



UNITED WAY
Greater New Haven

UNITED IS THE WAY

2024-2025 COMMUNITY REPORT

WHAT WE DO

OUR VISION

Greater New Haven is a place where all children are nurtured, all families are thriving, and all community members have opportunities to reach their full potential.

OUR MISSION

We bring people and organizations together to create solutions to Greater New Haven’s most pressing challenges in the areas of Education, Health, and Financial Security, grounded in racial and social justice.

OUR IMPACT AREAS

- Healthy Food & Stable Housing
- Thriving Children
- Financial Security



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A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

When neighbors come together with purpose and resolve, they can meet any moment. This past year reminded us of that truth again and again.

Across Greater New Haven, families continue to work hard to build stable, hopeful lives. At the same time, rising costs and cuts to the programs and community resources families rely on have made that work even harder. In moments of uncertainty and urgency, our community showed what it means to lead with care. United is the Way we come together to respond, to support one another, and to turn shared concern into meaningful action.

Nowhere was that clearer than in our Neighbors United emergency response. With SNAP facing repeated disruptions and ongoing uncertainty, leaving thousands of households in our region facing sudden gaps in food support, we acted quickly. Thanks to our donors, partners, and volunteers, families were able to buy groceries right away, food pantries kept their doors open, and neighbors experienced dignity and relief during a stressful time. Neighbors United reflected what United Way does best: move swiftly, listen closely, and stand with people when they need it most.

That same spirit of collective action drives our work every day across our three impact areas: Healthy Food and Stable Housing, Thriving Children, and Financial Security. Together, we are increasing access to nourishing food and safe places to call home. We are making sure children have the support and stability they need to grow and thrive. We are helping neighbors build strong financial foundations for the future. We are building a community where possibility is not a privilege for the reserved few, but a promise widely shared.

As you read our 2025 Community Report, you will see the many ways your support comes to life. Every story, every outcome, and every step forward reflects neighbors choosing to show up for one another.

Thank you for believing in what is possible when we act together. United is the Way we rise to meet the moment, and the way we build a future where everyone in Greater New Haven can thrive.

With gratitude,
Jennifer M. Heath
Jennifer M. Heath,
President & CEO
United Way of Greater New Haven





UNITED WAY
Greater New Haven

**UNITED IS
THE WAY**

**Together, we turn challenges into possibilities
and hope into action.**



No matter the challenges our community faces, we can make a bigger impact together rather than alone. United is the Way we come together in times of need - it's the way we tackle complex problems like poverty, hunger, and homelessness.

With our deep roots in the community, generous donors, dedicated volunteers, and local partners, we bring in new voices and drive solutions in our community.

It only takes one individual to make a difference, but when many people come together with hope and determination, we can shape a brighter tomorrow for us all.

Working together, we can reach a future where everyone thrives.

UNITED WAY DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND ADVOCATES ARE UNITING FOR:

**HEALTHY FOOD &
STABLE HOUSING**



42,129
PEOPLE FED & HOUSED

Together, we are building a community where everyone has access to **nourishing food and a place to call home.**

**THRIVING
CHILDREN**



31,301
KIDS SUPPORTED

Together, we are making sure every child has the **tools and support to learn, grow, and thrive.**

**FINANCIAL
SECURITY**



6,603
PEOPLE ASSISTED

Together, we are helping our neighbors build **strong financial foundations for long-term success.**

\$10M+
INVESTED
IN OUR COMMUNITY

4,187 ADVOCATES
MOBILIZED

4,208 VOLUNTEERS
GAVE 10,772 HOURS

88,428 LIVES IMPACTED
2024-2025



“This food came at the perfect time. I was at the end of my groceries and didn’t know what to do. It brought hope back into my home.”

- New Haven Parent

UNITED IS THE WAY FOR HEALTHY FOOD & STABLE HOUSING

FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY IN GREATER NEW HAVEN

The increased price of food has put a strain on families who were already struggling to get by.

Today, many of our neighbors work hard to overcome barriers to build a life where they can thrive. 43% of households in Greater New Haven don’t make enough money to afford basic necessities like food, rent, and child care.

“It’s been very hard to get by on our food budget. Everything is so expensive now. This food pantry is a big help for my family.”
- Hamden Mobile Food Pantry Client

We work with community organizations across Greater New Haven to create a united system of food assistance to improve access to healthy, culturally appropriate food for all.

We strive to make healthy food more readily available for our neighbors who need it. Each year, United Way donors and volunteers come together to feed tens of thousands of children and adults through food distributions, pop-up pantries, summer meals, serving prepared meals, and more. Together, we’re building a community where everyone has access to nourishing food.



