



LEADING THE WAY

United Way
of Greater New Haven



2023-2024 COMMUNITY REPORT

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 Stability, grounded in racial and social justice.



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LEADING THE WAY



When neighbors come together, incredible things happen. At United Way of Greater New Haven, we believe in the extraordinary power of collaboration to create lasting change. This belief has been our guiding light for over 100 years and remains at the heart of everything we do.

Every milestone we achieve is a testament to what happens when neighbors, businesses, and community organizations come together with a shared vision. It's the collective contributions of donors, volunteers, and partners like you that enable us to make meaningful progress on the challenges facing our region.

In the past year, we've seen remarkable stories of resilience and transformation emerge from our shared efforts. Together, we've increased access to healthy food for thousands of families, ensured safe and stable housing for families and individuals, expanded opportunities for children to learn and thrive, and supported families in building strong financial foundations. This impact would not have been possible without the strength of our collective action.

Collaboration allows us to innovate and create solutions that address complex challenges. By bringing people and organizations together, we can connect the dots between immediate needs and long-term change. Whether it's coordinating resources to tackle housing insecurity, providing enriching learning opportunities for children, or driving systemic policy changes to uplift working families, we're united by our commitment to a brighter future for all.

As you read through this year's report, we hope you'll see yourself reflected in the progress we've made. Each statistic, success story, and initiative is a reminder that our work is powered by people like you - those who believe that when we come together, we can lead the way toward a thriving community.

Thank you for your steadfast support and partnership. Together, we're making Greater New Haven a place where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Heath, President & CEO



United Way
of Greater New Haven

LEADING THE WAY

Everyone deserves to be part of a thriving community.

That's why United Way brings neighbors, businesses, and community partners together to increase access to food and stable housing, advance the well-being of children, promote economic mobility, and work towards a better future for all.

Join us and help lead the way.



 **2,140** ADVOCATES MOBILIZED
13 ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

 **\$9.6M** INVESTED
IN OUR COMMUNITY

 **2,945** VOLUNTEERS
10,503 HOURS OF SERVICE

UNITED WAY DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND ADVOCATES ARE LEADING THE WAY FOR:

BASIC NEEDS



Every neighbor deserves nutritious food and stable affordable housing.

Rising costs of food, rent, and child care mean more families in our community are struggling to afford the basics. We help families find and keep safe housing and access healthy food through pop-up pantries, summer meals for kids, serving prepared meals, and more.



58,071 PEOPLE FED
9,669 PEOPLE HOUSED

CHILDREN



Every child can learn, grow, and thrive with quality child care and education.

Every child needs stability, resources, and a network of healthy relationships. We support parents and caregivers, promote healthy development, expand access to summer enrichment programs, get books and school supplies to students, and support literacy and math skills.



20,020 KIDS SUPPORTED IN LEARNING

ECONOMIC MOBILITY



Every family can build a better life when they have a strong financial foundation.

42% of households in Greater New Haven don't make enough money to afford basic necessities. We help people develop career skills, offer free tax preparation, and provide financial education so people can make, keep, and grow the resources to achieve their goals.



5,107 PEOPLE ASSISTED

97,952 LIVES IMPACTED

2023-2024

LEADING THE WAY for BASIC NEEDS



Fighting Food Insecurity Together

We believe everyone should have access to nutritious food, and tackling hunger requires bold, collaborative action. United Way is leading the way in fighting food insecurity by joining forces with coalitions of organizations to identify gaps, create new programs, and advocate for lasting change.

This year, we've brought people and partners together to coordinate distributions of grocery bags during school breaks, staff mobile food pantries that serve thousands with United Way volunteers, and distributed fresh produce from local farms to families. We also support initiatives that provide Thanksgiving meals and advocate for expanded access to no-cost school meals.

