Words can be meager things. Sometimes they fall short. Like “Unprecedented loss,” or “Unparalleled need.”

Anyone that has survived the past year knows that words cannot do justice to our collective trauma.

Hundreds of thousands of our neighbors have died. Almost 1-in-4 are experiencing unemployment and/or food insecurity. Over 40% are living in poverty or paycheck to paycheck. Mental health and substance abuse issues are on the rise, as is domestic violence. And our local nonprofits, which provide the “safety net” programs and services to respond to those needs, are at their breaking point from record shortfalls in revenue.

Since the start of this pandemic, the United Way of Westchester and Putnam has been a part of the vanguard responding to the needs in our community.

Last year, we were honored to support and collaborate with a total of 458 community partners, nonprofit organizations, schools and government agencies to support vulnerable populations during this public health and economic crisis. We distributed over $9 million worth of essential goods, administered $1.7 million in grants to nonprofit organizations, and answered more than 114,000 calls for help through our 211 Helpline. Our efforts resulted in more than $21 million invested and/or leveraged in our communities, impacting approximately 725,000 families.

But it’s only a drop in the bucket of what we could do … what we must do to get through these crises.

For whatever role you played in support of our efforts to help Westchester and Putnam residents, THANK YOU!

There go those words falling short again … paltry things.

But our spirit of gratitude, much like our commitment to helping our community, is authentic and resolute.

So, as you read this Annual Report to the community, we encourage you to get more involved. Whether you make a contribution, volunteer, help us raise money at a future event, share our content on social media, or simply tell a friend or two about the important work we do, you will be helping us to make a difference right here in the communities where we live and work.

After all, WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER and it is only by being UNITED that we can change the world for the better.

Thank you.

Tom Gabriel
President and CEO
UNITED WAY ADMINTERS $1.7 MIL IN GRANTS TO LOCAL NONPROFITS

In 2020, United Way of Westchester and Putnam awarded H.O.P.E. Community Services grants from its Crisis Response funds and through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program. Pictured: Tom Gabriel, president and CEO of UWWP, and Walter Ritz, executive director of H.O.P.E. Community Services.

In response to the unprecedented need for food and housing during the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Way of Westchester and Putnam administered $1.7 million in Crisis Funding in 2020 to 68 local organizations. The grant monies came from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, UWWP’s John M. Bendheim Community Disaster Response Fund, Bonwit Fund, and The PepsiCo Foundation.

“COVID-19 created an economic crisis, the likes of which we haven’t seen in 90 years,” said United Way President and CEO Tom Gabriel. “In response, the United Way is honored to administer funds to help our nonprofit partners address the basic human needs of hundreds of thousands of families in our community.”

The nonprofits awarded estimate that collectively the funds will benefit 545,567 individuals and families.

“The Bridge Fund of Westchester is extremely grateful for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) funding,” said Grace Perry, director of The Bridge Fund. “We primarily service client households that are employed, but sit right on top of the poverty line and often do not qualify for public benefits, such as food stamps. However, these clients struggle monthly to meet a bare-bones budget, and any crisis can give way to a missed rent payment, food insecurity, etc. The pandemic only exacerbates these circumstances. The EFSP grant funding allows organizations like The Bridge Fund to help not only meet these most basic needs for individuals and families, but also ease their worry and give a sense of hope.”

Kathy Purdy, Executive Director of Hillside Food Outreach, which delivers healthy food to those who are homebound and have limited income in Westchester and Putnam, said, “We are so thankful for the grants from the United Way of Westchester and Putnam. It will be a tremendous help as our emergency food distribution has increased 1,200 percent since the crisis began.”

“The partnership we have with United Way has been vital to our ability to meet the increased need in the community,” said Walter Ritz, Executive Director of H.O.P.E. Community Services. “United Way has helped our food efforts by not only providing us the means to purchase more food, but by awarding us funds to fix our air conditioning unit, which has provided us the capacity to keep the food we do get fresh longer. Through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, HOPE was granted money to help with eviction and foreclosure prevention. In addition, it has supplied essential goods, such as socks, school supplies, and books, to support our families.”
Through its Essential Goods for Basic Needs program, United Way of Westchester and Putnam helps to funnel millions in corporate and other donations to the public through its nonprofit partnerships. **In 2020, UWWP gave out 700,000 blankets and duvets from Delta Air Lines, 117,500 pairs of Bombas socks, 60,000 diapers, 150 Sealy Tempur-Pedic mattresses, and so much more for a collective total value of a $9 million impact into the community.** It is because of UWWP’s vast network and connection to the community that corporate partners are eager to work with United Way.

