



**United  
Way**



**United Way of Monmouth  
and Ocean Counties**

**OUR LATEST WORK IN THE COMMUNITY**

*FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER*

**LIVE LOCAL. LIVE UNITED.**

# WORKING TO FULFILL THE BASIC NEEDS OF OUR RESIDENTS

Cover photo courtesy of Chad Aaronson

Since its launch in November 2021, our Basic Needs Initiative provides consistent, reliable access to hygiene and household products to alleviate the financial strain and stress on local families.

In Monmouth and Ocean counties, 34% of households are living paycheck to paycheck and do not earn enough to afford basic necessities. Every day, many have to make difficult choices such as paying their bills or buying essential personal care items. Additionally, these products often are not covered by SNAP/food stamps or consistently available in the community.

Thanks to generous donations from companies and members of our community, UWMOC has distributed over 60,000 basic need items to families throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties experiencing hardship.



Employees from Beazley Group volunteered their time to pack 800 teen hygiene bags for local youth.

Beazley Group selected United Way's Basic Needs Initiative for a service project during their conference held at Ocean Place Resort in Long Branch. Employees from all over the country and the UK learned about the critical need for personal care products in our community and packed 800 hygiene bags geared towards teens.



United Way and New Jersey Natural Gas teamed up for the 2022 Day of Action to pack 1,000 basic needs bags.

Each year on June 21st, United Ways participate in a nationwide day of service called Day of Action. For the 2022 Day of Action, UWMOC partnered with New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) to create 1,000 personal hygiene bags for local families. Dozens of NJNG employees and UWMOC board members filled bags with full-size, branded items such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste and more.



Pictured above and below: United Way board members and NJNG employees packed basic needs bags during the 2022 Day of Action.



Pictured left: Examples of the full-size, branded products included in the teen hygiene bags.

USI Affinity in Matawan selected our Basic Needs Initiative as their volunteer opportunity for their 2022 USI Gives Back campaign, which encourages team members to come together to positively impact the local communities they serve. Not only did employees pack personal hygiene bags, but they also collected and donated nearly 300 items for the project.



USI Affinity team members volunteering for the Basic Needs Initiative for their USI Gives Back day.

In order to reach as many families who may be struggling as possible, UWMOC distributes the hygiene bags to dozens of community partners throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties who have a pulse on the needs of their clients.



The Salvation Army in Red Bank is one of the community partners that have received basic needs bags from United Way.

As part of our Basic Needs Initiative, our Senior Comfort Bag project provides personal care and comfort items to the senior residents that need them the most. Nearly 50% of senior citizens in our community fall below the poverty rate. With the strain of living on a limited income and increased isolation during the pandemic, our seniors need help now more than ever.

To participate in UWMOC's Basic Needs Initiative, please contact Quinnetta Anderson at [qanderson@uwmoc.org](mailto:qanderson@uwmoc.org).

"I'm so appreciative for these products because they've gotten so expensive," said a parent who recently received a family hygiene bag. "I work hard but can't afford certain things. This is a huge blessing."



A family who received a personal hygiene bag from the Monmouth and Ocean County Councils for Young Children, a United Way community partner.



Senior residents in the Beacon of LIFE program in Oceanport with their Senior Comfort Bags.

**HELP LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED BY DONATING PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS!**  
Items should be new, branded and full-size



For a full list of products needed or to shop our wish lists, scan the QR code or visit [uwmoc.org/BasicNeeds](http://uwmoc.org/BasicNeeds)

# IN THE "SPEAR-IT" TO CELEBRATE!



Representatives from United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties gathered with Toms River Regional students, administrators and board members at High School South on in celebration of Project SPEAR-IT and the completion of the lifeguard stand project for Ortley Beach.

UWMOC and Toms River Regional Schools have formed a partnership to create a pre-vocational program that's making a big impact on high school students and the community.

Project SPEAR-IT (South's Pre-Vocational Educational Alternatives Resource Institute) was founded in 2019 at Toms River High School South as part of a grant from UWMOC's Youth Vocational Pathways initiative. The program is based on a growing need and interest in public schools for authentic career and technical education (CTE) experiences. It is especially beneficial for at-risk students who often disqualify themselves from vocational programs before they even get to their sophomore and junior years.



A student in Project SPEAR-IT utilizes his woodworking skills to saw a piece of wood to size for one of the lifeguard stands.

**STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES ON THE EXPANSION OF THE YOUTH VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS PROGRAM!**

Students in Project SPEAR-IT are exposed to a variety of skills, including electric, woodworking and even plumbing. Over the past three years, attendance rates for the program have been even stronger than expected, especially with students eager to get back into the classroom this past school year after over a year of distance learning. Even throughout the pandemic, the program's virtual classes had a 98-percent attendance rate and kept students engaged.

The students' learning experience throughout the school year was demonstrated through a capstone project where they put their skills to the test to build nine lifeguard stands for Ortley Beach. Students, administrators, board members, and representatives from United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties gathered at High School South on May 12, 2022 in celebration of Project SPEAR-IT and to see the culmination of the students' hard work. UWMOC representatives helped students affix co-branded nameplates to the lifeguard stands, which Ortley Beach was able to put to use this past summer.

**"Partnering with United Way has been a dream for Toms River High School South," said Superintendent Mike Citta, who championed the program as the high school's former principal. "The support, resources and guidance that have been provided to our students and staff has been immeasurable. We have so much gratitude for United Way and their investment into our kids."**



Lifeguards in Ortley Beach sit atop one of the nine lifeguard stands created by students in the Project SPEAR-IT program.

# UNITED WAY DONATES VAN TO GIRL SCOUTS

In May 2021, UWMOC received a generous donation of two vans through the "CauseWheels" Vehicle Donation Program by The Causeway Family of Dealerships in Manahawkin.

This act of kindness allowed United Way to pay it forward and donate our old van to be refurbished by The Causeway Family of Dealerships to be given to The Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore (GSJS). UWMOC first received the van given to the Girl Scouts in 2016 as a donation from New Jersey Natural Gas, which gives their retired work vans to local nonprofits to help fulfill their mission.

**"The Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore is grateful for our local community supporters", said Heather Coburn, CEO, GSJS. "This generous donation will support operations at our camps, Camp Amity Acres (Waretown) and Camp Sacajawea (Farmingdale). Our camps give girls the space to discover a strong sense of self, gain practical life skills, become resourceful problem solvers, and cultivate healthy friendships."**



Left to right: Thomas Hayes, Director of Customer and Community Relations, New Jersey Natural Gas; Lori-Anne McLane, President & CEO, United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties; and Heather Coburn, CEO, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore with the van donated to the Girl Scouts by United Way.

# ANNUAL TEE-OFF DRIVES CHANGE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Presented by Hackensack Meridian Health, UWMOC held our Annual Tee-Off on May 9, 2022 at Hollywood Golf Club in Deal, NJ. The sold-out event raised over \$150,000 to support our crucial programs.

UWMOC would especially like to thank the 2022 Annual Tee-Off top sponsor Hackensack Meridian Health and all of our sponsors and participants for their support.

**Save the date for the 2023 Annual Tee-Off on Monday, May 8, 2023 at Hollywood Golf Club!**

**"I am proud to be a part of this event to benefit an organization that does such important work," said Luke Bollerman of Bollerman Companies, Chair of the Annual Tee-Off Committee. "United Way is always looking to expand the reach of our programs, and funds raised will further our efforts to move our initiatives throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties forward. Our community needs our help now more than ever."**



Members of UWMOC's Board of Directors and Advisory Council attend the 2022 Annual Tee-Off. Pictured from left to right: Luke Bollerman, Scott Garley, Don Cowan, Bob Rosone, Lori McLane, Tom Hayes, Laura Frank, Ken Greco, Henry Hong and Tom Ando.

Pictured left: The Hackensack Meridian Health foursome from left to right: Lisa Brown, Laura Frank, Leanne Storer and Pamela Garanger.

# UNITED FOR IMPACT WINE EVENT

UWMOC held the United for Impact Wine Event at Patricia's of Holmdel on June 29, 2022. Guests sampled a variety of exquisite wines with delicious Italian food provided by the host restaurant.

Special thanks to the event's top supporters for making it such a success: Carol Stillwell; Stillwell-Hansen Inc.; Luke Bollerman; One Willow; ENCON; Grunin Foundation; New Jersey Natural Gas; Privetera's Florist and Landscape Nursery; Phil & Marilyn Perricone; Elizabeth Von Ziegasar and Patricia's of Holmdel.