These efforts, combined with community conversations and capacity-building trainings for local nonprofits, enable us to better understand and address the root causes of hunger in our region, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

A Place to Call Home

After escaping domestic violence, Kira and her three children returned to New Haven, moving in with her sister's already crowded household. While Kira found work as a CNA and enrolled her son in child care through United Way, securing stable housing remained a challenge.

With United Way's support, Kira qualified for housing assistance and furnished a new apartment, providing her family the stability they needed to thrive. Now, with a safe home and her children flourishing, Kira is planning on returning to school to pursue a nursing degree to build an even brighter future for her family.

"When we finally moved in, it was a huge relief. My kids had their own rooms for the first time in months, their grades started to improve, they didn't feel cramped or stressed anymore. They're happy to have a place to call home again."



"These programs are very important for the community. We need these resources. These programs are a second chance for us to have help, and to know that we're not alone."

- Samantha

United Way housing and child care client



LEADING THE WAY for CHILDREN

Empowering the Next Generation of Parent Leaders Fighting for Children

If you want to build a thriving community, you need community leaders who will fight to support children and their caregivers. United Way's Greater New Haven Parent Leadership Training Institute equips parents and caregivers, ages 18-24, to advocate for their children and their communities.

Throughout the 20-week program, participants learn about legislation, policy making, how government works, and other areas of advocacy. This institute is a community-driven collaborative focused on cultivating healthier, more inclusive communities and systems in which all families thrive.

This year, the inaugural class of United Way's Greater New Haven Parent Leadership Training Institute graduated from the program. Graduates shared that they felt connected to their classmates and had a strong network of support, and that they feel empowered to go after changes in their own lives and in the community.

One member of the class, Jacqueline (pictured with her son on right) recently spoke to legislators and press to advocate for the Connecticut Child Tax Credit. She said, **"Don't be surprised if you see me running for office someday!"**



Tutors make all the difference!

United Way is a leading partner of the New Haven Tutoring Initiative, a partnership with the City of New Haven and local nonprofits dedicated to helping students in our community build essential skills for academic success. Over the past year, the program has grown significantly, now partnering with 16 organizations across 33 locations.

