



United Way of Tri-County
2024-2025 IMPACT REPORT

UNITED FOR YOU

As your local United Way, we are committed to improving lives, one neighbor at a time. Our work is rooted in the belief that ***“every person, regardless of their circumstances, deserves the opportunity to thrive.”***



Lee & Jean

Lee & Jean come to
Pearl Street Cupboard
& Café each month
where they
receive help with
groceries.



5,777,332

Pounds of food distributed at
our 3 food pantries



493,537
Calls received from
our Mass211 and Call2Talk
24 hour call lines

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with both gratitude and pride for the work we have accomplished together to support and uplift our community. At the heart of everything we do is a simple but powerful mission: to be there for individuals and families in their time of need. Thanks to your continued support, we have been able to do just that—in meaningful, life-changing ways.

Food security remains one of the most pressing challenges in our region, and we've worked hard to meet that need head-on. Through our three food pantries and two hot meal programs serving MetroWest, Marlborough, and Greater Clinton, we provided groceries and thousands of nutritious meals to our neighbors. These programs are more than just a source of food—they are a source of hope, dignity, and community.

Around the clock, our 24-hour helplines have remained a lifeline for so many. Mass211, our information and referral line, continues to connect individuals and families with critical services and resources. Meanwhile, Call2Talk, our mental health and suicide prevention program, has offered compassionate, lifesaving support to those struggling with emotional distress. Together, these services ensure that no one has to face crisis alone.

We are also deeply committed to supporting the next generation through educational programs. Our Ready to Read early literacy initiative is helping young children develop the foundational skills they need to succeed in school and in life. Through our Tools for School program, we distributed backpacks and essential school supplies, helping students start the year prepared and confident.

Finally, our seasonal initiatives continue to bring warmth and joy during the most critical times of year. Through Feed-A-Family, we've provided holiday meals to households who might otherwise go without. Our Hope for the Holidays gift program brought smiles to the faces of countless children, reminding them that they are seen, valued, and loved.

None of this would be possible without you—our donors, volunteers, partners, and friends. Your generosity and compassion are the driving force behind our work. Thank you for standing with us and for believing in the power of community.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul L. Mina".

Paul Mina, President & CEO
United Way of Tri-County,
Executive Director Mass211

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert Moran Jr.".

Robert Moran Jr., Board Chair
National Grid

FOOD SECURITY

Hunger isn't just an issue for the homeless or unemployed—it also affects the underemployed, seasonal workers, veterans, and the elderly. Every day, suburban families must choose between paying for food and covering housing, utilities, medications, childcare, transportation, or education.

In 2011, the United Way of Tri-County (UWTC) launched its Food Security Initiative to help people meet nutritional needs and ensure everyone has the chance to reach their full potential. When families are food secure, children focus in school, adults perform better at work, and seniors are more likely to live independently—benefiting both individuals and communities.

FOOD PANTRIES



UWTC's three food pantries serve residents of MetroWest, Marlborough and Greater Clinton. Last year UWTC met the demand to make more healthy food available to low-income families by providing over 5.7 million pounds of food to people in need.

Clients can visit our food pantries each month

to receive healthy food including non-perishable items, fresh produce, dairy, eggs, bread and frozen meat.

UWTC partners with the Greater Boston Food Bank, the Worcester County Food Bank as well as many local restaurants, food distributors and private individual donors to keep our pantry shelves filled throughout the year.

HOT MEALS



UWTC's hot meals program serves nourishing meals five nights a week at our cafés in MetroWest/Framingham and Greater Clinton. Guests enjoy a restaurant-style, three-course sit-down dinner shared with friends and neighbors.

In addition, breakfast is offered daily at our MetroWest/Framingham location, and lunch is available for take-out at both locations to anyone in need.

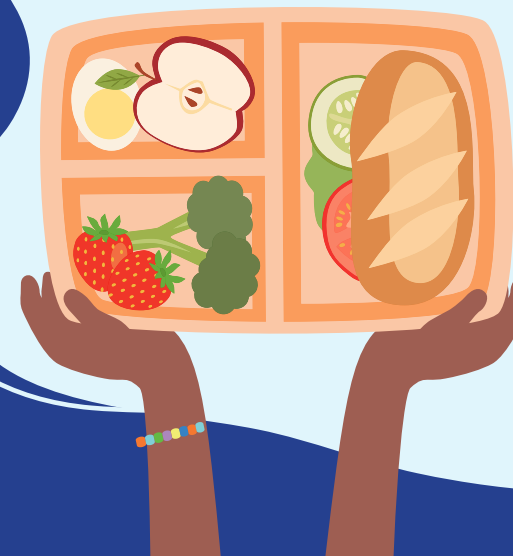
To support vulnerable populations, we also deliver lunch and dinner to several senior centers in Clinton and nearby communities.

In total, UWTC provided 289,694 meals last year across the communities we serve.

Chef Shelly and volunteers prepare the evening meal for guests at the WHEAT Community Café.



