



2025 The Year at a Glance



In January of 2025, the United Way of Northwest Connecticut proudly hosted its **Annual Meeting** at Little Red Barn Brewers, welcoming around 75 community leaders, supporters, and friends. The gathering offered a comprehensive look at the organization's current initiatives and its vision for the future. Attendees also celebrated the election of new board members, strengthening the leadership that will guide United Way's mission.

The highlight of the evening was a keynote address by Daniel Fitzmaurice of the United Way of Connecticut, who shared inspiring insights into the statewide impact of United Way programs and their power to drive meaningful, positive change across communities.

Lisa Ferris, Executive Director of the United Way of Northwest Connecticut, joined fellow community providers in Oakville to celebrate the kickoff of **Give Local**, a 48-hour regional giving campaign led by the Connecticut Community Foundation. Nonprofit organizations from across the region including the United Way of Northwest Connecticut participated in this powerful initiative to strengthen local communities.



To mark the occasion, the Connecticut Community Foundation hosted a kickoff event bringing together participating nonprofits. Through the generosity of donors during Give Local, the United Way of Northwest Connecticut raised more than \$3,000, helping provide critical resources and much-needed support to individuals and families throughout our community.

June was a month of momentum and meaningful engagement for United Way of Northwest Connecticut. Executive Director Lisa Ferris attended the **National United Way Conference** in Orlando, alongside more than 1,100 United Way leaders and staff from around the world. The conference provided valuable insight, collaboration, and inspiration. Angela Williams, CEO of United Way Worldwide, shared a compelling vision for the next century of service, emphasizing the importance of unity and collective action across the global United Way network.



We also hosted our inaugural **Mini Golf Tournament** at R&B Sports World in Winsted. Participants of all ages enjoyed an 18-hole course filled with fun activities, followed by lunch at Rowley Grill and Tap. The event was a tremendous success raising over \$4,500 and will become an annual tradition. We are grateful to our generous sponsors: Brooker Memorial, Doyle's Medical Supply, Health Markets – Mel Brickman, Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, Organization Ink, TNT Refrigeration, Torrington Municipal & Teachers Federal Credit Union, and Union Savings Bank.



A new initiative for our United Way - **Women United** held its first meeting at Sunset Meadow. Allison Blackwood and Deborah Bernard led the charge to organize the event and are working to establish a committee. The group met again in November and is focused on helping our ALICE population. They are looking at areas of need, such as career skills, financial literacy, and food support. The group will reconvene in January to start diving in deeper to build the structure of the committee. Anyone interested should contact: Meg McGinn at the United Way office. Meg.mcginn@northwestunitedway.org.





Campaign Kick-off

This year marked our first breakfast since 2019, and the response from our community was nothing short of remarkable. A sold-out crowd of 185 guests gathered for a star-studded, Hollywood-themed morning that perfectly blended fun, friendship, and a shared commitment to creating positive change. Laughter and conversation filled the room as attendees reconnected, celebrated community, and rallied around a common purpose.

Together, our guests, sponsors, and volunteers raised more than \$7,500 to support United Way’s mission of strengthening families, empowering individuals, and transforming lives across Northwest Connecticut. Every dollar raised will help provide critical programs and services that make a tangible difference in the lives of our neighbors.

We are especially grateful to our event sponsors: Aflac of Litchfield County, Burlington Construction, Ciesco Memorials, Conquest, and NBT Bank whose generosity and partnership were essential in making this event such a resounding success.



We are deeply grateful to the **Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation** for their support through a Capacity Building Grant. This generous grant, to be paid over three years, has enabled us to hire **Meg McGinn** as our part-time Administrative Assistant. Their generous support is helping to strengthen our organization and build the capacity we need to grow and better serve our community. Thank you for investing in our mission and in the people who make it possible.



Annual Meeting

The United Way of Northwest Connecticut held its second annual meeting on December 17, 2025, at Five Points Arts Center. Seventy-five United Way members, donors and corporate sponsors gathered to elect new board members, thank outgoing board members and hear about the accomplishments of the past year. Treasurer Kevin Sullivan presented the 2025 financial report noting very good financial results with \$100,000 earmarked for programs and charitable distributions in 2026.