WORKING TOGETHER TO END HOMELESSNESS

Our community will be strongest when all our neighbors are housed and supported. United Way works with partners across the region to end homelessness in Greater New Haven. We use our regional response system to prevent homelessness whenever possible and to ensure that it is rare, brief, and non-recurring when it does happen.

United Way of Greater New Haven serves as the backbone of the Greater New Haven Coordinated Access Network (CAN). The CAN streamlines and standardizes the process for individuals and families to access assistance across a 19-town region, bringing together multiple stakeholders and agencies. By coordinating, we can end homelessness by connecting each person with appropriate housing and resources as quickly as possible.

Ending homelessness does not mean that no one will ever experience a housing crisis again. However, with the right resources in place, we can make sure everyone has a safe place to sleep.

“Early Head Start helped my daughter a lot in her development. She has grown in her learning and confidence.”

- Bella, PLTI Alum and Early Head Start Parent



UNITED IS THE WAY FOR THRIVING CHILDREN

SHOWING UP FOR FAMILIES: A MULTI-GENERATIONAL APPROACH

While raising her daughter Aitana, Bella pushed forward with a clear vision for her future. She graduated from high school and joined United Way’s first cohort of the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI). Through PLTI, Bella’s skills grew in communication, public speaking, and advocacy while learning about how policies impact children.

“I was one of the youngest PLTI members as a high school student. I gained a lot from this experience, through my community project. Many ideas came to me, and I also learned about resources that helped me guide and support my community project.”

Bella also made sure Aitana had the best possible start by enrolling her in United Way’s Early Head Start program. Early Head Start provides quality, affordable infant and toddler care which greatly benefits low-income families. Through Early Head Start, Aitana had the support to grow, explore, and build a strong foundation. As Aitana graduated into preschool, she’s thriving—curious, confident, and ready for her next adventure.

Bella and Aitana’s success are a reminder of the powerful impact that is possible when people are given the tools and support they need to thrive.

INVESTING IN THRIVING CHILDREN

United Way’s Secure Start Initiative provides educators and caregivers with an eight-week course that builds strong emotional and social foundations for children.

Tabari’s journey from participant to facilitator in the Secure Start Initiative shows its transformational power. His advocacy reflects a belief that empowering one life creates ripples across families, communities, and futures.

“It starts with the family, with the parents. That’s your first teacher, that’s your first friend. That’s the first person you might say I love you to. That’s everything, the first one.”

In 2025, the program expanded to include New Haven School Readiness Educators and Providers, extending support into classrooms. This year, 204 participants impacted nearly 1,200 children.





“After the Building Blocks class, I started taking the change in my wallet, a dollar every day, and putting it in a savings account.”

- New Haven Mom

UNITED IS THE WAY FOR FINANCIAL SECURITY

BUILDING BLOCKS TO FINANCIAL WELLNESS

Creating a pathway to financial security means supporting success in all aspects of a person’s life. To provide our neighbors with the best possible chance, we make sure their basic needs are met. We connect them to education, job training to prepare them for careers that can support their families, and services and benefits that help them achieve their goals.

We are working to create financial security in our community through money management programming. Our programs empower households with the knowledge to better understand and control their own assets. Through budgeting and asset building workshops, utility resource fairs, and free access to tax preparation services, we are helping our neighbors build strong financial foundations for long-term success.

Moving more families onto the path of economic mobility creates better futures for them and a stronger community for all of us.

SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBORS’ FINANCIAL GOALS

Nancy, an Early Head Start parent, had a dream of building a stable career for herself and her family. But to take the first step, she needed the right tools. That’s when our team stepped in to help Nancy secure a brand-new computer so she could begin her online medical billing and coding classes.

With the encouragement and guidance of a United Way Community Navigator, Nancy was connected to the American Job Center. This opened doors to valuable resources, training, and career support.

Our Community Navigators connect neighbors to resources and community partners so they can achieve their financial goals. By providing neighbors like Nancy with free, one-on-one support, we are working with our neighbors to create financial security.



EVERYONE DESERVES TO BE PART OF A THRIVING COMMUNITY

NEIGHBORS UNITED: COMING TOGETHER IN A CRISIS

During the record long federal government shutdown, many of our neighbors relying on SNAP were left without their benefits. We saw large numbers of people standing in lines at food pantries—many of them coming for the first time.

“One little box of pasta can feed six people in my family. The community showing up like this means more than you know.”
- New Haven Mom

Through United Way’s Neighbors United Campaign, we got food to families fast by raising \$250,000 to get gift cards to families impacted by the loss of SNAP benefits, and grants to local food pantries to purchase food.

The Neighbors United Fund will continue offering immediate, flexible support to families who lost SNAP benefits while working closely with partners to identify gaps, and get food to households quickly. Learn more at uwgnh.org/neighborsunited.