289,694
Meals served at our 2 cafés
in Framingham/MetroWest and
Greater Clinton



32,600
Families served at our
3 food pantries and 2 cafés

METROWEST CROSS DOCK

In partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB), the United Way of Tri-County helps 32 local food programs access additional food for their clients. Each week, the GBFB delivers food to our MetroWest Cross Dock in Framingham. Smaller hunger relief programs—often lacking staff, volunteers, vehicles, and financial resources—can pick up food at the MetroWest CrossDock, eliminating the need and cost of traveling to Boston.

FEED-A-FAMILY

Each September, we launch our fall fundraising campaign, Feed-A-Family, which provides a complete holiday meal or a week’s worth of food to families in need—so they too can enjoy the tradition of a home-cooked holiday meal with loved ones. The campaign runs from September through December, when many struggling families can’t afford the added cost of a holiday meal.

A few days before the holiday, registered families line up at our three food pantries to receive a complete holiday meal with all the trimmings. Since its start in 2012, the program has supported thousands of families through challenging times.

HUNGER TO HOPE

As the number of families and individuals using our food pantries continues to grow, so does our need to secure additional funding. Our spring campaign, Hunger to Hope, helps support our food pantries through the spring and summer months—times when donations are typically at their lowest.

Many of our pantry clients work minimum-wage jobs that no longer keep pace with the rising cost of basic necessities like food, medicine, housing and utilities. While inflation affects us all, it disproportionately impacts lower-income families.

Hunger to Hope ensures our food pantries remain open and stocked during the summer, providing vital support to families in need.

GUS THE FOOD PANTRY BUS



Food insecurity continues to be an urgent crisis across the Commonwealth. In response, UWTC is proud to introduce Gus the Bus—a mobile solution bringing food and essential services to communities with limited access to affordable, healthy options.

Gus will stop at various “pop-up” locations, where clients can receive monthly groceries and hot meals—no transportation needed.

But Gus offers more than food. Onboard case managers help connect visitors with vital social services, including housing, healthcare, employment resources, and more.

To donate to our food security programs, visit us online at uwotc.org/FEED or text FEED to 91999.

OUR TOP 50 MOST SUPPORTIVE COMPANIES

- TJX Companies

Cumberland Farms (EG America)

Eversource

FM Global

Illinois Tool Works Inc.

National Grid

Wegmans (Northborough)

Main Street Bank

Rockland Trust Company

Avidia Bank

Dimeo Construction Company

Intel Massachusetts

Bank of America

Hannaford - Corporate

General Dynamics Info Sys

Enterprise Holdings

St. Mary’s Credit Union

Park Place Technologies

Commonwealth Charitable Fund

Target (Parent)

CONMED

Town of Hudson

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metrowest

Raytheon

Berkshire Partners LLC
- Eli Lilly and Company

Hanover Insurance

BNY Mellon

Paychex Inc.

Shaws Supermarkets

United Health Group, Inc.

Gilbane Building Company

Symetra

Legacy Publishing Group, Inc.

Fitts Insurance Agency, Inc.

Berry Global

Irex Corporation

Viasat Inc

Rockwell Automation

TAKEDA

Enterprise Rent A Car

US Bank Corp

Advocates, Inc.

Elevance Health

Barrett Distribution Center

Haley-Ward

Century-TyWood J3 Corp.

Walgreen Company

Nationwide Insurance Enterprise

Ameriprise Financial

MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

The Marlborough Community Cupboard (MCC) has been a vital resource for Marlborough residents in need since 1992. In 2011, it became a program owned and operated by the United Way of Tri-County, allowing it to expand its reach and strengthen its impact throughout the community. MCC's mission is to provide support with dignity, compassion, and respect—ensuring that individuals and families never have to face food insecurity or other basic needs alone.

Each month, MCC provides groceries and produce to residents in need. In addition to monthly food distributions, MCC

offers a weekly opportunity to access fresh fruits and vegetables through the Open Marketplace—ensuring clients can include nutritious foods in their diets that might otherwise be too expensive at a grocery store.

MCC also recognizes the specific needs of older adults in the community. Through its partnerships with the Marlborough Council on Aging and BayPath Elder Services, the Senior Mobile Market delivers groceries directly to the homes of homebound seniors. This program allows elderly residents to maintain their independence and continue living safely and comfortably.

Beyond food assistance, the Marlborough

Community Cupboard helps clients apply for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), commonly known as food stamps. The application process can be overwhelming, and MCC staff are trained to guide individuals through it, helping them secure the benefits for which they are eligible.

In addition to food, MCC offers gently used clothing at no charge to anyone visiting the food pantry. Whether it's a warm coat for winter or everyday essentials for children, the clothing room helps ease financial strain for many households.

Recognizing that financial hardship can extend beyond food, MCC, through various partnerships, helps residents apply for support with heating oil, gas, and electricity—keeping homes safe and warm during the winter months.

