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visited our
site?

UNITED Every Day



United Way of the
Dutchess-Orange Region

WWW.UWDOR.ORG

Fall 2019

What's inside...

- 2 From the President's Desk**
Jeannie Montano shares an inspirational story
- 3 Community Update**
Some great things that have been happening!
- 4 Why Give?**
See why your support of United Way is so important.

SAVE THE DATE!

Nov
21

Better Credit Seminar

Join United Way & Rhinbeck Bank for a free seminar on credit by nationally recognized authority and author, John Panzella. Dutchess Community College, 6pm. For info and to register, go to www.uwdor.org/bettercredit.

Dec
3

Giving Tuesday

After Black Friday & Cyber Monday there is Giving Tuesday, a day devoted to paying it forward. Join United Way to give back. Info at: www.uwdor.org/givingtuesday.

Dec
6

Day of Sharing

During United Way's Day of Sharing representatives from nonprofits, schools and faith-based organizations "shop" for their clients in our basement "store." For information, go to www.uwdor.org/dayofsharing.

Dec
12

Young Leaders United Holiday Happy Hour

Join Young Leaders United for their annual Holiday Happy Hour, this year held at Farmers and Chefs in Poughkeepsie (40 Albany St). While free, guests are asked to bring a grocery gift card that will be given to struggling families this holiday. For info go to: www.uwdor.org/ylusponsor



A GREAT CAMPAIGN KICKSTART!
Thanks to everyone who attended our Annual Community Breakfast on Tuesday, September 24th at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. You truly made a difference and helped raise almost \$52,000 for this year's workplace campaign!

We honored two amazing Community Champions, Dr. Pamela Edington (President, Dutchess Community College) and Dr. Kristine Young (President, SUNY Orange), and two inspiring Champion Nonprofits, The Art Effect and Cornerstone Family Healthcare.

There was a surprise flashmob performance of "You Can't Stop the Beat" from *Hairspray*, by students from the Dutchess Community College Performing Arts A.S Degree Program. Our two Community Champions received a surprise gift of \$5,000 scholarships to their respective colleges from KeyBank's David Lewing. In addition, Jeanne Montano announced the new United Way Emergency Fund for College Students. (See her story inside for more information.)

We'd also like to extend our thanks to all of our sponsors and journal advertisers and hope you will support them. Please view and share photos and videos, sponsored by Tompkins Mahopac Bank, posted online at www.uwdor.org/breakfast2019.



Community Breakfast photos by Nicole Puckette Photography

FUN WAYS TO ENGAGE EMPLOYEES DURING CAMPAIGNS!

"Special FUNdraisers" add an exciting component to traditional campaigns and help companies reach higher donation goals. RBT CPAs offers employees Live United Tee Shirts, Dress Down Days and Bingo Cards for additional donations. Orange Bank & Trust allows employees to purchase a Day Off when they pledge as

well as a half day off if they increase their pledge. Central Hudson has used a snack cart to sell afternoon treats. Adams Fairacre Farms added carnival games this year, including a Dunk Tank and Jousting. From Dress Down Days to Special Parking Spots, extra perks can go a long way in thanking employees for their United Way contributions. Thank you to all our campaign managers for using creativity to make campaigns FUN!



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Make a gift today: www.uwdor.org/donate



FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO'S DESK

Last year, I met Angela, who helped inspire our new College Student Emergency Fund. Three years earlier, Angela had been in a toxic, abusive relationship. She knew she had to leave for her daughter's sake and took a second job, saving everything so it would be possible to pay for the deposit, security and first month's rent on an apartment. Once she had saved enough, Angela and her daughter Shanna moved

out and began their new life.

Angela continued to work her second job, this time saving for the cost of tuition. After several months, she had enough to enroll in a program recommended to her by her primary employer. If she completed it, she was guaranteed a promotion and a better job.

Throughout this time, Angela was lucky to have a great aunt who could watch Shanna after school into the evening while Angela was at class. But then her great aunt had a stroke.

In order to afford an after school program for Shanna, Angela would have to give up her studies and go back to working the second job.

Angela went to the college to drop her classes, she was directed to programs that would help her and Shanna. An afterschool program, supported by grants from United Way, accepted Shanna and let her stay late, while Angela worked and went to school. Without that intervention, Angela would have had to drop out.

When I met her, Angela had just received her degree and her promotion at work. Today, she's the director of her department.

This is why we've established the new United Way College Student Emergency Fund. We hope you'll join us to help students like Angela.

For more information, please reach out to me at 845-471-1900 ext 3101, jmontano@uwdor.org, or go to: www.uwdor.org/collegestudentemergencyfund.

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Dutchess-Orange Region



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MAKING AN IMPACT

United Way staff and volunteers have been making an impact throughout our region at special events and programs.

The **Ribbon Cutting and Dedication of the Day of Sharing and Louis Greenspan Children's Corner** was held on September 6th with almost 70 community members, including donors, nonprofit partners and elected officials in attendance. Everyone had a chance to tour the newly renovated space. The next day, the first Day of Sharing in 9 months was held with 100 plus representatives from nonprofits, schools and faith-based organizations finding items for their clients.