"We are proud to partner with United Way to reach organizations, shelters and communities in need across the country," said Allison Ausband, Delta’s Senior Vice President – In-Flight Service. "Our mission is to connect the world and giving back is a big part of that. Now more than ever, we must remember to come together, give what we can and support those who need it most."

Bombas VP of Giving Kelly Cobb agreed. "We remain inspired by the tireless work of United Way of Westchester and Putnam," said Cobb. "Their ability to respond to their community in times of uncertainty is noteworthy. We’re so grateful for all that they do and are proud to call them a Bombas Giving Partner."

Faith Ann Butcher, Chief Impact Officer of the United Way of Westchester and Putnam, said, "We are grateful for our partnerships which allow us to provide new clothing, furniture, and other essential goods to people in our community who are in need. It's partnerships like these that help us to fulfill our mission to lift up people in crisis to self-sufficiency."

**TOP 5 PRODUCT PHILANTHROPY DONORS OF 2020**

1. UWWP teamed up with The Building Blocks Foundation to distribute $1,000,000 worth of Bombas socks. 2. By leveraging its purchasing power, UWWP was able to invest in $15,000 worth of diapers for a fraction of the price. 3. Thanks to a partnership with Toys for Tots, UWWP was able to provide toys to thousands of families in Westchester and Putnam.
Carolyn* (name changed to protect privacy) found herself facing eviction with nowhere to turn after her abusive partner stopped paying rent on their home without her knowledge. That is when she arrived at Jan Peek House run by CHHOP (Caring for the Hungry and Homeless of Peekskill). Carolyn had no idea what to expect when she arrived at Jan Peek House and was pleasantly surprised to find a welcoming environment.

United Way provided CHHOP with bedding and linen donations from Brooklinen to run Jan Peek House.

“Carolyn arrived at Jan Peek House at a very low point in her life, as do most of our clients. Providing simple things, such as high-quality bedding, to our clients sends an important message that people care about them. First-class linens make the shelter more comfortable and help clients get a good night’s rest,” comments Cynthia B. Knox, Esq., CEO, CHHOP.

Carolyn bonded with other residents, staff and the many volunteers who organized art and other activities at Jan Peek House, pre-Covid. As Carolyn began working with a therapist, she discovered her own inner strength and beauty. She gradually began opening up and trusting herself more. For many months, Carolyn searched for an affordable apartment before finding a one-bedroom apartment in a quiet neighborhood. Her deep faith anchored Carolyn and helped her to maintain a positive mindset during those challenging months. Following her experience, Carolyn has become a determined advocate who wants women to understand that they have great value, and that being homeless is a temporary state — not who you are.

Rich Nightingale, President and CEO of Westhab Inc., said that the mattresses would go to help families moving into permanent housing. “It’s donations like these that fuel our efforts and keep us building communities and saving lives,” said Nightingale. “United Way, thank you for your incredible partnership.”

United Way of Westchester and Putnam has donated $150,000 worth of Tempur-Pedic twin mattresses to Westhab to help its transitional housing program in Yonkers.

The donation came through United Way’s Essential Goods for Basic Needs program, which partners with retailers and corporations to provide essential goods to individuals and families in need through the nonprofits that serve them.

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In addition to financial grants, United Way of Westchester and Putnam has distributed high-quality linens and bedding to CHHOP through Brooklinen to help make those who need to stay at the Jan Peek House feel valued. Pictured: Faith Ann Butcher, UWWP Chief Impact Officer, and Cynthia B. Knox, Esq., CEO of CHHOP.
UNITED WAY RUNS FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND THE “HEROES AND HOMEBOUND HOT MEALS DELIVERY PROGRAM”

From spring through summer 2020, United Way of Westchester and Putnam organized weekly food distribution events in Putnam County with drive-through grocery parcel pickup in parking lots or home deliveries made by volunteers to 650 households weekly. Seeing the need for a lead agency, United Way stepped in to coordinate this critical project with support from the Food Bank for the Hudson Valley, Putnam County Government, and hundreds of volunteers. United Way also leveraged its purchasing power to acquire scarce, yet shelf-stable, food items in bulk for distribution both in Putnam and through its Westchester nonprofit partners.