Having heat, light, and electricity enables families to prepare meals, children to complete

homework, and individuals to stay healthy and safe. In times when health and human services are stretched thin, the Marlborough Community Cupboard steps in to fill the gaps. Through food, clothing, support services, and a network of compassion, MCC continues to make a lasting difference in the lives of Marlborough residents.

Located at:

***255 Main Street, Room 113,
Marlborough, MA 01752***

Pantry Hours:

Monday & Friday 9am-1pm

Wednesday 9am-1pm & 5pm-7pm

Open Marketplace:

Wednesday 5pm-7pm

Director: Barbara LaGrenade

***To volunteer or donate to the Marlborough
Community Cupboard, visit us online at
uwotc.org/MCC***



**“I’m very grateful to
God for all the support
they give us.”**

- Hemerson

Hemerson

Hemerson, a single dad, would be lost without the Marlborough Community Cupboard. He comes for groceries and fresh fruits and vegetables for himself and his two growing kids.

“It’s very important for my family,” Hemerson said. The help goes beyond food—MCC has provided his family with winter coats, backpacks full of school supplies for the kids, and presents every Christmas. Once, when his car battery died while he was at the pantry, Director Barb LaGrenade even helped him get a new one.

“I’m very grateful to God for all the support they give us,” Hemerson said.

Hemerson calls his 17-year-old son, who helps him practice English, his “teacher,” and his 11-year-old daughter his “princess.” He loves raising his kids in Marlborough and is proud they are fluent in English. “That’s the best thing that I’m leaving them,” Hemerson said.

Hemerson works in real estate, helping his clients find property in Brazil, but the pay isn’t enough to make ends meet.

He’s grateful for the food he gets at MCC, as well as the emotional support he receives there.

PEARL STREET CUPBOARD & CAFÉ AT PARK

Since its founding in 2012, the Pearl Street Cupboard & Café (PSCC) at Park has become a cornerstone of food assistance in the MetroWest region. What began as a community-based initiative has grown into one of the largest food pantries in Massachusetts, reaching thousands of individuals and families each year who are struggling to make ends meet.

Each month, qualifying residents receive a generous supply of groceries that support the preparation of well-balanced meals at home.

Grocery packages typically include high-quality meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, bread, and non-perishable staples. The variety and nutritional value of the groceries

reflect the organization's commitment not just to providing food, but to providing good food that supports a healthy lifestyle.

The Pearl Street Café, a critical extension of the pantry's mission, serves hot meals five days a week to residents of Framingham and surrounding towns. With the help of dedicated volunteers, the Café provides both nourishment and dignity to those who visit.

Breakfast and lunch are carefully prepared and packaged to-go five days per week, and in the evening, a sit-down three-course meal is served restaurant-style by staff and volunteers.

Volunteers play a central role in the success of

both the Cupboard and Café. They assist with everything from sorting groceries and preparing meals to distributing food and cleaning up. Their compassion, energy, and dedication help create a welcoming and respectful environment for all who walk through the doors.

PSCC also plays an important role in supporting homebound residents. Springwell's Meals on Wheels program uses the Café's kitchen to prepare and package hot meals five days per week for delivery throughout the Framingham area. Our own drivers also deliver groceries to homebound residents when needed.

These home-delivered meals and groceries ensure that elderly or medically vulnerable residents who are unable to shop or cook for themselves still receive consistent, nutritious food. This vital service promotes independence and health for one of the most at-risk populations in the community.

PSCC works with the Greater Boston Food Bank, local businesses, and donors to ensure

a steady supply of nutritious food.

With the growing demand for food assistance across MetroWest, the Pearl Street Cupboard & Café remains a lifeline for many of our neighbors.

Located at:

***46 Park Street, 1st Floor,
Framingham, MA 01702***

Pantry Hours:

Monday - Friday 9am-1pm

Café Hours:

Breakfast: Monday-Friday 9am-10am

Lunch: Monday-Friday 12pm - 1pm

Dinner: Monday-Friday 5:30pm-7pm

Director: Joe Mina

To volunteer or donate to the Pearl Street Cupboard & Café, visit us online at uwotc.org/PEARL

Sara

As a single mom, Sara struggles to make ends meet, and our Pearl Street Cupboard & Café has become her safety net.

At 41, Sara has endured some of the hardest times but has worked hard to rebuild her life.

Now back on her feet and working part-time as a personal care assistant, she stays strong and resourceful for her 10-year-old daughter. Once a month, she visits the pantry to stock her fridge, freezer, and shelves. Her job pays decently, but her SNAP benefits have dropped to just \$23.

Sara's income doesn't stretch far enough to cover rent, utilities, food, and other essentials—so she turns to us for support. Take a dozen eggs, for example: "There's a big pack over at the grocery store—they wanted \$25 for those," Sara said. "I was beyond shocked. No way could I afford those."

She's proud of how far she's come and unashamed to acknowledge that she still needs a helping hand. "I depend on people," Sara said. "We're all here together and we should be able to work as one."

“I depend on people,” Sara said. “We’re all here together and we should be able to work as one.”