Elected as new board members were DJ Murphy, Dr. Matthew Pagano and Franklyn Ramsey. Board Chairwoman Cathy Coyle thanked members who completed terms. She thanked Alan Colavecchio, James Hutchison, John N. Lavieri and Kevin Sullivan for the dedication and hard work on the United Way’s behalf. Executive Director Lisa Ferris thanked DJ Murphy who chaired the 2025 campaign committee, and she gave praise to all the volunteers who worked on the campaign as well as all the United Way committees. She reviewed highlights of the year including a robust rebirth of the Corporate Sponsor program, successful special events, hiring of a part time assistant, writing and receiving several grants and much more.



Lisa introduced **Joanne Borduas**, Chief Executive Officer of Community Health and Wellness Center of Greater Torrington, who served as the guest speaker. Joanne gave an overview of the health and social challenges they see among their patients and notably among the thousands of children they see in their school-based health clinics. The data she shared made very clear the importance of northwest Connecticut non-profits, The United Way and businesses working together to solve problems and improve the quality of life of the residents in our communities.

Kevin Sullivan, Treasurer of the United Way of Northwest Connecticut was selected as a recipient of the Wisdom House “Wisdom Award.” United Way Executive Director Lisa Ferris was honored to introduce Kevin at this prestigious event.



2025 - The Year at a Glance *continued*

In May of 2025, The United Way of Northwest Connecticut moved to our **new home at 175 Prospect Street, Torrington**. We celebrated our new space by hosting a Business with Breakfast in partnership with the Northwest Chamber of Commerce. We invited Mayor Elinor Carbone to do a ribbon cutting to celebrate our new space.