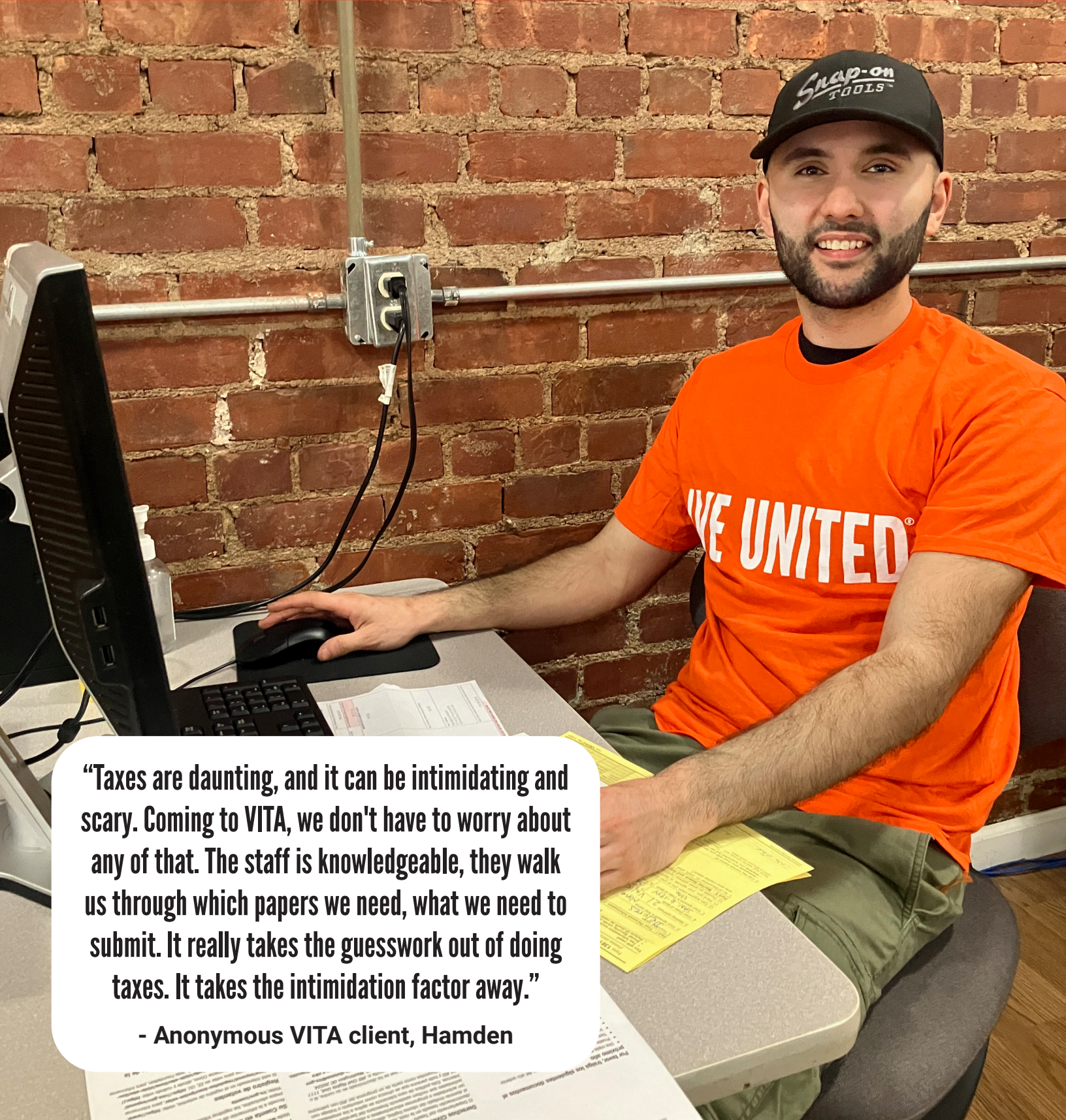
Volunteer tutors have been at the heart of this growth, contributing 10,334 hours to support literacy and math tutoring. This past year alone, **341 tutors helped 1,862 students improve their reading and math skills, with 94% of students improving their math fluency and 90% making significant gains in reading.** The dedication of our volunteers and the progress of our students highlight the impact of our tutoring program. Join us in empowering New Haven's youth—become a tutor today!



"I plan to be a fighter and advocate for those who have walked in similar shoes to me. I learned that you have to go out and make things happen. This program has changed both mine and my son's life for the better."

- Jacqueline
Parent Leadership Training Institute graduate

LEADING THE WAY for ECONOMIC MOBILITY



“Taxes are daunting, and it can be intimidating and scary. Coming to VITA, we don't have to worry about any of that. The staff is knowledgeable, they walk us through which papers we need, what we need to submit. It really takes the guesswork out of doing taxes. It takes the intimidation factor away.”

- Anonymous VITA client, Hamden

Building Strong Financial Foundations

Every family can build a better life when they have a strong financial foundation.

42% of households in Greater New Haven don't make enough money to afford basic necessities like food, rent, and child care. In the City of New Haven, it's even more pronounced, with almost 60% of all households struggling to make ends meet.

United Way works to help our neighbors find financial stability and success, including funding for job training, no-cost income tax assistance, financial literacy courses, and advocating for state policies that help our community thrive. We help people make, keep, and grow the resources to achieve their goals.

Navigating to Success

In April of 2024, we launched a new initiative to help our neighbors achieve financial stability. United Way Community Navigators provide free, one-on-one support to residents in financial hardship by helping them access job training programs, education, financial assistance, and other resources to improve employment prospects and income stability. By leveraging United Way's relationships and trust in the community, we can quickly connect people to the right resources for them.

