event.

Two prominent leaders dedicated to helping women and families living on the financial edge received the United Way Women's Leadership Council's 2024 **Woman of Distinction award** at its **12th Annual Celebration of Women in Philanthropy**. **Karen C. Erren**, President and CEO of **Feeding Westchester**, and **Leslie Lampert**, Executive Chef and Proprietor of **Ladle of Love** and **Love Hospitality**, were honored for their work addressing food insecurity in the Hudson Valley. **NewYork Presbyterian** and **PepsiCo** were presenting sponsors for the event.

The annual breakfast recognizes and reinforces the work of women helping financially vulnerable women in Westchester and Putnam counties become self-sufficient through targeted resources and programs. The event at Abigail Kirsch at Tappan Hill in Tarrytown was attended by 250 nonprofit and business leaders.

In addition to NewYork Presbyterian and PepsiCo,

this year's event sponsors include **Con Edison**, **PURE Insurance**, **Thompson & Bender**, **Chase Bank**, **Fifth Third Wealth Advisors**, **Valley Bank**, **Wegmans**, and **Westchester Medical Center Health Network**.

During the breakfast, Erren and Lampert shared personal stories about the satisfaction they get working to make a difference in their communities. Both women also reminded the audience that everyone has experienced adversity, and no one is immune from falling on hard times. All of us, they said, can make a difference in small ways.

"What I would say to everyone here is, just listen to yourself," said Erren. "For me, it's hunger, for you, it might be trees or dogs. Whatever matters most to you. It is the cumulative effort of all of us that changes the world."

Tom Gabriel, President and CEO of the United Way of Westchester and Putnam, said the United Way Women's Leadership Council chose these two



Above: Board Chairwoman and past Woman of Distinction honoree Aleida M. Frederico welcomed attendees to the breakfast. Right: Ladies from PepsiCo supported the Women's Leadership Council event..

women for their role in helping to solve a significant issue for those living on the financial edge.

"Food insecurity continues to be a major issue for 40% of Westchester and Putnam families who are living paycheck to paycheck," he said. "The personal mission of these two honorees aligns perfectly with the United Way and the Women's Leadership Council's goal to help financially vulnerable women and families. Karen and Leslie serve as examples of what can be accomplished with vision and dedication."

Proceeds from the annual Women's Leadership Council breakfast are used to help support the lives of **ALICE** women, children, and their families in Westchester and Putnam, who struggle daily to afford their most basic needs. ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, once known as the working poor. The funds will support programs like **United Way's Education United Program, Essential Goods, 211 Helpline, Ride United, AliceSense**, and others.

"I could share with you 10,000 stories of our impact from 10,000 women, children, and families who directly benefitted from our programs and services. And that doesn't include the 10,000 stories from women, children, and families helped by the dozens of amazing nonprofit organizations here today that we supported with a grant or other efforts this year. We did this and so much more thanks to your help and the help of others in the community," said Gabriel.



WOMEN'S
LEADERSHIP
Council

Women Empowering Women ... Strengthening Our Community

2024 Members

June Blanc*	Denise Rempe*
Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson*	Martelia Sakakenny
Angela Brock-Kyle*	Susan C. Salice
Marjorie A. Ciucci	Veronica H. Shipp
Betty Cotton	Margaret A. Tramontine
Karen Erren	Anese Vincent
Ann Loughran	Laurie A. Walsh
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Tanya Moximchalk	Sidney Witter
Susan Puglia	Joanne E. Wright
Patricia Nahara	*WLC Founding Member

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.

Find out more at www.uwwp.org/wlc2024.

UNITED WAY'S IMAGINE GALA, A NIGHT OF CELEBRATION



Then-Board Chairman William M. Mooney III, Esq., honorees Frank and Nancy Pierson, and UWWP President and CEO Tom Gabriel.



Board member Michelle A. Nicholas presented the Corporate Citizenship Award to M&T Bank, which was represented by fellow board member Nino Pesce.



Dr. Marsha Gordon, President and CEO of The Business Council of Westchester, recognized Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts with United Way's Community Service Award. Taryn Duffy, Vice President, Public Affairs, and Jonathan M. Cocchiola, CPA, Executive Director of Finance received the award.

The Imagine Gala held by United Way of Westchester and Putnam (UWWP) at Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase, NY, on Wednesday, June 5, was another successful celebration of the organization. The gala honored the philanthropic commitment and community leadership of notable and deserving honorees Nancy and Frank Pierson, M&T Bank, and Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts.

“Tonight, we celebrate the generosity of our community and honor those whose spirit of caring has made a real difference in the lives of others,” said Tom Gabriel, president and CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam. “Together, we can continue to support the vital work of United Way and ensure that our community remains strong and United.”