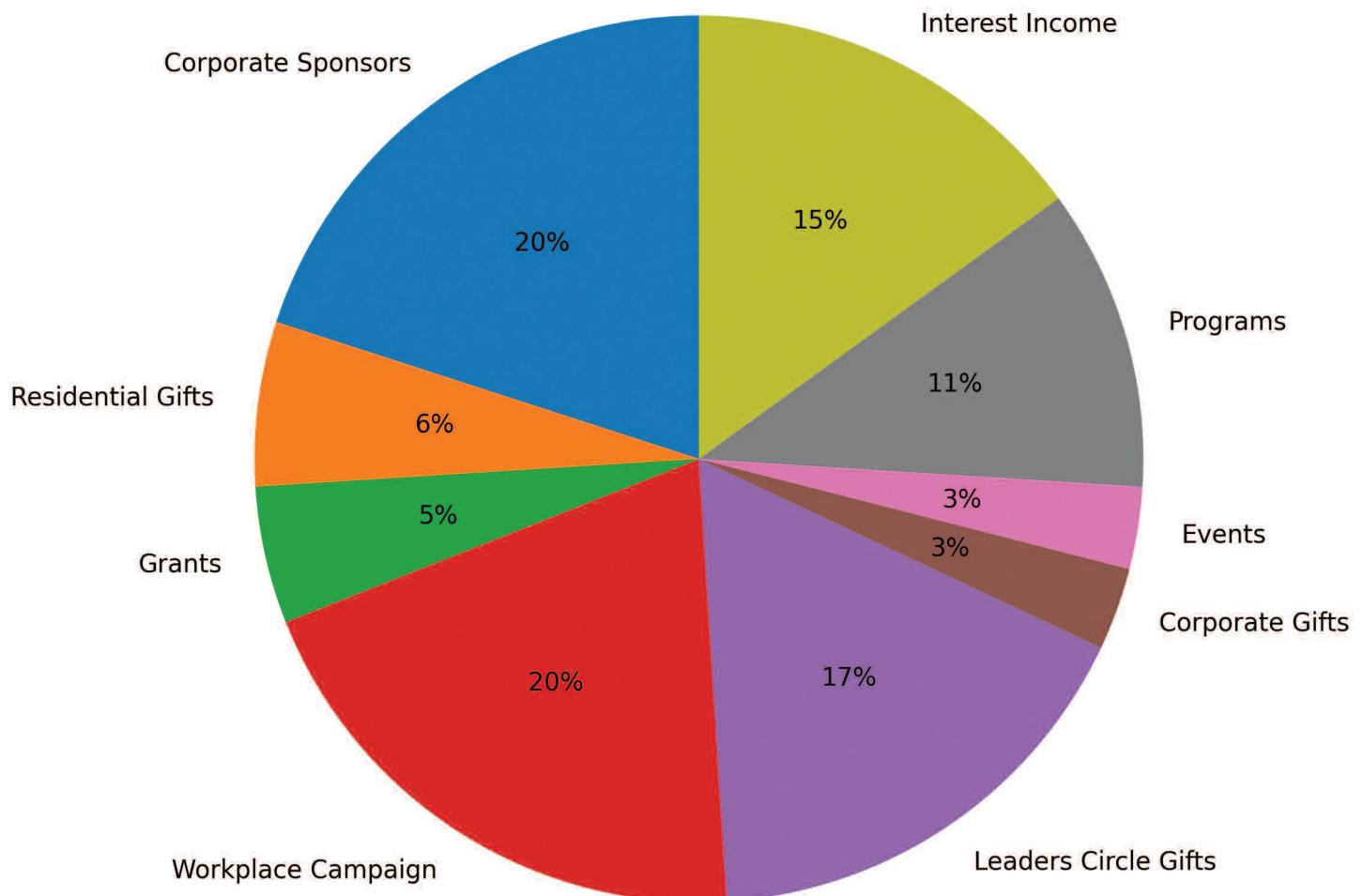
Strategic Planning

In June 2025, the United Way Board met with John Emge, a representative of United Way Worldwide who serves as Senior Director of Network Engagement and Performance for the Northeast and Southeast regions of the United States. During this meeting, the Board engaged in a thoughtful discussion about United Way's current position and long-term direction.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to review and reflect on the results of a comprehensive self-assessment completed by the Board. This assessment prompted meaningful dialogue around several priority areas critical to United Way's future success, including advancing equitable community impact, maintaining relevance within our community, and developing diversified and sustainable revenue streams.

John Emge facilitated the discussion and encouraged the Board to closely examine the evolving needs of our community and to identify a clear "lane" or strategic focus as a starting point for future efforts. The meeting concluded with Board members gaining a stronger, shared understanding of the opportunities ahead and the importance of intentional focus as we move forward.

Revenue Breakdown



IMPACT Making a Difference

\$30,000
Granted to local nonprofit partners

\$100,000
Allocated for programs and charitable distributions in 2026

11,335+ pounds of food collected
Through community food drives and Stock the Shelves

3,800 pounds of food sorted and distributed
During our inaugural Day of Action

107 children served
Through Warm the Children, providing winter clothing and dignity

12 families assisted
Through our Rapid Response Fund pilot

200 backpacks distributed
Supporting students across the region

10,000+ residents supported annually
Through 2-1-1 – the region’s 24/7 information and referral lifeline

Rapid Response

In March of 2025 we piloted our first rapid response fund in the Town of North Canaan. Our allocations committee researched 2-1-1 data and looked at the 2023 state-wide ALICE report. (ALICE stands for families who are: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.) We knew from the data that 48% of families in the North Canaan area fall into this category, and 10% of families live just above the poverty line. We knew that we could help ALICE families who may have an unexpected medical expense or car repair, or who might need help with groceries or a little extra to pay for a much needed program or service for their child. The rapid response fund was able to help twelve families.



One mom wrote:

Dear United Way,

Thank you for providing funding to North Canaan Elementary School, to secure a place in the special need’s pre-k program, for my son. I was concerned that he would be taken out of a program that he was thriving in and needed. The NCES special needs program gave him the structure and skills needed to attend the Canaan Child Care Center. He worked with a Special Education teacher and an assistant teacher with only six children in the classroom.

I believe that removing my son from the NCES preschool program, would have been detrimental to his ability to socialize in an appropriate manner with his peers. I am so grateful that he was able to finish the year with his teachers and the children he had bonded with throughout the year.

Day of Action

United Way of Northwest Connecticut held its first Day of Action in June. Local businesses participated in food drives throughout the month, with donations collected at the Five Points Arts Center in Torrington. More than 20 volunteers came together to sort, weigh, and box food for distribution to 10 local food pantries. In total, 3,800 pounds of food were collected, strengthening food security for families across our region.





In August, the United Way of Northwest Connecticut gathered community leaders, donors, and partner agencies at the Inn at Mount Pleasant for a **Leaders Circle Appreciation Celebration** that honored the collective power of generosity. The evening highlighted how strategic investments are transforming lives and strengthening communities across Northwest Connecticut.

United Way announced **\$30,000 in grant funding awarded to 10 partner agencies**, supporting critical programs that provide stability, opportunity, and hope for children, families, and individuals throughout the region.

The program also shined a spotlight on the **United Way's Stock the Shelves** initiative, and its faithful volunteers, which delivered \$5,500 in grants to 11 local food pantries. At a time when food insecurity continues to rise, this support is making an immediate and tangible difference for families who rely on these essential community resources.