- Sara



WHEAT COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

WHEAT Community Connections has served residents of the Greater Clinton area since 1982 and, in 2012, became a direct service of the United Way of Tri-County. WHEAT continues to provide a high level of service to area residents. Our mission is to support individuals and families experiencing economic and personal challenges by providing emergency assistance and programs that promote self-sufficiency.

The WHEAT Community Cupboard & Café provides monthly groceries as well as fresh lunches and dinners five days a week to residents of Clinton and the surround-

ing towns. Clients can choose to dine in our café or take their meals to go. Lunches are also delivered to senior housing authorities in the towns of Berlin, Bolton, Clinton, Lancaster, and Sterling. Food is a basic need, and many area residents struggle to provide enough for themselves and their families. Our program helps support healthy aging in place for older adults.

In addition, WHEAT maintains strong partnerships with local towns and organizations such as the *Worcester County Food Bank*, *DTA*, *UMass Chan Medical School*, *Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center*, *Making Opportunity Count*, *UMass Memorial HealthAl-*

liance—Clinton Hospital, *Nypro Foundation*, *JRI*, *RFK Community Alliance*, *Community Foundation of North Central MA*, *Greater Worcester Community Foundation*, *Philip J. Weihr Foundation*, *National Grid*, *Pibbles Kibbles*, *Growing Places*, *Clinton Area Community Partners*, *Item Appeal*, *St. Vincent de Paul Society*, *Tufts Health*, *YWCA*, and other social service agencies to help facilitate client access to much-needed basic services in the Greater Clinton area.

At Hidden Treasures Thrift Store, we offer low- to no-cost furniture, household items, clothing, shoes, seasonal items, and more in a retail setting. All proceeds support WHEAT's hunger relief programs.

WHEAT also offers seasonal programs such as *Tools for School*, which provides backpacks and supplies for students, *Feed-a-Family*, which provides a turkey and all the fixings for a holiday meal and *Hope for the Holidays*,

which provides children with new unwrapped gifts from their personal wish lists.

Located at:
272 High Street,
Clinton, MA 01510

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday by appointment

Pantry Hours:
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 10am-1:15pm
Wednesday 3pm - 5:45pm
Closed Friday

Café Hours: (Dine-In & Take-Out)
Lunch: Monday-Friday 12:30pm-1:30pm
Dinner: Monday-Friday 5:00pm-6pm

Director: Liz Leonard

To volunteer or donate to
WHEAT Community Connections, visit us
online at uwotc.org/WHEAT



“It was very helpful because food is very expensive. The eggs are so expensive now too,” Katherine said. “And fresh vegetables and the fruit that my kids love—it’s very helpful to get the fresh vegetables at least, and the canned goods too.”

- Katherine

Katherine

Katherine, a mom of two—ages 8 and 2—has been coming to WHEAT Community Connections. Her husband is a roofer, so his work is sporadic and dependent on the weather. It was difficult for the family to get by on his single, uncertain income.

Things are better now that Katherine, 34, is working part-time, but making ends meet is still a challenge.

“I don’t come as often, but if you come every 21 days, you get the milk, the eggs, some prepped food, the meat—it’s very helpful because food is very expensive. The eggs are so expensive now

too,” Katherine said. “And fresh vegetables and the fruit that my kids love—it’s very helpful to get the fresh vegetables at least, and the canned goods too. We’re Hispanic, so we’re always eating beans and rice. We always have that.”

WHEAT helps with more than just food. Katherine sat down with a representative from National Grid at WHEAT and set up a budget and payment plan. Whatever she needs, she knows WHEAT Director Liz Leonard and the rest of the pantry’s friendly, welcoming staff are there to help.

WHEAT HIDDEN TREASURES PRODUCT PHILANTHROPY

Donating material goods is an easy way to make a meaningful contribution to your local community. Through the United Way of Tri-County's product philanthropy programs, you can donate items with the assurance that they will be used by families in need—those who may have been devastated by a house fire or are transitioning into permanent housing after living in a shelter. Others are working hard to make ends meet and benefit greatly from the ability to purchase items at significantly reduced costs. The everyday items we often take for granted can truly change the lives of others.

Hidden Treasures serves the Greater Clinton area by selling gently used merchandise at prices so low, you'll feel like you've discovered a treasure!

All proceeds help subsidize our food programs. **WHEAT Community Connections**

case managers identify individuals who receive vouchers for free items in our store.

If you're downsizing or cleaning out your closet, consider donating gently used clothing, small household items, furniture, kitchenware, and toys to Hidden Treasures.

Located at:
272 High St., Clinton, MA 01510

Store Hours:
Tuesday thru Saturday 10am - 4pm

Donations can be dropped during store hours.

For arrangements to pick up or deliver furniture (for a fee) call the store at 508-370-4941.

Director: Liz Leonard



24 HOUR HELP LINES

The United Way of Tri-County is committed to being a constant source of support for individuals and families in need—no matter the time of day. Our two helplines operate 24/7/365, ensuring that help is always just a phone call away.

Whether someone is facing a crisis, searching for local resources, or simply needs someone to talk to, our trained and compassionate staff and volunteers are ready to listen and assist.