Proceeds from the event will enable United Way to advance our work in the community to provide resources and support to help families build a pathway to financial stability, expand youth access to health services and opportunities for vocational training.

Thanks to the generosity of guests during the live appeal portion of the evening, enough funds were raised to help 915 local families through our Basic Needs Initiative – far surpassing the goal for that night of 500 families helped.

*Pictured right - Lori-Anne McLane; Frank Brusco, Co-Owner of Patricia's of Holmdel; Carol Stillwell, CEO of Stillwell-Hansen; Co-Owner and Chef Lenny Dimaria of Patricia's of Holmdel. Photo courtesy of Tom Zapic.*



*Members of UWMOC's Board of Directors and Advisory Council: Robert Rosone, Board Chair; Henry Hong, Governance Committee Chair; Gabriel Lavigne; Nancy Eriksen, Secretary; Carol Stillwell; Sonia Grant; Lori-Anne McLane, President & CEO; Joe Bonacci; R. Scott Garley. Photo courtesy of Tom Zapic.*



# MCLANE LEADS ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



*UWMOC's President & CEO Lori-Anne McLane was the grand marshal of the 10th Freehold Borough St. Patrick's Day Parade.*

After a hiatus in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Freehold Borough held its 10th St. Patrick's Day parade on March 13, 2022.

Our President & CEO Lori-Anne McLane was given the honor to represent United Way as the grand marshal of the parade, along with former Freehold Borough Mayor J. Nolan Higgins serving as community grand marshal.

Thank you to the Freehold Borough Arts Council, DowntownFreehold.com, Knights of Columbus, the Ancient Order of the Hibernians St. Oliver Plunkett Division 16 and the Freehold Elks Lodge No. 1454 for coordinating the event and inviting United Way to participate!

# FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL MAKES AN IMPACT

In partnership with DowntownFreehold.com, UWMOC hosted its first United for Impact Food Truck Festival on April 24, 2022 on West Main Street in Freehold, NJ.

Over 5,000 people enjoyed fare from 10 food trucks, draft beer, goods from over 20 vendors and live music while supporting United Way's critical work in our community. Music entertainment included The Joe Baracata Band, Eddie Testa Band and Step Aside. Funds raised during the event helped advance our mission to bridge the gaps to education, financial stability and health for every person in our community.

**"DowntownFreehold.com was excited to work with United Way to host a great day for the community, which also raised awareness and support," said Jeff Friedman, Executive Director of DowntownFreehold.com. "United Way has wonderful programs and supply drives that help those in need throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties, including many residents of Freehold Borough."**

Food for Thought was one of the ten food trucks at the event, but the only one that operates as a nonprofit. Based out of Asbury Park, they provide local youth and community members with work opportunities that will improve their skills and train them for future careers. The Food Truck Festival was the first event of its kind for UWMOC and Food for Thought.

United Way would like to thank the following event sponsors for their support: Shore Point Distributing Company, New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Group, New Jersey Natural Gas, LoPresti State Farm Agency, OceanFirst Bank, Premier Arts Dental and Relevance Behavioral Healthcare.

**Join us for the next United for Impact Food Truck Festival in Downtown Freehold on Sunday, April 30, 2023!**



*A group of volunteers who dedicated their time to help the event run smoothly.*



*A sky-high view of the crowd at the United for Impact Food Truck Festival. Photo courtesy of Chad Aaronson.*



*A customer visits the nonprofit food truck Food for Thought. Photo courtesy of Cindy Jasgur Ferrier.*



*The Eddie Testa Band played to a packed crowd at the Food Truck Festival. Photo courtesy of Mona Shenker.*

# MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD & ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

*UWMOC welcomed four new members to our Board of Directors and Advisory Council for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Each member is eligible to serve three two-year terms, and is tasked with helping to advance United Way's important work in education, financial stability and health. We thank both our new and longstanding board members for their dedication to our mission and being champions for our cause.*



**Board member Gabriel Lavigne is First Vice President at UBS Financial Services. A graduate of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, Gabriel resides in Colts Neck, NJ.**

**What made you want to join UWMOC's Board of Directors?** It is extremely important to give back in the communities in which we reside, and United Way does an excellent job focusing on general philanthropy and helping those who need it most.