When a federal government shutdown threatened access to SNAP benefits, families across Northwest Connecticut faced sudden uncertainty about how they would put food on the table. Thanks to the generosity of United Way donors, the United Way of Northwest Connecticut was able to respond immediately.

Emergency funds were directed to local food pantries, and we worked in close partnership with social service agencies throughout our region to distribute grocery gift cards to help families bridge the gap during a critical moment.

Support from our donors helped provide stability and dignity to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. Because of your commitment, neighbors in need did not have to face hunger alone and our community was stronger for it.

Quote from one of our partner food pantries:

Dear Friends at the United Way,

Many thanks for your generous donation to the kitchen. Hunger does not take a vacation or a holiday. We are currently serving 5 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 3 dinners to a growing number of guests in our dining hall. We cannot do our work without our donors and our volunteers.

*With Gratitude,
DP*



VITA TAX Program

The United Way of Northwest Connecticut provided the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program this year. It is a service to help individuals and families with annual incomes up to \$69,000.00 a year. Individuals were able to make an appointment and drop off their tax information. We thank our volunteers who helped make this program a success in 2025.

Warm the Children



United Way of Northwest Connecticut, in collaboration with Northwest Community Bank and FISH (Friends in Service to Humanity of Northwest CT), ran our annual Warm the Children campaign. This program provides new winter clothing and footwear to children in need across Northwest Connecticut.

United Way of Northwest Connecticut works with our partner agencies to identify families who needed support the most. The Warm the Children program relies entirely on the generosity of donors to make this possible.

Each year, donations are transformed into meaningful experiences. Families are paired with volunteer shoppers who meet them at Walmart, where each child selects their own winter clothing. This hands-on approach ensures that every child not only receives essential winter items, but also experiences the joy and dignity of choosing their own warm clothes.

This year, thanks to the incredible support of our community, Warm the Children raised over \$6,000 and helped 107 children stay warm and cared for throughout the winter. Every gift truly makes a difference in the lives of local children and their families.

*Dear
Warm the Children,
Thank you so much for your
generous gift through the **Warm the
Children** program. Because of your
kindness, Aaron was able to purchase
warm winter clothing. Your support
ensures he can stay cozy and protected
during the cold months and it means
so much to our family. We are truly
grateful for your thoughtfulness
and care.
– MF*



2-1-1 Support

Every day, thousands of people in Northwest Connecticut face challenges around hunger, housing insecurity, mental health crises, and more. **2-1-1** is a free, confidential, 24/7 service that connects them to the help they need, acting as a “one-stop shop” for essential resources, with multilingual support to ensure no one is left behind.

Since 2019, requests for assistance have soared 300%, straining an already underfunded system. In 2025, the cost to each local United Way has jumped 40%, yet the need keeps growing. More than 10,000 residents in our region use 2-1-1 each year.

Thanks to the generosity of Hartford Healthcare, M&T Bank, and our donors, the United Way of Northwest Connecticut is helping to keep this vital lifeline strong so families, seniors, and individuals facing crisis can get the help they urgently need.

Fighting Food Insecurity

Through generous food drives hosted by local businesses, Stock the Shelves, a United Way program, has collected more than 50,000 pounds of food since its launch in 2022.

These donations are distributed among thirteen food pantries serving communities across Northwest Connecticut. We

could not have done it without the support of our founding sponsors: Barron Financial Group, Conquest, Elevator Services, Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation and Torrington Savings Bank.



**STOCK
THE SHELVES**
A SERVICE OF UNITED WAY NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT



Leading with Impact (Food Insecurity) *continued*

Through the United Way's Stock the Shelves program, we were able to make monetary donations to the thirteen food banks/pantries throughout Northwest Connecticut.



Thank you to **Jim and Sandra Thibault** of Barron Financial Group for hosting a food drive for the United Way's Stock the Shelves program at their summer gathering.



The students at **Saint John Paul the Great Academy** did an amazing job at collecting over 2200 boxes of cereal. Parent volunteers spent hours creating the display which spelled out the first letters of the Academy: S J P T G. With a "3-2-1" prompt from Father Ihemedu, the first box was toppled. Students cheered as the remaining boxes fell over.



Backpack Drive

United Way of Northwest Connecticut was proud to partner with ServiceMaster Albino for their **6th Annual Backpack Drive**, an initiative that helps students across Northwest Connecticut start the school year ready to learn and succeed. This year's drive was made possible by the leadership and dedication of Amanda Tortora, the driving force behind the program's continued success.