Melissa (right) was looking for support in growing her professional development, and met with one of our Community Navigators. She had been applying for jobs but was having trouble because she didn't have a driver's license. She had a permit but needed road lessons before she could take the driving test. United Way helped her cover the cost of driving lessons so she could get her license, and connected her with the American Job Center to help her make a plan for finding the right job.



Everyone deserves to be part of a thriving community.

We all benefit from a community where everyone has a fair chance to build a good life. When people can find good-paying jobs, safe housing, affordable child care, and nutritious food, our communities are safer, people have the bandwidth to contribute their gifts, and children thrive.

United Way partners with researchers to look at the real costs of living in each town in Connecticut, and compares the costs of essentials to household incomes. This research shows the percentage of households that are making enough to afford the essentials, and the percentage who are struggling to get by. In Greater New Haven, 42% of households don't make enough to make ends meet. In the City of New Haven, it's 60%. Statewide, the number of households whose income is insufficient to cover basic needs has reached a record high, increasing by 13% since 2019.



[READ THE REPORT](#)

The good news is that we know what makes a positive change on these numbers. When federal and state funding expanded and families received tax credits during the pandemic, child hunger in Connecticut was cut in half. But when that funding expired at the same time that inflation left grocery prices high than ever, hunger and homelessness rebounded and are now even higher than before the pandemic.

United Way donors, volunteers, and supporters are giving our neighbors a critical lifeline through programs and services that help children learn, grow, and thrive, increasing access to food, helping those in a housing crisis find a safe and stable place to live, and helping people access the resources and knowledge to build their careers and their family's financial foundations. Our work gives people the hand up they need to be able to tackle the obstacles that are holding them back.

But the scale of the problem is big enough that we have an imperative to look beyond individual solutions and work to improve systems so that people in our communities don't find themselves in impossible situations - like being unable to find an apartment they can afford, or having to forgo certain produce for cheaper more filling foods, or having a single unexpected expense throw them into crisis because they are living paycheck-to-paycheck. That's why we back up our direct service work with advocacy for the programs and policies that will benefit our communities.

You can join us as an advocate - scan the code to see our action center and help lead the way to a better future for all.



[TAKE ACTION NOW](#)

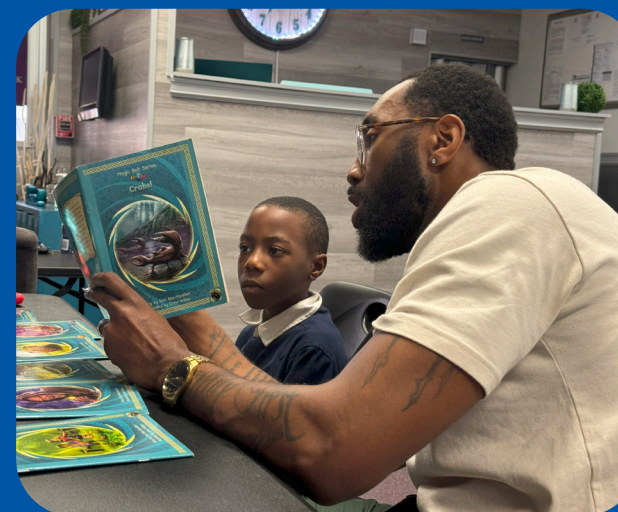


"I think it's so beautiful to see the power of a community coming together to do good work. Any individual one of us could do the tasks of opening boxes or packing bags, but none of us individually can achieve the impact that we can achieve if we all work together. And that's just wonderful to be a part of. I'm really grateful to the United Way for providing opportunities for our community to work together like this."

- **Dorothy Tolchin**
United Way volunteer

"Our immigrant parents taught us it is our responsibility to help our neighbors. We are honored to make an impact as part of the Leadership Circle and to help make greater New Haven be the best for everyone but especially for the most vulnerable."

