2015-2016 COMMUNITY IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

EARLY GRADE READING
76% of students maintained or advanced their reading levels in summer literacy programs

SAFER KIDS & FAMILIES
3,267 people received education, counseling and support services to help keep them safe and healthy

FINANCIAL SUCCESS CENTER
337 participants assisted with financial goals; $515,351 in economic impact

OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME
1,363 youth attended after-school programs and received homework help and mentoring

SENIOR SERVICES
1,263 seniors received support services to maintain their health, remain independent in their homes and reduce isolation

VOLUNTEER CENTER
6,299 volunteers engaged or mobilized

NJ 2-1-1
14,257 inquiries from Monmouth and Ocean County residents, who were referred to the resources they need

REBUILD NEW JERSEY
252 families received rebuilding assistance following Superstorm Sandy damage from 2013 to 2016
Partnering for impact was our objective when United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties was formed last July. We believed that by working together, we can make a greater impact on the lives of residents in Monmouth and Ocean counties. This annual report highlights some of our key partnerships as we fight for the education, health and financial stability of our community.

Throughout these pages, you will read about how our partners in the Career Connections program helped a high school student obtain her first job and gain the experience she needs to prepare for a career in nursing. You will see the results of a large collaboration with the Ocean County YMCA that has positively affected the lives of adults with impaired mobility. You will learn how volunteers at the Financial Success Center ensure that individuals receive the maximum refund when completing their tax returns, helping them on their path to financial stability. These are just a few examples of the many ways we are partnering for impact in our area.

While this report highlights our work of the past year, we have started a process to reassess our impact work in our region as part of the development of a new strategic plan, which will be announced this fall. We are excited about how our United Way, together with our partners, can make an even greater impact on Monmouth and Ocean counties.

Finally, we would like to thank our board, donors and volunteers for partnering with us to improve the lives of residents in Monmouth and Ocean counties. These are exciting times for our United Way, and by LIVING UNITED, we can all make a difference in our community together.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Grunin
BOARD CHAIR

Timothy Hearne
PRESIDENT & CEO
Leah credits her employment at Staples for nearly two years to the support Ms. Bunton gave her: “She helped me with what to wear to the interview, certain questions to ask and not ask, what to wear at the job, and with my resume. One of the reasons I got this job was because they were surprised I had a resume at my age.” Leah listened to Ms. Bunton’s advice and wore a blouse and dress pants instead of jeans to her interview at Staples, which certainly paid off. “For other interviews I never dressed how I did for this job, and now I’m here,” said Leah.

Working in the Copy and Print Center is a challenging first job for a teenager, but it’s one that Leah hopes will prepare her for a future career in nursing: “This is good experience for working in a doctor’s office; I’ve learned things like how to manage my time.” When she’s not working at Staples, Leah maintains a GPA that is above 3.0 and is a star track athlete who won MVP for the fourth year in a row and qualified for the state championship. Until she hears from one of the ten colleges she applied to, she’s happy to be making a decent salary at a job she enjoys.

Leah is a senior at Asbury Park High School, and without the Career Connections program, she believes she wouldn’t have a job. When Leah turned 17, she knew that in order to be able to get her own car, she would have to pay for car insurance and other bills—so she started applying for jobs. “I filled out six applications, and I got nowhere,” said Leah. Then she heard about Career Connections.

Based at Asbury Park High School, Career Connections is a partnership among United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, the Asbury Park School District, Center for Vocational Rehabilitation (CVR) and The SPOT, a school-based youth services program. The program began in 2011 and has continued to grow thanks to the collaborative efforts led by our United Way. Students learn employment and life skills, resume building, interview tips and how to dress for success in order to develop career pathways and gain employment. The Career Connections Coordinator Katherine Bunton helps students graduate with the skills they need to be successful.

PICTURED ABOVE || LEAH WORKING HARD AT THE STAPLES COPY AND PRINT CENTER THANKS TO THE WORK READINESS SKILLS LEARNED THROUGH THE CAREER CONNECTIONS PROGRAM.
CAREER CONNECTIONS
Results
• 108 high school students participated.
• 53 students were employed over the school year (49% of total participating students).
• 100% of participating seniors (28 students) graduated from high school and transitioned to college/career.

