



# Quarterly Report

## Welcome To Our Newest Board Member

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, Patti, for volunteering your time and talent.



**Patricia "Patti" Mae Doykos, PhD**  
Executive Director, Health Equity  
Bristol Myers Squibb

**BIO:** [www.uwgmc.org/patricia-mae-doykos-phd](http://www.uwgmc.org/patricia-mae-doykos-phd)

**INSIDE:**

- New Board Member
- Getting Our Community College Ready
- VITA Extended Tax Season
- Get SNAP to Supplement your Groceries
- Summer Food Collection
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Events Recap:
  - United In Impact Awards
  - Strike Out Hunger

## Getting our Community College Ready

During the 2023-2024 school year, 238 college-bound students were served by the United Way of Greater Mercer County (UWGMC). UWGMC provided workshop facilitator-led sessions on college financial aid and scholarships, college admissions essay writing, mock interviews, and resume writing. We were able to serve students at Boys and Girls Club of Mercer County, Trenton Central High School-School Based Youth Services Program, Higher Up NJ, Urban Promise Trenton, Trio Upward Bound, Washington Crossing Boy Scouts, Jack and Jill of America Mercer County Chapter.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.UWGMC.ORG/COLLEGEREADY](http://WWW.UWGMC.ORG/COLLEGEREADY)**

## VITA Extended Tax Season - Appointments Available Now



It's never too late to file your taxes. The United Way of Greater Mercer County's VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program offers free tax return preparation for families and individuals earning less than \$65,000. Trained and IRS-certified volunteers provide the service, including federal and state tax preparation.

The program has extended its tax season, offering appointments on Wednesday evenings during the summer and fall by appointment only. Appointments are held at 3444 Quakerbridge Rd, Bldg 3, Suite 101, Hamilton. For additional information or to make an appointment, call 609-896-1912. Availability is limited, and tax filing is not guaranteed.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.UWGMC.ORG/FREETAXPROGRAM](http://WWW.UWGMC.ORG/FREETAXPROGRAM)**

## Have SNAP Supplement Your Groceries:

UWGMC conducted outreach to over 1,200 individuals from July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024, filing nearly 280 applications to help them connect to NJ SNAP benefits and improve food access. UWGMC focused on reaching college students at The College of New Jersey and Mercer County Community College throughout the year to address the issue of students needing to be made aware or misinformed about their eligibility.



Additionally, UWGMC Resource Specialists are available at various locations, including Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, MECHA - Mercer County Hispanic Association, El Centro Catholic Charities, Center for Modern Aging Princeton, Princeton Human Services, and Princeton Public Library, to assist individuals in connecting to SNAP benefits.

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

## Summer Food Collection

We are asking you to help stock local food pantries for the summer! Your nonperishable donations will put food on their table for those needing it this summer. Purchase a grocery bag, fill it with nonperishable food items, and take it to your local food pantry.

To promote nutrition & healthy eating consider donating the suggested non-perishable food items:

- Canned tuna, chicken or salmon
- Beans (canned or dried)
- Split peas and lentils
- Whole grain pasta, brown rice, or Quinoa
- 100% fruit juice
- Cereal and oatmeal (whole grain or low sugar)
- Canned vegetables (low sodium or no salt)
- Applesauce (no sugar added)
- Peanut butter (18 oz plastic)
- Squeezable grape jelly
- Shelf stable low-fat milk
- Olive & Canola Oils
- Vinegar or Lemon Juice



*Items are suggestions only. Please do not donate expired items and no glass containers.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.UWGMC.ORG/SOH](http://WWW.UWGMC.ORG/SOH)**

## \* Volunteer Opportunities\*

### Call For Volunteers: VITA Tax Preparers and More



United Way of Greater Mercer County seeks volunteers to join its free tax program. This program offers tax return preparation assistance for families and individuals with an annual income of less than \$65,000. Volunteering in this program not only provides a sense of fulfillment and makes you feel good but also presents the opportunity to develop new skills and enhance your resume, which is particularly beneficial for students.

There are various roles, including Tax Preparer, Greeter, Site Coordinator, and Translator. Prior experience in tax preparation is not required, and volunteers can become IRS-certified with free training starting in the Fall of 2024. The volunteer commitment is flexible, with 3-4 hour shifts from February 1 to April 15, 2025. Financial professionals can earn continuing education credits, and college students can earn course credits. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO EXPRESS INTEREST, CONTACT  
TAX.VOLUNTEER@UWGMC.ORG OR CALL 609-896-1912.  
OR VISIT [WWW.UWGMC.ORG/FREETAXPROGRAM](http://WWW.UWGMC.ORG/FREETAXPROGRAM)**

### Call For Volunteers: Picking and Planting Produce

United Way of Greater Mercer County has partnered with Rolling Harvest Food Rescue to help distribute fresh produce to local food pantries. Volunteers are needed to Pick and Plant fresh produce, which is provided free of charge to families and individuals living in food deserts or struggling to make ends meet.



This is a great team-building and group bonding experience for company employees and community/social groups. The volunteer commitment is flexible, with 2-4 hour shifts throughout the summer and early fall.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO EXPRESS INTEREST, CONTACT DENISE DANIELS AT DENISE.DANIELS@UWGMC.ORG OR CALL 609-896-1912.**

**Stay Connected**

**GET TO KNOW US BETTER**

| @uwgreatermercer

**[WWW.UWGMC.ORG](http://WWW.UWGMC.ORG)**

# \* Event Recap \*

## 2024 United in Impact Awards Sold Out!



On behalf of the 66,000 families in Mercer County struggling to make ends meet, thank you for making our United in Impact awards event a success. 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.



FOR MORE PHOTOS OF THE EVENT [WWW.UWGMC.ORG/UNITEDIMPACTAWARDS](http://WWW.UWGMC.ORG/UNITEDIMPACTAWARDS)

### A Special Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors:



**\* Event Recap \***

**10th Annual SOH meals will help feed numerous families**

**STRIKE OUT HUNGER**

**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF FIGHTING HUNGER**

We are thankful for another successful Strike Out Hunger meal-packing event. 120 volunteers packed over 50,000 servings of chicken soup. Mercer Street Friends distributes these meals to local food pantries. Thank you to our sponsors.

To locate a food pantry near you, call 211.



FOR PHOTOS OF THE EVENT [WWW.UWGMC.ORG/SOH](http://WWW.UWGMC.ORG/SOH)

FLICKR [HTTPS://WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/UGGREATERMERCER/ALBUMS/72177720318898875/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/uwggreatermercer/albums/72177720318898875/)

**A Special Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors:**



## Join the UWGMC Leaders Circle

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

By bringing together people with passion, expertise, and resources, we can address the complex social issues affecting our community's economic vitality and quality of life.

With your help, we continue working tirelessly to alleviate our neighbors' growing challenges. Your support will guarantee that hundreds will continue to benefit from our initiatives, ensuring children and families in need have their basic needs met and additional resources to thrive.

*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)**



3444 Quakerbridge Road  
Building 3, Suite 101  
Hamilton, NJ 08619

**To continue making a difference  
in the lives of people in Mercer  
County, consider a donation today.**

**For Secure online Credit Card  
Donations go to  
[www.uwgmc.org/summer2024appeal](http://www.uwgmc.org/summer2024appeal)  
or scan QR Code**