**Which of our impact areas are you most passionate about?** I would have to say financial stability as it is what I do for a living and is such a large part of my life. Feeling comfortable about one's finances and where their next meal is coming from is paramount to living well and having a prosperous life.

**What does "Living United" mean to you?** We are all in this together and there are far too many people who need help and not enough of those willing to provide. Living

United is about providing those opportunities to excel to those in the community that need it.

**What activities do you enjoy in your spare time?** I love spending time with my three kids. They love the water so the beach and the pool are always fun. I am an avid golfer and love the game. I am also into wood working, exercise, playing the drums and cooking.

**What is an interesting fact about you?** I worked in a kitchen for years, am the president of food based nonprofit and love to eat. My life basically revolves around food!

**Additional community involvement:** President of the Board of Trustees of Elijah's Promise; President of the Board of Trustees at The Grande at Colts Neck; board member at Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce; board member and past Chair at Middlesex County Workforce Development Board; board member of the Greater New Brunswick Rotary; advisory board member at the State Theatre of NJ. Received the Congressional Certificate of Special Recognition for outstanding community service in 2018.



**Board member Douglas Powell is Business Development Director for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Tinton Falls. A graduate of Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ, Douglas resides in Long Branch, NJ.**

**What made you want to join UWMOC's Board of Directors?** Throughout my career I have always been a part of multiple community organizations, and having past experience with the United Way, I felt it was time for me to increase my involvement to include an organization that focuses on multiple community outreach sectors rather than only the hospital sector.

**Which of our impact areas are you most passionate about?** Obviously the natural fit would be health due to my extensive background in that field. The great people that I have encountered over the years, their stories, their struggles, and helping them recover

or get back to leading a fulfilling life has been extremely rewarding. Additionally, I would like to expand on my knowledge and look to assist with education in the community.

**What does "Living United" mean to you?** Finding ways to help people throughout the community create opportunities for themselves. Creating positive environments where everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed. Educating and inspiring people to set and reach goals that in turn improves their lives.

**What activities do you enjoy in your spare time?** Travel, golf and snowboarding.

**What is an interesting fact about you?** I have been lucky enough to accumulate three hole-in-one's during my golf adventures.

**Additional community involvement:** Member of the Board of Directors for the Mesa, AZ YMCA.



**Advisory Council member Joseph Bonacci is Senior Vice President/Wealth Manager at UBS Financial Services. A graduate of University of Tampa in Tampa, FL for his BS and Pace University in New York, NY for his MBA, Joseph resides in Point Pleasant, NJ.**

**What made you want to join UWMOC's Advisory Council?** I first became involved in United Way a few years ago as a donor and attended numerous events as a guest. My fiancée is also on the board, who provided me with UWMOC's fundamental background and mission. I did my own research and vetting, and determined that UWMOC was definitely an organization I wanted to get involved in. Joining the Advisory Council will enable me to contribute to the goals of UWMOC to the best of my abilities.

**Which of our impact areas are you most passionate about?** I am most interested in Education and Health.

**What does "Living United" mean to you?** Reaching out and organizing, cooperating, and channeling a diversity of ideas - and then being United to accomplish a common, worthwhile goal to help where help is needed. Living United should be a mindset and be used to accomplish goals for the greater good of our community.

**What activities do you enjoy in your spare time?** I enjoy running and going to the gym, flying (private pilot), riding my Indian Motorcycle, fishing, boating and reading nonfiction. I teach adult education on numerous financial topics at Brookdale Community College and teach safety lessons on aviation as a member of the FAA Safety Team.

**What is an interesting fact about you?** I never, ever, forget a face.

**Additional community involvement:** President of the Monmouth Area Flying Club at Lakewood Airport; Secretary of the Natural Resource Education Foundation; former Chairman and Councilman on two Planning/Zoning Boards in Monmouth County municipalities; former Public Safety Chairman for a local Police Department; former volunteer at Jersey Shore University Hospital.



**Advisory Council Member Tahj Holden is a Banker at J.P. Morgan Private Bank and Head Coach of boy's basketball at Ranney School. A graduate of University of Maryland in College Park, MD, Tahj resides in Bradley Beach, NJ.**

**What made you want to join UWMOC's Advisory Council?** To have an opportunity to give back to the community in which I reside in whatever capacity that I can.

