



# Quarterly Report

## We Have Moved



The United Way of Greater Mercer County has a new home. Our new site is located at 3444 Quaker Bridge Rd, Building 3, Suite 101 in Hamilton NJ. There is a bus stop in front of our building.

### INSIDE:

- We Moved
- VITA Success
- United in Impact Awards
- Strike Out Hunger
- Volunteer Appreciation Month
- New Board Members
- Volunteer Spotlight

## 2024 VITA Tax Season Successes



The free tax preparation program (VITA-Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) offers families and individuals making less than \$65,000 free federal and state tax return preparation by trained and IRS-certified volunteers. Thanks to our fantastic volunteers and partner agencies, we had a very successful tax season.

[www.uwgmc.org/freetaxprogram](http://www.uwgmc.org/freetaxprogram)



**1805**  
TAX RETURNS  
PROCESSED



**53**  
VOLUNTEER TAX  
PREPARERS



**\$1,468,000**  
DOLLARS IN REFUNDS  
(Average of \$818 per return)

*\*Figures as of April 16, 2024*

## \* Events \*

# United in Impact Awards



The UWGMC Board of Directors will host its fourth annual United in Impact Awards, on April 30th. The event will be in person from 5:00 to 7:30 PM at Grounds for Sculpture, located at 80 Sculptures Way in Hamilton.

The annual event celebrates community champions who demonstrate leadership, passion, and a commitment to a thriving and equitable community in their everyday life.

Proceeds from the event will directly provide food, rental and utility assistance, health insurance access, tax preparation services, financial coaching, college planning and other resources to help individuals and families get ahead.

UWGMC is grateful to the following early sponsors:

### Live United Corporate Award

Patrick L. Ryan, President and Chief Executive Officer of First Bank NJ

### Advocate Award

Ida Jackson Woods, Ed.D., MBA, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, AVP and Chief Diversity Officer for ETS

### Community Quarterback Award

Denise Mariani, Esq., Civil Trial Attorney at Stark & Stark

### The Eugene Marsh Community Impact Award

Edward W. Bullock, President of the Board of Trustees, The Trenton Literacy Movement, Inc.

### Mistress of Ceremony

Brenda Ross-Dulan, Founder and Managing Principal of The Ross-Dulan Group



**FOR TICKETS OR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**  
**[WWW.UWGMC.ORG/UNITEDIMPACTAWARDS](http://WWW.UWGMC.ORG/UNITEDIMPACTAWARDS)**

# Strike Out Hunger 10 years of Addressing Food Security

10 years ago, a group of volunteers reached out wanting to help a food pantry with sorting their shelves. After calling local pantries, UWGMC was informed that there was no food to sort since donations during the summer months become scarce. Since that summer, Strike Out Hunger (SOH), UWGMC’s multi-pronged food security initiative, has united companies, individuals, and advocates in an effort to alleviate hunger in the lives of the 61,000+ local families struggling to make ends meet and put food on their tables. With the assistance of over 3,000 volunteers,

## STRIKE OUT HUNGER



Strike Out Hunger has provided 806,000 meals through our signature Community Meal Packing event; distributed over 181,000 pounds of fresh produce; collected 12,000 pounds of non-perishable food; provided over \$203,000 in food grants allowing pantries to purchase ethnic/cultural foods, and delivered over 450 food pantry packages directly to home of those who have mobility issues. This year to ensure that local food pantry shelves are stocked with culturally relevant food items, UWGMC initiated 'Flavors of the Community' a guide to culturally relevant food items so people of all cultures have access to familiar foods, flavors and spices. SOH also includes accessing supplemental income that can be used for basic needs through our Free Tax Preparation program (VITA) and our Benefit Access program.

For more about SOH: [www.uwgmc.org/soh](http://www.uwgmc.org/soh)

## Celebrity Bartender Event

United Way  
United Way of Greater Mercer County

**Celebrity BARTENDER**  
Fundraising Event to Benefit  
**STRIKE OUT HUNGER**  
[WWW.UWGMC.ORG/SOH](http://WWW.UWGMC.ORG/SOH)

May 29, 2024  
4:00 -7:00 pm

**BLEND**  
BAR & BISTRO  
911 Rte 33  
Hamilton NJ, 08690

Erin Klabar, Frank Lucchese, Jeff Huxley, Claire Crossabon, Dan Smith, Bill English, Nina Hedley, Bill Leckon, Craig English

Tip your Bartender...Non-perishable food to be collected at event.

## New Member of Our Team

Welcome to the newest member of our UWGMC family, Alexander “Alex” Agudelo. Alex is a bilingual Resource Specialist who, together with Tamara, connects our community to State and Federal benefits



including: NJ SNAP/WIC, Rent/Utility Assistance, Health Insurance. For more information about the benefits program [www.uwgmc.org/benefits](http://www.uwgmc.org/benefits)

## April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month



Volunteerism not only brings about a positive impact on our community, but it also inspires personal happiness and joy. Volunteers are important partners in our work to build a stronger, thriving community – particularly for struggling families.