The food distribution helped people such as Amanda from Mahopac. “Like many people, we lost our jobs due to the pandemic and have struggled very much with the burdens of bills and food,” she said. “Your programs have allowed us to make sure we can focus on our bills being paid while ensuring that we still have food on our tables. Your help in this time is something that cannot be replaced and will never be forgotten.”

Throughout this unprecedented crisis, United Way also delivered 4,555 professionally prepared hot meals to seniors, vulnerable individuals, and families of working first responders and healthcare workers in its Heroes and Homebound Hot Meals Delivery Program, in cooperation with Community Cares. While providing compassion and nutrition to the isolated as well as those on the frontline, this effort also supported shuttered restaurants. Meals were delivered to Westchester Medical Center, Putnam County Hospital, and White Plains Hospital.

Mrs. O from Mahopac is a recent kidney transplant recipient who called in need of food. She asked if she could confide in the 211 Call Specialist. “I am eating my service dog’s food to take my medication,” Mrs. O admitted. The call specialist took her information and told her that someone will call her back. The situation was shared with United Way of Westchester and Putnam, which arranged for the caller to have groceries delivered to her that day, as well as for her to be enrolled in the Heroes and Homebound Hot Meals Delivery Program and the Putnam Emergency Food Distribution.

“During the pandemic, United Way and the 211 Helpline helped me get food and groceries delivered when I could not leave my home,” said Mrs. O. “They are godsend for sending meals and groceries to me.”
UNITED WAY DELIVERS TO ALLEVIATE FOOD INSECURITY

The United Way Ride United Last-Mile Home Delivery Program launched locally in July in response to the COVID-19 crisis to deliver food and essential goods to vulnerable populations in communities across the U.S. In 2020, UWWP made about 10,000 deliveries through the home delivery program.

“The last mile represents the final hurdle in getting food to people who must remain at home due to COVID-19 and who experience food insecurity,” said Tom Gabriel, CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam. “United Way and the 211-network have convened local agencies, food banks and grocery partners to identify available food for people who can’t travel, and arrange for deliveries by DoorDash ‘Dashers.’ Solving problems sustainably takes partnership, and by working together, we can make sure every person gets the support they need in this difficult time.”

United Way of Westchester and Putnam uses the Ride United program in partnership with Feeding Westchester, the Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon, the Elmsford School District, and the Ossining School District to provide the Westchester Backpack Program, which delivers supplemental fresh produce and packaged food to hundreds of low-income families of school-aged children weekly.

“This program is helpful due to our current circumstances,” said Marta, a client in White Plains. “There isn’t a lot of work and our incomes have diminished. We are very thankful that it helps with our meals.”

“United Way has been a great partner to work with on addressing hunger,” Feeding Westchester Program Services Associate Chris McGregor said. “Together, we’ve provided a wide variety of fresh produce and packaged food to more than 500 households in Westchester weekly. We’re looking forward to continuing the program and seeing how it can grow.”

United Way also delivers parcels from its food pantry partners, such as the Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry of Pleasantville in Thornwood and the YWCA in Yonkers. They also delivered holiday meals donated by the Falafel Taco in Pleasantville to clients of Open Door Medical Center.
Studies show that school readiness contributes toward a student’s success. **The United Way of Westchester and Putnam invested and leveraged about $150,000 in education initiatives** that positioned students to succeed in the remote learning environment.

Through the first round of COVID-19 response grants, UWWP funded the purchasing of tablets, Chromebooks, printers, and other electronic devices for organizations such as Latino U College Access (LUCA), The Guidance Center, and the Youth Shelter of Westchester.

**UWWP also provided backpacks filled with school supplies to 2,500 students** in Yonkers, New Rochelle, Mount Vernon, White Plains, Port Chester, Mount Kisco, Ossining, and Peekskill, as well as throughout Putnam County.

