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.


See how you made an impact.
FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

WE WANT TO MAKE SURE NO ONE GOES HUNGRY

With the help of our donors, volunteers and partners, United Way of Greater New Haven has focused on providing food to as many people as possible and supporting innovative methods to fill in gaps.

- Provided funding to smaller pantries to help them increase their ability to serve their communities, focusing on programs led by volunteers, embedded in the community, and serving predominantly people of color.

- Helped to create, staff, and fund a brand-new food delivery program in March so that pantry clients who were elderly or immunocompromised could stay home and stay safe, while still getting the food they needed. In its first six months, this new program coordinated almost 15,000 grocery deliveries and served over 1,000 clients from multiple pantries and towns – avoiding duplication and creating efficiencies of scale. The program also benefited from United Way's innovative partnership with DoorDash; while volunteers helped with many deliveries, we also used “Dashers” to provide “last mile” services to help when volunteers were not available.

- Worked with a range of partners to identify high-need, underserved neighborhoods and organized and funded neighborhood “pop-up” pantries in New Haven and Hamden to make sure those who needed food could access it. Over the course of the summer, we fed over 6,000 people through the neighborhood pop-ups, almost half of whom had never before used a food pantry.

- Supported several innovative community programs to increase access to healthy food, including a new Dinner for a Dollar site, a community garden to provide fresh produce for the Keefe Center food pantry, and an expanded partnership between Haven’s Harvest and Quinnipiac to increase food rescue efforts.
More people than ever need help putting food on the table, which means we need to make sure the local food response system is strong enough to meet the increased demand.

Together, we can create a more robust and connected local food system to ensure easier access to healthy food across the region.

- Donate to ensure our neighbors have dignified ways to access healthy food
- Volunteer with us to increase the capacity of local emergency food providers to meet urgent needs.
- Share your voice to advocate for a more just food system in Greater New Haven.

“With our food work in particular, United Way helps connect the dots between a need that is identified by a neighbor or community member and the different organizations that serve that need.” - Aly Fox, Vice President for Community Impact
“My family depends on the pantry because it stretches what we have, allowing us to have complete meals,” stated Patricia, “I go to the pantries at the end of the month and that holds me over until I get new food stamps.”

As the effects of the pandemic have increased grocery prices, Patricia and her neighbors rely on food pantries more than ever before to supplement meals. “I’ve noticed a lot more people coming to the pantries since the Coronavirus started. There is always a line now,” Patricia remarked.

Because of the increased need, United Way looked at gaps in service and worked with a broad range of partners to reach neighborhoods with the greatest need. This work has only been possible because of our trusted relationships, local knowledge, and ability to coordinate collaborative efforts.

“People need to support United Way. It means a lot to everyone who is in need.”