STEPPING UP OUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Many people in our community do not have the income to pay for necessities such as housing, food, childcare, health care, technology and transportation, even though they may work multiple jobs. The acronym United Way uses to describe households facing this challenge is ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. In Greater New Haven, 43% of households continue to live below the ALICE Threshold – the income necessary to live and work in the modern economy.

In 2025, United Way of Greater New Haven increased its efforts to champion ALICE individuals and families by launching ALICE in Action. ALICE in Action fosters connection and empowerment among ALICE residents and those who support them. ALICE in Action also demystifies the advocacy process by offering training and practical resources for community members and organizers ready to make an impact.

Scan the QR code to learn more and join our advocacy efforts.



VOICES OF UNITED WAY SUPPORTERS



“With so many changes in benefits impacting people’s lives, I feel strongly about doing my part. Supporting United Way is my way of helping those who need it most.”

- Janet Darden Gipson

“I am pleased and proud to support United Way of Greater New Haven, especially in these times. Not only do they provide direct assistance to families and individuals in need, but they coordinate with other organizations to help ensure no one falls through the cracks.”

- Jen Just



“I continue to volunteer with United Way because I believe in the mission, which is so vitally important in our community and country today. I’m proud of being a small part of an organization that values providing resources to all under-served communities, and I’m committed to keep coming back.”

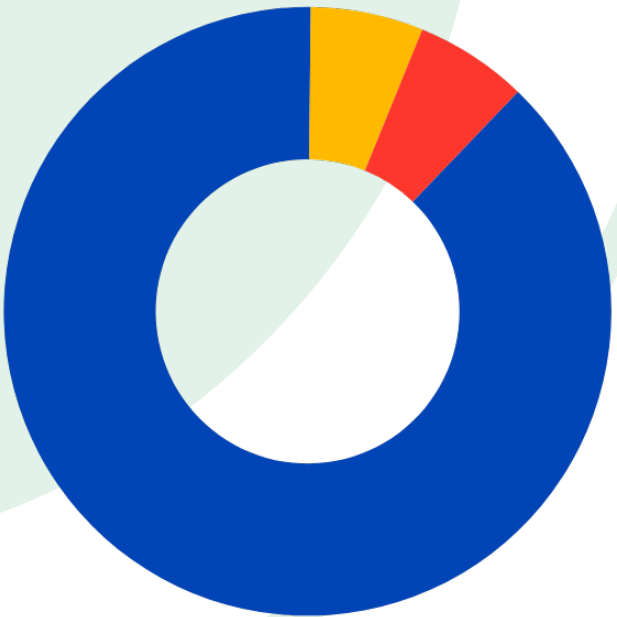
- Derek Jones

FY25 FINANCIALS



REVENUE

- **56.63% Grants**
\$8,070,535
 - **38.84% Individual & Corporate Gifts**
\$5,738,021
 - **6.53% Other**
\$964,778
- Total Revenue***
\$14,773,334



EXPENSES

- **87.8% Programs**
\$11,021,208
 - **5.9% Development**
\$733,971
 - **6.3% Management & General**
\$790,663
- Total Expenses**
\$12,545,842

*Revenue includes \$2,346,266 of present-value recognition of multi-year pledges, while related project expenses will be recognized over the next 5 years.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Giving Societies recognize annual support through December 31, 2025

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Thank you to the businesses whose employees give back to the community through an annual United Way workplace giving campaign.

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*Rotated off the board in 2025

WOMEN UNITED

"Being part of a community of women who are leaders in building opportunity, security, education, and connection for local families has been enormously inspiring. The members of Women United are people who bring energy and commitment to the work of uplifting women and children."

-Alison Hoffman



BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF WOMEN LEADERS AND PHILANTHROPISTS

For 14 years, Women United has dedicated its time, talent, and resources to meeting the essential needs of families, with a particular focus on ending hunger and fostering healthy relationships that give children a strong start. In 2025, Women United renewed its commitment to the Secure Start Initiative, aiming to increase the number of parents and caregivers who feel empowered to provide caring, nurturing, and stable relationships for children during their first five years of life. Women United also sustained its longstanding partnership with the Dr. Reginald Mayo Early Childhood School, concentrating on building literacy skills and enriching the learning environment for enrolled students. Highlights from 2025 include:

- **1,194 children supported** in their emotional needs with stronger secure attachments with their parents and teachers
- **2,080 meals delivered** to women in shelter by the Meal Prep Team
- **350 Mayo School preschool students** supported throughout the school year through activities like guest readers, school garden maintenance, a backpack drive, and contributions to the school food pantry.

These accomplishments underscore the power of collaboration and the significant impact Women United continues to have across Greater New Haven. Visit uwgnh.org/women-united to learn more about how you can get involved.

UNITED IS THE WAY

Sign up to receive good news to your inbox about your impact and ways you can put your values into action.

We will also share United Way volunteer opportunities.