Also, **UWWP distributed over 18,000 books through food pantries and other nonprofits to children from low- to moderate-income households.**

**STUDENT SUPPORT PROVIDED IN WESTCHESTER AND PUTNAM**

Doriz was one of the students who was able to receive supplies to successfully transition to distance learning through the United Way of Westchester and Putnam’s COVID-19 Response Grant given to Latino U College Access, Inc.

**UNITED WAY AWARDS FOUR RUTH TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALING $14,000**

United Way of Westchester and Putnam announced the awarding of $3,500 scholarships from its Ruth Taylor Fund to four Westchester graduate students pursuing master’s degrees in social work or public health.

The four recipients are Emma Kaishian of Sleepy Hollow, Holly Fink of Larchmont, Joseph Benenati of Eastchester, and Stefanie Nolli Gaspar of White Plains.

Benenati is a volunteer at the New Rochelle Humane Society and Lifting Up Westchester, and interns at R.A.I.N. Total Care. Fink is the founder of Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration, vice president of Neighbors for Refugees, board member of Westchester Jewish Council and Westchester Jewish Center, and advocates for Indivisible Westchester. Kaishian completed an internship for the United Way of Westchester and Putnam in December 2020 and is the Women 4 Women president. Nolli Gaspar is the founder and co-director of White Plains Still Dreaming, secretary of Teens Under Construction, and is a domestic violence counselor for My Sisters’ Place.

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 the 2008-2009 academic year, 64 students from Westchester received a collective $175,000 in Ruth Taylor Fund scholarships.
The 211 Helpline Call Center run by the United Way of Westchester and Putnam in White Plains answered more than 114,000 calls in 2020, which surpassed the then record-setting 80,000 calls it received in 2019. Over 45,000 calls have been COVID-19-related calls.

"I am so proud of how the call specialists have been able to handle the increased call volume while also providing each caller with the attention they need. Our call specialists have been able to be a source of information as well as a source of comfort for callers through this crisis," said Lini Jacob, Chief Information and Referral Officer, UWWP/211 Hudson Valley. "We have seen a jump in calls related to food and housing insecurity and financial needs in every community.

Every day, 211 operates 24/7 and regularly works remotely. Our call center continues to do so, answering questions, providing information, and even calming a caller's understandable anxiety about the unknown.

United Way’s 211 Helpline handles calls from residents from Long Island to the Adirondacks. United Way’s 211 is a free, confidential, multilingual information (over 200 languages) and referral helpline open 365 days a year. Nationally certified call specialists are trained to answer questions and provide referrals. In 2019, 211 added text messaging to its services.

As COVID-19 continues to unfold, 211 will be here for residents of the Hudson Valley, Long Island, and upstate New York, answering questions about food assistance, housing and shelters, utilities, abuse prevention, suicide, foster parenting, medical help, and more. Please call 2-1-1 or visit online at 211hudsonvalley.org, if you need help.
Over 800 viewers streamed the 18th annual Nonprofit Leadership Summit, which was hosted by the United Way of Westchester and Putnam on Oct. 5-9. The weeklong virtual summit celebrated diversity, equity, and inclusion, by having five keynote speakers share why creating a diverse environment that supports equity and inclusion is important for nonprofits and other organizations. The goal was to help encourage nonprofit organizations to implement diversity, equity, and inclusion as core values throughout their operations, programs, and leadership.

“Even though we had to re-imagine this event as a virtual summit, the theme that we planned is not only still relevant today, but it is essential,” said United Way of Westchester and Putnam President and CEO Tom Gabriel, who opened each day’s program. “Through this summit, we are privileged to add our voices to the chorus celebrating and embracing diversity, equity and inclusion. It is our fervent hope that this week’s summit in some small way will help us all better value the visible and invisible qualities that make us who we are.”

This year’s virtual event featured distinguished speakers, including Richard Brown, Vice President of Philanthropy for American Express, who closed out the week’s programming. Brown, a Westchester resident who attended Greenburgh Schools, said he has worked in philanthropy for 30 years at six different companies, much of the time focusing on diversity. He said in his current position at American Express he is deeply involved in combatting systemic racism, promoting and advancement.