This past year, our helplines have continued to serve as a critical lifeline across the communities we support. From connecting callers to food, housing, and utility assistance to offering emotional support during difficult times, the volume and diversity of calls we receive highlight the ongoing and evolving needs of our neighbors. We remain proud to offer this vital service, reinforcing our commitment to being there—whenever we're needed most.

MASS211

24 HOUR INFORMATION & REFERRAL HELP LINE

In the United States, 211 is a three-digit telephone number that connects callers to information and resources for a wide range of health and human services, including essential community services, disaster relief, and more. Since 2006, the United Ways of Massachusetts have supported and operated Mass211.

HOW 211 WORKS:

When you dial 211 in Massachusetts, your call is routed to our call center, where trained Information & Referral Specialists provide information and referrals to a wide range of services and resources.

WHAT 211 CAN HELP WITH:

- Finding housing and emergency shelter options
- Accessing food pantries and soup kitchens
- Applying for childcare financial assistance
- Getting information about government benefits and services
- Connecting with nonprofit organizations and support groups
- Finding volunteer opportunities and donation programs
- Accessing disaster relief and emergency information
- Finding after-school programs, and care for aging parents
- Finding resources for addiction and substance abuse
- Finding resources for utility expenses
- Mental and behavioral health resources

WHO 211 HELPS:

Mass211 is designed to help anyone in need of assistance, including the elderly, individuals with disabilities, non-English speakers, those experiencing a personal crisis, people with limited reading skills, and those who are new to their communities.

211 AVAILABILITY:

Mass211 is available 24/7/365 and in more than 150 languages other than English.

Mass211 is the official hotline for:

- Emergency information, through its partnership with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- Childcare services, through its partnership with the MA Department of Early Education and Care
- Children Requiring Assistance and the Runaway Assistance Program, through its partnership with the MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services
- Housing and shelter support, through the MA Office of Housing and Livable Communities



TOP 5 REASONS FOR CALLS

Childcare
19%

Mental Health
34%

Housing & Emergency Shelter
16%

Utility Assistance
5%

Legal Assistance
4%

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mass211 served as the Commonwealth's official hotline, providing residents with the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding the virus.

The impact of Mass211 is far-reaching. Children can be enrolled in quality childcare programs, families can maintain housing and find ways to manage rising utility costs, and individuals can access information on food pan-

tries and community meals to support health and nutrition. Local services—from job training programs to support groups—are also available.

Mass2-1-1 is available 24/7 across Massachusetts. Simply dial 2-1-1 from your phone or visit us online at [Mass211.org](https://mass211.org)

Vice President: Eileen Davis

“The person I spoke with was very helpful. She explained to me many benefits my family is entitled to that I knew nothing about. I am so glad I called. I no longer fear being homeless with my family.”
- Beth



CALL2TALK

24 HOUR MENTAL HEALTH/SUICIDE PREVENTION LINE

In 2022 (the most recent data available), 626 individuals died by suicide in Massachusetts—more than four times the number of homicides.

Despite these statistics, many mental health professionals are unable to accept additional clients, day programs are at capacity, and inpatient units have a limited number of beds and are also full. The need for mental health and emotional support has never been more critical.

Communities with helplines show a reduced burden on first responders for incidents related to self-inflicted injuries, emotional distress, and disturbances.



Call2Talk provides a confidential and potentially lifesaving service that offers support to individuals experiencing emotional distress or suicidal thoughts who have nowhere else to turn.

Call2Talk is the mental health, emotional support, and suicide prevention line operated by Mass 211. It operates 24/7 and provides confidential listening and support to individuals who may be feeling isolated, despondent, or potentially suicidal. Call2Talk is accredited by the International Council of Helplines. In addition to answering its local lines, it is also part of the 988 Lifeline Network.

Beyond its primary function as a helpline, Call2Talk also offers the following programs:

TELECHECK

A phone check-in service for older adults, where trained peer volunteers provide weekly connections by reaching out to seniors. These calls offer support and friendly conversation following sudden life changes such as illness, grief, or mobility challenges. The program promotes engagement, meaningful communication, and a sense of belonging.

LOSSTEAM METROWEST

Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) is an immediate crisis support team. Volunteers, who are themselves suicide loss survivors, are activated to respond to the scene of a suicide within the first 12 to 24 hours to provide support and local resources to the newly bereaved.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Informal presentations and best-practice awareness trainings are available for community members and include: Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Training, Mental Health First Aid, safeTALK, and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). Sessions can

be held virtually or in person.

CANTOR JODI M. SCHECHTMAN MEMORIAL LENDING LIBRARY



An in-house library dedicated to bereavement, loss, grief, hope, and renewal. The lending library serves as a source of comfort for those who are grieving and as a resource for students studying in this field. Books are available on-site and through our website.

MOVE 4WARD

A virtual support group for women who have lost a spouse or life partner to suicide. Survivors come together to navigate their grief journey and reduce feelings of shame, isolation, and stigma.

