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At United Way, we fight for the health, safety and education of every person in the Greater Lehigh Valley. For years, we’ve invested in long-term solutions to our community’s greatest challenges. We’ve advanced education, furthered food access and supported healthy aging, while continuing to support a safety net of emergency services.

When the pandemic gripped our region, we were ready. Over the past year, we’ve deepened our long-standing commitment to fight for equity as the effects of COVID-19 disproportionately impacted marginalized members of our community.

In early 2020, we invested more than $800,000 into immediate relief. Then, we doubled down on our commitment to equity, investing more than ever into education, food access, healthy aging and emergency services this year.

Together, we kept more families fed as food insecurity rose as much as 50%. We strengthened our support for housing and emergency services. We cared for our children and families’ basic needs, including their mental health. We worked to minimize COVID-related learning loss for our students, and we found new and innovative ways to combat growing social isolation among our seniors.

It was possible, because of dedicated supporters like you. Under the leadership of campaign co-chairs John F. Malloy, chairman and CEO of Victaulic and his wife Jane, you raised $17,851,919 and fully leveraged a $1,000,000 matching gift provided by City Center Allentown.

When our community was in crisis, you were there. Thanks to you, the work continues.

With gratitude,

David S. Lewis
UWGLV President

Joanne Raphael
UWGLV Board Chair

For our full audit, visit UnitedWayGLV.org.
OUR IMPACT

18,000
summer learning kits distributed

29
school communities empowered with Leader in Me

20,731
residents connected to resources through PA211

1,890
seniors contacted by volunteers

9,335
people served in soup kitchens

18,000
summer learning kits distributed

7,500,000
minutes read during the Lehigh Valley Reads Million Minute Challenge

500
mental health and mindfulness kits distributed
20,160
AmeriCorps service hours completed

18,888
activity packets and resource guides distributed to older adults

31
Community Schools

4,500
students served

1,396,153
meals served by members of the Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council

24,920
residents served in food pantries

20,160
AmeriCorps service hours completed

18,888
activity packets and resource guides distributed to older adults

31
Community Schools

4,500
students served

1,396,153
meals served by members of the Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council

24,920
residents served in food pantries

800
evictions prevented by the Lehigh Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board

6,000
community members trained in trauma-informed practices
COLLECTIVE IMPACT IN ACTION

Thank you to hundreds of partners united in creating long-term solutions to our community’s greatest challenges.

Age-Friendly Lehigh Valley: Building an inclusive community for people of all ages

Allentown Freedom Schools Partnership: Empowering youth to excel through summer literacy and cultural enrichment

AmeriCorps: Expanding collective impact to address critical concerns

Bank On Allentown: Ensuring that everyone has access to safe and affordable financial services

Challenge 5 Attendance Coalition: Keeping students engaged in learning

Fund for Racial Justice and Equity: Investing in community-led solutions to systemic racism

Leader in Me: Empowering students, teachers and families to be life-ready learners

Lehigh Valley Community Schools Network: Supporting students’ needs and academic success

Lehigh Valley Early Childhood Coalition: Increasing school readiness

Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council: Increasing access to nutritious food

Lehigh Valley Reads: Ensuring all students can read on grade level

Lehigh Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board: Preventing homelessness

Lehigh Valley Summer Learning Coalition: Increasing access to high-quality summer learning

Public Policy and Advocacy Committee: Advocating for a healthy community through legislative change

Resilient Lehigh Valley: Building resilient youth through trauma-informed and culturally-responsive systems and community
COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

Total Community Investments in 2019-20: $17,176,650
In March 2020, United Way and our partners mobilized a cross-sector Strategic Response Team (SRT) to quickly assess emerging needs, raise funds and direct dollars where they were needed most through the Greater Lehigh Valley COVID-19 Community Response Fund.

**With support from 23 funding partners and many individual donors, United Way invested more than $800,000 into immediate relief efforts.**

With a focus on strengthening food access, housing, income support and mental health services, this collaborative provided 65 nonprofits much-needed funding in the earliest days of the pandemic.

The SRT’s work became a catalyst for Project Equity, a joint initiative with Lehigh Valley Community Foundation and FACES International to reimagine a more equity-focused and sustainable nonprofit sector as our community rebuilds from COVID-19.

Because of you, thousands of community members received essential support from March to June 2020.

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**THE ORTIZ ARK FOUNDATION**

Provided meals for more than 750 Allentown families as well as masks, gloves and hand sanitizer to more than 1,000 people.

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**BRADBURY-SULLIVAN LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER**

Reached more than 31,000 individuals with educational messaging and 4,000 individuals through virtual programs including five peer-led community groups, two professionally-led support groups, a free LGBT legal clinic and a youth program focused on healthy eating and active living.

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**PROJECT OF EASTON AND EASTON AREA NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER**

Served more than 130 new families in their full-choice food pantry in April and May and a significant increase in requests for the Emergency ASSISTance program.
**THE UNIDOS FOUNDATION**

Reach more than 950 Allentown School District students by delivering more than 250 devices and provided PPE donations to essential businesses, nursing homes and health care facilities.

**GREATER VALLEY YMCA**

Expanded free, grab-and-go meal programs to serve 97,463 meals to youth and 23,217 meals to adults at 17 locations since March.