“We are in this very critical moment,” said Brown. “This isn’t simply a black moment, or a person of color moment; this is an American moment. America would be better if this DEI movement takes roots because the weight of racial bigotry, the detrimental effects of anti-black racism, and the debilitating impact of systemic racism is a burden America has had to bear for centuries. And freeing America from this bondage will liberate us all. I’m so happy we have an opportunity for this moment, and for all of us to do something together. And I do believe, really, that we all will benefit as a country for this.”

Other speakers throughout the week included: Marco Davis, President & CEO, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, former Deputy Director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics who discussed creating a more equitable social sector. Sean Thomas-Breitfield, co-director of the Building Movement Project, and co-author of the Race to Lead Report, discussed the nonprofit racial leadership gap. Kishshana Palmer, CFRE, a nonprofit consultant, coach, fundraiser, and author/blogger for “Secret Lives of Leaders,” spoke about promoting diversity in your marketing and fundraising efforts. Chitra Aiyar, a TED Speaker who is the former Executive Director of Sadie Nash Leadership Project, talked about the importance of having an inclusive workplace.
Thank you to the individuals, organizations, and corporations that gave their time and talents to help the United Way of Westchester and Putnam make more of an impact in our local communities.

1. Rain didn’t keep Mahopac School District teachers from helping at the Putnam Emergency Food Distribution.

2. Clients and staff of the Nicholas Center helped load vehicles picking up blankets and duvets donated by Delta Air Lines.


4. Girl Scouts spent Martin Luther King’s birthday assembling United2Read Literacy Kits for children from low- to moderate-income households.

5. Elected officials from Putnam Valley collected food as part of Putnam’s Countywide Food Drive on May 16. They collected 25,000lbs of grocery items from 8 locations around Putnam County for local food pantries.

6. When the grocery shelves were bare, volunteers bagged smaller portions from the 100 lb bags of pasta United Way purchased for its food distribution.

7. Lana, Catherine, and Nicole created 100 United2Read Literacy Kits.

8. Cindy Iglesias of Carmel sorted some of the toys that were delivered to families’ homes for the holidays.
$20,775,934
invested and leveraged in Westchester and Putnam communities**

879,094
individuals and families benefitted**

458 community partners

$9 mil
worth of essential goods distributed to 185 schools and nonprofit partners to meet the basic needs of the people we serve***

$1.7 mil
administered in grants to 68 local nonprofits

406,655 lbs
of groceries distributed for free to 18,925 households in Westchester and Putnam counties

$6.9 mil
to 2,808 residents from EITC-eligible tax refunds processed by VITA and the Hudson CA$H Coalition

114,000
calls received by the 211 Helpline Call Center

117,500
pairs of Bombas® socks given out to over 100 nonprofits in the NY Metropolitan area to share with their clients

$387,704
saved by 5,769 families using the Rx Discount Card by FamilyWize

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1,820 people attended job training or professional development workshops

750 students using A2i to read on grade level

22,300 books and activities distributed to families to encourage at-home learning

1,218 volunteers performed 7,936.75 hours of service

$15,500 in scholarships awarded to 5 students

2,584 backpacks with school supplies given out

500 gift cards to supermarkets given to food pantry recipients to supplement grocery staples not available through the food banks

$15,000 worth of diapers provided to Westchester families in need

700 rolls of toilet paper provided to food pantry recipients during the supply shortage

4,555 meals delivered through our Heroes and Homebound program to seniors, vulnerable individuals, working first responders and healthcare workers

250 healthcare workers and first responders received meals from UWWP while at work, including those at Westchester Medical Center, White Plains Hospital and Putnam County Hospital Center

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*2020 calendar year **Based on Earned Income Tax Refunds, Emergency Food and Shelter Program, Nonprofit Leadership Summit, Teach Me to Fish, Alice Sense, Essential Goods donations, FamilyWize savings, Ruth Taylor Scholarships, Born Learning Initiative, Hudson Valley 211 Helpline, and other investments in the community ***Estimate
GIFTS MADE JANUARY 1, 2020 – DECEMBER 31, 2020

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)

**UNIVERSITY 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.

**Ordre d’Égalité**
($50,000 – $74,999)

John Ciulla and Erin Fuller
Barbara and H. Rodgin Cohen LC
Nancy and Frank Pierson LC