Partners
Asbury Park High School/Asbury Park School District
Center for Vocational Rehabilitation
APHS School-Based Youth Services Program – The SPOT

EARLY GRADE READING AND SUMMER LITERACY
Research shows that children fall behind when they are still learning to read rather than reading to learn by fourth grade. Our early grade reading partnerships help ensure that more children are exposed to reading and enrichment opportunities that continue over the summer, fostering their success in school and in life. This program also provides tools for families to build a literacy-rich home environment and nutritional lunches to children while they are out of school.

Results
• 192 students participated (Pre-K to third grade).
• 76% maintained or improved their reading levels over the summer.
• 3,126 books distributed.

Partners
Community YMCA
Freehold Boro School District
• YMCA of Western Monmouth County
Keansburg School District
• Collier Youth Services
Red Bank School District
• Boys & Girls Club of Monmouth County
• Horizons at Rumson Country Day School
• Monmouth Day Care Center
• Red Bank Primary School

SUMMER READING, SUMMER FEEDING
Results
• 17 children and 20 parents participated.
• 133 nutritious lunches provided.
• 300 books distributed.

Partners
The FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties
JBJ Soul Kitchen
Kohl’s
Peoples Pantry
Staples
OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME
Improving academic skills for students outside of the classroom throughout the year, including after-school programs, homework help and mentoring.

Results
• 1,363 youth participated in educational opportunities.
• 97% of youth in the mentoring program achieved higher grades in academic areas.

Partners
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ocean County
Jersey Shore Council, Boy Scouts of America
Ocean County YMCA
Ocean Mental Health Services

KINDERGARTEN READINESS
Classroom-based preschool program to improve literacy and prepare children for kindergarten.

Results
• 35 children participated.
• 71% of children were kindergarten ready after completing the program.

Partner
St. Francis Community Center

STUFF THE BUS
In preparation for each new school year, our Stuff the Bus drive collects essential school supplies for local students in need. We partner with local schools that have a pulse on the community to determine the demand for items and enlist the help of companies to acquire donations. In 2016, items were collected through community drives at area Walmart, Boscov’s and Wegmans stores; through internal drives at local organizations; and through individual donations, helping to ensure that children have the supplies they need to succeed in school.

Results
• Over 23,000 school supplies were distributed to 30 schools and agencies.
• 54 organizations collected donations.
• 102 people volunteered at store events and at the warehouse.

Sponsors
J.F. Kiely Construction Company
New Jersey Resources

WARMEST WISHES
Our Warmest Wishes drive was established as a result of our relationships with local schools and their identification of warm winter outerwear as a significant need for their students. This past year, with the help of donations from individuals and internal drives at local organizations, children received brand-new coats, hats, mittens and more to keep them warm on the way to and from school.

Results
• Over 6,100 items were distributed to 28 schools and nonprofits.
• 35 organizations collected donations.
• 38 volunteers helped count and sort donations.

Sponsors
J.F. Kiely Construction Company
New Jersey Resources

PICTURED ABOVE LEFT || J.F. KIELY CONSTRUCTION CO., SPONSOR OF THE WARMEST WISHES DRIVE, WITH THEIR GENEROUS WINTER COAT DONATIONS.

PICTURED ABOVE RIGHT || VOLUNTEERS HELP COLLECT DONATIONS AT A WALMART STORE FOR OUR STUFF THE BUS DRIVE FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES.
The Financial Success Center (FSC) is a prime example of how United Way brings partners together in order to make a more significant impact on our community than we could on our own. The FSC is a collaboration of five organizations that provide comprehensive resources under one roof to help households move from financial difficulty to economic well-being. Free services include job search and career planning, money management tools, financial coaching, tax return preparation, child care resources, home ownership counseling, application assistance for benefits and enrollment in health insurance programs.

