United Way of Greater New Haven has been here for 100 years, working to meet the immediate needs of our neighbors who need help and fighting for stronger, more equitable communities.
ENDING HOMELESSNESS

WE WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAS A PLACE TO CALL HOME

United Way has a longstanding commitment to helping those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness. Since 2014, we have served as the backbone for our region’s Coordinated Access Network, a coordinated, multi-partner effort to ensure that fewer people become homeless, and if they do, to move them into safe, affordable housing as quickly as possible.

- Over the past year, United Way has helped 784 individuals and families find permanent, safe housing.
- When the pandemic struck, United Way provided PPE to front-line shelter workers to keep them safe.
- United Way also served as the key link between the CT Department of Housing and local providers to move 250 shelter residents into local hotels at the height of the pandemic in order to create a safe environment, while also coordinating staffing, food, and other services.
- We are now hard at work connecting those same individuals to permanent housing, while also helping those at risk of homelessness stay housed. We are on track to connect more of our neighbors to housing this year than at any time since we started tracking this data for the region.
- United Way is also educating renters on eviction moratoriums and working with landlords to negotiate payment plans so that fewer people fall into homelessness.
HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can join the LIVE UNITED movement and create a better community for everyone.

Together, we can create a system where people have the supports needed to find safe, affordable housing, and stay housed.

• **Volunteer** to create a welcome home kit for those moving into permanent housing.

• **Donate** to support our shelter partners as they work to help clients transition from shelter to permanent housing.

• Advocate in your town for fair zoning laws that help those who need affordable places to live.

• Recognize shelter workers as essential workers, advocating for their protection and support.

“United Way’s role in the work to end homelessness is to convene partners. We work to promote accountability, innovation, and partnership. We identify what the local need is, and in many cases we have to go to state partners, legislatures and commissioners to figure out how we can work together to resolve this need.” - Kelly Fitzgerald, Coordinated Access Network Director
MEET JAMIR

In the early Spring, 22-year-old Jamir found herself homeless after a family conflict. She called 2-1-1 and was able to get into Beth-El Center’s No Freeze Shelter, but because of COVID-19 restrictions and capacity limits, she was unable to remain there long-term. For the next three months, she lived in a tent in the woods. Although she was able to find a temporary job, it only provided enough income for her to buy blankets and minimal food.

As time went on, Jamir began to lose hope. “I was at my breaking point,” she shared. “I didn't want to live anymore.” It was right around that time when Jamir received a call from Youth Continuum, a United Way supported agency that helps vulnerable youth and their families. The 2-1-1 workers she had spoken with in the Spring connected her with the resources she needed to change her life.

At Youth Continuum, Jamir not only received shelter but also the mental health support she needed. “The staff members helped me with a lot of things,” she remarked. “That's when I became more positive.” Additionally, through Youth Continuum, Jamir was able to find permanent housing. On September 1, she moved into her own home and is currently in search of a full-time job.

Jamir’s experience has given her a new-found mission to use her life to help those who are homeless. She has become an active member on the Youth Advisory Board, a group that helps unstable, unhoused youth and works with Youth Continuum to improve their housing process.

“I want to help people who are struggling. I want others to know that they should not lose hope. Hope is the only way that you can keep going and get somewhere.”