**Which of our impact areas are you most passionate about?** Financial stability is something that I am very passionate about. I recognize that often a helping hand in times of true need can be just enough to get an individual or family over the proverbial hump, and I want to be able to help as many people be able to support themselves and their families. Not only does this benefit those who are in need, but it betters the community where they reside as well.

**What does "Living United" mean to you?** We must recognize that we are all united in our communities, and we must live as though that is the case. We must all work together to solve our community's issues because an issue for our neighbor is one for us as well.

**What activities do you enjoy in your spare time?** I like spending time with my family and friends, watching sports of almost any kind, and finding the next bottle of bourbon to consume.

**What is an interesting fact about you?** I was a member of the University of Maryland's 2002 National Championship basketball team.

**Additional community involvement:** Former board member of the YMCA of Greater Monmouth County.

# INVEST IN YOUR COMMUNITY BY MAKING A GIFT TO UNITED WAY

Now, more than ever, United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties needs your support. You can help improve the education, financial stability and health for everyone in our community and give hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Change doesn't happen alone. To live better, we must LIVE UNITED.

Scan the QR code or visit [uwmoc.org/give](http://uwmoc.org/give) for a variety of ways to make an impact.



## ONE-TIME

Give a one-time gift in any amount! No gift is too big or too small. This is a first step in joining us to help improve the lives of our neighbors in Monmouth and Ocean counties.

## MONTHLY

Pledge an ongoing monthly donation! Monthly gifts support our mission and help ensure the longevity of our work in Monmouth and Ocean counties.

## ROUND-UP

Donate your spare change from everyday purchases! Utilizing this option allows you to give back to your community by rounding-up your credit card purchases to the nearest dollar.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**UNITED FOR IMPACT FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL**  
Sunday, April 30, 2023  
West Main Street in Freehold, NJ



**2023 ANNUAL TEE-OFF**  
Monday, May 8, 2023  
Hollywood Golf Club in Deal, NJ

Find assistance with food • utilities • finances • housing • healthcare • senior services • childcare • mental health • legal matters • substance use disorders • diabetes management and prevention • transportation • domestic abuse • disaster response and recovery • and more...

With a database of over 10,000 programs and services, we are your connection to help.

**2.1.1**  
New Jersey

- DIAL** 2-1-1 (or 877-652-1148)
- TEXT** your zip code to 898-211
- EMAIL** [info@nj211.org](mailto:info@nj211.org)
- CHAT** [www.nj211.org](http://www.nj211.org)

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YOUR PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Download your FREE prescription discount card at [singlecare.com](http://singlecare.com)

## FREE SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE for residents of Monmouth and Ocean counties!



If you are struggling to make ends meet or having trouble paying your bills, contact United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties' Financial Success Center Network today.

Speak with trained staff who will help determine what benefits you are eligible for, work on a budget and directly connect you with community resources.

**FINANCIAL SUCCESS CENTER**

732-414-6745  
[info@uwfinancialsuccess.org](mailto:info@uwfinancialsuccess.org)  
[uwfinancialsuccess.org](http://uwfinancialsuccess.org)  
 @UWFSC



## GET INVOLVED THROUGH OUR VOLUNTEER PORTAL!

Our mobile-friendly Volunteer Portal is a free tool that makes it easy to connect volunteers to UWMOC and other local opportunities. If you would like to lend your time and talent to make an impact on your community, the Volunteer Portal has a variety of projects to suit your interests.

UWMOC and nonprofits across Monmouth and Ocean counties post their needs, and interested individuals or groups can register to volunteer directly through the site. The Volunteer Portal is generously funded by the County of Monmouth.

Visit [uwmoc.org/volunteer](http://uwmoc.org/volunteer) to browse opportunities.



**SIGN UP FOR UPDATES!**  
Get news from United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties directly to your inbox. Scan the QR code or visit [uwmoc.org/signup](http://uwmoc.org/signup)

**United  
Way**



**United Way of Monmouth  
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**UNITED WAY OF MONMOUTH AND OCEAN COUNTIES BRIDGES THE GAPS TO EDUCATION, FINANCIAL STABILITY AND HEALTH FOR EVERY PERSON IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE ENVISION A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYONE ACHIEVES THEIR GREATEST POTENTIAL THROUGH A QUALITY EDUCATION, INCOME STABILITY AND HEALTHY LIVES.**

**LIVE LOCAL. LIVE UNITED.**