**Ordre de Liberté**
($25,000 – $49,999)

Briar Foundation LC
The Jerome Levy Foundation LC
Eric and Laurie Roth LC

**Ordre de Consul**
($15,000 – $24,999)

Mrs. Henry Froehlich LC
Walter and Lori Hosp LC
Jeffrey and Francesca Paraschac
Nancy and Paul Ross LC
Laurie and Thomas Saylak LC
Jill and Michael Weinstein LC

*One member wishes to remain anonymous*

**SIGNATURE CLUB**

**Platinum Quill**
($7,500 – $9,999)

Daniel and Paula Reingold LC
Jane and James Stern LC

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($5,000 – $7,499)

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Anne and Jonathan Boucher LC
Estate of Julia J. Brody
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Mr. Peter M. Bauer LC
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Jan Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. Roger M. Widmann LC
Ronald Winston
Joan and Bill Witkin LC
Sidney Witter
Mr. and Mrs. James Wood LC
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Zuch LC

One member wishes to remain anonymous

Local Leadership
($500 – $1,499)
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Mr. and Mrs. Steven Blecher LC
David Bleich and Laura Winston LC
Michael and Eve Blumstein LC
Marjorie Ciucci
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Crames LC
Ann J. Edwards LC
Mr. and Mrs. David Florence LC
Rabbi Sarah Freidson and Caleb Schepart
Tom Gabriel and Janine Prete
Mr. Peter Goodman LC
Lawrence and Yvette Gralla LC
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Ronald Winston
Joan and Bill Witkin LC
Sidney Witter
Mr. and Mrs. James Wood LC
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Zuch LC

One member wishes to remain anonymous

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($1,500 – $2,499)
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Mr. and Mrs. Steven Blecher LC
David Bleich and Laura Winston LC
Michael and Eve Blumstein LC
Marjorie Ciucci
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Crames LC
Ann J. Edwards LC
Mr. and Mrs. David Florence LC
Rabbi Sarah Freidson and Caleb Schepart
Tom Gabriel and Janine Prete
Mr. Peter Goodman LC
Lawrence and Yvette Gralla LC
Graphite Metallizing Corporation LC
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hinerfeld LC
Mrs. Leona Kern LC
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Mr. Leroy Fadem LC
Marjorie Feder LC
Henry Feldman
David Finch and Leslie Jeffrey LC
Mrs. Marilyn Fishel LC
Jan Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Flynn LC
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Alan Fox and Resa Mestel
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Tom Gabriel and Janine Prete
Hon. Sandy Galef LC
Linda Garrison
GC Group
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Gloria and Arthur Goldstein LC
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Claire and Allan Wolkoff LC
Cindy and James Yip LC
Tiffany and Nathan Zezula
Fifteen members wish to remain anonymous

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 Dr. Manya C. Bouteneff and Jeremy Ingpen
Eugene Sokoloff

In honor of Sylvia and Morris Denerstein
Mylan D. Denerstein, Esq.

In honor of Keach Hagey
Lowry Igleheart-Keach

In memory of Bert and Mimi Askwish
Patti Askwish Kenner

In memory of George M. Homer, Jr.
David and Denise Larkin
Independent Insurance Agents of Westchester County
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In memory of Thomas M. McEvoy
John* and Carol Loomis

In memory of Evelyn Milianta
Megan Gentileesco

In memory of Jane Orans
Marshall Cohen and Ellen Brooks

Recognition levels can include corporate matching gifts when known. 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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2020 CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION SUPPORT ($1,000+)

$100,000 AND ABOVE

PEPSICO

$50,000 AND ABOVE

REGENERON

THE LOUIS D. SRYPNIK FOUNDATION, INC.

$25,000 AND ABOVE

Entergy

$2,500 and above

FORE FOUNDATION FOR ART, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

$20,000 and above

Webster Bank

$1,000 and above

KeyBank, in partnership with First Niagara Foundation
Suez Water

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The Arc Westchester
Westchester County Local Development Corporation

$10,000 and above

$2,500 and above

$5,000 and above

$2,500 and above

$5,000 and above

$5,000 and above
United Way of Westchester and Putnam honored Kevin J. Plunkett, Esq., Director of Strategic Initiatives at Simone Development Companies and Former Westchester Deputy County Executive, at its 2020 Day of Golf, presented by PepsiCo at Scarsdale Golf Club on September 14.