An in-person support group for all types of suicide loss is also available.

Call2Talk is available 24/7. Dial 988 or Call 508-532-2255 or 413-505-5111 or Dial 2-1-1 ext. 25 or Text C2T to 741741

Call2Talk Director: Eileen Davis

“For many months Peggy has been calling me, and I very much appreciate our special connection. Her time, patience, kindness and commitment helps keep me motivated and my spirits in check”

- Maria

Telecheck participant



EDUCATION

Education is a cornerstone of success in building thriving communities. Through its programs, the United Way of Tri-County invests in children, providing them with the tangible tools and academic skills they need to enter school ready to learn and succeed in life.

READY TO READ

One of the root causes of poverty is the inability to read and write. Research shows the critical role literacy plays in addressing achievement and income gaps in communities and recommends early intervention through literacy programs—particularly during the key brain-building years from birth to age five.

The United Way of Tri-County launched its Ready to Read early literacy initiative in 2014 to meet the need for more early learning opportunities for economically disadvantaged children. Through Ready to Read, UWTC provides children with 12 new, age-appropriate books each year from birth until they enter kindergarten.

By putting books directly into the hands and homes of young children, Ready to Read helps them develop the skills they need to succeed academically, graduate from high school on time, pursue higher education, and begin a strong career path.

A small investment at an early age makes a world of difference.

To volunteer or donate to Ready to Read, please visit us online at uwotc.org/readytoread

or contact the program coordinator Jennifer Bray at 508-370-4826.

TOOLS FOR SCHOOL

The start of the school year brings a nervous excitement for children of all ages. Will there be a lot of homework? How will they like their teachers?

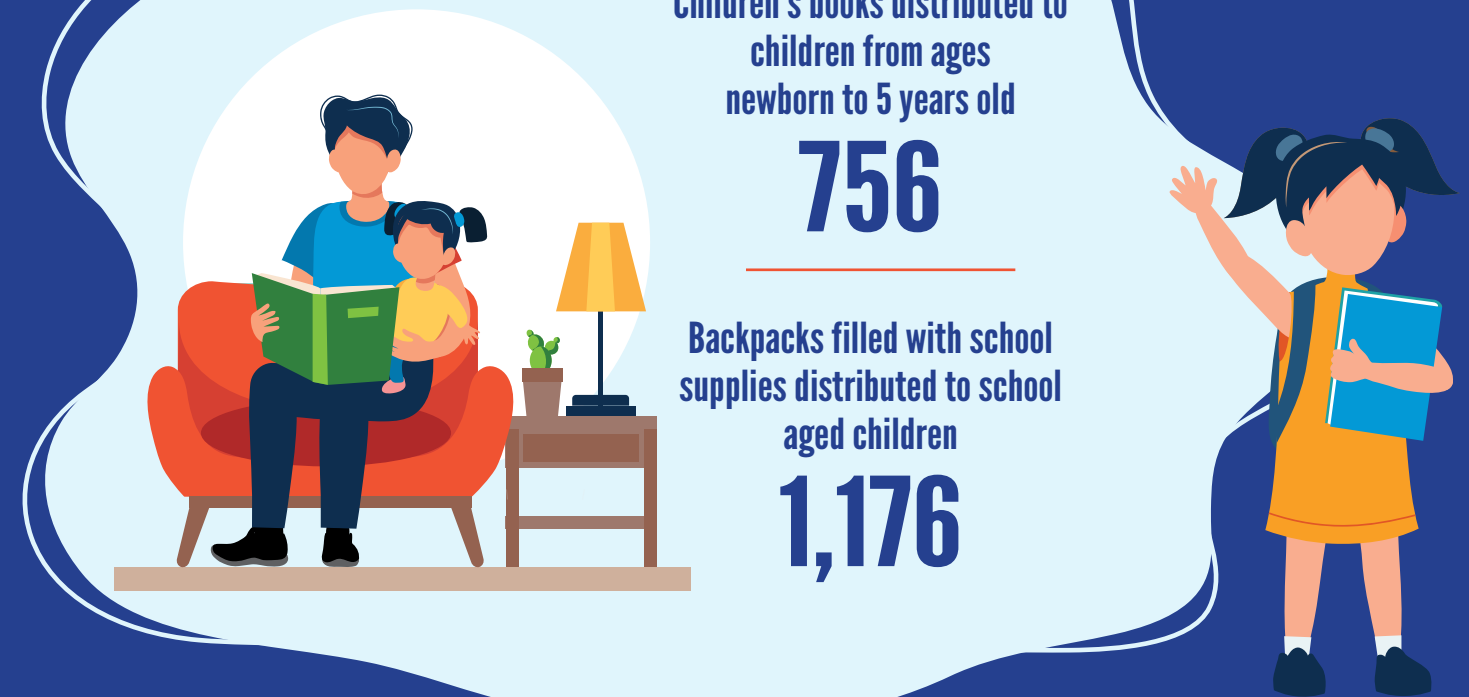
Some children have other worries: Will they have the supplies they need for class projects and homework?

