UNITED WAY FIGHTS FOR THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL STABILITY OF EVERY PERSON IN EVERY COMMUNITY.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our neighbors in Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Schoharie counties already struggled with the life-changing effects of poverty. COVID-19 accentuated existing societal fractures and inequities. This year, there has been an unprecedented increase in the need for nonprofit services.

United Way of the Greater Capital Region not only provides the immediate support families need to survive but also fights for the long-term systemic changes needed to break generational cycles of exclusion. By bringing people, organizations, and resources together to focus on community-identified needs and aspirations, United Way GCR strives to co-create a collective vision for inclusive, healthy, and resilient communities.

In the Greater Capital Region, 11% of households earn an income below the Federal Poverty Line and nearly 30% of households are what United Way GCR considers ALICE (unitedforalice.org/new-york). These working households do not earn enough income to cover the basic costs of living, forcing individuals and families to make trade-offs between necessities like rent, food, health care, and childcare costs.

Your generous contributions of time and resources help United Way GCR collaboratively build the conditions in which our communities thrive, and help every person equally access the opportunities they need to succeed.
# Your Impact in Our Community

## Health

### Challenges
- Food insecurity for children is highest over the summer months when school is not in session.
- After the onset of COVID-19, The Food Pantries for the Capital District reported significant increases in demand, some up to 150-200%.

### Focus Areas
- Increase access to nutritious food
- Improve healthy dietary behaviors and nutritional knowledge

### United Way GCR’s Response
- Helping children access nutritious food when school is out through the Summer Meals Collaborative, which provided over 240,000 meals in 2019 to Capital Region children in need.
- Supporting nutrition and food skills programs through five partner agencies, which helped 7,000 people in 2019.

## Financial Stability

### Challenges
- 47% of jobs in the Capital Region pay less than $20 per hour, including many of our essential workers.
- 41% of households in the Capital Region do not earn enough income to cover the basic costs of living.

### Focus Areas
- Financial capability and asset-building
- Building and supporting a strong, resilient, and diverse workforce

### United Way GCR’s Response
- Providing free tax preparation to low-income individuals, which returned nearly $20M to the Capital Region economy in 2019.
- Facilitating wrap around support including access to food, shelter, transportation, and workforce training for struggling families and individuals through Family and Neighborhood Resource Centers.

## Education

### Challenges
- In the Capital Region, childcare for 1 child takes up 28% of the median family’s income. According to the US Dept. of Health and Human Services, childcare is affordable if it costs no more than 7% of a family’s income.
- Of all Capital Region students in grades 3-8 tested in 2019, only 41% are performing at English Language Arts proficiency levels.

### Focus Areas
- Affordable and accessible high-quality early learning
- Supporting community schools and extra-curricular opportunities

### United Way GCR’s Response
- Supporting agencies that deliver early childhood education in traditionally underserved neighborhoods.
- Supporting programs that strengthen children’s ability to overcome barriers to education.

## United Way GCR’s Response to COVID-19:

- Established and led a regional response fund that raised and deployed more than $1 million to local nonprofit organizations on the frontlines addressing the urgent needs of our region.
- Coordinated 1,300 hours of volunteer response, connecting healthy volunteers to agencies with a critical need for support due to the increased demand for services.
- Hosted a Creative Impact Fund, which raised $10,000 and provided $100 gift cards to creatives who were out of work.
- Invested $75,000 to provide essential PPE to health care and nonprofit partners and increase COVID-19 testing resources in vulnerable communities.
- Provided $88,750 in six-month emergency grants to 16 United Way GCR funded agencies.
- 211 accommodated call volume increases of up to 100% and expanded services to support COVID-19 related concerns.