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the **Spirit of Caring Awards**, which recognizes individuals and organizations that have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to philanthropy and community service.

Chairman’s Award: Frank and Nancy Pierson

For decades, community volunteers Nancy and Frank Pierson, who are longtime Tocqueville Society Members, have quietly shared their time, talent, and treasure by supporting local nonprofits focused on education, children, humanitarian efforts, and disaster relief, as well as the alleviation of poverty. In 2018, through their foresight and generosity, United Way was able to add texting capabilities to its 211 Helpline platform, significantly expanding services and outreach to those in need in our community.

Corporate Citizenship Award: M&T Bank

Through close collaboration with local nonprofits, M&T Bank is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for its customers, employees, and neighbors. Over the years, M&T has provided financial support, volunteerism, and in-kind services to fortify our community, with a focus on civic, cultural, and health and human services. M&T actively encourages others to join them in supporting healthy communities.

Community Service Award: Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts

Empire City Casino has long been part of the fabric of surrounding communities, with a commitment to philanthropy that has deepened under the ownership of MGM Resorts. Their investments in local public education, food insecurity and workforce development programs create positive impact for residents, employees, and businesses alike. Notably, MGM Resorts doubled wages for Empire City employees to ensure family-sustaining compensation, now paying the highest wages in the industry nationwide.

Gala attendees were warmly welcomed by United Way Board Chair, William M. Mooney, III, and CEO Tom Gabriel. Guests enjoyed an outdoor cocktail reception and silent auction, followed by an elegant dinner and an energetic paddle fundraiser. The culmination of the evening’s celebration was the awards presentation itself, and the inspiring commentary from honorees about the importance of being engaged and supporting your community.

“UWWP would like to thank all of the sponsors, volunteers, and attendees who made the 2024 Imagine Gala such a success,” Gabriel said. “Their support enables the organization to continue its vital work in the community, helping to improve the lives of those in need.”

United Way’s Imagine Gala was generously supported by Platinum Sponsors **M&T Bank, Gold Sponsors - Barbara and H. Rodgin Cohen, Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, PepsiCo, Webster Bank, Margaret and David Yawman, Esq.;** Silver Sponsors **African American Men of Westchester, Bleakley Platt + Schmidt LLP, IBM, PCSB Community Foundation, Nancy and Frank Pierson, PURE Insurance, Wegmans.;** Bronze Sponsors **Atlantic Tomorrow, Concept:3, Cuddy & Feder LLP, Customers Bank, Extensis HR, Walter and Lori Hosp, Lawley Insurance, Paraco Gas;** and Media Sponsor **Westfair Business Journal.**



Use the QR code to see more photos of this event.

UNITED WAY HONORS KEANE AT ANNUAL DAY OF GOLF



Then UWWP Board of Directors Chairman William M. Mooney III, Esq, with honoree Kevin Keane and UWWP President and CEO Tom Gabriel.

United Way Westchester and Putnam (UWWP) hosted its Applied Underwriters Invitational and Bud Hammer Memorial Day of Golf at Scarsdale Golf Club on Monday, Sept. 9. It was record-setting, as it was UWWP's fourth straight sold-out Day of Golf. The fun-filled day served as an opportunity for friends of United Way to support its efforts, and for UWWP to recognize the philanthropic commitment and community leadership of **Kevin J. Keane**, Executive Chairman of **PKF O'Connor Davies**.

"We are delighted to honor Kevin," UWWP President and CEO Tom Gabriel said. "He was honored for his long-standing commitment to the nonprofit community, including United Way, as well as his dedication to helping those less fortunate and in need of a helping hand."

Keane humbly accepted the honor. "I am impressed by the work of United Way and am honored to be recognized by them," he said. "I'm a big believer of giving in the community that you live and work in. I have been fortunate to learn about all the help this

organization provides to those in need in Westchester and Putnam communities. It is inspiring, and I want to thank everyone at United Way for the work they do.

The best round was played by the foursome of **Nadim El-Jaroudi, James Lyness, Matthew Lyness, and David Lyness**. The second-place finishers were **Rick Castro, David Rotundo, Jr., Steven Maide**, and **Joseph Palancia**. In third place was the foursome of **Greg Petrillo, Tim Caulfield, Ron Sylvestri**, and **Marty Deitch**.

"Special thanks to everyone who came out, supported us, or helped put this event together," said Gabriel. "At United Way, we believe that it is only by being United that we can change the world for the better. We thank you for being a part of these efforts by your presence at the Day of Golf."

The funds from the event will support UWWP programs.