UWTC's Tools for School program is a collaborative effort between local businesses and individuals to provide children in grades K–12 with new backpacks filled with grade-specific school supplies—from crayons to calculators and everything in between.

You can help give children the tools they need by donating school supplies or backpacks, sponsoring a child, or packing backpacks with supplies so that all students can begin the school year ready to learn.

To volunteer or donate to Tools for School, please visit us online at uwotc.org/backpack

or contact the program coordinator Barbara LaGrenade at 508-370-4902.



“Please know that there are many children’s faces that have smiles on them as they receive their backpacks every year because of your hard work.”

- Rev. Dr. J. Anthony Lloyd
Greater Framingham
Community Church



HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM

Every year, the holidays bring tremendous joy and excitement to children and their families. But for those struggling to make ends meet, the season can also bring stress and worry as they try to provide the gifts their children hope to receive.

Through our Hope for the Holidays program, the United Way of Tri-County partners with local community agencies to ensure that children in need—and adults with special needs—receive meaningful gifts during the holiday season.

Hope for the Holidays provides at least three

new gifts from each recipient's personal wish list, including toys, games, and clothing.

You can bring hope to children and families by adopting a child or family, purchasing a gift, making a donation, or volunteering to sort gifts—helping create magical moments for those who need them most.

To volunteer or donate to Hope for the Holidays, please visit us online at uwotc.org/hope

or contact program coordinator Barbara LaGrenade at 508-370-4902



“With your support we were able to provide gifts to 224 children this year. Because of your generosity, many families and children had a happy and less stressful holiday.”

**-Program Director of
Voices Against Violence**

VOLUNTEER CENTER



The United Way of Tri-County promotes opportunities to increase the number of active volunteers in our communities and empowers our community partner agencies to use volunteers effectively to meet their needs. Every year, volunteer engagement saves nonprofits critical financial resources.

Through our Volunteer Center, we match employees from local businesses, organizations, community groups, and individuals with nonprofit organizations.

We help volunteers find opportunities to give back in the communities where they live and work, based on their skills, interests, and schedules.

Our Corporate Day of Caring volunteer pro-

gram provides companies with project planning assistance to ensure that each volunteer opportunity becomes a meaningful experience for employees to get involved in the communities where they work.

At the United Way of Tri-County, we believe everyone has the power to make a difference. Every day, we connect people with volunteer opportunities that positively impact local community needs.

To learn more or sign up for volunteer opportunities or a Corporate Day of Caring, visit us online at uwotc.org/volunteer

or contact the Director of Volunteerism Barbara LaGrenade at 508-370-4902.

2024-25 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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National Grid

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Stratus Technologies

President Nancy S. Niemi, Ph.D.
Framingham State University

Francisco Ramos
New Vue Communities

MEMBER AT LARGE

Renee Franzosa
Robert Half Management Resources

MEMBER AT LARGE

Robert Cozzone
Avidia Bank

BUILDING COMMITTEE LIAISON

Scott Richardson
Gorman Richardson Lewis Architects

CLERK

Paul Mina
United Way of Tri-County

GENERAL COUNCIL

Aldo Cipriano
Marlborough, MA

Michael Scardigno
TJX Companies, Inc.

Aastha Sharma
Bowditch & Dewey Attorneys

Karsys Starsiak
UPS

YOU AND THE UNITED WAY

UNITED WAY OF TRI-COUNTY SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

“

At St. Mary's Credit Union, we love supporting the non-profit organizations that are so important to our communities. This isn't just something we do; it's who we are. We were founded to help our neighbors succeed, and supporting our local non-profits helps our neighbors survive and thrive. This makes the whole community stronger.

We love partnering with the United Way of Tri-County because of the tremendous, necessary work they do for those in need and the volunteer opportunities they provide our team members to give back.”

- Jim Petkewich, Interim President & CEO



PARTNERING WITH THE UNITED WAY OF TRI-COUNTY WILL BENEFIT YOUR COMPANY OR ORGANIZATION

- Enhance and highlight your corporate social responsibility
- Increase your company's brand awareness
- Connect with influential community leaders
- Boost your visibility through positive public relations
- Explore strategic partnerships and generate new business leads
- Feature your products through giveaways and samples
- Impact the lives of all individuals and families in our community
- Make a lasting impact

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash	733,399
Pledges receivable	254,154
Designations receivable	390,556
Accounts receivable	10,200
Current portion of contribution receivable -charitable lead trust	300,001
Due from related party	31,667
Prepaid expenses	7,371

Total current assets \$1,727,348

INVESTMENTS:

CONTRIBUTION RECEIVABLE - CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST,

net of current portion 67,454

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net 2,486,615

Construction in Progress 340,293

Right-of-Use Assets 462,966

SECURITY DEPOSITS 12,115

Total assets \$5,665,159

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Current portion of long-term debt	66,705
Current portion of capital lease obligation	193,969
Current portion of deferred revenue	21,500
Accounts payable	101,515
Accrued expenses	390,556
Designations payable	262,074

Total current liabilities \$1,036,319

LONG TERM DEBT, net of current portion 764,870

DEFERRED REVENUE, net of current portion 21,500

Conditional Grant Advance 180,615

Lease Liabilities, net of current portion 280,053

Total liabilities \$2,283,357

NET ASSETS:

Unrestricted:

Unappropriated	3,088,229
Board appropriated	74,817

Total unrestricted 3,163,046

Temporarily restricted 103,418

Permanently restricted 115,338

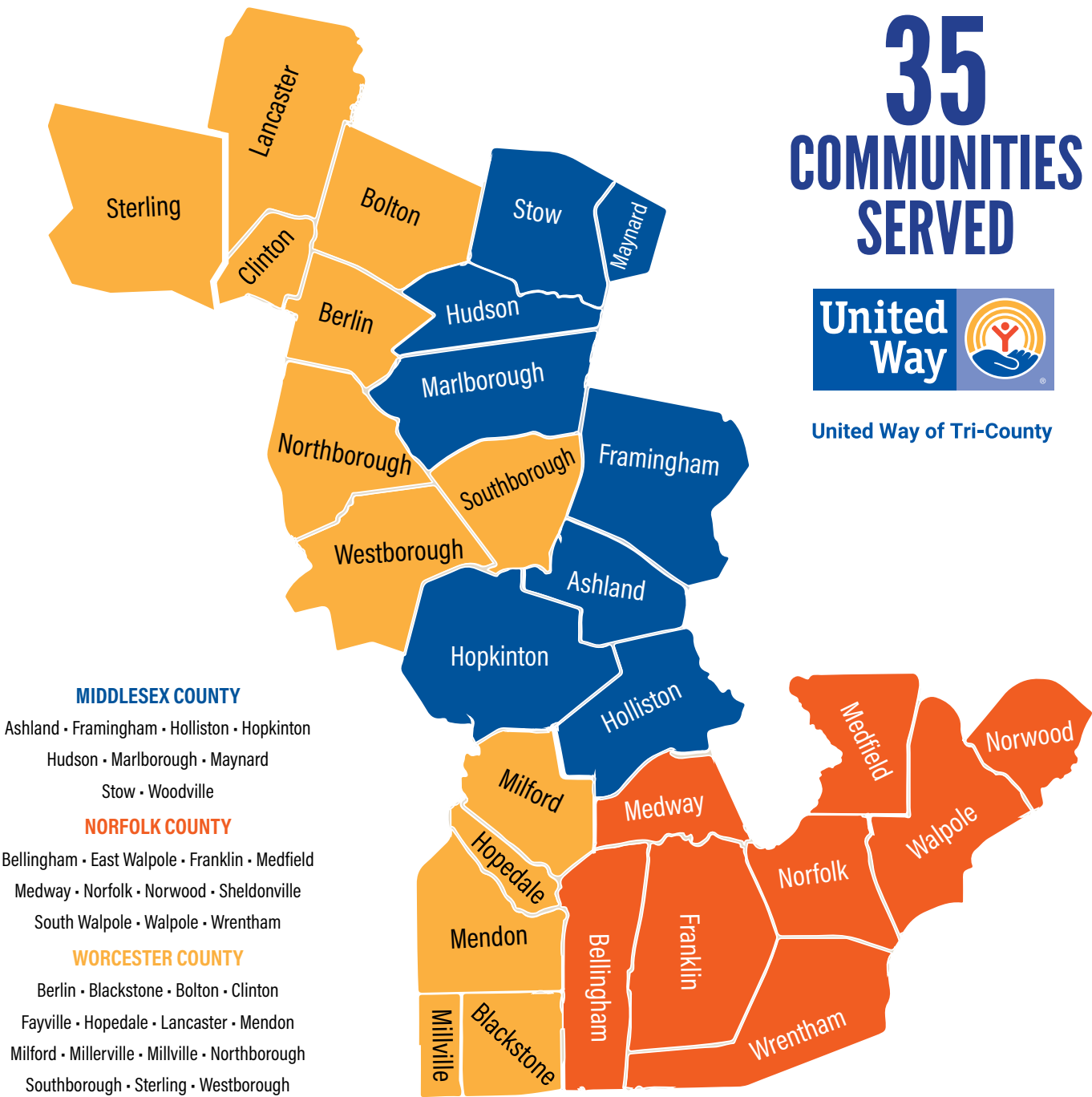
Total net assets 3,381,802

Total liabilities and net assets \$5,665,159

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COMMUNITIES
SERVED



United Way of Tri-County



UNITED WAY OF TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY INVESTMENT SNAPSHOT

Total Grants and Designation Agencies:	125,451
Total Designations to Non-Profits	74,817
Direct Services 211/UWDS/Food Security	8,458,185
Value of Goods Sold at UWDS	1,340,603
Donations to Holiday Program	277,056
Donated Advertising	150,000

TOTAL ANNUAL INVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY \$10,426,112



United Way of Tri-County

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