

# ADVANCING THE COMMON GOOD IN THE GREATER CAPITAL REGION.



## ADVANCING THE COMMON GOOD IN THE GREATER CAPITAL REGION.

United Way of the Greater Capital Region improves life for all by focusing on the building blocks for a healthy community—meeting essential needs, promoting financial stability, and strengthening individuals and families.

### MEETING ESSENTIAL NEEDS



With the recent loss of jobs across the region, more residents face the strain of struggling to meet expenses. More individuals and families are seeking help to pay rent, obtain unemployment benefits and locate the nearest food pantry. United Way invests in programs and initiatives that ensure our friends and neighbors have access to services that meet basic needs for food, clothing, safe shelter, medical care and other critical assistance.

#### Seeing results:

Our recent work includes:

- initiating the United Way 2-1-1<sup>TM</sup> Northeast Region program to offer free, confidential phone information and referrals to anyone seeking access to local human services.
- distributing more than \$749,350 to help thousands of individuals and families find transitional sheltering, food banks, soup kitchens and other support for basic needs.
- coordinating the FamilyWise prescription drug program which distributes discount cards to reduce medical costs for those who lack insurance or prescription drug coverage.

### PROMOTING FINANCIAL STABILITY



Those struggling to make ends meet often find it difficult to respond to life's challenges such as illness or job loss, or take basic steps toward self-sufficiency such as opening a checking account. United Way gives working individuals and families the tools they need to increase their income, gain skills and achieve long term financial stability.

#### Seeing results:

Our recent work includes:

- serving as lead agency for the CASH coalition (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope). This partnership of business, government and service agencies established 54 regional sites to help low and moderate income workers receive the tax credits and returns they were entitled to through tax preparation and financial education.
- This initiative resulted in nearly \$13 million in tax credits returned to working individuals and families in our community during the 2008 tax year, where it became available for reinvestment in the local economy and for helping individuals and families establish financial stability.

### STRENGTHENING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES



Crime, domestic violence, substance abuse and family breakdown can be linked to unemployment and economic stress. United Way helps families gain essential life skills and promotes healthy child development through literacy initiatives, education, programs that foster parent-child engagement and other efforts. United Way also helps senior adults find social support and participate in programs that allow them to maintain independence.

#### Seeing results:

Our recent work includes:

- establishing and growing Family Resource Centers as one-stop locations where families gain access to a network of vital services. Sites in Albany, Cobleskill, Mechanicville, Schenectady and Troy offer support in pre-natal education, early learning, substance abuse prevention, overcoming barriers to securing family services and more.
- supporting a network of agencies, senior citizens and their caregivers to ensure that older adults can maintain their dignity, independence and overall well being—through transportation, education about long-term care, volunteer opportunities and access to United Way 2-1-1.

Today's economic conditions affect us all. Many of our friends, neighbors and co-workers face uncertainty as they struggle to meet basic needs. At the same time, we have a moment of opportunity. Tough times help us focus on who we are as a community and what truly matters. Now, more than ever, it is critical to remember that when we reach out to one, we improve conditions for all.

United Way of the Greater Capital Region works to advance the common good because **everyone wins when a family has sufficient income for food and housing, when a child enters kindergarten ready to learn, when a teenager stays in school, when a senior citizen has access to transportation and social enrichment, and when an uninsured family receives timely medical care.**



**WHEN WE REACH OUT TO ONE, WE IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR ALL**



## JOIN US IN ADVANCING THE COMMON GOOD.

### LIVE UNITED AND BE PART OF THE CHANGE.

We depend on you to **GIVE, ADVOCATE** and **VOLUNTEER**. Together, united, we can inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow.



**GIVE**

The workplace campaign is the easiest and most powerful way to invest in your community. Make the most effective contribution and improve conditions for all by investing in the **United Way Community Care Fund**.



**ADVOCATE**

Make change happen with your voice. Champion a cause. Get informed about local issues. Partner with a group that makes a difference. United Way needs people who are passionate about turning their caring into advocacy.



**VOLUNTEER**

Volunteer your time, talents and expertise to make a difference. United Way has opportunities throughout the greater Capital Region for youth, busy working adults and seniors.

## NEED HELP?

If you need information on **housing, child care, employment, health care, disability services, substance abuse, after-school programs, mental health, financial issues, crisis counseling, volunteer opportunities, and more** and don't know where to turn, call 2-1-1.

One easy number to call for free, confidential non-emergency information and referral.

United Way 2-1-1 Northeast Region provides direct, personal and professional assistance for human services and is a vital resource for residents of our community. **FACTS: 2-1-1 received 1,866 calls in its first three months of operation. There are more than 1,200 human service agencies in the 2-1-1 database.**

## GET ANSWERS.



Our community is a stronger, healthier place to live, work and raise a family when everyone has access to a wealth of services through a single phone call.

**Call 2-1-1 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

When you give to the United Way Community Care Fund or to the Meeting Essential Needs impact area, you support the 2-1-1 referral program. Your contribution will help preserve this vital resource for residents and employers in our community.

Join us in advancing the common good.

Help provide basic needs, financial stability and family support for every person in the greater Capital Region. Because united we stand, United, we elevate. United, we can change what we see in our world.

### United Way of the Greater Capital Region

Serving Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Schoharie counties

One United Way  
P.O. Box 13965  
Albany, NY 12212  
Tel: 518.456.2200 | Fax: 518.456.2839  
info@unitedwaygcr.org  
www.unitedwaygcr.org

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**  
**LIVE UNITED.**