The Day of Golf Committee includes **Carmelo Alvarado** of **TD Bank**, **Jonathan M. Borg, Esq.** of **Borg & Bryks LLP**, **Jonathan M. Cocchiola, CPA**, of **Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts**, **Sam Cooper** of **Regeneron**, **John M. Flannery, Esq.** of **Wilson Elser**, **Cathy Hoffman** of **Atlantic Westchester Inc.**, **Megan Hurley** of **PepsiCo**, **Justin Maneen** of **PCSB Bank**, **Tom P. Mooney** of **Customers Bank**, **William M. Mooney, Jr.** of **Simone Healthcare Development**, **William M. Mooney III, Esq.** of **Customers Bank**, **Kevin J. Plunkett, Esq.** of **Simone Development Companies**, **Matthew Saidman** of **Mutual of America Financial Group**, and **David M. Yawman, Esq.** of **Cresco Partners, Inc.**

Use the QR code to see more photos.



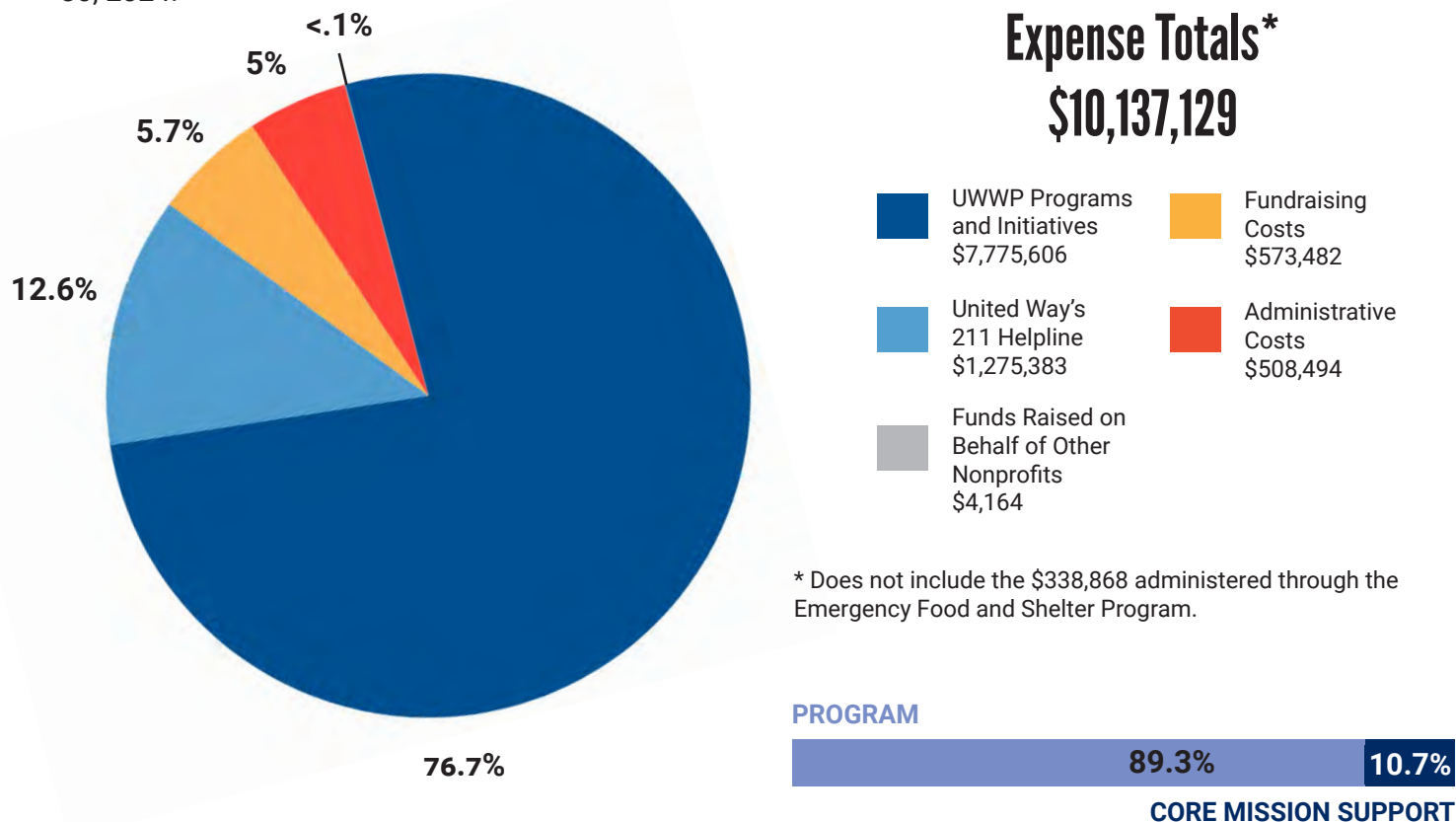
The winning foursome: Nadim El-Jaroudi, James Lyness, Matthew Lyness, and David Lyness

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.