The collection officially kicked off on July 23 at **ServiceMaster Albino's Backpack Bash**, held at Brewbury in Middlebury, CT. The event raised \$1,969, which funded the purchase of 200 backpacks filled with essential school supplies. These backpacks were distributed to agencies throughout Northwest Connecticut, ensuring children across our region would begin the school year with confidence, opportunity, and the tools they need to thrive.



Support for Young Women

United Way volunteers Deborah Bernard, Sherrie Neddermann, Deb Pickert, Fran Stoffer, and Christine Noonan came together to assemble period product bags for the **Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation's Women and Girls Fund Period Product Program**. The period products, generously donated by the Connecticut Diaper Bank, will be distributed to young women across the region who may otherwise struggle to access these essential items. This initiative plays a critical role in promoting dignity, health, and equity, helping ensure that no young woman has to miss school or daily activities due to a lack of basic necessities. The dedication of these volunteers highlights the powerful impact of community collaboration in addressing period poverty.

A message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

It is truly an honor to serve as the leader of United Way of Northwest Connecticut. Each day, I am inspired by the dedication of our board members, volunteers, partners, and supporters who share a deep commitment to strengthening our communities. Working alongside such passionate and caring individuals has been incredibly rewarding, and I am grateful for the trust placed in me to help guide this important work.

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud of what we have accomplished together and energized by the opportunities ahead. With your continued support, we will build on this momentum, deepen our impact, and continue to ensure that individuals and families across Northwest Connecticut have the opportunity to thrive. I look forward to the year ahead and all that we will achieve together.

With Gratitude,

Lisa A. Ferris
Executive Director

Community Support (Donations received January 2025-December 2025)

The United Way of Northwest Connecticut thrives because of the generosity and dedication of our donors. This year, we are especially grateful to those who have joined the United Way family and shown a steadfast commitment to rejuvenating our organization. Your support not only strengthens our mission but also breathes new energy into our efforts, empowering us to create lasting impact and build a stronger, more vibrant community together.

Tocqueville Society

Mr. & Mrs. John Beck

Leaders Circle

Ms. Susan Belle-Isle
Ms. Claudette Bonetti
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin G. Booth, Jr.
Ms. JoAnn Briggs
Mr. Robert J. Britton
Dr. Laura Carey
Mr. Joseph Carrozzo
Ms. Gladys Cerruto
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Colavecchio
Dr. Roger Coutant
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Atty. & Mrs. Charles Roraback
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond G. Roy
Fran K. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Solnit
Mr. Benjamin Stapleton
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Teittinen
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Temkin
Dr. Elizabeth Whalen &
Dr. Terrence Ryan
Mr. & Mrs. David Wilson

Foundation Grants

Barden Foundation
Community Impact
Hartford Healthcare/CHH
2-1-1 Connecticut
Stock the Shelves
M&T Bank Foundation
2-1-1 Connecticut
Northwest Connecticut Community
Foundation
Capacity Building
Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation
Corporate Sponsorship

In-Kind Donations

The Arc of Litchfield County
Barron Financial Group
Brooker Memorial
Ms. Gina Bunch
Catered by Gia
Ciesco Catering
Colavecchio Design, Inc.
Conquest
Cramer and Anderson
Daley Moving & Storage
Mr. Jeff Geddes
Hartford Healthcare
Howmet Space
Inn at Mount Pleasant
J2H Digital
Litchfield County Realtors
Maletta Pfeiffer Physical Therapy
M&T Bank
Murphy Boyz Printing & Marketing
NBT Bank
Northwest Community Bank
St. John Paul the Great Academy
St. John Paul the Great Parish
Service Master Albino
Soundworks & Security
Sullivan Automotive

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Thibault
Torrington City Hall
Torrington Savings Bank
Union Savings Bank
Mr. Jacque Williams

Tributes

In Honor of Deborah Bernard
Lance Leifert & Lisa Ferris
In Memory of Dr. Harry Briggs
JoAnn Briggs
In memory of Carol Dean
Anne Ruwet
In Memory of Brianna Hope Ferris
Lisa Ferris
In Honor of Lisa Ferris
Mark Roman
In Honor of Lance Leifert & Lisa Ferris
Kathryn Balkunis
Cathy C. Coyle
In Memory of Kym Magyar
Gladys Cerruto
In Memory of Robert Morris, Sr.
John & Julie Morris
In Memory of Carly Nasser
Nancy A. Merbaum