The next weekend, United Way hosted the **Military Family Night Out** at the Warwick Valley Community Center, presented through a grant from HEROes in Deed. More than 100 veterans and active military personnel joined us for this family friendly barbecue. There were games, music by Jerry the Bulldog and a commemoration of 9-11. We are grateful to the volunteers from UPS Freight in Montgomery, who helped us prepare and serve the food.

United Way continues to partner with financial institutions to present **Financial Literacy workshops and seminars**. In partnership with Ulster Savings Bank and Pathstone, we presented a First-Time Homebuyers workshop in Spanish in Newburgh. Almost 40 people attended this workshop presented by Jose Lemus, Ulster Savings Bank's Newburgh Branch Manager. In partnership with Rhinebeck Savings, United Way presented a First-Time Homebuyers workshop in English in Poughkeepsie. Around 25 people attended this workshop led by Rhinebeck Bank's Vice President of Mortgage Lending Vincent Aurigemma. Next month we'll be presenting another program with Rhinebeck Bank with author John Panzella on Better Credit.

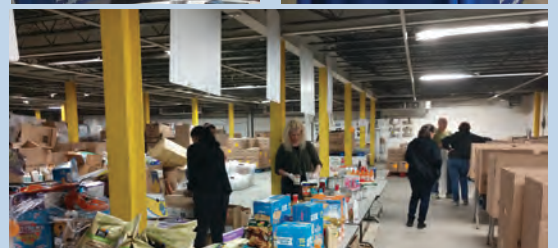
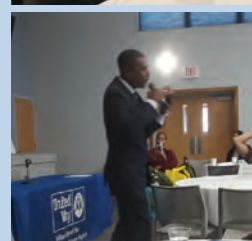
Thanks to a grant from AmerisourceBergen Foundation, United Way convened **Resilient Communities**, a conversation around challenges that students face today. More than 100 representatives of schools, nonprofit organizations and community members joined the conversation held at Mount Saint Mary College. Carlton Hall, President and CEO of Carlton Hall Consulting, was the keynote speaker and discussed the importance of prevention. A panel discussion followed with Dr. Irina Gelman (Commissioner of Health for Orange County), Jo Ann Brown (NAMI Mid-Hudson) and Jean-Marie Niebuhr, LCSW-R (Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health). Later, Regina T. Cieslak (Catholic Charities of Orange, Sullivan and Ulster) and Sergeant Fernandez (National Guard) provided Narcan training and free kits to everyone in attendance. Rx Disposal Kits, donated by AmerisourceBergen, were distributed as well and over 5,000 items, including school supplies, hygiene products and books through United Way's Day of Sharing program.

Make A Difference Week, sponsored by Ulster Savings Charitable Foundation, saw teams of volunteers from local businesses roll up their sleeves and devote their time to making a real difference at some of our community partners. A team from Central Hudson prepared the meditation gardens for winter and planted garlic for next spring at the Poughkeepsie Farm Project. Hudson Valley Young Professionals gleaned apples for the Food Bank at a local orchard, ensuring fresh, local produce was available for distribution to food pantries in our region. Sorting hundreds of pounds of food engaged a team from Marriott's Fishkill Residence Inn at Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. Sponsor Ulster Savings Bank sent teams of volunteers to two projects: helping out during Newburgh Armory Saturday morning enrichment program and at Dress for Success Dutchess sorting clothing donations. Other volunteers, including United Way staff and fall interns, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County. For more information on how your business can volunteer, call 845-471-1900 ext 3106, email cnicoletti@uwdor.org or go to volunteer.uwdor.org.

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Help us stay in touch by providing updates with your preferred mailing address, email and phone number. Send an email with your information to donorservices@uwdor.org or call 845-471-1900 today!



WHY WE GIVE ...

Meet José

José never feels as proud as when he and his abuela make dinner together – with vegetables he grew in his own garden! José and his family watch every penny and they rarely had fresh vegetables for dinner as they were too expensive. After taking part in a school garden program, Jose dug a small garden in their backyard, planting seeds his teacher had given him. When the tomatoes and greens were ready to harvest, Jose ran into the kitchen with them.

Together he and his abuela cook dinner most evenings. She tells him stories about her garden in Puerto Rico and all the things they grew. Thanks to the United Way supported school garden program, José and his family are learning to eat healthier and spend more quality time together.



Meet Carla

Carla couldn't talk to anyone about the way she felt. Her family didn't believe in depression or mental illness and just told her to keep busy and be happy. During a school presentation, she heard from someone who grew up in a family like hers. Someone who not only considered suicide, but had tried to kill herself. For the first time, Carla realized that there was someone who could understand her. She wasn't alone.

After the special presentation ended, Carla spoke to this caring adult about what she was going through. She received information about people to talk with who could help her. Carla found support and is now doing well in school. Without your donations to United Way, this school presentation might not have taken place and Carla would not have received the help she desperately needed.



To see more reasons why, visit our Success Story page: www.uwdor.org/success-stories

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