**HISPANIC CENTER LEHIGH VALLEY**

Met a 60% increase in demand for services to serve 264 households and 1,130 individuals.

**PROMISE NEIGHBORHOODS OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY**

Supported more than 200 Allentown families by delivering food, essentials and more than 197,000 diapers to families of infants and small children, as well as 1,500 boxes of wipes, 10 boxes of gloves and 1,500 masks.

**TURN TO US**

Delivered 2,167 pounds of food and supplies including toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, wipes and hand sanitizer to more than 150 individuals in Carbon County.
For 15 years, Community Schools have supported student success in the region’s highest-need schools by focusing on students’ basic needs and building trusting relationships with children and their families. So, when the pandemic forced school buildings to close, partners and staff in the Lehigh Valley Community Schools Network quickly and efficiently connected with families, identified their needs and connected them to services – whether they were in the classroom or learning from home.

Community School partners and staff:
- provided kids with devices and internet access
- supplied necessities such as food, clothing and hygiene items
- distributed thousands of summer-learning kits
- gave out hundreds of activity packets to support students’ mental health and wellness, and
- delivered behavioral health support through virtual sessions and safely connected with families in person.

Supporting the community’s littlest learners, United Way invested in early childhood education by fulfilling Pre-K scholarships and promoting family literacy through the Talk Read Sing campaign.

Through Resilient Lehigh Valley, United Way and partners addressed the mental health crisis created by COVID-19. During periods of prolonged social isolation and financial stress, campaigns promoted social and emotional wellness and mindfulness strategies, encouraged families to seek help and called on the community to work together to keep kids safe from abuse and neglect. Resilient Lehigh Valley trained approximately 6,000 educators, health and human service professionals and law enforcement officers in trauma-informed practices and systems.

**SERVING ALMOST 19,000 STUDENTS**

and their families in 31 Community Schools

in Allentown, Bangor Area, Bethlehem Area and Easton Area school districts
As the number of people experiencing food insecurity spiked, United Way partners worked together to feed almost 50% more people since the start of the pandemic.

Together, members of the Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council served almost 1,000,000 meals during the school year and another 400,000 meals over the summer – more than double the number in 2019.

In early 2021, United Way partnered with the Food Policy Council and U.S. Hunger to address the barriers to food access that cause hunger by launching Full Cart Lehigh Valley. This innovative program offers families in Community Schools free, healthy food delivered right to their homes – no need to worry about funds or transportation.

In United Way-supported food pantries, partners served approximately 25,000 PEOPLE – a 48% increase year over year.

“Partnership is the key to making great things happen.”
Frank Ford, President
St. Luke’s University Health Network Sacred Heart Campus
The recent pandemic exacerbated a growing issue among the region’s older adults. Those who are chronically lonely live shorter lives and are more likely to have problems with memory, mental and physical health.

When the health crisis forced senior centers to shut down, many older adults lost a critical connection to food, fitness and fellowship.

To keep seniors healthy, connected and engaged, members of Age-Friendly Lehigh Valley teamed up with United Way to reach out and communicate with older adults. Through regular telephone check-ins, volunteers have helped to provide companionship and assess the needs of approximately 2,000 Lehigh Valley seniors. Additionally, United Way and partners distributed more than 4,500 activity packets and thousands of Age-Friendly Lehigh Valley resource guides to older adults.

With a goal to ensure that older adults will thrive mentally, emotionally and physically, the Age-Friendly Lehigh Valley action plan outlines the necessary steps to building the community tools to make that goal a reality.

1 IN 4 SENIORS lack companionship while 1 IN 6 feel isolated from others.
Prior to the pandemic, the latest data showed that 122,000 households in the Greater Lehigh Valley were living paycheck-to-paycheck with no savings for an emergency. That’s 44% of the families living in Lehigh, Northampton and Carbon counties. When you look at certain cities, the numbers climb to more than 60%.

When the pandemic caused an economic shutdown, many faced financial instability and the demand for emergency services soared. Families already living on the edge faced even greater obstacles to affording the barebone necessities such as food and housing.

As United Way-supported soup kitchens and housing providers rose to meet that demand and advocate for policies for the residents most impacted by the pandemic’s financial crisis, United Way coordinated the delivery of critical health care supplies to community members, including: 10,000 bottles of hand sanitizer, 2,000 face masks, 5,000 toothbrushes, 1,000+ bottles of body wash and 1,000+ feminine products.

Through PA211, the health and human services line powered by UWGLV, more than

20,700 PEOPLE

were connected to resources such as food and housing – a 43% increase over last year.

“It feels amazing to know there are people out here in our own community that help.”

Mary Hitcho
UNITED WE DID.
Donors like you gave generously, volunteered your time and talents and delivered the resources to care for the community in a time of great crisis. Thanks to you, United Way was there.

“I see the impact of United Way everyday through my students. Every need we have is met through United Way.”
Laura Keding, Bethlehem Area School District

“United Way is on the ground in all of our communities, serving and meeting the needs of our friends and neighbors.”
Natasha Ljuljic, Air Products

Tocqueville Society
“Because of United Way, we have been able to make an impact on creating an inclusive environment here in the Lehigh Valley.”

Scott Blair, DeSales University
Our Purpose

UNITED WAY FIGHTS FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND EDUCATION OF EVERY PERSON IN THE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY