



United Way of Windham County 

CELEBRATING 60 SUPER YEARS



UNITED WAY OF WINDHAM COUNTY COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT FY17



Celebrating 60 years of caring

Without United Way, the sound of silence

A message from Executive Director Carmen Derby



To begin our 60th year of caring, I tried imagining our community without United Way of Windham County (UWWC). And here's what I heard — silence. Not the golden kind, but a stifling silence shrouding critical community needs that could quite possibly have remained unmet.

That's because the community engagement we initiate, facilitate and participate in serves as a catalyst for creating programs that improve the quality of life for Windham County residents. Simply stated, community conversations are the intangible prerequisite leading to tangible services that touch every town and village in the county.

Because the “silent treatment” doesn't resolve problems or make them go away, we at UWWC are proactively and continually involved with community partners in conversations about HOPE — health, opportunity, prosperity and education for county residents. Two examples of successful intangible-to-tangible programs come to mind.

Tackling food insecurity for children

While co-chairing the Windham County Hunger Council six years ago, I learned that the Summer Food Program was in jeopardy because it lacked a host organization. With the end of the school year looming, we were working against the clock to gather information and identify host prospects with experience in school food preparation and accounting for an in-school food program. One-on-one conversations with these host candidates led to a large-group conversation that resulted in a solution for that summer. The program was subsequently placed at its current location with great success. Last year, it provided more than 27,000 meals for Windham County kids.

This conversation continues, resulting in program improvements and more options for parents and caregivers every year. In fact, UWWC recently used the Hunger Council as a model when presenting at a national conference highlighting best practices for summer food program planning and implementation. But the most important tangible result by far is that fewer children go hungry during the summer.

Restoring smiles

Windham County Smiles has provided a variety of dental services to 953 patients since its inception in 2011. This UWWC initiative began with a casual conversation with the manager of a local dental practice, which, in turn, led to the first Adult Dental Care Day in 2011. Now an annual event, the program has enabled more than 700 Windham County residents to receive fillings and extractions at no cost. In addition, Windham County Smiles has expanded to include funding for much-needed dentures for eligible residents in our county.

And, of course, this conversation has continued, resulting in a UWWC-led logistics team that has brought together many community partners with the vision of opening a dental center to serve adults with Medicaid. That's a tangible that will have literally evolved from the word-of-mouth process.

Providing the best service as efficiently as possible

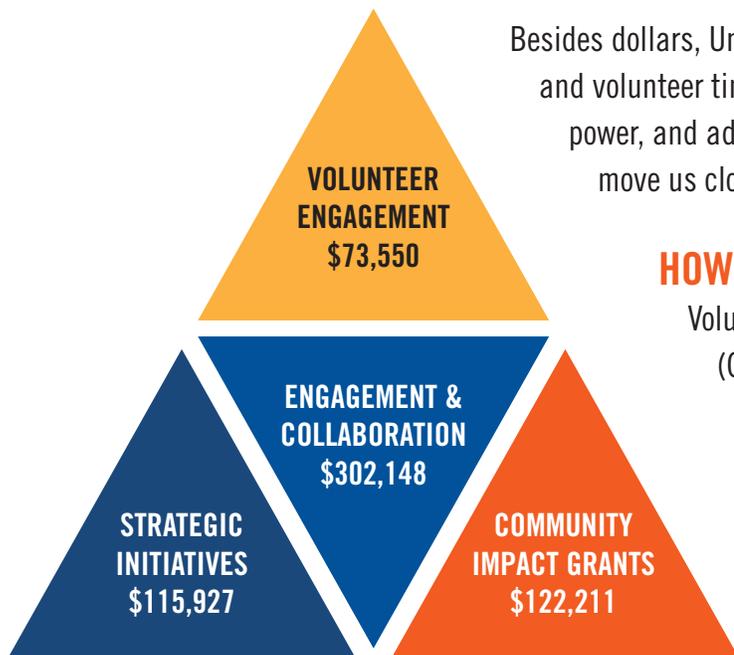
While a casual conversation resulted in Windham County Smiles, some catalyst conversations are confidential and occur over a long period of time. For example, a merger of two or more organizations generally requires juggling many intangibles and allocating adequate time and resources to determine if their respective missions and core beliefs are complementary. And while mergers can potentially save money, the overriding goal is a collaborative effort to offer clients this tangible result: the best service provided in the most efficient way possible.

Sounding board for the community

My imagined vision of a Windham County silenced without United Way has a more appealing real-life counterpart. I see UWWC as a community sounding board, where residents can share their visions on an ongoing basis to help us identify needs and direct our efforts toward meeting those needs. The resources we bring to all these conversations — including our ability to facilitate and engage with non-profits, government entities, businesses, community members and funders, as well as our impartiality and focus on the ultimate goal — enable us to help break down barriers to make lasting changes that improve the lives of county residents.

Carmen J. Derby

In Fiscal Year 2017, United Way of Windham County invested \$613,836 in health, opportunity, prosperity, and education initiatives to help achieve a high quality of life for all who live and work here.



Besides dollars, United Way invests various other resources—including staff and volunteer time, data collection/analysis, issue expertise, convening power, and advocacy—in ways that support high-impact strategies that move us closer to achieving community goals.

HOW WE DECIDE

Volunteers serving on our Community Investment Committee (CIC) oversee all United Way's investments. Program funding recommendations are provided by our HOPE Team of community volunteers who review and evaluate applications and help build relationships with our partner organizations. The CIC and HOPE Team are accountable to our Board of Directors.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

United Way's investment of funds, staff time, data collection/analysis, and convening power supports strategic initiatives that address community issues related to HOPE. Combined with additional assets leveraged from our partners, these contributions create a collective vision for what is possible. Together, we create sustainable improvements for all who live or work in Windham County.

**STRATEGIC
INITIATIVES**
\$115,927

EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK:

**UNITED
@work**

This employer collaborative focuses on **keeping as many people successfully employed in Windham County as possible**. To achieve that goal, our for-profit and nonprofit employer partners, together with workforce development professionals, contribute their knowledge and expertise toward achieving shared success that is as important as any single company's success. More than 60 business have engaged with United@Work since 2012.

WINDHAM COUNTY SMILES

As part of our commitment to oral care as a crucial health issue, we established a Denture Fund to help provide dentures to qualifying patients. To date, this support has assisted **26** people with dentures. In addition, we continue to collaborate with partners to help ensure that Windham County residents receive preventive and ongoing oral health care. Stephanie Cooper, pictured, is one of our Denture Fund patients, **"It was very important for me to have teeth because I couldn't talk without them, and didn't want to go anywhere without teeth because it's embarrassing, and appearances matter. Also, I had trouble eating and it was affecting my health. I think it is great that [United Way has] a program like this, and I hope it helps others in the future. I am glad I have my teeth now...I can talk and eat better, and I can smile now."**



Give a smile, get a smile ... is that why smiles are contagious?
Donate to the Windham County Smiles Denture Fund today. Visit unitedwaywindham.org to find out more.

ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION

We can experience HOPE in Windham County only by working with our partners to better define our mutual roles, understand the assets we bring to the table, answer questions, and explore ideas for tackling community issues.

United Way staff and volunteers lead or participate in community coalitions and issue-focused meetings to help build strong relationships among potential partners. Our network includes other funders, nonprofits, the for-profit sector, local and state government.

ENGAGEMENT &
COLLABORATION
\$302,148

EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK:

SPARK FUND

UWVC GOAL: To offer small grants to community partners with collaborative, innovative ideas that align with our strategic goals and outcomes



GRANT TO WINDHAM CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION (WCCA)

The United Way grant funds helped WCCA engage in an intentional merger process to preserve critical services for families and sustain vital connections among early educators in the face of changing state funding. This process culminated in WCCA's acquisition by Winston Prouty Center for Child & Family Development, which was celebrated at an event in September 2017 (pictured, example of Child Care Referral service information, highlighted at the event).

According to Margaret Atkinson, former WCCA Executive Director and current Director of Development and Community Relations at Winston Prouty, "I am each day even more convinced that we made an excellent decision that will sustain high quality supports for children and families in our region. We certainly could not have done it without the timely support of the United Way of Windham County."

HUNGER COUNCIL OF THE WINDHAM REGION

UWVC Goal: To offer access to an adequate food supply



CHAIR OF THE SUMMER FOOD SUB-COMMITTEE

To illustrate how critical this summer food program is, 50% of Windham County students were enrolled in the Free School Meal Program in 2016, many of them receiving both breakfast and lunch. As chair of the Summer Food Subcommittee of the Hunger Council of the Windham Region, Sue Graff, Director of Community Investments (pictured left), promotes best practices among summer food program sponsors, meal sites, and community partners. Facilitating communication among partners enhances awareness of this valuable program, as well as increasing the number of meals served. Sue and Rebecca Mitchell (pictured right), Child Nutrition Specialist from Hunger Free Vermont, co-presented a workshop on the successful Hunger Council model at the No Kid Hungry national conference in December 2017.

Is there a better use of your time and talents than bringing HOPE (Health, Opportunity, Prosperity, and Education) to Windham County?

Visit our website at unitedwaywindham.org, click on Get Involved, and choose your opportunity to get involved and improve the quality of life in our community.

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

**VOLUNTEER
ENGAGEMENT
\$73,550**

United Way invests funds and staff time to engage individuals and groups who wish to volunteer to bring HOPE to Windham County. For example, we:

- Partner with area nonprofits to strengthen and support their ability to recruit and retain community volunteers.
- Work closely with the business community to promote corporate and civic engagement through employee volunteerism and days of community service.
- Implement and manage all-volunteer United Way programs that leverage other funds from private, state, and federal sources.

EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK:



DAY OF CARING

This annual volunteer event in September engages an average of **125 volunteers** at a dozen service project sites throughout Windham County, each managed by a trained volunteer site coordinator. The event, which kicks off with a breakfast rally, offers an opportunity for individuals representing a diversity of ages, backgrounds, and abilities to come together to help the community. Volunteers come from local schools, communities of faith, civic organizations, and businesses. The verdicts of two 2017 participants:

“It was a great opportunity to help out a nonprofit and connect with other community members.”

“Connecting with others, so proud to give my time!”

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)

United Way seeks to increase financial stability by helping families and individuals keep as much of their earned income as possible. Trained United Way volunteers help make this goal a reality every year by providing free tax preparation assistance to those who are income-eligible. In 2017, this all-volunteer program helped more than **430 households** realize **\$673,000** in state and federal refunds and tax credits.

“The program is very beneficial to its clients, and I appreciate being a part of it. I enjoy the interaction with the clients.” – 2017 VITA Volunteer



GET CONNECTED WINDHAM COUNTY



LIVE UNITED

Get Connected Windham County

Nearly **500 people** seeking opportunities to serve Windham County are registered on our free, easy-to-use volunteer matching site. Likewise, more than 60 local nonprofits and public agencies are listing volunteer opportunities that range from assisting local libraries, providing mentorship to area children and youth, supporting food shelves and meal programs, and assisting seniors.

How is a super hero without a power like a volunteer without an opportunity?

Neither can get in on the action. But you can be a super hero volunteer with the power to make a change in our community. Visit our website at unitedwaywindham.org, click “volunteer,” and register on Get Connected to find empowering volunteer opportunities throughout Windham County.

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

COMMUNITY
IMPACT GRANTS
\$122,211

United Way invests in successful programs at local nonprofits that deliver results for those they serve. All funded programs align with our community outcomes, demonstrate their impact on participants, and are deemed to be a good use of UWWC's resources by our Community Investment Committee. Our HOPE Team of volunteers reviews all applications by issue focus, makes recommendations for funding, and then monitors program performance through reports and site visits.

In 2017, we funded 15 programs at nine local organizations that serve the 23 towns of Windham County. All funded programs target the HOPE outcomes we advocate by promoting the building blocks of a good quality of life:



Health



Opportunity



Prosperity



Education

Our funded partner programs address complex issues, support people affected by these issues, and contribute to a stronger community through:

- ▶ Preventing homelessness.
- ▶ Improving indoor home environments for children by providing needed resources and education to improve air quality, safety and comfort.
- ▶ Increasing knowledge of mental health and positive coping mechanisms
- ▶ Mentoring children.
- ▶ Educating parents to reduce child abuse and neglect.
- ▶ Fostering professional development of child care programs in Windham County.
- ▶ Promoting proven family engagement practices and resources.
- ▶ Providing nutritious food to those living with AIDS and their families.
- ▶ Providing shelter, intensive case management, and support services to homeless families and individuals.
- ▶ Providing transitional housing and case management to youth.
- ▶ Reinforcing literacy skills for young children, while providing program enrichment to home-based child care providers.

For a complete list of currently funded programs and a description of each, visit our website at unitedwaywindham.org/funded-hope-programs.

Can you lend HOPE a hand? Join our HOPE Team and you'll help lead United Way of Windham County's response to issues related to health, opportunity, prosperity, and education. For more information or to express interest in becoming a HOPE team member, please contact info@unitedwaywindham.org or 802-257-4011.

THANK YOU!

CAMPAIGN PARTNERS

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont
Brattleboro Memorial Hospital
Brattleboro Retreat
Brattleboro Savings & Loan
Brattleboro Union High School
C&S Wholesale Grocers
Center For Health and Learning
Chroma Technology
Community Bank, N.A. (Merchants Bank)
Dental Health
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Groundworks Collaborative
GS Precision, Inc.
Hannaford's Supermarket

HCRS
Holstein Association USA, Inc.
Marlboro College
PCL Civil Constructors, Inc.
People's United Bank
Pieciak & Company
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
Putnam Insurance
River Valley Credit Union
Shaws Supermarkets
TD Bank
The Richards Group
Town of Brattleboro
Trust Company of Vermont
UPS Foundation
Winston Prouty
World Learning
WSESU Schools
Youth Services

365 BUSINESS CIRCLE

Brattleboro Sunrise Rotary Club
Brown Computer Solutions
C.E. Bradley Laboratories, Inc.
Cersosimo Lumber
Edward Jones Investments
Elks Lodge #1499
L3 KEO
New Ground Creative
West Hill Energy & Computing, Inc.

HOPE TEAM

Aaron Rich
Cathryn Hayes
Dianne Champion
Doug Kroc
Joanne Corey
Joshua Roberts

Karen Peterson
Katherine Jandernoa
Matt Mann
Prudence MacKinney
Sadie Fischesser
Sandy Ladd

RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Tom Nunziata
Joshua Roberts
Stephanie Huestis
Biz Hallet
Theresa Masiello
Julie van der Horst Jansen
Sarah Houle

BOARD MEMBERS

Aaron Rich
Angela Earle-Grey
David Harlow
Julie Hamilton
Karen Peterson
Mark Charlonne

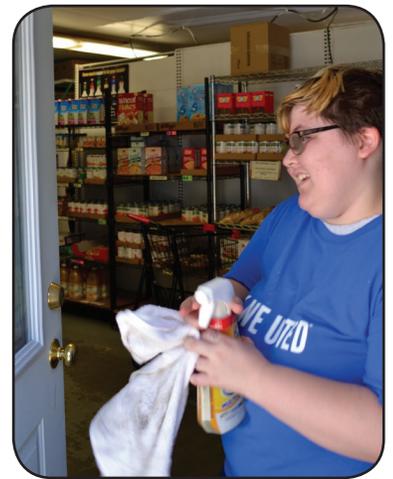
Pam Matweecha
Shannon Prescott
Stephanie Huestis

FUNDED PARTNERS

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont
Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro
Green Mountain Camp for Girls
Groundworks Collaborative
Our Place
Parks Place Community Resource Center
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
Senior Solutions
Winston Prouty
Youth Services



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPERHERO VOLUNTEERS!



GET INVOLVED: DONATE

WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN



The central component of United Way fundraising is the workplace campaign. Employees make donations through payroll deduction, giving back to their community over the course of the year. **To run a workplace campaign, please contact info@unitedwaywindham.org or 802-257-4011.**



ONLINE AT UNITEDWAYWINDHAM.ORG

You can make an online donation via our website (www.unitedwaywindham.org).

MAIL A CHECK TO UNITED WAY OF WINDHAM COUNTY



You can also mail a check to
United Way of Windham County
P.O. Box 617
Brattleboro VT 05302

LEGACY GIVING

How do you make HOPE grow? Plant the seed in your will!



Since 1958, United Way of Windham County has improved lives and built stronger communities by focusing on Health, Opportunity, Prosperity, and Education. Your legacy will allow for many more years of success and improvement in this community. Your legacy gift to UWWC tells the story of your love for your community. The decision to make a planned gift captures your caring power and your belief in investing in the future.

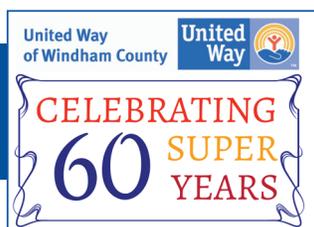
Join UWWC Legacy Club by:

- Making a bequest in your will
- Donating a life insurance policy
- Giving through your retirement plan
- Contributing appreciated securities (stock, bonds, mutual fund shares, etc.)
- Giving through donor advised fund, a charitable annuity or a charitable trust

Some benefits of planned giving:

- Reduction or elimination of your capital gains tax on appreciated assets such as securities.
- Reduction of your income tax through the charitable income tax deduction.
- Decreased tax liability with the transfer of assets to your beneficiaries at your death.

Your financial or legal advisor can provide additional benefits and avenues to suit your needs. Simply put, leaving a bequest sustains our work, and keeps your positive impact alive!

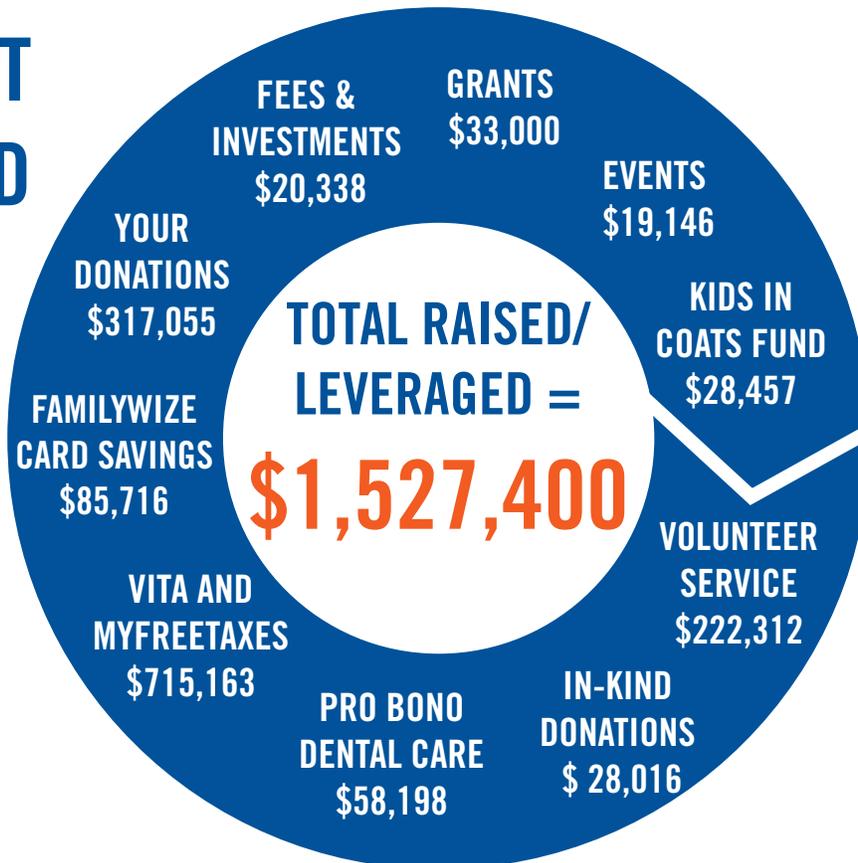


UNITED WAY OF WINDHAM COUNTY DELIVERED \$1,527,400 IN COMMUNITY IMPACT IN 2016-2017

Thanks to you, over \$317,000 was raised through our community campaign last year. In turn, United Way of Windham County leveraged approximately \$1.5 million in impact by generating additional revenue and savings through collaborative and volunteer efforts, public service, grant writing, sponsorships, and in-kind gifts.

Your investment in United Way of Windham County yielded a huge return for our community!

**GIVE IT
FORWARD**

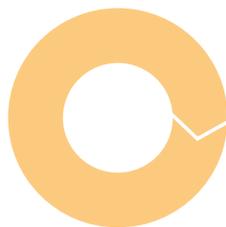


**GET IT
BACK**

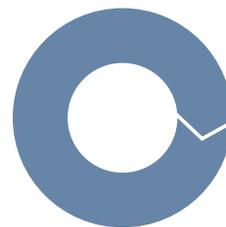
ADDITIONAL IMPACT



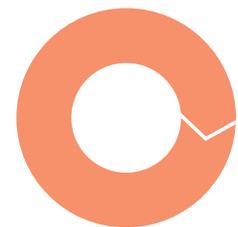
PEOPLE SERVED
THROUGH UNITED WAY
FUNDED PARTNER
PROGRAMS
5,540



VERMONT 2-1-1
CALLS RECEIVED
IN 2017
43,632



FREE MEALS/
SNACKS SERVED
TO AREA YOUTH
35,088



TAX RETURNS
PREPARED
BY VITA &
MYFREETAXES
415

LIVE UNITED



**United Way
of Windham County**

unitedwaywindham.org

info@unitedwaywindham.org

802.257.4011