The FSC provides free income tax return preparation to qualifying residents through our partnership with The FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, which utilizes the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offered by the IRS. One of the many VITA volunteers at the FSC is Paul, who retired in 2014 and started sorting food donations at the FoodBank to give back to others and help him stay active. With a background in accounting and information technology, Paul jumped at the chance to get his advanced certification through the IRS when he heard about the VITA program: “I enjoy volunteering. Here, you get to meet the people one-on-one that really need this assistance. It’s surprising that there are so many people who are living paycheck to paycheck and barely making it.”

Volunteers like Paul ensure that individuals and families receive as many deductions and credits as possible in order to maximize their return, and the savings from this free service support this effort: “There are a lot of people who come here for the first time who paid $150 to get their returns done in the past from companies like H&R Block. That would have been more money in their pocket. We can do as good of a job, if not better, than the services that they pay for.” Paul enjoys being able to advise his clients on how they can become more financially stable: “One person that came in got a huge tax refund, which is great, but I suggested they increase their number of exemptions so they can have that extra money throughout the year and can worry less about charging things and going into credit card debt.”

Hundreds of families in Monmouth and Ocean counties have benefited from free tax preparation at the Financial Success Center, and have also been made aware of the other services the FSC has to offer—enabling them to continue on a path of economic well-being.

PICTURED ABOVE || PAUL, A VITA VOLUNTEER, GETS READY TO START HIS SHIFT PREPARING FREE TAX RETURNS AT THE FINANCIAL SUCCESS CENTER.
FINANCIAL SUCCESS CENTER
Results
• 337 people received one-on-one assistance.
  • Households represent 442 adults and 216 children.
• $359,915 in tax refunds/credits.
• $155,436 in annualized monthly benefits/subsidies.
• 461 people attended educational workshops.

Partners
Child Care Resources of Monmouth County
The FoodBank of Monmouth & Ocean Counties
Monmouth County Workforce Development Board
Navicore Solutions

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT
Provides employment training and skill development to enhance community employment opportunities, financial stability and independence for people with disabilities.

Results
• 163 people with disabilities participated in job skills development and employment training.

Partners
The Arc of Monmouth
The Arc, Ocean County Chapter
LADACIN Network
New Jersey Institute for Disabilities

FOOD INSECURITY & HOUSING INSTABILITY
Assists households whose members are homeless, at-risk of homelessness and/or food insecure with services to meet their basic immediate needs, connections with community resources and supports to enhance self-sufficiency.

Results
• 6,850 people received food.
• 537 households received housing assistance.
• 107 youth received emergency shelter.

Partners:
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton
Coastal Caregivers of Central Jersey
Family Promise of Southern Ocean County
Ocean Mental Health Services
Ocean’s Harbor House
St. Francis Community Center
Vetgroup/Vetwork

EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM (EFSP)
United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties manages EFSP, which allocates federal funds to the community to help those in emergency situations.

Results
• $595,561 was disbursed to 20 nonprofit agencies for utility assistance, food, emergency shelter and rent/mortgage assistance in 2015-2016.

FAMILYWISE PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAVINGS PROGRAM
Distributing prescription discount cards to local pharmacies, agencies and individuals to assist those in need with their medication costs.

Results
• $609,128 in savings redeemed by Monmouth and Ocean County residents in 2016.

GIFT OF WARMTH
United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties acts as the fiscal agent for the New Jersey Natural Gas Gift of Warmth program, which helps income-eligible households, as well as customers experiencing temporary or unanticipated financial hardship, pay their natural gas bills.

Results
• $251,124 was distributed to 922 households in Monmouth, Morris, Ocean and Middlesex counties for utility assistance.

Partners
Affordable Housing Alliance
Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs
New Jersey Natural Gas
Ocean, Inc.
The partnerships that the Ocean County YMCA has forged with 14 local organizations, including United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, has enabled hundreds of individuals to have access to services that keep them both physically and mentally fit. One of the many ways in which the YMCA does this is by collaborating with several organizations to provide free services to special populations through the Healthy Living Initiative, a program made possible in part due to funding from United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

One component of the Healthy Living Initiative is Swim Inc., a weekly aqua exercise program that provides a safe and supportive environment for adults with impaired mobility. The YMCA partners with several organizations, such as the MS Society, Arthritis Society and stroke clubs, to refer their clientele to the program. People from all walks of life come together for an hour of supervised swim in the YMCA’s six-lane pool, followed by a social hour with refreshments. The social hour is an opportunity for participants to interact with others who can identify with their experiences, something they often aren’t able to do.