“Kevin has been a longstanding supporter of the United Way of Westchester and Putnam. Specifically, he was instrumental in getting our 211 Helpline recognized as an official County partner,” said United Way President and CEO, Tom Gabriel. “Today, our 211 Helpline answers tens of thousands of calls each year from frightened residents here in Westchester and throughout the Hudson Valley, and beyond.”


The sold-out event featured a round of golf with contests, BBQ lunch on the course, a cigar rolling station, and a grab-and-go gourmet dinner. Players also took their best shot in a “Beat the Honoree” contest, to try to hit farther on a par 3 hole than the event honoree.

“I am very proud to be recognized by the United Way of Westchester and Putnam,” honoree Plunkett said. “Over 800,000 households have been helped in Westchester and Putnam counties by United Way over the last year. It is a great honor to be here, to be recognized, and to have a golf outing in these tough times to support this great cause.”

The tournament’s Long Drive contest winners were Bill Winters of Tompkins Mahopac Bank and James McHale III of JP McHale Pest Management, and the Closest to the Pin winners were James McHale Jr. of JP McHale Pest Management and Desmond Lyons of Lyons McGovern LLP.

United Way of Westchester and Putnam hosted its annual and first virtual Women’s Leadership Council “Take a Walk in Her Shoes” event on December 8. Maria M. Trusa, CEO of Formé Medical Center and Urgent Care, was recognized as its 2020 “Woman of Distinction.”

Trusa, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, was the Executive Director of Scarsdale Medical Group where she worked for over 26 years. During her tenure, she transformed it from a six-physician and 35-employee practice, to more than 45 physicians and over 200 employees.

In September 2015, Trusa joined Formé Medical Center as their CEO, bringing with her the vision to help the underserved and uninsured community gain access to affordable, transparent, dignified, and high-quality medical care.

“Maria has a powerful story and her impact on our community has been incredibly substantial. She has been leading the charge in providing health care services to the most vulnerable, uninsured residents in Westchester County,” said United Way Chief Development Officer Margaret Tramontine. “It is an incredible honor and privilege to recognize her.”

Trusa provided event attendees with a glimpse into her painful past, and how she transformed her pain into strength. “You can do anything you want in life,” Trusa said. “All you need to do is imagine, believe, and create.” The dialogue’s themes included developing and supporting an inclusive environment where everyone’s voice can be heard.

The evening also included a dialogue on diversity, equity, and inclusion with special guests and panelists Trusa, Mecca E. Mitchell, Esq., Senior VP of Diversity and Community Relations at Westchester Medical Center, and Former Chief Diversity Officer for the State of New York, and Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson, Partner at Thompson & Bender, and United Way’s 2017 Woman of Distinction Honoree.

Mitchell spoke about the importance of creating an inclusive and empathetic workplace. “Putting yourself in someone else’s position is about being an ally,” she said. “I don’t have to look like you or sound like you to understand your struggle, to be able to play a role in empowering you.”

Participants each received a “Gratitude Giftbag,” which contained a mezze tray from Ladle of Love, wine, and a copy of Trusa’s book, “I Say No More.”

The event helped to raise funds to support ALICE women, children, and families affected by the ongoing pandemic and economic crisis. ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. At its core, it is a new way of defining and understanding the struggles of households that earn just above the Federal Poverty Level, but not enough for a survival budget.

The WLC Committee members included Leslie Lampert, Owner of Ladle of Love, and Bernadette Schopfer of Maier, Markey & Justic, LLP. The event was generously sponsored by Con Edison, IBM, Ladle of Love, M&T Bank, PepsiCo, and PURE Insurance.
United Way of Westchester and Putnam partners with companies of all sizes to work hand in hand building, executing, and fulfilling corporate social responsibility goals. Simultaneously, corporate partners’ financial and volunteer support helps fuel the work of United Way of Westchester and Putnam—critically supporting our most-vulnerable neighbors as they move along the path to self-sufficiency.

1. In addition to running an employee campaign, Wegmans financially supported United Way’s Ride United Food Delivery Program.

2. Atlantic Westchester staff volunteered at the Putnam Emergency Food Distribution.

3. Jonathan Langsam, owner of Falafel Taco in Pleasantville, donated 200 meals to families through United Way on Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve.