*Below are the revenue and expense charts from the audited financial statement of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.



Revenue Totals = \$10,598,884

Category	Dollar Amount	Percentage
Campaign Results and Government Grants	\$4,121,397	38.89%
Gifts-in-Kind	\$5,745,762	54.21%
Bequests and Other Public Support	\$45,728	0.43%
Other Income	\$299,547	2.83%
Investment Income	\$386,450	3.64%
Total	\$10,598,884	100%

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Former Senior Relationship Manager, VP Commercial Lending; Co-Chair, Metro NY Regional Diversity Council, TD Bank

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Vice President, Marketing & Communications
MVP Health Care

Justin V. Maneen

VP and Commercial Loan Officer
PCSB Bank

Denise O. Matthews-Serra

Community Member

Amanda Michael, Esq.

Senior Managing Counsel
Mastercard International Incorporated

Nina M. Patton

Managing Director, Not-for-profit Banking
Webster Bank, N.A.

Laura C. Picone

Vice President, Senior Relationship Manager – Community Banking
TD Bank

Matthew Saidman

Regional Sales Director
Mutual of America Financial Group

Dr. Raymond Sanchez

Superintendent of Schools
Tarrytown UFSD

Sara Servadio

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

Bernard Thombs

Principal, Bernard Raymond Inc. and
Member of African American Men of
Westchester

Judith M. Watson

CEO
Westchester Community Health Center

Bo Zhang

Financial Advisor
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Tom Gabriel

President and Chief Executive Officer

Faith Ann Butcher

Chief Impact Officer

Lini Jacob

Chief Information and Referral Officer

Richard Moore

Chief Financial Officer

Margaret Tramontine

Chief Development Officer

THREE NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE UNITED WAY BOARD



Justin V. Maneen

United Way of Westchester and Putnam's Board of Directors appointed three community-minded professionals to its roster for three-year terms. Joining the 27 sitting board members are **Justin V. Maneen**, **Denise O Matthews-Serra**, and **Judith M. Watson**.

"We are delighted to welcome these three exceptional leaders to our Board of Directors," said Board Chairwoman Aleida M. Frederico. "Each brings unique expertise and a demonstrated commitment to service that aligns perfectly with United Way's mission. Their diverse perspectives and professional experience will be invaluable as we continue to strengthen our impact throughout Westchester and Putnam counties."

Justin V. Maneen, of Port Chester, NY, is Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer at **PCSB Bank**, where he brings a wealth of expertise in relationship building and financial strategy. Throughout his career at institutions including Valley Bank, Sterling National Bank, and The Westchester Bank, Justin has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and a talent for understanding clients' unique financial needs. Justin holds a B.S. in business economics



Denise O. Matthews-Serra

with a concentration in finance, and has earned various certifications in financial analysis.

Denise O. Matthews-Serra, a retired Client Relationship Manager in the retirement field, brings extensive board experience to our United Way. She holds an Economics degree from Hunter College and a master's degree in Project Management from Boston University. She also has several professional credentials, which include those from the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries (ASPPA), Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), NYS Life Insurance, and she is certified as an Associate Professional in Human Resources (aPHR). Denise currently serves as Treasurer for The Woman's Club of White Plains, Inc. and is a board member of The Thomas H Slater Center in White Plains and Meals-on-Wheels. Her past board appointments include President of the White Plains Public Library Board of Trustees, and board member of the **Westchester Library System**-Governance Committee, and in her Gedney Farms neighborhood association.

Judith M. Watson, RN, BSN, MPH, of White Plains, is CEO of **Westchester Community Health**



Judith M. Watson

Center. She immigrated to the United States from Jamaica at age seven and settled in White Plains. Her distinguished career includes serving in the United States Army for three years on active duty stationed in Hawaii, followed by seven years in the Army Reserves, where she achieved the rank of Sergeant E-5. Judith's healthcare career spans over 27 years, beginning at the Greenburgh Health Center (now WCHC Greenburgh) in 1994. She has served in various capacities including nursing roles, Executive Director of the Greenburgh Health Center site, and Chief Operating Officer of the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center before assuming her current position as CEO. Judith earned a B.S. Degree in Registered Nursing from Pace University and a master's degree in Public Health from New York Medical College. In addition to her primary role, she produces a public access television show, serves as an adjunct professor, and participates on several boards.

Part of the United Way Network, United Way of Westchester and Putnam is an independent nonprofit. Its board is responsible for developing the vision and policies of the organization, as well as maintaining its fiscal oversight.



United Way
of Westchester and Putnam

www.uwwp.org

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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.



SPREAD THE WORD

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CORPORATE SUPPORT

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