“It really makes a difference for them,” says a volunteer named Maryann whose son has severe arthritis and is enrolled in the Swim Inc. program. “Most people with disabilities can move around in the water in ways they can’t on land.”

The Healthy Living Initiative also provides free memberships to at-risk families identified by partner organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters and Ocean Partnership for Children. These families receive full access to the YMCA’s facilities and are able to maintain their health and have family bonding time.

The Ocean County YMCA’s mission is to build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all, and the Healthy Living Initiative certainly accomplishes that goal.

**Results**
- 424 members received aqua exercise classes, group workouts and memberships.

**Partner**
Ocean County YMCA

*PICTURED ABOVE* || PARTICIPANTS IN THE SWIM INC. PROGRAM MOVE FREELY IN THE POOL DURING THEIR AQUA EXERCISE CLASS.*
SAFER KIDS & FAMILIES
Keeping children and families safe and healthy through education, counseling and support services.

Results
• 2,077 students and 98 parents and teachers attended workshops on the prevention of abuse, neglect and bullying.
• 535 (26%) of those children identified significant issues that required intervention and were connected with help.
• 26 children in foster care were assisted by trained volunteer advocates.
  • Volunteers advocated for 474 services to be made available to those youth.
  • 31% found permanency.
• 1,164 domestic abuse survivors and their children received counseling, advocacy and case management.

Partners
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton
Child Assault Prevention of Monmouth County
Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children of Monmouth County

HIGH-RISK BEHAVIORS
Alcohol and substance use among young people is an ongoing problem in many communities in both Monmouth and Ocean counties. Our partnerships provide prevention education to reduce high-risk behaviors and access to outpatient treatment for youth with existing substance abuse issues.

Results
• 217 youth participated in prevention/education programs.
• 62 adolescents received substance abuse counseling and treatment.
  • 90% abstained from alcohol/drugs during treatment.

Partners
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth & Middlesex Counties
Boys & Girls Club of Monmouth County
Community YMCA

RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Fostering independence in adults with disabilities to allow them to have healthy, independent lives and live with dignity in the community.

Results
• 38 adults with disabilities received medical support and oversight.

Partners
LADACIN Network
New Jersey Institute for Disabilities

SENIOR SERVICES
Supports for older adults, enabling them to maintain their health, remain independent in their homes and reduce isolation.

Results
• 1,263 seniors received support services.

Partners
Coastal Caregivers of Central Jersey
Jewish Federation of Ocean County/Jewish Family & Children’s Services

ADDITION & MENTAL HEALTH
Co-occurring treatment and recovery services for individuals and families affected by addiction and mental illness.

• 31 adults received treatment.

Partner
Maryville Addiction Treatment Centers of New Jersey
THE VOLUNTEER CENTER

United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties’ Volunteer Center makes it easy to give one’s time and talent by partnering with hundreds of local nonprofits to provide our community with diverse volunteer opportunities. Our searchable website links local agencies with residents who want to give back, and vice versa. Businesses or organizations can also use the Volunteer Center to bring employees together to volunteer for a Day of Caring with a local nonprofit.

Results

- 20,517 Volunteer Center website visits last year.
- 2,507 registered volunteers.
- 218 registered nonprofit agencies.
- 6,299 volunteers engaged or mobilized.

Sponsors

J.F. Kiely Construction Company
Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders
New Jersey Resources

To browse volunteer opportunities or register as a nonprofit agency, visit uwmoc.org/volunteer.

PICTURED ABOVE || A VOLUNTEER PUTS THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON A FENCE BUILT BY OUR REBUILD NEW JERSEY PROGRAM FOR DELOITTE IMPACT DAY.

REBUILD NEW JERSEY

Since Superstorm Sandy caused its devastation along the Jersey Shore, United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties has been involved with helping to rebuild homes and lives. Our partnerships have engaged individuals, corporations and community groups in rebuilding efforts that have had an immense impact on many Monmouth and Ocean County residents. The results of our rebuilding efforts reflect our work from September 2013 through the end of our program in June 2016.