4. SUEZ Water donated $20,000 toward United Way’s Crisis Response Efforts.

5. During the Holiday season, the local Barnes & Noble locations in Yonkers, Scarsdale, and White Plains collected more than 3,500 children’s books on behalf of United Way.

6. M&T Bank held a rally in January 2020 to promote its longtime support of United Way.

7. Leslie Lambert and her team at Ladle of Love delivered meals to healthcare workers at Westchester Medical Center on behalf of United Way.

8. Diamond Properties donated the warehouse space used for the distribution of 700,000 Delta Air Lines items to the nonprofit community. Mark Blandford, EVP of Diamond Properties (left), was on hand for the kickoff.
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, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

* Does not include the $1,006,523 administered through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

** PPP loan is classified as a liability for fiscal year 2019-20.
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Chief Operating Officer
United Way of Westchester and Putnam’s Board of Directors announced the appointment of six community-minded professionals to its roster. Joining the 20 sitting board members are Swati Goel-Patel, Walter Hosp, Joshua Kimerling, Esq., Kevin Kubicki, Leslie Lampert, and Bernadette Schopfer. Their term is for a three-year period.

Swati Goel-Patel, vice president of human resources for PURE Insurance, has more than 15 years of experience in human resources with a focus on talent acquisition, performance management, and senior-level employee relations and people strategies. Additionally, Goel-Patel is an active member of United Way of Westchester and Putnam’s Women’s Leadership Council. She lives in Ardsley with her husband and three children.

Walter Hosp, CEO of ZenRE Holdings LLC, is a Scarsdale resident who during his seasoned career, has led all aspects of financial and administrative management. Hosp has served as a director and chair of the audit committee for the Trustwave Holdings, Inc. and was formerly on the boards of Bostwick Laboratories, Inc., Hexcel Corporation and the United Way of Westchester and Putnam where he served as Chairman of the Board from 2000 to 2002, and as its treasurer.

Joshua Kimerling of Dobbs Ferry is partner and chair of the Litigation Group at Cuddy & Feder LLP. His commercial litigation practice is diverse, with varied experience in areas of real estate litigation, title and easement matters, contract and corporate disputes, and appellate advocacy. Kimerling is a longstanding active member of the community, previously serving on the boards of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley and The Hudson Valley Justice Center.

Kevin Kubicki of Chappaqua is Westchester New York’s Senior Location Executive for IBM. In this capacity, he is responsible for leading the strategy and execution for people and culture for 35,000 IBMers worldwide, influencing and proactively addressing business opportunities and issues related to talent, leadership, skills, labor cost, diversity and inclusion, and organizational development to support business growth.

Leslie Lampert is the executive chef/owner of Love Hospitality and Ladle of Love, and the former senior editor at Ladies’ Home Journal magazine. In addition to the shop in Bronxville, the company includes Love On The Run Catering, MarketLove (distribution division to Fresh Direct, among others), and is the proud culinary team for The Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester, providing hot meals to more than 1,500 kids weekly. She is a founding member and original steering committee member of UWWP’s Women’s Leadership Council and a member of Westchester Medical Center’s Foundation Board. Lampert has three children and three grandchildren, and lives in Katonah.

Bernadette Schopfer is a partner and Director of Taxation at Maier, Markey & Justic, LLP, managing every aspect of the tax department. She is a Certified Public Accountant who specializes in understanding the increasing complexity of the tax laws, and translating them into ordinary, everyday language for her clients. She is a Founding Member of United Way’s Women’s Leadership Council and a member of its original Steering Committee.

“We are very fortunate to have a group of highly respected and well-connected individuals who want to give back to their communities through the United Way of Westchester and Putnam. Swati, Walter, Josh, Kevin, Leslie, and Bernadette bring valued skillsets to the organization and we look forward to working with them as new additions to the Board of Directors.”

— Bud Hammer, UWWP Board Chairman
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Become a monthly supporter, make a single gift or leave a legacy gift. Learn more at uwwp.org/donate

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
When you share social media posts, forward a petition to friends, or invite someone to a UWWP event, you’re helping us make sure that our families’ needs are met. Tag us @unitedwaywp

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