Supporters

Ms. Heather Abraham
Mr. Rick Achee
Aflac of Litchfield County
Ms. Christine Altman
Altrusa International of
Litchfield County
Ms. Michelle Anderson
Mr. Tom Andrighetti
Ms. Carla Angevine
Catherine, Jesse, & Julian Aprile
Aquarian Water Co. Employee
Giving Campaign

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Mr. Norman Askinazi
ATA Realty
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Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Baldwin
Ms. Kathryn Balkunas
Barron Financial Group, LLP
Mr. John Bartram
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Mr. Daniel Berry
Ms. Katherine Marchand Beyer
Mr. Michael Bianci
Ms. Merlanda Birkenberger
Ms. Allison Blackwood
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Mr. John Bongiorno
Ms. Michelle Bonvicini
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Borghesi
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Borghesi
Borghesi Building & Engineering Co.,
Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bott
Ms. Colette Boyd
Mr. Mel Brickman
Ms. Kathy Briggs
Brooker Memorial
Brooker Memorial Employee
Giving Campaign
Ms. Lesley Budney
Ms. Bernice Buffa
Burlington Construction Co, Inc.
Burlington Construction Co, Inc.
Employee Giving Campaign
Ms. Samantha Butler

Community Support (Donations received January 2025-December 2025) *continued*

Ms. Lorin Calell
 Ms. Caroline Calhoun
 CAM Marketing Group
 Mr. Joseph Canino
 Mr. Dan Cappello
 Mayor Eleanor Carbone
 Mr. & Mrs. David Carroll
 Mr. Steve Caruso
 Ms. Jeanette Cattey
 Ms. Fran Chapell
 Ms. Lorene Chiron
 Ciesco Memorials
 Mr. Bob Cintron
 Ms. Carol Clapp
 Ms. Sandra Clapps
 Ms. Ashley Clement
 Mr. Brian Coffey
 Mr. Gregg Cogswell
 Mr. Earle Collins
 Mr. Paul Collins
 Connecticut Community Foundation
 Ms. Beth Connor
 Conquest
 Ms. Lynda Cossette
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Coyle
 Mr. Robert Czekierda
 Frances Daley
 Ms. April Davis
 Ms. Pam Dean
 Ms. Eleanor Dedominicis
 Mr. George DelPrete
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 Ms. Deirdre DiCara
 Ms. Brenda DiCarlo
 Mr. Collin Dickinson
 Ms. Amy DiPippo
 Ms. Charlene Doll
 Ms. Cara Dougherty
 Ms. Kelly Dougherty
 Ms. Kimberly Downey
 Doyle's Medical Supply
 Ms. Carla Dubois
 Mr. Richard Dubois
 C. Dary Dunham
 Ms. Ellen Durstin
 Ms. Suzanne Eanniello
 Ed Advance Employee Giving Campaign
 Ms. Pamela Edwards
 Ms. Christina Emery
 Eversource Employee Giving Campaign
 Mr. Joseph Fazioli
 Mr. Zach Ferris
 Mr. H. Lee Fisher
 Ms. Dana Forchette
 Mr. Eric Fortsmann
 Ms. Susan Fournier
 Ms. Nina Franklin
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 Mr. Brett Fromson
 Ms. Jeanne Fusco
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 Litchfield County Legal Professionals
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 Ms. Hillary Meza
 Ms. Alexandra Mica
 Ms. Courtney Millar
 Mineral Technologies Inc.
 Employee Giving Campaign
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 Mr. Art Mulligan
 Ms. Gail Muntner
 Mr. DJ Murphy
 Ms. Ida Mussen
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 Ms. Jessica Nardine
 Ms. Christine Neal
 Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Nejaime
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Nejaime
 Ms. Diane Neshko
 Northwest Community Bank
 Employee Giving Campaign
 Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation
 O&G Industries, Inc.
 O&G Industries Employee Giving Campaign
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 Ms. Sharon Okraska
 Mr. David Oliver
 Organization Ink
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 Mr. Raymond Roy, Jr.
 Mr. Allen Royer
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 Ms. Ingrid Smith
 Mr. Kevin Smith
 Ms. Susan Smith
 Ms. Patricia Soudier
 Soundworks & Security
 Mr. Gabriel Sousa
 Ms. Molly Spino
 Mr. Don Stein
 Sterling Sintered Tech, Inc.
 Ms. Andrea Strawinski
 Mr. Kevin Sullivan
 Ms. Brenda Summers
 Ms. Colleen Suppa
 Mr. Raimond Tedesco
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Teittinen
 Ms. Christy Tellier
 Thomaston Savings Bank Employee Giving Campaign
 Mr. & Mrs. Todd Thompson
 Ms. Pam Tino
 Mr. Stephen Todd
 Mr. Greg Tonon
 Torrington Municipal & Teachers Federal Credit Union
 Torrington Savings Bank Employee Giving Campaign
 Torrington Savings Bank Matching Gift Program
 Ms. Amanda Tortora
 Mr. Edward Tousey, III
 Town Of Goshen Employee Giving Campaign
 Town Of Torrington Employee Giving Campaign
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Tromba
 Mr. Joseph Truglia
 Ms. Joann Turina
 Union Savings Bank Employee Giving Campaign
 Ms. Dawn Upshaw
 Mr. & Mrs. Leo Vaccari
 Ms. Louise Van Alstyne
 Ms. Karen Vasko
 Mr. Russell Venezia
 Ms. Coryse Villarouel
 Ms. Melissa Viscariello
 Ms. Kerry Vitali
 Mr. Brett Wald
 Mr. Kyle Wald
 Ms. Maurette Wall
 Webster Bank Employee Giving Campaign
 Ms. Kathryn Wehrle
 Ms. Amanda-Lynn Weidman
 Mr. Arthur Weinsbank
 Ms. Kathi Weinstein
 Mr. Neal White
 White Flower Farm
 Ms. Amy Wilson
 Ms. Lynn Mellis Worthington
 Ms. Abigail Yanaway
 Yia Yia's Greek Kitchen
 Mr. Steve Zarrella
 Ms. Lauren Zordan