Results

- 252 families received rebuilding assistance.
- 6,921 volunteers contributed 41,923 hours of service.
- 141 AmeriCorps members provided 44,915 hours managing volunteers and working on homes.
- $2,046,000 in economic impact was realized based on volunteer hours.

Partners

AmeriCorps
Break A Difference
Gateway, Church of Christ
Monmouth County Long Term Recovery Group
Ocean County Long Term Recovery Group
United Ways in New Jersey

To view the full report on our rebuilding efforts, visit uwmoc.org/superstorm-sandy.
WOMEN UNITED

Formed in 2015 as a way for women leaders to come together and make a significant impact on our community, Women United is a group of philanthropic volunteers focused on inspiring positive economic and social change to help meet the educational needs of children in Monmouth and Ocean counties. In 2016, Women United raised more than $60,000 from donations and event proceeds throughout the year. A portion of these funds enabled an additional classroom of first-grade students from Red Bank to attend the Horizons at Rumson Country Day School program over the summer to help prevent the “summer slide.” Members support the efforts of the early grade reading initiative, the Career Connections program and the Stuff the Bus and Warmest Wishes drives both financially and by volunteering their time. For more information on getting involved, visit uwmoc.org/WomenUnited.

STATEWIDE MAJOR GIFTS COLLABORATION

United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties led a historic collaboration of United Ways in New Jersey and Philadelphia for the first-ever Statewide Dinner to honor members of The Alexis de Tocqueville Society. Held on April 7, 2016, this dinner was a culmination of over three years of collective work of United Way volunteers and staff led by UWMOC’s Bob Rosone, the statewide Tocqueville chairman, and Mary Kiely, local champion. This is the first time in the history of the United Way system that individual United Ways have come together and worked as a team to host such a large recognition dinner for its major donors. We were fortunate to have Mike Hayde, CEO of Western National Group from Irvine, California, and chairman of the United Way Worldwide Leadership Council, as the keynote speaker. Mike gave an inspiring speech about philanthropy and the importance of making a difference in one’s community by partnering with United Way. This partnership of local United Ways resulted in an event that was the first of its kind, and we look forward to future collaborations to celebrate and engage our generous donors.

NJ 2-1-1

United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties funds NJ 2-1-1, a statewide help line that connects callers to vital local and governmental services. The program provides a link to resources for food, housing, health care, childcare, job search assistance, financial assistance and more. To learn more, dial 2-1-1 or visit nj211.org.

Results

• 14,257 calls from Monmouth and Ocean counties were received and referred to resources on the following topics:
  • 52%: temporary financial assistance
  • 21%: housing
  • 5%: health & medical

Partners

NJ 2-1-1 Partnership
State of New Jersey
United Ways in New Jersey
2016 FINANCIALS

UNITED WAY OF MONMOUTH COUNTY
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016

REVENUE

- Campaign $2,151,793
- Grants/Special Events $392,741
- Superstorm Sandy $565,580
- Donations In Kind $84,495

Total Revenue $3,194,609

UNITED WAY OF OCEAN COUNTY
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016

REVENUE

- Campaign $528,254
- Grants/Special Events $17,050
- Donations In Kind $19,726

Total Revenue $565,030

EXTRACTIONS

2016 FINANCIALS

UNITED WAY OF MONMOUTH COUNTY
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016

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FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016

REVENUE

- Campaign $528,254
- Grants/Special Events $17,050
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Total Revenue $565,030

EXTRACTIONS
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FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF UNITED WAY OF MONMOUTH AND OCEAN COUNTIES!
TO LEARN MORE, DONATE OR VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CONTACT US AT 732-938-5988 OR VISIT UWMOC.ORG

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Founded in 1967, United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties (UWMOC) fights for the education, health and financial stability of residents in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. UWMOC partners with area nonprofits, businesses, schools, governments, individuals and volunteers to build initiatives that create lasting change while encouraging others to give, advocate and volunteer for the benefit of our community.