- **Drs. Sherlet Kurian and Vin Verghese**
United Way donors



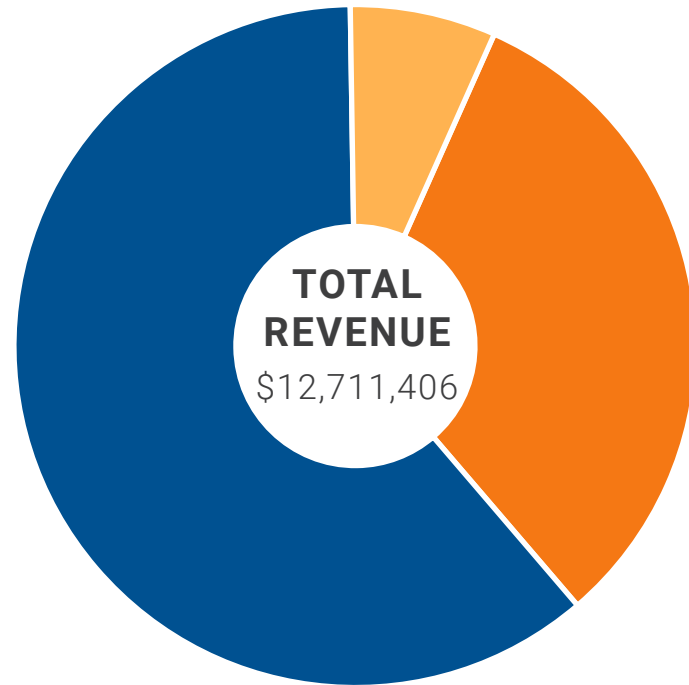
"Denim's ability to encode and decode words has greatly improved. His excitement for learning has grown, and his confidence has soared."

- **Chaz**, New Haven Tutoring Initiative tutor

"I like reading now, and my favorite book is Breathe."

- **Denim**, New Haven Tutoring Initiative student

FY24 FINANCIALS



REVENUE

- **32% Individual & Corporate Gifts**
\$4,075,628
- **61% Grants**
\$7,757,562
- **7% Other**
\$878,216



EXPENSES

- **88% Programs**
\$10,354,900
- **6% Development**
\$677,887
- **6% Management & General**
\$669,784

Grants include grant funding released from restriction for use in the current fiscal year.

To learn more about United Way's finances and investments, please visit uwgnh.org/financials where you can find copies of our 990 and audited financial reports.

OUR DONORS

ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY *Recognizes society membership and giving through December 31, 2024*

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Stephen & Victoria Murphy

Gold \$5,000-\$7,499

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Emerald \$25,000-\$49,000

The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven



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We made every effort to acknowledge the generosity of our donors accurately.
Should you discover an error or omission, contact Kristen Loughry at 203.687.4274.

† deceased

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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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Brescome Barton, Inc.	KX Technologies	Town of Madison
Carmody, Torrance, Sandak, & Hennessey	Liberty Bank	Travelers
City of New Haven	M&T Bank	United Aluminum
Dimeo Construction Company	Murtha Cullina	University of New Haven
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Women United leads the way!

Women United is a network of women and colleagues with a shared commitment to addressing the needs of our neighbors in Greater New Haven. For 13 years, this dedicated volunteer collective has worked to empower children and families in our community. This year, Women United:

- **Promoted Literacy:** Through read-aloud sessions, 365 children developed a love for reading.
- **Supported Education:** The Mayo School Gardening Club flourished, with sunflowers and pumpkins enhancing the outdoor classroom.
- **Nourished Neighbors:** The Meal Prep Team provided 2,080 meals for women living in a local shelter, serving the community twice a week.
- **Advocated for Families:** Women United's advocacy for the Connecticut Child Tax Credit garnered 1,263 petition signatures.
- **Fundraised for Early Childhood Development:** The Strong Starts for Children campaign surpassed its goal, raising \$28,000 to benefit hundreds of children.

These accomplishments highlight the power of collaboration and the profound impact Women United has on Greater New Haven. Visit uwgnh.org/women-united to learn more about how you can get involved!

LIVE UNITED

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.