Volunteer Leadership

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 Jason Healey, Vice Chair
 Kevin Sullivan, Treasurer
 Nina Franklin, Secretary
 Jim Hutchison, Past Chair

Gina Bunch
 Gregg Cogswell
 Alan Colavecchio
 Gloria Hall
 John N. Lavieri
 Rista Malanca
 Gabriel Sousa
 Robert Teittinen
 Greg Tonon
 Jacque Williams

Executive Committee

Cathy C. Coyle
 Jason Healey
 Kevin Sullivan
 Nina Franklin
 Jim Hutchison
 Lisa A. Ferris

Development/Campaign Committees

Campaign/Fundraising

Nina Franklin, Chair
 Alan Colavecchio
 Jason Healey
 Jim Hutchison
 *DJ Murphy
 *Sandy Roberts
 Greg Tonon
 Jacque Williams
 Cathy C. Coyle
 Lisa A. Ferris

Campaign Cabinet Committee

Honorary Campaign Chairs:

*Maura Malo
 CEO, Northwest Community Bank

*Lesa Vanotti
 CEO, Torrington Savings Bank

*DJ Murphy, Campaign Chair
 *Melissa Root, Campaign Co-Chair
 *Kim Aguilar
 *Michelle Anderson
 *Amy DiPippo
 *Carla Dubois
 *Charlene Lee
 *John Seagrave
 *Tim Waldron
 *Lauren Zordan

Allocations/Citizens Review/Agency Relations

Gloria Hall- Chair
 *Deborah Bernard
 *Christina Emery
 *Jeanne Fusco
 *Jeff Geddes
 John N. Lavieri
 Rista Malanca
 Gabriel Sousa
 Robert Teittinen
 Cathy C. Coyle
 Lisa A. Ferris

Admissions Committee

Cathy C. Coyle
 Jason Healey
 Kevin Sullivan
 Nina Franklin
 Jim Hutchison
 Lisa A. Ferris

Stock the Shelves Advisory Committee

*Deborah Bernard
 *Jeff Geddes
 *Anita Rosa
 *John Seagrave
 *Lauren Zordan

Nominating Committee

Jason Healey – Chair
 Cathy C. Coyle
 John N. Lavieri
 Kevin Sullivan
 Lisa A. Ferris

Finance Committee

Kevin Sullivan, Chair
 Gregg Cogswell
 Nina Franklin
 *Frank Ramsey
 Cathy C. Coyle, ex-officio
 Lisa A. Ferris, ex-officio

Advisory Committee

*Jeannine Frink
 *William G. Harding
 *Brian Mattiello
 *Douglas O'Connell

Staff

Lisa A. Ferris, Executive Director
 Meg McGinn, Administrative Assistant

** Indicates non-board members*

VOLUNTEERS

The volunteers for the United Way of Northwest Connecticut are the heart of the organization. They generously give their time, skills, and passion to strengthen our organization and support the work that makes a real difference in the lives of local families. From serving on committees and assisting with administrative needs to lending their voices and expertise, our volunteers play a vital role in helping us create lasting, positive change across the communities we serve.