Although we appreciate those who volunteer for our community all year long, we take time in April, National Volunteer Month, to celebrate and recognize them. This year as a expression of our gratitude to the heroes behind our nonprofit we are provide our volunteers with a luncheon at Grounds for Sculpture.

**INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING? GO TO [WWW.UWGMC.ORG/VOLUNTEER](http://WWW.UWGMC.ORG/VOLUNTEER) FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED, MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

## Welcome To Our Newest Board Members

We'd like to introduce you to the newest members of the Board of Directors for the United Way of Greater Mercer County. Thank you ladies for volunteering your time and talent.



**DuEwa Edwards-Dickson**

Rescue Mission of Trenton

**BIO**

[www.uwgmc.org/duewa-edwards-dickson](http://www.uwgmc.org/duewa-edwards-dickson)



**Pilar Castro-Kiltz**

More Canvas Consulting

**BIO**

[www.uwgmc.org/Pilar-Castro-Kiltz](http://www.uwgmc.org/Pilar-Castro-Kiltz)

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## \* Volunteer Spotlight\*

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### Lori Danko



Meet Lori Danko, a dedicated professional with a rich history of nonprofit work and community involvement. In her community philanthropic work, Danko has served on various board and committees including the American Heart Association, the Megan Kanka Foundation, the Hamilton Area YMCA, Kidsbridge, and the Mercer County Community College Foundation, the Hamilton Township's Economic Development Advisory Committee, and co-chair for The Robert Wood Johnson Medical Hospital, Hamilton Gala Ball.

Recognized for her contributions, Lori has received several awards, including the Mercer County Women of Distinction Award, the Distinguished Volunteer Award from Kidsbridge, and the Humanitarian of the Year award from the YMCA. Lori's dedication to community service is further demonstrated by her involvement with the United Way of Greater Mercer County, where she volunteers for the United in Impact Awards event and currently serves as the Silent Auction committee chair.

Thank you, Lori, for your tireless efforts to improve Mercer County and beyond!

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### Sal Levatino



Meet Sal Levatino, a long-time volunteer at United Way of Greater Mercer County. Sal is a business coach, dedicated to supporting local small business owners. In addition to his work with United Way, Sal volunteers with several local nonprofits, including the Princeton Corridor Rotary Club. Sal has been a member of the UWGMC Strike Out Hunger committee for five years and has taken on the role of Chair for 2024.

Sal believes in the importance of giving back to the community, stating, "I think it is important, for those that can, to give back to the community." Volunteering at UWGMC allows him to directly impact families struggling with food insecurity. Sal is proud to be able to help alleviate some of the pain caused by hunger and need, even in a relatively affluent community like ours.




Thank you Sal for all you do for the Mercer County community!

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**Stay Connected**

**GET TO KNOW  
US BETTER**

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   | @uwgreatermercer

**WWW.UWGMC.ORG**

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## Consider Joining the Leaders Circle

United Way of Greater Mercer County Leaders Circle, a network of like-minded individuals who contribute \$500-\$9,999+ annually, are committed to strengthening our community and share a vision for advancing the common good in Mercer County.

By bringing together people with passion, expertise, and resources, we can take on the complex social issues that directly affect our community's economic vitality and quality of life.

With your help, we continue to work tirelessly to alleviate this growing challenges faced by our neighbors. Your support will guarantee that hundreds will continue to benefit from our initiatives ensuring children and families in need have their basic needs met along with additional resources to thrive in the future.

*Together, we can create real change and improve people's lives, now and into the future.*



*Visionary Circle: \$5,000-\$9,999*  
*Gateway Circle: \$2,500-\$4,999*  
*Pacesetter Circle: \$1,000-\$2,499*  
*Neighbor Society: \$500 - \$999*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND  
BENEFITS OF GIVING  
[WWW.UWGMC.ORG/LEADERSCIRCLE](http://WWW.UWGMC.ORG/LEADERSCIRCLE)**

We are delighted to share our first Quarterly Update. As we reflect upon the past quarter, we are incredibly grateful for the unwavering support of our generous donors, volunteers, and community partners. Thanks to your continued support, United Way Greater Mercer County has been able to make a significant impact in the lives of individuals and families in our community. From providing essential resources to those in need, to supporting vital programs and initiatives, you have continued to make a difference.

The need however for support and growth remains as great as ever, and we count on your continued generosity to help us address the ongoing challenges facing our community. We know that together, we can make a lasting impact ensuring that the children and families of Mercer County in need have their basic needs met along with additional resources to thrive in the future.

*Thank You*

**I want to continue to make a difference in the lives of people in Mercer County.**

**For Secure online Credit Card Donations go to [www.uwgmc.org/spring2024appeal](http://www.uwgmc.org/spring2024appeal) or scan QR Code**