Bevelyn Abjelina
 Todd Bailey
 Deborah Bernard
 Allison Blackwood
 Debbie Blair
 Kathy Broege
 Lesley Budney
 Gina Bunch
 Fran Chappell
 Jerry Cibalskas
 Dawn Classen
 Gregg Cogswell
 Alan Colavecchio
 Jonathan P. Costa, Sr.
 Cathy Coyle
 Susan Devino
 Deirdre DiCara
 Amy DiPippo
 Carla Dubois
 Ellen Durstin

Zach Ferris
 Lisa Ferris
 Daniel Fitzmaurice
 Jeannine Frink
 Tanya Gauthier
 Jeff Geddes
 Anne Gioia
 Gloria Hall
 Lisa Hall
 Cheryl Hardgrave
 William G. Harding
 Jason Healey
 Jodi Height
 Launa Goslee
 Jennifer Ives-Grobel
 Ellie Gunn
 Debby Kane
 Kathy Kinane
 Shanelle King
 Robert Lavorgna

John Lavieri
 Charlene Lee
 Josh Licursi
 Jesika Loja
 April Lord
 Anna Lovetere
 Lance Leifert
 Rista Malanca
 Maura Malo
 Meg McGinn
 Phuong Monahan
 DJ Murphy
 Susan Nardine
 Kimberly Ouellette
 Deb Pickert
 Lisa Pozucek
 Renee Purdy
 Briona Ritone
 Melissa Root
 Luz Rodriguez

Anita Rosa
 Dominic Sabia
 Jack Seagrave
 John Seagrave
 Dan Santorso
 Casey Smith
 Molly Spino
 Kevin Sullivan
 Colleen Suppa
 Donna Talbot
 Bob Teittinen
 Joeline Teittinen
 Steve Temkin
 Tim Waldron
 Dee Walker
 Jacque Williams
 Lauren Zordan

Partner Agencies

United Way of Northwest Connecticut relies on strong partnerships with local agencies to create real, lasting change. Your support ensures these agencies can deliver essential programs from child care scholarships that help parents work, to nutrition programs providing children with at least one healthy meal a day, to services addressing food insecurity, housing, transportation, mental health, and substance use. Together, we are strengthening families and building stronger communities.

2-1-1, Canaan Child Care Center, Cornwall Child Center, Community Mental Health Affiliate's Northwest Center for Mental Health, Falls Village Day Care Center, FISH of Northwestern Connecticut, McCall Behavioral Health Network, Northwest CT YMCA, Pleasant Valley Day Care Center, Susan B. Anthony Project, Winsted Area Child Care Center

Organizations Addressing Food Insecurity

Stock the Shelves, a service of the United Way of Northwest Connecticut, is a crucial part of helping to make sure that no neighbor goes hungry in the communities that we serve. Stock the Shelves supports the following thirteen food pantries and soup kitchens in Northwest Connecticut. These organizations help to provide reliable access to nutritious food for individuals and families in need.

Annex Coop/Town of Litchfield, Goshen Food Bank, FISH Northwestern Connecticut, Fishes & Loaves, Food for Thought NCCC, Friendly Hands Food Bank, Hands of Grace, Norfolk Food Pantry, Open Door Soup Kitchen, The Corner Food Pantry, The Salvation Army-Winsted Regional Service Unit, Thomaston Community Pantry, Torrington Community Kitchen.

The United Way of Northwest Connecticut serves 25 towns in Northwest Connecticut, including: Bantam, Barkhamsted, Canaan, Colebrook, Cornwall Bridge, Cornwall, East Canaan, Falls Village, Goshen, Harwinton, Lakeville, Litchfield, Morris, New Hartford, Norfolk, North Canaan, Pine Meadow, Pleasant Valley, Riverton, Salisbury, Sharon, Torrington, West Cornwall, West Hartland, Winchester Center, and Winsted



Ready for our inaugural Mini Golf Tournament

TOGETHER WE RISE

Thank you to our 2026 Corporate Sponsors

We are most grateful for our Corporate Sponsors. With their generous support, we are able to maximize what we can do with our partner agencies and address critical needs in our community.

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